

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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CLEARER UNDERSTANDING ON DISFELLOWSHIPPING

by

Robert E. Fahey

While I was talking with Mr. Armstrong recently, he explained the difference between a member who should be disfellowshipped and one who should be classified a nonmember. I thought it would be a help to summarize it for you.

Those who simply drop out, lose interest, stop seeking fellowship with the Church but are not hostile to it, should be considered nonmembers. They went out from us--but they weren't of us--probably never converted. We should treat them as unconverted, neither avoiding nor seeking spiritual fellowship with them.

Those who seek fellowship with the Church and its members but are sinning, openly or secretly breaking God's Law such as the man in I Corinthians 5, should be disfellowshipped. They want to be of us, but not live God's way of life. We should not fellowship with such "brothers." We shouldn't even eat with them (I Cor. 5:11). They can rejoin Christ's Body after they demonstrate by performance godly repentance.

Those who sow discord, cause division, speak evil of Church leadership, are contentious, or in any way try to pull God's people away from His Church, should be disfellowshipped. These are the ones we need to protect the flock from regardless of previous status. They may have to be publicly marked. They want us to be of them--out of God's Church!

I have discussed with Mr. Tkach and Mr. Rice how to handle this administratively. When the appropriate step is to disfellowship, we will continue to use the present disfellowship card.

To change one who drops out from "member" to "nonmember," we will use for the present the "invalid baptism" card. When these cards are reprinted, they will be renamed "make nonmember." Persons put into this category will not receive literature unless they request it. Then they will be treated like any other new subscriber. The reason we keep them on file at all is because of laws requiring us to maintain donation records for a certain number of years.

Therefore, those who are in the old "inactive" category will be made nonmembers.

This should help us all to speak and administer the same thing--worldwide!

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESInternational News

Update From Germany All of the German-language ministers met at Bonn on May 4th and 5th to wrap up Spring Feast analyses, discuss Mr. Armstrong's upcoming visit to Bonn, plan for the Feast of Tabernacles and discuss our ministerial operations budget. A special activity for all areas in May were forums held to discuss how each member planned to get to Bonn for Mr. Armstrong's August 1st visit. Some churches will travel as a group on trains; others plan on chartering buses; those living closer will go mostly by private car. Enthusiasm for the chance to see Mr. Armstrong and hear him preach is very high!

On Thursday, May 28, twenty-nine members and teen-agers from the Paris, France church arrived in Bonn for an extended weekend of activities and sightseeing in Bonn, Cologne and Dusseldorf. Mr. Sam Kneller, Pastor of the Paris church headed up this first group of French-speaking brethren to visit the Bonn office. The German office staff accommodated the French brethren during their visit.

On the Sabbath, May 30th, Mr. Kneller gave us an interesting report on the French-speaking area of God's Work, as well as the sermon in Dusseldorf's Hilton Hotel. Afterwards refreshments were served, enabling the German brethren to get acquainted with the French visitors. A walk through a Dusseldorf park gave us another opportunity to get acquainted. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

In the month of May our "flyer" advertising program was in full swing. Flyers distributed in the prestigious daily newspaper DIE WELT have thus far brought a total of 4,829 responses, or 2.5% of circulation. The flyer response is also coming in strong from the ads in Austria and Switzerland. From the Swiss SCHWEIZER BEOBACHTER magazine we have 933 responses already, and 1,536 responses from the Australian newspaper DIE PRESSE. The remainder of the responses should be in by the end of June.

Caribbean News The figures for the spring holy days were quite positive in that income for the Caribbean region registered a 33.5% increase for the first holy day and a 41.2% increase for the second holy day. Attendance for Passover was up 3.6%, and attendance for the two annual Sabbaths was up 21% and 22% respectively.

The mail count for the months of March and April were up 79% and 36% respectively from totals a year ago to date. Income for the Caribbean during March was up only 3% over the previous year, but the figures for April showed a 32% increase.

A total of 17,000 of Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letters were sent out in the Caribbean area advertising the new edition of THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX, and to date a total of 5,260 responses have been received--a response percentage of 31%.

We have been working on alternative mailing methods to speed up delivery of mail in the Caribbean. In some areas, literature mailed from Pasadena takes up to four months to arrive!

The Caribbean is a unique area, in which many independent and separate island nations are packed into a relatively small geographic area. There is one country in South America which is also included in the administrative area of the Caribbean--Guyana. For all practical purposes it is a landlocked island, and the most difficult in the region to mail into from anywhere in the world.

Although stocks of key booklets are retained in each area within the Caribbean to meet urgent local needs, most literature is mailed from Pasadena. It is hoped that by using a postal bag system (where all mail for an island is put in a mailbag which is sent via the post office to the local sub-office for distribution from there) delivery time can be reduced to 3-4 weeks in most areas. A cheaper rate also comes from the post office not having to sort the mail in the bag, but to only dispatch the bag.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to write and thank you for instituting a very thorough, a very sound, and a very positive Ministerial Refresher Program. We have not been in for any classes in eleven years and, actually, we tried to avoid the old ministerial sabbatical. But the value of these classes to the ministry and the church will continue to show for years down the road. There were many points brought out which you taught in the fifties and covered in conferences in the sixties, but which many of us never had heard before. The courses were excellent in updating us, unifying us in doctrine, and helping us to do a better job in our local church areas. Again, thank you very much.

Jim and Lois Haeffele

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Having recently returned from the tenth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program, we can truthfully say, as so many others already have, it has been a very positive and fruitful experience. Having been to headquarters on several occasions in the past, never before have we appreciated the beauty of the grounds, nor the spirit and attitude of the students as we have during this recent trip.

We wish to thank you and your staff for making it possible for us to be "refreshed" both physically and spiritually. We were wined, dined, and entertained bountifully. Truly our cup "runneth over." But above all, we especially appreciate the spiritual meat and other "courses" served us by a truly dedicated staff.

Carlos and Ruth Perkins

Very Dear Mr. Armstrong:

MERCI! This small word--condensed and full of meaning--expresses well our feeling for the more than 108 hours of life, enthusiasm, and dedication which were packed into the classes of the refresher program.

Merci for having chosen Messrs. Apartian, Blackwell, Hoeh, LaRavia, McNair, Neff, Tkach and Helge to instruct us. Thank you for the input

from Messrs. Albrecht, Salyer, Weber, Anderson, Burky, Faulkner, Hogberg, Matthews, Omasta, Snook and from all those working to make this program a quality experience.

A special thank you to Mr. Blackwell who found, on top of his 20 hours of instruction, time to invite the ministry to his home and to share his personal Library.

Above all our gratitude goes to our MERCIFUL God who built, through His unique Apostle, this beautiful Work in which He called us to have a part. With revitalized energy we will work hard to accomplish it.

Bruno and Rita Leclerc

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I were privileged to be a part of the ninth session of the ministerial refresher, and I wanted to write and thank you for establishing the program. We found the program inspiring and the fellowship with the other ministers most profitable. We also would like to mention how impressed we were with both the campus and the students.

Thank you for your steadfastness and your leadership in the Work. It is incredible what God has been able to do and is continuing to do through you. We are praying for you daily that God would continue to give you strength and good health.

Thank you again for the inspiring leadership and example you have been providing. May God bless you powerfully in your continued efforts.

Laurie and Sarah Nyhus

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"Refreshing" certainly is the right word to use in describing the Ministerial Refresher Program. The instruction, correction, and inspiration we received was spiritually equivalent to diving into a cool lake on a hot summer's day. Thank you very much for giving Kathy and me the opportunity to participate. The accommodations, meals, concerts, etc. provided for us were very greatly appreciated. Being able to have you instruct us personally and seeing your example of zeal, diligence, and hard work inspired us both to work harder and to take the valuable instructions given to us and better serve and educate the brethren. Thank you again, and a thank you to all the men who taught us so effectively.

Bill and Kathy Miller

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We want to add our thanks and appreciation for the refresher program. The material covered, the teamwork and helpful attitudes, the privilege of staying right on campus, all made it an unforgettable experience. Now we are anxious to share it all with the brethren so that together we can support and help you more in this end-time Work.

Jim and Barbara Chapman

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for the blessing of being able to attend the tenth session of the refresher program. I was much inspired to see the unity of your present staff and their dedication in carrying out your instructions to get God's Church back on track and to get the Work of God done. The spirit of cooperation was great in all departments and in the students.

The highlight of the program was your talking to us in one of the lectures. Thank you for your faithfulness to God's way and for the example you have set for us all these years.

Robert Collins

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Surely no program for the education of God's ministers has ever been as good or had the great impact on God's Church that the Ministerial Refresher Program has and yet will have. Lynn and I cannot really adequately express our appreciation for the program. We learned a great deal and have grown already through attending, and we know that the processes will simply continue as we digest the information gained, and as we teach it, and live it, and gain more by reason of building on a much deeper foundation.

We feel deeply privileged to be part of the ministry at this time. And we feel deeply privileged to have been taught by loyal and long-time ministers who do and have always lived what they taught us. Thank you for the countless hours put into the program by yourself, and all who taught us, so that the tenth session was all that it was. Now we know how great the refresher program is and the great good that those yet to enjoy the program have to look forward to.

Dennis and Lynn Lawrence

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

TERRE HAUTE/COLUMBUS IN--STEVE NUTZMAN: Brethren here are excited about Mr. Armstrong's ads which have just recently started to appear in the Midwest edition of the Wall Street Journal. They really make an impact when viewed full size in the paper itself!

Mr. Armstrong looked healthy, alert, and he inspired us with his message that was taped and sent out to the churches. The brethren appreciated seeing him again, even if it was on film and not in person. It would be most appreciated if more sermon films from Mr. Armstrong could be sent out (possibly twice a year) as the brethren are encouraged by "seeing" Mr. Armstrong speak to them.

VANCOUVER, WA--RICHARD D. DUNCAN: More people are putting forth the effort to improve and strengthen their spiritual lives. The days of Unleavened Bread had a very positive impact on the members in that regard too. Everyone who attended Sabbath services in Salem on April 4th and heard and saw Mr. Armstrong there were greatly inspired. Not only by his message, but by his vitality, drive, power and dedication to the Work and Church of God.

SALEM/ALBANY, OR--DAVID MILLS: The brethren really appreciated and were inspired by Mr. Armstrong's visit to Salem--tremendous launch for the holy days. Many commented on what an incredible spiritual Feast we have had--Mr. Armstrong's filmed sermon was a high point on the first day, and Mr. Dean Blackwell's sermons were a real capstone on the last day at combined services in Eugene!

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY P. MATTSON: Continual PM growth. To date I am counselling 25 plus individuals toward baptism! Attitude among the young people is greatly improving. They are showing a deeper interest in the Church and in spiritual matters.

TEXARKANA, TX--LYNN TORRANCE: The attendance here is increasing. God is calling new people. New prospective members suddenly appear. I assume that as a result of the Church of God having been put back on the track. God is indeed blessing the Worldwide Church of God--everywhere.

TACOMA, WA--LAMBERT GREER: Enjoyed Mr. Raymond McNair's visit to the Northwest. Uplifting to the brethren and all of us in the ministry to have a guest from Pasadena.

BINGHAMTON, NY--BRITTON M. TAYLOR: The brethren were very encouraged by the marriage siminar which Art Dyer and I conducted. Virtually every adult from both churches attended. We all feel Mr. Armstrong's co-worker letters are tremendous.

Weekly Letter Comments

Appreciation for Mr. Armstrong's Australian and New Zealand Visits

I am writing to you in gratitude for having visited and spoken to us in Melbourne. Thank you for strengthening and encouraging us. This was the first time I saw you in person.

I am from Tasmania and all of us on the island are behind you because we can see the fruits--the concrete evidence--that Jesus Christ is working through you to finish this end-time part of God's Work. Thank you again for coming to speak to us, Mr. Armstrong!

D.C. (Ulverstone, Australia)

Thank you for coming to Australia. We were very moved by your messages and sterling courage. Your perspective is so inspiring--the big picture. My wife and I were emotionally motivated to keep striving to do our part in this great Work. You set us an example of a warm, caring shepherd who loves each one of us. We were struck by your humility, love and wisdom.

I pray daily that God will continue to strengthen and keep you at the helm under Christ. More than ever I was sobered by how much this Church needs you. Thanks again for your love and inspiring example. We were all enriched by your visit.

Alan and Rosie Dean, Preaching Elder (Howrah, Australia)

We travelled to Auckland last Sunday to see and hear you, and naturally we were disappointed that you weren't able to make it, but we

just want to let you know that we would much rather you take care of yourself. We were glad to know that you were able to spend time with our ministers, and the "shot in the arm" that will have given them will be greatly to our advantage anyway. We were very grateful to Mr. Fahey for his fine sermon, and it was just great to be able to talk to him and his wife again, after many years.

We know you are God's Apostle, Mr. Armstrong, and thank you for the way you are carrying out that office. Whether we see you in the flesh or not, we feel very deep affection for you and support you totally in all that you are doing. Thank you for making the effort to come and see us in New Zealand.

Mr. Peter Nathan was in our area yesterday showing us some of your video tapes, and we were excited to see what a powerful means these are in reaching the world with the gospel. Fantastic! We will pray even more earnestly for God to use you with greater and greater power.

S. & J.B. (Havelock North, N.Z.)

Brethren Inspired by Mr. Armstrong's Letters

I want you to know how much I enjoy reading your letters. They pick me up so much. All of us in the Church appreciate hearing from you. Your letters really inspire us, so please send them as often as you can. I know you're unbelievably busy and I pray for you every day. The letters (and tapes we've been hearing at Bible study) bring us closer to you and help us to love you so much more. Thank you for your dedication.

P.Y. (Phoenix, AZ)

Thank you so very much for sharing God's wonderful truth with us. Without this information, we would still be lost in a world of darkness and confusion. It is so easy to let down and get discouraged, but your letters are like refreshing springs in the desert.

Thank you for remembering us in your prayers. Please continue to pray that our great God will stir us up as never before for His truth and Work. We need so badly to be lights to this world which has lost its way.

R. & D.M. (Jacksonville, FL)

The urgency you convey to us in your letters has become a part of our lives as we realize that each day brings us that much closer to the time of the end. We are bringing ourselves more and more fervently to the realization that time will not go on and on.

H.P. (Minneapolis, MN)

Your letters inspire me to keep running the good race and help me to fight the good fight. You set such a fine example of faith in God and love toward His people. I think of you as a second father--your warmth radiates, as a father's would, in all your letters. You are so much help and encouragement to me.

T.M. (Seattle, WA)

Comments About Mr. Armstrong's Books

Your book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, has given me a great understanding and knowledge of God's master plan to reproduce Himself through mankind. You have my greatest compliments on an outstanding book, that is so very alive with God's most needed truths.

J.A. (Cherry Point, NC)

It was a special blessing when for some unknown reason the book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, arrived in my brother's mailbox. I didn't order it, nor did he, yet there it was. It came at just the right time in his life, since he was suffering from malignant cancer. This book completely revised his thinking and brought him full circle back to the true Creator. And guess what? My brother overcame the ugly cancer (at the age of 30)! I am convinced that God moved you to send him that book at the time chosen. So--thank you, thank you!

B.R. (Step Rock, AR)

I want to make a quick comment regarding your book, TOMORROW, WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. I think that it is very well done and enjoyed reading it. (I read it with an Optacon, a device that allows blind people to read print.) It was the most concise and interesting way I've ever seen prophecies put together in one place.

P.K. (Jacksonville, FL)

Our whole family has enjoyed reading your books, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL and TOMORROW, WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE. We are excited about the opportunities of the future and the hope that we have in The World Tomorrow.

Mr. & Mrs. D.W. (Webberville, MI)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

TOTAL LITERATURE SENT IN 1980

Nearly 50 million pieces of literature were distributed worldwide in 1980. This amounts to 90 pieces of literature every minute of each day, for the whole year! Included were magazines, letters, books, booklets, etc.--everything except AICF and QUEST mailings as follows:

	TOTAL PIECES (millions)
1. PT subscription magazines.....	15.7
2. PT newsstand magazines.....	10.4
3. Letters (member and co-worker letters, renewal letters, etc.).....	10.1
4. Literature (books, booklets, etc.).....	8.8
5. WORLDWIDE NEWS.....	1.4
6. GOOD NEWS.....	1.1

7. CORRESPONDENCE COURSE lessons.....	0.6
8. Miscellaneous (Pastor General's Report, Y.O.U. mailings, etc.).....	0.5
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TOTAL.....	48.6

Of the total, 28.5 million pieces were sent out in the U.S. and 20.1 million in the Work overseas.

If the almost 50 million pieces of literature were placed in a single stack, it would tower 61 miles high and weigh more than 5,000 tons. If the literature were laid end to end, the line would stretch 7,900 miles. Or, if the literature were stacked on an American football field (300 feet long, 160 feet wide) it would stand 3½ feet high.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ISRAEL DOES EVERYONE A FAVOR It was a daring operation, one for which the Jewish nation is famous--and feared. On Pentecost, Sunday, June 7, Israeli jets demolished a \$260 million, 70-megawatt nuclear reactor on the outskirts of Baghdad. The pilots of the American-made F-16's and F-15's, flying unmolested through Jordanian and Saudi Arabian airspace to their target 600 miles away, disguised themselves as Jordanian airmen, speaking in fluent Arabic.

As a result of the three-hour-long "preemptive strike," Iraq's nuclear bomb capacity--which Prime Minister Menachem Begin claimed was directed against Israel--was nipped in the bud. The French-made plant was due to become operational--or "hot"--in possibly three weeks time. It would have been capable of producing enough plutonium each year to build a Nagasaki-type bomb.

A French nuclear technician who watched the airstrike from a safe distance said the accuracy of the hits on the plant was "stupifying."

The deal to construct the Iraqi reactor was made in 1975. French President Giscard d'Estaing, no friend of Israel, pushed for it in reciprocation for increased access to Iraqi oil.

(Interestingly, the name of the reactor was "Osirak"--probably an acronym for "Osiris Iraq." It was a duplicate of the Osiris reactor near Paris. Osirak was part of the "Tamuz" nuclear research complex, twelve miles from the Iraqi capital, which houses an older and smaller reactor, called "Isis," also French-built. Neither it nor a Soviet-built reactor in the same area was destroyed. One wonders if the first bomb would have been named "Dagon" or "Molech.")

The Israeli government explained its position on the raid as follows: "For a long time, we have followed with grave concern the construction of the Osirak nuclear reactor. Sources of unquestioned reliability told us that it was intended, despite statements to the contrary, for the production of atomic bombs.

"The goal for these bombs was Israel. This was explicitly stated by the Iraqi ruler. After the Iranians (last September) slightly damaged the reactor, (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein remarked that it was pointless for the Iranians to attack the reactor because it was being built against Israel alone....

"Two European governments (France and Italy) were helping the Iraqi dictator, in return for oil, to manufacture nuclear weapons. Once again we call on them to desist from this terrible and inhuman act.

"On no account shall we permit an enemy to develop weapons of mass destruction against the people of Israel. We shall defend the citizens of Israel in good time and with all the means at our disposal."

Worldwide reaction to the surprise raid was expected: Jerusalem was condemned around the world, even by the United States. To all the denunciations, Prime Minister Begin replied, "We are not afraid of any reactions in the world. I say that with complete openness."

The Soviet Union, of course, implicated Washington in the operation. But, as one American jokester commented: "We know the U.S. wasn't involved because the raid was a success."

While Iraq, bogged down in its war with Iran, is not expected to retaliate, there will certainly be widespread ramifications to the raid.

The attack will further isolate Israel in the world, if that be possible. Islamic states are likely to step up their pressure to have Israel--to a large degree a creation of the United Nations--expelled from the world body (where it is already the number one polecat).

The raid also severely damages U.S. credibility in the Middle East. It certainly sets back the attempt to negotiate a diplomatic settlement to the ongoing Lebanon crisis. The U.S. will be on the Arab world hot seat if it permits further deliveries of American aircraft to Israel.

Also hampered is Washington's design to "wean" the Arab world away from Moscow and bring it closer to the West. Arab nations, including Saudi Arabia, have asserted that the real threat to peace in the Middle East was Israel, not the Soviet Union, as the U.S. contends. This assertion seemed far-fetched at first, but not so much now, at least from the Arab point of view.

Egypt's President Sadat has been left dangling more precariously in isolation within the Arab world. The raid came only three days after his summit talks with Mr. Begin, talks which the Israeli Prime Minister had asked for. Radical Arabs will certainly claim that Sadat knew what was coming.

Lastly, Israel will find herself more estranged than ever before from the nations of Western Europe. The Osirak project was being built by the French and the Italians, whose leaders naturally denounced the destruction of their work. For a while it appeared that relations between Israel and France would improve, with the possibility of an official visit to Israel by France's new president Francois Mitterrand, the first visit ever by a French head-of-state. Though not called off, the visit looks remote now.

The raid also did little to soothe Israel's strained relations with West Germany. Mr. Begin, angry at a recent trip to Saudi Arabia by Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, fired two verbal salvos at him, calling him a "Nazi officer" on one occasion. Mr. Begin also said that "the wounds which the German people caused the Jewish people will not heal even in ten generations." Mr. Begin interspersed his tirades with a broadside against former French President Giscard d'Estaing as well.

Many West Europeans find it hard to see how peace can be advanced in the turbulent Middle East as long as Mr. Begin is around. They originally had high hopes the acerbic prime minister would be defeated in Israel's June 30 parliamentary elections. But Mr. Begin's tough talk and tougher actions have put him ahead in the polls over his rival, the Labor Party's Shimon Peres. (Peres called the Iraqi raid an "election stunt.")

The raid might force radical and moderate Arab states to close ranks. But any such "solidarity" will probably be temporary. The fact is, there are probably not a few in the Arab world who privately applaud Israel's destruction of Iraq's capability of producing nuclear weapons.

Backed with its nuclear might, Iraq was out to become the "big boy" in the Arab world. The ambitions of Iraqi president Saddam Hussein were far from appreciated by fellow Arab leaders.

Syria and Iraq, for example, have been enemies for years because of their rival Ba'ath parties. If nothing else, Syria can now breathe a bit easier with Iraq's nuclear program knocked out of commission for at least three years.

Egypt, long the dominant power in the Arab world with its 42 million people, certainly did not want to see Iraq take over that role because of a nuclear capability Egypt does not yet possess.

Non-Arab but Moslem Iran, at war with Iraq, certainly gained encouragement, if nothing else, from the raid.

The Los Angeles Times editorialized in its June 9, 1981 edition: "Israel is and will continue taking a lot of international heat for what has happened. The irony is that Israel, by its discomfiting action, may in the end have made the Middle East a somewhat safer place for all concerned."

Dangerous Precedent

In a strange way, Israel's bold action served another temporary purpose. Said the Wall Street Journal, tongue-in-cheek: "Whatever else might be said about the Israeli attack on the Osirak nuclear reactor near Baghdad Sunday, we now know that there is at least one effective anti-proliferation policy in the world."

But at the same time, Israel may have set a very dangerous precedent. Will India now decide to "surgically remove" archenemy Pakistan's nuclear reactor facility leading to another full-scale war on the Indian subcontinent? New Delhi has only 18 months to go before her hated neighbor has the bomb.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau