

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Advisory Council of Elders Expanded

Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong has announced the appointment of four additional members to the Advisory Council of Elders.

The Advisory Council was formed in Tucson, Arizona, before Mr. Armstrong returned to his office in Pasadena. At the time, he named to the Council ministers who had been very frequently going to Tucson and who at the time were more closely in contact with him personally. It was more of a temporary emergency council at the time. Now, however, the Advisory Council has become a permanent advisory body to the Pastor General, with an official status, not only as a permanent consulting Council to Christ's Apostle, but an official body that would officially designate a successor as Pastor General in the event of disability or death of the Pastor General.

Therefore Mr. Armstrong felt that some of the ministers of longer, loyal and faithful service should be members of so important an official body.

Named to the Council were Herman L. Hoeh, the only pioneer student of Ambassador College still in the Church. Also Roderick C. Meredith, who entered Ambassador College in its third year, 1949. (Mr. Raymond F. McNair, who entered the second year, 1948, already was a Council member.) Next added were Norman A. Smith, who entered in September, 1950, and fourth, Harold L. Jackson, a member since May 28, 1936.

These early Ambassador College graduates and longtime ministers bring additional depth to the existing Council. The original advisory group consisting of Dibar Apartian, Dean Blackwell, Robert Fahey, Ellis LaRavia, Raymond McNair, Leroy Neff, Joseph Tkach and Leon Walker, with Ralph Helge as Legal Advisor was formed in early March by Mr. Armstrong. The original appointment of the Council was announced March 13 in the Pastor General's Report and in the March 16 issue of The WORLDWIDE NEWS.

The scope and magnitude of the Work in this era is very diverse and demanding and it continues to grow as God blesses it. Christ continues to lead, guide and direct His Work through His Apostle.

Mr. Armstrong stated, "Jesus Christ is the living HEAD of this Church and the Work of God. I am merely an instrument in His hands. I look to Him, of course, for guidance. But He is God's Word, and that Word in writing says: 'In multitude of counsellors there is safety.' I have always sought and listened to counsellors."

The Advisory group provides a body of counsellors to draw on in making decisions regarding the operation of a large worldwide Work. Mr. Armstrong's appointment of the Council also provides a stabilizing influence for the Church in the future.

Pastor General Armstrong convened a meeting of the Council on Monday, July 20, preceding his trip to Europe. He conducted some official Church matters and updated the Advisory group on the various aspects of the Work.

H.W.A. DIARY

by Robert E. Fahey

This is Thursday, July 30, and I am behind on writing for the Pastor General's Report. So far everything on the trip is moving so fast that I have the feeling I have gotten myself into a movie that is running at "fast forward." I am groping around trying to find the "normal speed" button, so far without success. It is beginning to dawn on me that working in the Pastor General's Office, fast forward is normal!

On Tuesday, July 21, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, Ruth Nestor, Evelyn and I, departed Los Angeles on the G-II at 1 p.m. for Orr, Minnesota. Our SEP camp is very close to the flight path we would have to take from Los Angeles to London, so we decided to combine Mr. Armstrong's visit with the trip to Europe.

We arrived on schedule at 6:30 p.m. and were met by Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Dean, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Register, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Horchak and a host of campers. Before Mr. HWA left the plane he put on the YOU cap that was presented him when he visited the first session. It is royal blue and white and under the YOU monogram the words "Pastor General" appear. When Mr. Armstrong stepped through the plane door, the hat caught everyone by surprise. It took a second or two to recognize who was under it. But when the crowd did see that it was HWA in a YOU cap, a rousing cheer went up that must have been heard for miles! The cheering and laughter lasted till we all deplaned. It was a great welcome to SEP!

We had dinner that night at the guest lodge with all ministers at the camp. It was a chance to chat and get acquainted.

The next morning we had brunch with all the staff in the main dining room. Flowers gathered from around the camp site graced every table and the ging-ham-curtained room could not have looked more cheerful and inviting.

After breakfast, we toured the camp. The girls' dorm, previously judged the neatest, received an "inspection" from HWA. It was certainly an outstanding example of what a dorm can and should be. Most pleasing of all was the JOY written on the faces of the children of God's Church--and the esprit de corps!

We then toured various facilities around the camp and a boys' dorm. The same JOY and excitement was on all faces as Mr. Armstrong walked through each room. In one of them he spotted my son Jonathan standing beside the neatest bed Jonathan has ever made in his life! Now I know Jon can do it! The secret is out!

Mr. Armstrong addressed the campers that afternoon. He had been told the youngsters had two main questions. First, what to do after high school? Mr. Armstrong said that was one of the reasons for opening Big Sandy again: to give as many as we could the opportunity to attend Ambassador College. But even so, there would not be enough room for everyone. He said he could not recommend the universities of this world. The main thing wrong in the world

today is education. The institutions of higher learning are teaching people the wrong way!

He said man needs three kinds of knowledge: how to deal with things, how to deal with people and how to relate to God. The schools can teach how to deal with things--that is fine. But universities attempt to teach how to deal with people--psychology is an example. But they know nothing of the spirit in man and how attitudes are formed. Therefore their knowledge is wrong. He added that we have had men who have finished Ambassador, understood God's Word, then go to these outside universities. And they have gone off--possibly for all eternity. He said he could not recommend law, medicine and the social sciences.

He then explained God's way of marrying within your own family group and how that principle applies at camp.

When he finished, the children gave him a standing ovation.

In Britain, the airports are closed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. This is to keep the noise level down during the sleeping hours. We had timed our arrival to be at 7 a.m. Thursday morning so we could adjust to the time difference as quickly as possible. But we had departed Orr a little earlier than planned. And we also had strong tail winds that put us over Luton at 5:30 a.m. The airport authorities said we could land at 6 a.m. so we had to circle for 30 minutes.

We were met by Mr. Frank Brown whom Captain Black had notified of our earlier-than-planned arrival. Several other ministers from around the area were there also. Dr. and Mrs. Abbott, formerly on the faculty at Bricket Wood, came out to welcome Mr. Armstrong back to England. Also there was the reliable Lawrence with the least expensive car in the fleet--the 20-year-old Rolls Royce that is still going strong!

We spent the rest of Thursday getting settled in and adjusted to the time change.

On Friday, we drove to Radlett to see the printing facility and Office there. Mr. Armstrong was displeased that commercial printing was the main function of our installation. When Mr. Brown had first told Mr. Armstrong about the situation in March of this year, Mr. HWA instructed Mr. Brown to sell the plant as soon as possible. Seeing the operation in action convinced Mr. Armstrong that selling the press was still the right course.

After the press tour, Mr. Brown gave a presentation on the Work supervised by the Office at Radlett in Britain, Scandinavia, the Middle East and Black Africa. It was very inspiring to us all to see how God is doing a work in all these areas. We will share some of the highlights with you after we return to Pasadena.

British law requires an annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the College and Church in Britain. Mr. Brown had arranged a luncheon at his home for the Board and the meeting followed the meal. Mr. HWA chaired the business meeting and updated the Board on recent developments in the Church.

On Sabbath, members from around the whole of Britain gathered in London to hear the Pastor General. One man came from as far away as Ghana! In all,

1908 people came to Central Hall, Westminster for the special Sabbath service.

Mr. Armstrong began by saying "Greetings everyone in Ephraim!" He had heard that some in Britain objected to his Wall Street Journal ads because they felt we are an American religion. Mr. HWA said this is not an American religion--it is God's religion! Even though the Bible we use comes from Oxford University Press!

After that introduction, he stuck to the trunk of the tree! He explained that all the troubles in this present evil world came as a result of Adam's decision to take to himself knowledge production; to accept no spiritual knowledge from God that would show the way to a right relationship with God and how to get along with other people. Adam only had physical knowledge, acquired through the five senses to guide him. He could work with things, but was utterly helpless before his problems between people, which are spiritual in nature.

He continued by explaining that the Church is the first since Adam was expelled from the Garden of Eden to have access to God's Holy Spirit. We must qualify in this age, with Satan still on his throne. It is tougher now, but we will be used by God as leaders under Christ forever.

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Spanish Update The June LA PURA VERDAD subscription stands at 88,555, which is 25 percent higher than in June of 1980. A total of 40,128 new subscribers have been added since January of this year.

During the past year, LA PURA VERDAD circulation has reached all-time highs in Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, Spain, Puerto Rico, Uruguay, the U.S.A. and several non-Spanish-speaking European nations, such as Great Britain, West Germany and Switzerland.

Here are some interesting historical facts concerning La PURA VERDAD: Through the end of June 1981, a total of 453,911 subscriptions have been sent to 124 countries since the Spanish PLAIN TRUTH started in February of 1968. According to a recent survey, the PV has about 6.5 readers per copy, which means that nearly three million people in the Spanish-speaking world have read the magazine. This does not include the 1.1 million people who have read the magazine via newsstand distribution over the last five and one-half years.

The highest circulation in any country at one given time was 50,773 in Colombia in late 1975. The highest cumulative number of subscriptions during the existence of La PURA VERDAD is 118,061. These were sent to Mexico, the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Lastly, the best "penetration" the Spanish PT has achieved is in tiny Costa Rica (population 2.2 million) where 3.7 percent of all households have received a subscription at one time or another.

Income for the Latin American countries continues to show substantial increases even though inflation in some countries is extremely high. Our

year-to-date increases in the number of co-workers and donors is 22.9 per cent and 32.3 percent respectively. The overall monetary increase is 30 percent. Mail received is up 29 percent.

Jamaica On Sunday, 26th of July, as a follow-up to previously conducted PLAIN TRUTH subscribers' lectures, Charles Fleming, associate pastor of the Kingston, Jamaica church, presented on film a sermon by Mr. Armstrong. One hundred twenty new people attended--over 9% of the 1,313 subscribers invited, 45 of whom had not attended either of the previous lectures! It was a very responsive audience and many mentioned they would be interested in seeing and hearing from Mr. Armstrong again. One man commented that he had read Mr. Armstrong's books before, but that he had never had it all put together in that way. From that group alone 45 would like a visit from a minister! It looks like the Work in Jamaica is in for an exciting period of activity and growth.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just completed the 11th session of the Ministerial Refresher Program. We want to thank you and express our appreciation for the privilege of faculty participation in the program. It was indeed beneficial and will help us to be of one mind with the ministry in dealing with students and employees.

The 11th session was filled with many blessings and was unique in many ways. We were, of course, the first program to mix faculty and ministry together. Viola and I found this most helpful. This was the first series to be on campus during the filming of the festival program with the Young Ambassadors. I know that the ministers enjoyed this very much. But most of all, we had the wonderful privilege of learning at your feet during the last session. Thank you very much for the input you made to the program. Every session was packed with useful information and instruction, but the session with you was the real dessert to top a feast that lasted three weeks.

Again, thank you for allowing the faculty to participate in this wonderful experience. We are 100% behind you in our prayers and in our work.

Richard E. Walther

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from Australia! I do hope and pray you are keeping good health. My wife and I are grateful for God's love for His people in Australia by allowing you to visit this country in May. The tremendous inspirational influence of your visit is still very much with us. Also, we would like to thank you for the opportunity we had in traveling to the U.S.A. from Australia in order to attend the highly profitable 11th session of the refresher, and for the privilege of spending three weeks on God's college campus.

While there we were able to hear you speak on a number of occasions--your sermons on LIFE were outstanding. Your inspired teachings on LIFE have motivated me, have given me far greater insight into the Word of

LIFE and have inspired me to pass on the precious knowledge you gave to the congregations I preach to each week.

In Genesis 3:4 Satan misled Eve into believing she had LIFE. The people in the world think they have LIFE. Thanks to God and His Son for leading their Apostle who now teaches us the plain truth about LIFE. Mr. Armstrong, thank you very much.

John and Fiona Larkin

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

It is now about four months since Anne and I have completed the refresher program. I did not intend to put off writing this letter of thanks until now. It happened one week at a time. But I am glad it did! The last four months have given us the opportunity to put the refresher program material to work. Now I can write having already experienced some of its benefits.

The Trenton and Hammonton, New Jersey Churches are becoming more unified, more dedicated and looking more to your leadership. Our elders and deacons are becoming more service-oriented, more sacrificing. The PLAIN TRUTH Distribution Program is picking up momentum. There is eagerness to participate. And most recently, I have become more involved with Y.O.U. (as was taught in the refresher program) and I am looking forward to similar responses.

I would certainly be remiss if I neglected to express our thanks and the gratitude of the entire south Jersey area to you. We know the living Christ is directing you and has inspired this far-reaching program. Those who are instrumental in carrying out your directives and teaching the classes of this program are doing a fine job and are to be commended. Please convey to them our thanks and deep appreciation.

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse was here this past weekend. We are still reeling from his powerful preaching. We needed the message he brought, reinforcing scripturally your apostleship and our responsibilities in supporting you.

Mr. Armstrong, God is blessing you and His Church. Thanks again for your faithfulness and loyalty enabling this Church to be placed back on track. Please know that we, too, intend to remain loyal and faithful to God and Christ, and in our support of you.

Vince Panella

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I were able to attend the first week of the 12th Ministerial Refresher Program. I am a local elder and this was our first opportunity to spend time at headquarters, except for a very brief visit several years ago. Please accept our thanks for the opportunity we were given. It was enlightening, uplifting but also sobering to me. From the many examples I witnessed in the week of fellowship, I can more clearly see the unfulfilled opportunity for personal growth that lies before me. With God's help and the kind of support given us by the training program, plus all of the other material given us through the Church, I expect to fulfill that opportunity.

Please express our thanks to Mr. Armstrong and all of the staff who made the program so worthwhile. I will not list my impressions--they have been expressed to you before, except for one outstanding thing. From gardener to kitchen workers, students and teachers, from the family we shared home with to evangelists who lectured, I have never, ever witnessed such a feeling of genuine warmth, love and personal concern as we experienced there.

Jerry and Kathy Hoyer

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We thoroughly enjoyed the refresher program. The program does provide a much needed opportunity for all of us to hear the same things over a short period of time.

We appreciate the efforts of so many both in the classroom and out who gave so much to the preparation and delivery of the program. The attitudes of service and balance emphasized in the classes should serve all of us well in the ministry.

The Ambassador College campus was more impressive than ever. We enjoyed walking around the grounds even though there was a possibility of meeting some "forest friends."

It was great to hear from Mr. Armstrong. His zeal is an inspiration to go and do likewise.

Jim and Kaye Kisse

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We want to thank you very much for allowing us the opportunity to attend the refresher program. It was truly a blessing for us. We gained much spiritually, thanks to all of you dedicated servants of God, and we also gained physically, thanks to Mr. Green and his staff.

The speakers showed us fine examples of unity and loyalty to Mr. Armstrong and to the Work, which we greatly appreciated. We hope that through continual review of our notes we'll be able to keep in mind those things that we were taught, and thus exemplify and teach the way that leads to salvation.

Please extend our appreciation to Mr. Armstrong for taking time from his busy schedule to speak to us.

Roger and Janet Shigehara

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I want to especially thank you and all the men that are dedicated to this great end-time Work and spending extra time to "refresh us." We want you to know we appreciate all the spiritual food, as well as the nice apartment to stay in, the lovely dinners and fellowship. It is aptly named "refresher." We are so full of the teachings and would like to say thanks again for your part in it. To see Mr.

Armstrong and how vigorously he puts out the message is inspiring. It is wonderful to see the way the Spirit of God is working in him. Thanks again.

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Hardiman

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for the greatest, most spiritually organized Ministerial Refresher Program. We also thank God for each and every one of the faithful and dedicated ministers who are training us to serve more effectively for the greatest Work on earth.

Being taught by God through His ministers at headquarters is indeed a rare privilege. We pray that God will use us for all intents and purposes according to His will.

Thank you Mr. Armstrong. Surely the working of God's power and the spirit of truth is being revealed through you. God is blessing His Work. We pray for all of you, always.

Howard and Lisa Stein

P.S. Bravo! to those who prepared and served us our meals. They were delicious (and good too)! The Wednesday night BAR-BQ's were just great, and the "fellowship" with old and new friends very rewarding.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM THE MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

Toll-free Number on Radio

Recently the toll-free phone number was added on a trial basis to the radio broadcast on 30 stations. Seventy percent of those who responded had been listening to the radio program for six months or more. They had never written in, but called when the phone number was introduced. Providing the use of the number has made it possible for us to reach a group who would not otherwise have responded.

This is only the second week of testing and more time will be required to see if giving listeners the option of calling in improves response significantly.

Update on Threatened U.S. Postal Strike

As of this writing, union leaders have accepted a three-year contract with the United States Postal Service management. The contract now has to be ratified by the rank and file membership which will take approximately 30 days. It is expected that the union members will approve the contract. So far, no disruptions have occurred in mail delivery.

Weekly Letter Comments

This week we are featuring some inspiring, short quotes about the Work from members and others on the mailing list.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Mr. Armstrong

Mr. Armstrong, it is so easy to let down and get discouraged, but your letters are like refreshing springs in the desert.

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

Mr. Armstrong, continue to divert our attention from the debilitating distractions of this present sin-sick society. Continue to present to us the impending reality of the Kingdom of God! Only if we fully comprehend the stark contrast between today's deplorable world conditions and tomorrow's incredible utopia will we be able to seek first that Kingdom and endure to the end.

D.B. (Minneapolis, MN)

Mr. Armstrong, may you continue to astonish and amaze the world with your life, wisdom and inspiration granted to you by God Almighty.

Mr. & Mrs. J.E. (Dover, OH)

Radio and Television

Because of your radio programs and booklets, I finally have intelligent, practical, logical, clear and precise answers to questions that have caused me intense frustration and agony for many, many years!

M. B. (Marietta, GA)

The broadcast is like a great beam of light coming into our home. How we pray that God will open more doors to radio.

Mr. & Mrs. V.T. (Woodinville, WA)

I can only compare the telecast to an oasis suddenly appearing in a visual desert (television in general). We look forward to many more exciting and refreshing lessons that God has revealed through you.

Mrs. A.M. (Oklahoma City, OK)

Literature

I have been blessed with more insight and understanding of the scriptures since receiving your magazines and booklets. The knowledge I have gained is, for me, like eating apple pie; the more I eat, the more I want. I am therefore enrolling in your Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.

J.G. (Cincinnati, OH)

The GOOD NEWS sparkles with gems of information that every reader should appreciate and abundantly enjoy.

Mrs. F. (Oak Ridge, NJ)

May God bless you for bringing such a terrific, sane and very readable magazine like The PLAIN TRUTH into my life.

Truth does indeed blow very cold once it blows through the warm coziness that covers up the lies and dangerous deceptions practised by the glib politicians of world governments today.

As soon as I read my eagerly-awaited copy of The PLAIN TRUTH, I count the days to the next month's arrival.

C. S. (London, England)

Church

We have seen God's Church slide into near oblivion, then come roaring back through the power of the Spirit of God working through His apostle.

C.M. (Kenosha, WI)

It is very thrilling to see the impact your effort is having around the world. Also the way Christ is setting His Church higher and higher upon a hill so that the true light may become more apparent and show the way to all.

R.C. (St. Petersburg, FL)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

MR. REAGAN'S SUMMIT--OTTAWA: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Great Britain succinctly summed up the seventh annual free world economic summit held here in Canada's capital: "I think Ronald Reagan had a very good summit indeed."

At times, in fact, it seemed almost as if President Reagan were the host of the three-day conference, rather than Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. From the very moment he touched the tarmac at the airport on Sunday afternoon, July 19, smiling and waving to the press as usual--in sharp contrast to the other far more reserved heads-of-government--it was obvious that Mr. Reagan was the dominant personality among the seven world leaders who represent nations controlling about 80% of the free world's GNP. (The roster also included President Francois Mitterrand of France, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki of Japan and Premier Giovanni Spadolini of Italy. Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg attended as an observer, being president of the European Common Market's council.)

From the very start, Mr. Reagan took the lead, but in his own inimitable style--firm, but never overbearing, tempered with well-placed quips and anecdotes. The president, while a "rookie" at summitry (along with Mitterrand, Suzuki, and Spadolini), nevertheless showed he was up to the strenuous tasks. He had prepared thoroughly for the summit, enduring hours of grueling briefings by aides.

One unforgettable photograph taken at nearby Chateau Montebello, site of most of the closed-door sessions, revealed who was unmistakably in charge of the proceedings: It showed Mr. Reagan rather gleefully steering a golf cart around the chateau grounds--with a glum, nonplussed Chancellor Schmidt sitting to his right.

The other six leaders found President Reagan to be no "figurehead" leader but a man very much "up front." He did nearly all of the talking for the U.S. delegation. He revealed himself as being single-minded and firmly rooted in his convictions. And adding to his infectious charm, which all acknowledged, he can be very persuasive. The final communique largely reflected his own views on economic matters. At the same time, Mr. Reagan

achieved high marks from his peers who remarked that he was also a good listener, one who readily acknowledged their own national economic problems, especially as aggravated by high interest rates in the United States.

The private "no holds barred" sessions, journalists were told in press briefings, were very frank, but apparently never acrimonious. And in the end, the Europeans, Japanese and Canadians had little choice but to trust Mr. Reagan's contention that his domestic economic reform package will "turn things around" in the U.S. within a few months, to the expected benefit of America's partners. One got the impression that the other six were giving the U.S. a year's grace, at least until the next summit to be held in France.

The final communique showed the Reagan imprint. It stressed the importance for governments to "urgently reduce public borrowing...to rely on containment of budgetary deficits, by means of restraint in government expenditures." Mr. Reagan let the Europeans know that he felt their economic problems were largely of their own making, traceable primarily to skyrocketing social expenditures, only secondarily to high U.S. interest rates. Apparently Chancellor Schmidt, for one, got the message, expressing the intention to go home and cut West German federal spending and borrowing. This could put Schmidt in hot water with his own Social Democratic party, however.

The President budged only ever so slightly on Prime Minister Trudeau's pet project--improved "North-South" (developed vs. developing nations) relations. Mr. Trudeau would have been embarrassed had no mention been given to increasing North-South development aid. But the essentially Reagan final communique stressed the necessity for encouraging development by means of private investment, not government handouts, which all too often only end up lining the pockets of despots.

Of what importance are such international heads-of-government meetings such as the economic summit? It's easy to dismiss them as having little value, but in the potentially explosive era we are living in, such summit conferences help keep international relations on an even keel--as long as reasonable men are in seats of authority. Personal contact among leaders does have some value. It can help diffuse potential crises. As President Reagan remarked: "Getting to personally know these other individuals, getting into a really first-name basis, is worth its weight in gold."

But summits, of course, solve nothing of themselves. Final communiqués--written in advance--usually are cosmetic patchworks papering over deep division. Even before the Ottawa conference began, Prime Minister Trudeau prepared Canadians not to expect any concrete results, except, he said, "to try to understand where the devil the world is going."

This has been a bit different "On the World Scene." But I thought some on-the-spot observations from the Ottawa Summit, especially about the pivotal role of America's new president, might be of some value.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau