

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Television and Radio Station Update

God has recently opened some amazing doors in Europe. During the Feast, Mr. Armstrong approved purchase of a half-hour time slot made available by Radio Luxembourg, one of the world's most powerful radio stations with 1.3 million watts of power. This is the same station that carried the broadcast to Europe beginning in 1953 and which represented a major step forward, as Mr. Armstrong has said, in fulfilling Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

The coverage of the station includes all of Great Britain, Scandinavia, The Netherlands, Belgium, parts of France, Germany (East and West), Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria and Switzerland. The time is 6:30 GMT Sunday evening. David Hulme who was in Europe for the Feast was able to coordinate this buy and heard the first broadcast loud and clear in Britain on November 1. However, when Mr. Armstrong listened to the program in his suite during the recent London visit the broadcast faded badly four or five times. Mr. Brown will have to keep his eye on how effective the station is in Britain. Needless to say the Church is very excited to be able to hear God's Apostle over the airwaves once again.

An additional opportunity offered by the Radio Luxembourg affiliate television station will make The WORLD TOMORROW television program available in Europe for the first time. The television station in Luxembourg reaches a large portion of Belgium by cable in the French language. A portion of northern France will be able to receive the program which will be broadcast with French subtitles. The Television Production Department in Pasadena is already hard at work on this significant new project, to which Mr. Armstrong gave his approval about two weeks ago. It is scheduled to be first broadcast in January, 1982 on Friday evenings at approximately 11 p.m., one of the most popular evenings of the week on television in Belgium.

Mr. Armstrong's special T.V. broadcast following the assassination of President Sadat has produced 8,430 calls, the largest number of telephone responses of any program aired this year. This was undoubtedly due to the topicality of the program as well as the \$44,000 newspaper ad campaign promoting the program in the top 50 U.S. markets. Response to the Sadat Special shows an 18.5% increase over the previous highest response to a telecast this year which was 7,133 calls from "Prophecy and the U.S."

We thought you would enjoy sharing some of the more recent media developments in the U.S. The list on page 2 details the buys and changes we have been able to make in the media in the past couple of months.

We are hoping to continue expanding media coverage in the United States, and we will keep you informed as God continues to open these doors to His Apostle to deliver Christ's message.

TELEVISION

Arizona

KTVK, Phoenix--7:00 a.m., Sun.

California

* KOVR, Sacramento--7:30 a.m., Sun.

Florida

* WESH, Winter Park--9:00 a.m.,
Sun. (Through Dec. 6, 7:30
a.m., Sun.)

Georgia

* WATL, Atlanta--10:00 a.m., Sun.

Iowa

KWWL, Waterloo--10:30 a.m., Sun.

Louisiana

* WRBT, Baton Rouge--7:00 a.m.,
Sun.

Maine

* WSMW, Worcester--7:30 a.m., Sun.

Michigan

WUHQ, Battle Creek--7:00 a.m.,
Sun.

WILX, Lansing--10:30 a.m., Sun.

*New stations

New Hampshire

* WMUR, Manchester--10:30 a.m.,
Sun.

New Jersey

* WAAT, Wildwood--11:30 a.m., Sun.
(formerly WCMC)

North Carolina

WPCQ, Charlotte--8:00 a.m., Sun.

Ohio

* WUAB, Cleveland--9:00 a.m., Sun.

Tennessee

* WPTY, Memphis--9:30 p.m., Sun.

Texas

* KTXA, Arlington--7:00 a.m., Sun.
* KHTV, Houston--6:30 a.m., Sun.

Washington

* KIRO, Seattle--7:00 a.m., Sun.
* KCPQ, Tacoma--9:30 a.m., Sun.

Wyoming

KCWY, Casper--10:00 a.m., Sun.

RADIO

Alabama

WSHF, Huntsville--10:00 a.m.,
Sun.; 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.
WMGY, Montgomery--6:30 a.m.,
Mon.-Fri.

Arizona

KIKX, Tucson--8:00 a.m., Sun.;
11:00 p.m., Sun.-Thu.

Florida

WVCG, Coral Gables--7:05 a.m.,
Sun.; 11:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WEXY, Ft. Lauderdale--2:30 p.m.,
Sun.; 1:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
* WFIV, Kissimmee--10:00 a.m.,
Sun.; 1:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.
* WGBS, Miami--7:00 a.m., Sun.
WINZ, Miami--8:30 a.m., Sun.;
12:05 a.m., Mon.-Sat.
* WHOO, Orlando--7:30 a.m., Sun.

Illinois

* WCFL, Chicago--5:00 a.m., Mon.-
Sat.
* WGN, Chicago--6:30 a.m., Sun.
* WMIX, Mt. Vernon--9:30 a.m., Sun.

Kentucky

WHAS, Louisville--11:30 p.m.,
Mon.-Fri.

Louisiana

KWKH, Shreveport--9:30 a.m., Sun.

New York

WVOX, New Rochelle--6:30 a.m.,
Mon.-Sat.

WSOQ, Syracuse--8:30 a.m., Sun.;
8:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

North Carolina

*WNCT, Greenville--8:00 a.m.,
Sun.; 7:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Pennsylvania

KQV, Pittsburgh--7:00 a.m., Sun.;
11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat

*New stations

Tennessee

WKXV, Knoxville--10:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 3:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WREC, Memphis--6:00 a.m., Sun.;
4:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

*WSM, Nashville--11:00 p.m., Sun.;
4:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.

Texas

*KBOX, Dallas--7:00 a.m., Sun.;
10:00 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Utah

KSL, Salt Lake--5:30 a.m., Sun.;
12:06 a.m., Tues.-Sun.

Virginia

WNIS, Norfolk--8:30 p.m., Sun.;
11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Washington

*KVI, Seattle--7:30 a.m., Sun.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESDeath of Minister in the Philippines

We are sorry to report that Mr. Nicanor Enriquez, pastor of the Tacloban City Church in the Philippines, was killed November 14 when the van he was driving to an outlying Bible Study went off the road into a ditch. Mr. Enriquez's wife and several others with them sustained relatively minor injuries. Your prayers on behalf of the survivors and injured would be appreciated.

Missing Members

As most of you are aware, our members are a mobile group. We frequently get mail returns for them. What this means is that the Post Office will return mail to us saying it is undeliverable--for a wide range of reasons. Many times this is probably due to their own error. Whatever the case, when this happens, we stop all mail and wait for the individual involved to let us know their new address or that they aren't receiving their mail.

Until the last few months, we would wait three to four months for this response. If we didn't hear from them, we would then write the Church Pastor involved and ask his help in finding them. When another three to four months elapsed and we still hadn't received any definite response, we made them nonmembers pending any further update.

We have recently made a change in the "mail return" process. Whenever we receive a postal return we mail a first-class letter to the member explaining the difficulty and request a response. (First class letters are forwarded, magazines are not.) If, after one month, we have not heard from the

member, we write a letter to the pastor asking his help. If the pastor has no information on the individual involved, or fails to respond in a month, we make the member a nonmember. This is the pastor's responsibility.

We have instituted this change to simplify your job and ours. If there should be any problems, please let us know. This procedure applies to U.S. members. Should the international Regional Directors wish to institute this procedure or modify it for their areas, they are free to do so.

CALLING AFTER HOURS

From time to time a need may arise to contact me at home after hours. Should such a need occur, please feel free to contact me at home through the switchboard. The operators in Communications will gladly connect you. Thank you.

--Joe Tkach

International News

Southern Africa Dr. Roy McCarthy, Regional Director for Southern Africa, reports on a fine festival there:

The Feast of Tabernacles 1981 in Southern Africa was blessed in many, many ways. The people especially had an excellent attitude--happiness, joy, friendliness, helpfulness, a real help-your-neighbour atmosphere everywhere. Nobody appeared to be a loser, having benefited both spiritually and physically.

Total attendance was 2,622 at the six sites. Durban had 1,196, George 412, Victoria Falls 382, Umgababa 336, Sonesta 231 and Mauritius 65. The overall attendance was seven percent up on 1980, after making allowance for the Zambian and Mauritian brethren as they were then not included in our region and hence not part of our 1980 attendance figures. The Zambian brethren attended with the Zimbabwean brethren at Victoria Falls and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The offering during the Feast of Tabernacles in South Africa was 26% up on 1980; in Zimbabwe up 69%. On the Last Great Day the offering was 28.6% up in South Africa and in Zimbabwe plus 223%. We totaled all offerings for the seven Holy Days and in South Africa we are 30.4% up on the total for 1980, and in Zimbabwe +28%.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Smith were our guests this year. They visited the Durban, Victoria Falls, George and Sonesta festival sites. We appreciated their presence and valuable contribution.

The festival elders all reported a trouble-free Feast, with very few anointings and no serious problems.

During the Feast Mr. Norman Smith ordained four local elders. They are Peter Hawkins, Terry Browning, Robert Klynsmith and Petros Manzingana.

Messrs. Hawkins and Browning will retain their respective jobs in the office, but will also take care of the brethren in Mauritius and Zambia. Mr. Klynsmith will be an associate pastor in the Durban and Pietermaritzburg churches, while Mr. Manzingana will assist with the Sowetan brethren.

We are now getting on top of an exceptional mail backlog. Some volunteers came to the office and assisted in rapidly regaining the ascendancy.

Our financial report continues to look very good. Our October income year-to-date is 42.2% above that of the period January-October 1980. We are appreciative of and thankful for such blessings.

Our newsstand program of 41,000 PLAIN TRUTHS being distributed per month is still doing very well with an over four percent response. Soon we expect approved advertisements from Pasadena and hope to place these in selected magazines early next year.

The Netherlands From Mr. Bram de Bree, Regional Director for the Dutch-language area comes the following report:

For the Dutch-language area of God's Work in Europe, this was truly the best Feast ever! Feast fever started early this year with the arrival of Mr. Rod Matthews who visited Holland for a few days while he and his family were on the way to the Feast in Brno, Czechoslovakia and Bonndorf, West Germany. He had the opportunity to speak for the first time to a Dutch-speaking congregation in Bilthoven on the Day of Atonement.

This year's Feast was held again for the seventh time at the Hunzebergen, Exloo, The Netherlands. Although this country received more rainfall in the month of October this year than any other October in 50 years, the spirit at God's fall festival was a spirit of unity, love, peace and joy.

A total of 307 brethren from Holland and Belgium registered with another 83 from countries such as Germany, England, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, Canada and the United States.

The highlights of the messages given were the opening night and first-day messages of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Although direct hookup via satellite on the first day wasn't available, video recordings were made in England. These video cassettes were sent to various Feast sites in Europe by courier service. So by the Sabbath the Dutch-speaking brethren were able to participate in the first-day service of the Feast held in Pasadena and to hear Mr. Armstrong. Through the services of a local firm the entire first day service was projected on one large nine by fifteen foot screen.

Mr. Bram de Bree, director of the Dutch-language area of God's Work, and Mr. Piet Michielsen, a visiting Dutch-speaking minister from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, were the main speakers at the Feast at the Hunzebergen, assisted by recently-ordained local church elder Harold van Lerberghe and local deacons. The sermonettes and sermons all had one common theme: the meaning of the Feast--God's Kingdom on earth in a world of harmony, love and peace, and our preparation for that time.

Towards the end of the Feast the Dutch-speaking brethren had the pleasure of hearing and meeting Mr. Dexter Faulkner, managing editor of The PLAIN TRUTH, and his family. He gave a slide presentation showing an overview of the editorial process behind the Work's publications.

Except for the messages from Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Faulkner, all services were conducted in the Dutch language with simultaneous translation in English. This was also the first time that the completed and official Dutch language hymnal was being used.

Among the several other activities at this Feast were the presentation of the "Quest for Peace" program, the Young Ambassadors, an excellent two-hour talent show put together by members of the Dutch-speaking congregation, a very successful dinner dance and a family-style game afternoon at which old style Dutch and Flemish folk games were played by parents and children complete with open-air market, donut baking, hot dogs, etc.

The offerings for both the first and last day of the Feast resulted in a 24% increase compared to the Feast one year ago.

This has been a tremendous Feast here in The Netherlands, with many rich spiritual and physical blessings.

Y.O.U. Manual Appreciated

Pastors are now writing in expressing their appreciation for the new Y.O.U. Manual which was sent to all church pastors and which was approved by Mr. Herbert Armstrong. The following enthusiastic comments were received recently:

The new Y.O.U. Manual is FANTASTIC! We are very eager to implement the policies, teach the principles and experience the positive results which will result. The manual was well worth the wait!

Larry J. Walker

Appreciated receiving the new Y.O.U. Manual! Plan to make some Y.O.U. changes to conform fully to the new manual.

Bernard Schnippert

Appreciation for the Ministerial Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife Kathy and I wish to thank you for the refresher program we were privileged to attend in September. We learned a great deal. I took nearly 100 pages of notes during those 18 days in Pasadena. Now I am going through these notes, seeing where I can put into practice some things and pass on to the churches other things by way of teaching and instructions.

We greatly appreciate the leadership God is providing through you and the team under you. It was very encouraging to hear you four times (two studies plus one sermon plus one personal talk to all of us). That was almost like our college days in Bricket Wood in the late 1960's when it seemed that you addressed us more often than any other minister.

The brethren here are very encouraged by the leadership God is providing through you. And we pray that God will continue to guide and direct you and to help you finish the Work He has set before you.

Frank and Kathy Nelte

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The 15th refresher program was truly an inspiration. How grateful we were to be taught by you and those ministers loyally supporting you. We appreciated meeting our brothers and sisters from nine countries and to be present for the moving ordination of the first local elder in Haiti.

We thank God for the strength, patience to endure, and the faith He has given you over the years. Thank you for your dedication and love.

Lelon and Virginia Jackson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Having gotten back home from refresher course session #15 just before the Feast, I decided to wait until after the Feast to drop you a line. After all, the Feast was just a more intense sort of refresher course!

Anyway, Hazel and I want to let you and everyone else on the refresher course staff know that the input of everyone was really appreciated then, and now, back in the field. We thought that we really saw and felt a new kind of unity, friendliness, wisdom, balance and examples of service that really proved that God's Church is back on track. We really felt it and mean it in these few words. When I got back to Union, I told the brethren that no one ever told us we had to write in a dutiful letter of thanks, but we really wanted to do so to let you know how we feel and how, as far as we could tell, everyone else on No. 15 felt.

Thanks again, and hope to see all again soon on the same track! And last but not least, deepest appreciation to the Boss, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, for all that he's done to help us be called in this Philadelphia Era.

Gordon and Hazel Harry

Mr. Joe Tkach:

Tina and I would like to thank you and all of the team at HQ who put together the very profitable, rewarding, and fine refresher course package that we enjoyed. It was good to get back to Pasadena and be reminded once again just what we are Ambassadors of. Tina and I left inspired and more dedicated to doing our part in the Commission that God has given to Mr. Armstrong. We will probably never know how much time and effort was involved, and all the individuals who were involved, that made our stay so successful. Please let them know for us how much we appreciated what they did. And please thank Mr. Armstrong for us for his care and concern for all of us.

Ozzie and Tina Engelbart

Dear Mr. Tkach:

It has been several weeks now since the 15th and last session of the refresher program. The fond memories of it still linger. I think I understand better how "the last shall be first." I'm sure we must have gotten the best of all the programs that had gone before us. The

program was truly all it was cracked up to be and more. Thank you and all the men who made it a success. May God continue to bless headquarters with the obvious love, peace, and harmony that I saw while there. Looking forward to the next program.

David Carley

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

ROME, GA--HAROLD LESTER: Church very up about new direction Christ is inspiring Mr. Armstrong to give God's Work. Lots of excitement about growth of Church and Work. Have never seen enthusiasm so high. Members really watching world news and working on spiritual weaknesses.

COLUMBIA, SC--JOHN RITENBAUGH: This has been an exceptionally fine month. No major problems. The people's attitude is high because of the general condition of the Work. People elated because of doors opening and money increase. People were very pleased with Mr. Jackson's visit on Trumpets. He was first visitor from HQ on a Holy Day in the six years I have been here.

AUGUSTA, GA--JOHN RITENBAUGH: Many have commented very favorably regarding the state of the Work. They view it as very positive evidence of the Work being back on the right track. The newer people never experienced the growth we had in the 60's and they are amazed at the doors opening and the percentages of increase shown around the world.

MASON CITY, IA--KEITH F. THOMAS: The people are genuinely pleased with the way Mr. Armstrong is leading the Church in these last days. Many comments about the Media and The PLAIN TRUTH. They have stated how they feel this is the Church they were in years ago.

DETROIT (EAST), MI--EARL H. WILLIAMS: The brethren are developing a deeper sense of urgency about their lives and doing the Work. Everyone is ecstatic over the new TV coverage in the Detroit area. I contacted seven new PM's this month.

EVANSVILLE, IN--C. FRED BAILEY: We were invited to Nashville on Trumpets to hear Mr. Armstrong. His message and personal appearance greatly inspired the brethren. All present were moved and inspired by God's Apostle. The impact was just what was needed to mentally prepare this area for the Feast.

ST. PAUL, MN--BILL JAHNS: Cheryl and I (and all the brethren) really appreciated Mr. Armstrong's visit to the Twin Cities area. His message was important and hopefully will be heeded by all of us. His presence reminded us of our responsibility to back him up. Certainly the overall attitude of the Church was helped by his visit. Please relay our thanks to him.

MEDFORD, OR--FRED DAVIS: The brethren really appreciated Mr. Armstrong's sermon on the subject of the Sabbath, but most had the same comment, "Why did he stop?!" They were wanting to hear more guidelines from God's Apostle about the Sabbath, and so was I! We all hope he will talk further on the subject.

PORTLAND (EAST), OR--JIM HAEFFELE: We really appreciated Bob Fahey's reports from the Pastor General's Office. It adds so much to the PGR and keeps us up on the "latest" news in the Work. It's a very wonderful addition.

TUPELO, MS--ROGER W. WEST: New people are adding new life to the Church. All the new people being added to the Church in the past couple of months are families, both the husband and wife being baptized.

CHICO/EUREKA, CA--MARC SEGALL: Have received recent inquiries from new people--it looks as if we will have a good harvest of new PM's and members. Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell's visit was so helpful. We enjoyed their company and their willingness to stay in our home. The brethren were impressed by their "down to earth" concern and warmth. Our thanks to Mr. Tkach for encouraging the evangelists to come and visit the outlying Churches. Some brethren traveled five hours, one way, because it was so encouraging to be able to hear a representative of HQ and Mr. Armstrong.

KALAMAZOO, MI--KEN WILLIAMS: Thank you for sending Mr. Meredith here for the Feast of Trumpets. The brethren were surprised and delighted when they first heard he was coming. His sermons (sermon plus offering message) were inspiring and encouraging. Since some of the older ministers have gone astray, Mr. Meredith's loyalty to God and His Work is particularly encouraging to the older members. We all benefited by his visit.

GRAND ISLAND, NE--DON HOOSER: We greatly appreciated Mr. Waterhouse being here again in Grand Island and North Platte for his mind-expanding Bible Studies! He was very inspired and dynamic in spite of having a bad case of the flu! It gave us all a spiritual high and made us feel like we had started the Feast days already. I know that the Feast of Tabernacles will be even more meaningful because of the foundation of understanding that Mr. Waterhouse gave us.

I think everyone is extremely pleased with the opening of the Big Sandy campus again and its fine start this fall. Also with the fine growth and example of Ambassador College in general. I appreciated hearing about the results of the survey of the AC alumni and how well they are doing financially and otherwise. This will help dispel some misconceptions about the value of an AC education.

DENVER, CO--JAMES E. REYER: Very happy to have Mr. Waterhouse here for Trumpets. Many commented on how they enjoyed his message. I am glad to see someone so dedicated as he to God's Work and Mr. Armstrong come through this area. It is an inspiration. I have not thanked Mr. Armstrong yet for the RAISE in salary I received. Thank you all on behalf of my wife and myself. We are privileged to be a part of this Work. We pray for all of you on the team at HQ.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATEAnother "Best Feast Ever"

Letters are coming in from around the nation expressing that the 1981 Feast was again the "greatest ever." The highlight was Mr. Armstrong's live transmission of sermons on both Holy Days. Members commented how that through the microwave hookup there was a feeling of oneness and joy at each site as everyone joined together in services.

Many brethren have mentioned how inspired they were by this year's Feast messages and shared a renewed desire and determination to change and overcome.

The genuine love and unity experienced at the different Feast sites was also commented on. Several expressed appreciation for the films shown-- "Festival '81" with the Young Ambassadors and "Behind the Work." Finally, a number thanked the Church for financial assistance, without which they would not have been able to attend and rejoice in the Feast.

Enthusiastic Appreciation for Y.E.S. Lessons

Enthusiastic comments are being received from both children and adults who are very happy about the new youth Bible lessons. Parents see the lessons as a valuable tool in family Bible study and appreciate the easy-to-read printing and good overall format. They feel the fact that their children are receiving their own literature helps them feel more a part of the Church.

Weekly Letter Comments

The following comments from a member in Spain illustrate how God truly opened the windows of heaven and poured out blessings after the member stepped out on faith and began tithing.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

Tithing in Faith Brings Unexpected Blessings

In early 1973 I learned that we are supposed to give God a tenth of our income and so, in May of that year, I began to tithe. The results were simply astounding!

I was working as a clerk in a store owned by my father, who paid me a small salary as well as a percentage on sales. My monthly earnings were very low and barely sufficient for me, my wife and three children to live on. I paid my tithe at the beginning of May and at the end of the month, when my father totaled up the sales, he was amazed. Never before in his many years as a storekeeper had he experienced such an extraordinary month!

"What a month!" he exclaimed. I did not want to tell him I was tithing because my father would never have believed that the month's sales were the result of God's blessing for tithing; and besides, if I had told him, he would have persecuted me because he wanted to have nothing to do with the Church of God.

The following month I again paid a tenth of my income to God and we experienced another month of incredible sales. My father again commented: "What an extraordinary couple of months!" He was astounded--he couldn't understand it. Nevertheless, I realized that God was intervening as He promised in His Word.

In August--four months after I began tithing--my three brothers came to town on their vacation. They noticed the changes at the store immediately, commenting: "You're selling more than before," "You have more customers," and so forth.

I continued to tithe and saw clearly how God intervened in all our affairs. In November of 1975 I was baptized and by then I owned the store. My father had sold it to me in January of that year, granting me easy repayment terms.

The first time I had to pay a third tithe it seemed impossible--I felt overwhelmed by the many payments I had to make for stocks, taxes, etc. I got down on my knees and I prayed to God with all my might, imploring Him to help me set apart the three tithes that year--I really wanted to do it. God helped me in such an incredible way that not only my wife and I, but also my relatives were amazed! It was the greatest year we had ever witnessed!

My store sells footwear and gift items. During that third tithe year I sold an incredible number of pairs of hiking boots, which is the costliest footwear item I stock. Something else that was unbelievable--which had never happened before, either to me or to my father in his many years as a storekeeper--I sold more crockery and china that third tithe year than I had in several of the previous years put together! (Tableware is the most expensive item I have for sale and the one on which the greatest profit is made.) Both my wife and I were so amazed we just could not figure out what was happening before our very eyes, because we had never before sold so much tableware--it was something completely out of the ordinary. When I finished paying my third tithe I also stopped selling china--sales of tableware went way down and from then on they sold as they had always sold, very few and far between.

There were other third tithe blessings: The first year I faithfully paid my third tithe my father gave me a considerable amount of money from a lottery prize he had won. During my second third tithe year, I received another sizeable sum from an inheritance.

With regard to the Sabbath I could also mention many things, but I will just mention one. I live in a small town of some 4,000 people. When I first started to keep the Sabbath there were three stores (including mine) which sold footwear and everyone thought I would lose all my customers for closing on the busiest sales day of the week. Well, one of the shoe stores closed down about two years ago and the other one is about to follow suit and we--the ones everybody believed would fail calamitously--are doing better than ever, with more and more customers all the time.

We have seen very clearly that God truly blesses those who trust in Him and put His precepts into practice.

G.E. (Spain)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

Dateline: Jerusalem (Nov. 18, 1981)

Greetings from the future world capital! For the past week my wife Barbara and I have had the wonderful privilege of accompanying Mr. Armstrong and his party on his trip to Europe and the Middle East. I'm afraid that traveling on the Work's G-II on a trip like this has spoiled me forever.

Prophesied end-time events are definitely picking up steam. One really feels the momentum on a trip like this. Britain, our first stop, continues to languish in the economic doldrums with little hope of recovery for the near future. The opposition Labor Party has gone so far to the left that its hardcore fringers are openly calling for unity between Britain's Labor and Communist parties. They may as well since there is so little difference between the two now.

Even more important than politics, Britain faces the prospect of a civil war in Northern Ireland, or at least the danger of Protestant extremists threatening to form a "third force" to prevent further loss of life in Ulster. The increased tension follows the shocking murder a few days ago of the British member of Parliament in Northern Ireland by three IRA gunmen. The feeling now is that the IRA, following the collapse of its hunger strike scheme, is in desperate straits and wants to throw the province into utter chaos and sectarian strife from which it hopes to emerge the winner.

In Britain and elsewhere in Europe, the United States government is beginning to look like it too is in a state of confusion and disarray. Europeans have been suspicious about "Reaganomics" from the very beginning, but now they are dumbfounded by the revelation that President Reagan's whiz kid Budget Director, David Stockman, admits that he never had much faith in the supply-side Reaganomics program from the very beginning. Coming on the heels of the Stockman revelation, National Security Adviser Richard V. Allen finds himself in hot water for accepting money from a Japanese journalist for arranging an interview with Mrs. Reagan. Add these two factors to the day-in and day-out controversies surrounding Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr., and the Reagan team rather suddenly appears to be in a state of confusion; a remarkable turnaround after the President's string of personal victories on issue after issue both domestic and foreign.

The confusion at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is helping to fuel the fervor of the neutralist cause throughout Western Europe, as we have been writing about lately. This is, as has been stressed, a trend of grave importance to the future of the United States and Britain. Some of the neutralist leaders depict President Reagan as a simple-minded cowboy who might shoot from the nuclear hip if and when NATO gets its projected new American-made missiles.

The neutralist surge is picking up steam. Rather than explain it further, just notice these headlines from newspaper articles I've been reading on this trip: "NATO's Death Is Now Thinkable," "Will Europe Hold for Two Years?" "Americans On the Firing Line," and "How Would You Feel If the Americans Did Get Out of Europe?"

The big danger in all of this is that growing European neutralism and anti-Americanism could result in a move in the U.S. Congress to pull America's guardian troops out of Europe if the feeling is that they are simply not wanted.

Here in Israel this beleaguered nation of three million people feels increasingly isolated from both its allies and enemies. The AWACS victory for the Saudis was unpopular, to say the least. Worse yet, from the point of view of leaders in Jerusalem, is the encouragement of Washington, even though cautiously expressed, for the so-called eight-point Saudi Arabian peace proposal. The plan is practically a dead issue as far as Israel is concerned. It calls for a retreat from reality and would return Israel to the exposed position that it had before June, 1967 as if the war which broke out that month never occurred.

The Saudi plan is fuzzy on whether Israel is specifically included in the ambiguous seventh point with regard to the rights of states in the region to live in peace.

A Saudi official at the UN claimed that the proposal "does recognize Israel." However, the Saudi government later said that the official had no authority to interpret the deliberately vague wording.

The proposal about East Jerusalem becoming the capital of a Palestinian state is totally unrealistic. The Israelis would never allow the capital's division without a fight to the death. Construction in this new united capital is underway everywhere, especially in the former Jordanian part of the city. Yesterday, I drove by the Hebrew University campus on Mt. Scopus. This campus was caught behind the Israeli-Jordanian cease-fire line in 1948 and was unusable until 1967. During this 19-year "time cycle" a new university was built in the western part of the city. Now that the new "old" campus has been completed with striking new buildings, the older temporary campus is no longer in use except for special functions. It is absurd to think that the Israelis will hand over this citadel of education to the PLO.

The grim determination of Israel to hang onto what it has was forcefully impressed upon me the last two days. Yesterday we visited Masada, the desert fortress by the Dead Sea where zealots withstood the might of Rome to the death in 70 A.D. I'm sure most of you saw the television program which, of course, was not very accurate. Masada is a symbol of Israel's vow to defend their new state to the death. It is not so much a "complex" as a national mind-set much on the same order as that of the Soviet Union which has vowed "never again" to allow an attack from the West.

Another forceful impression was a visit this afternoon to the Museum of the Diaspora on the campus of Tel Aviv University. This relatively new museum is rather more a massive exhibit on the theme of the scattering and wanderings of the Jewish people in Asia, North Africa, Europe and elsewhere from the time of the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. to the "ingathering" of their descendants in Palestine in this century. It is a gripping and tragic tale of repeated persecution in one host country after another. The impression left is that the Jewish race today in "Eretz Israel" is saying to a hostile world: "Never again. Just you try to budge me."

Tomorrow, God willing, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Fahey and I hope to visit Israel's President Yitzhak Navon, who only a couple of days ago visited Egypt and invited Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Israel. Mr. Mubarak accepted.

Hopefully some more next week.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau