

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

March 2, 1982

The figures for income and expense are now in for February. The income is lower than we had hoped; in fact, it is even lower than our "conservative" budget base set in December. The year-to-date increase was 12.1%. The running year (last 12 months) is down to 17%. The trend is obviously down at this point over the 1981 increase of 17.4%.

The income is obviously being affected by the U.S. economy, which is now in recession. Increasing numbers are unemployed, and the income of others is reduced.

Our expense projections indicate that we already will equal or exceed our greatly increased radio and television budget for 1982 by the end of the year. This means that our rapid expansion in this area during the last half of 1981 will not be able to continue unless the income increases or we dip into cash reserves.

The solution to making possible a continued expansion in radio, television and publishing is greater income. About a year ago PLAIN TRUTH circulation increased greatly, followed a little later by radio and TV. As you read last week, the number of new contributors rose dramatically in January, but these new contributors have not yet offset the lower-than-expected contributions of members and co-workers.

God can lay it on the minds of many among the millions of new (and old) readers and listeners to make contributions. This could bring dramatic increases, which would make it possible to continue expansion in the preaching and publishing of the Good News. Our urgent personal prayers in this regard, coupled with our personal spiritual growth, can bring this about.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer's Office

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Y.O.U. Contests (To Be Announced)

ESSAY CONTEST: The topic for this year's essay contest will be "What Y.O.U. Means to Me." All entries should be mailed directly to the Y.O.U. Office and should be postmarked no later than May 1. The first place prize will be \$50, second place \$25, and third place \$10. The prizes will be the same for both divisions. (Note to pastor: If additional information is needed, please check the Y.O.U. Manual.)

PHOTO CONTEST: The deadline for the photo contest has been changed! All entries should be sent directly to the Y.O.U. Office and should be post-marked by May 15. With this change we hope to have the awards given before

S.E.P. starts this summer. Plaques will be awarded for the winners this year. (Note to pastor: If additional information is needed please check the Y.O.U. Manual.)

Ambassador-Spokesman Speech Manual Available in Braille

The Educational Services for the Handicapped Department now has the Ambassador-Spokesman Speech Manual in braille. If you have a blind Spokesman Club member who can read braille, you may request a manual for him.

Slide Show on History of Ambassador College

Ministers may now reserve use of the slide show on the history and development of Ambassador College. The slides, available on a loan basis, picture Ambassador's growth from 1947 to the present. To reserve a set of slides you may write to: Dale Trow, Ambassador Information Center, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91129. Or you can call him via the ministerial WATS line.

Ordering Ministerial Business Cards

Since ministerial business cards are no longer printed in-house, requests are now to be handled through the Purchasing Department. They will be ordering cards in bulk on a quarterly basis, with upcoming orders to be placed on April 1st and July 1st.

All orders should be submitted to Purchasing on an "Office Supplies Order" form. Please include a sample card, if possible. Any questions regarding the ordering of business cards should be directed to the Purchasing Department.

International News

1981 Highlights From Spanish-speaking Areas The year 1981 was truly one of growth unprecedented in the history of the Work of God in the Spanish language. Inspired by Mr. Armstrong's leadership and the sense of urgency in getting Christ's message to the world, God's Work is steadily surging ahead in all Spanish-speaking areas.

Despite high inflation and internal strife in some nations, income increased 55% over 1980. Active co-workers increased by 23% and donors by 14%.

It has been exciting and encouraging to see several all-time highs reached during 1981:

- 1) Most baptisms in one year--113.
(31% increase over 1980).
- 2) Highest festival attendance--1,645.
(31% increase over 1980).
- 3) Most new subscribers added in one year--78,870.
(28% increase over 1980).

- 4) Most mail received--158,607 pieces.
(17% increase over 1980).
- 5) Most ad responses--62,893.
(18% increase over 1980).
- 6) Most literature sent out--162,423 pieces.
- 7) Most new co-workers added in one year--412.
- 8) Highest number of Bible Correspondence Course students since 1975
--11,802.
- 9) Highest circulation of La PURA VERDAD (The PLAIN TRUTH) since
1976--111,297.

Two other highlights of the year were:

- 1) Mr. Armstrong's visit to the office in Mexico City where a report was presented showing the growth of the Spanish Department up to the present, as well as plans for the future.
- 2) The 15 ministers and four ministerial trainees of the Spanish-speaking areas were able to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It enabled them not only to receive the valuable information imparted at that time, but also allowed them to get to know one another better, as well as the staff of the Spanish Department itself which is located in Pasadena.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Madeline and I just recently completed the first session of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. It certainly was refreshing! We came home uplifted, strengthened, inspired and more deeply committed than ever.

Hearing from you at the beginning was the highlight of the whole session. This was certainly a blessing for each one of us. All of the other sessions blended perfectly with what you presented, making it a most profitable two weeks.

We appreciate seeing the dedication, loyalty, respect and love shown to you by all of our instructors--and certainly the inspiration God gave to each one. There is truly a feeling of real brotherhood among all of the leaders, students and members with whom we came in contact in Pasadena.

Thank you very much for the continuation of this program. It makes possible our being able to come in, be taught, and be strengthened for the very dark days ahead.

We love and remember you daily in our prayers.

Don and Madeline Billingsley

Dear Mr. Tkach:

The Ministerial Refreshing Program we have just completed was our third opportunity to spend time on campus since our sabbatical of 1977-1978. Each time we have returned to Pasadena since the sabbatical, we have observed many positive and encouraging changes. However, this trip more than any other, was truly a wonderful experience spiritually and physically.

Everything about this Refresher, beginning with the privilege of hearing Mr. Armstrong's address on predestination (including his "pep talk"), and then the presentations covering the ministry, the Church, doctrine, and the many aspects of the Work and its growth, was both inspiring and practical as well as being saturated with God's Holy Spirit.

What a spiritual feast! What a spiritual renewal!

The impact that Mr. Armstrong's presence in Pasadena has made on everyone and on the Work was clearly evident.

The spirit of cooperation is visible and shining. The spirit of "be subject one to another, and be clothed with all humility" was manifest. This must be pleasing to God. The dedication, enthusiasm and spiritual growth of all our mentors have imparted to us refreshed enthusiasm and purpose in serving those for whom God has made us responsible.

Please thank Mr. Armstrong for his wisdom in deciding to continue the MRP. Thank you also for refreshing us on many of the things Christ restored to the Church through Mr. Armstrong during past conferences, articles, etc. And thanks to all those who gave of themselves and went above what was required of them to make the program so successful.

Lyall and Wynniss Johnston

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please convey my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Armstrong and all the members of the faculty, your staff, as well as those of all the other departments who cooperated in such a beautiful way to make MRP #2 the tremendous success God intended it to be!! (I'll convey my gratitude to Him personally for a long time to come, because the experience of being in the program leaves a very long-lasting impression.)

To one who had never before seen the earthly nerve center of God's Work, the fantastic beauty of the campus coupled with a prevailing spirit of brotherly love, hospitality and service wasn't just impressive--it was overwhelming!

I am making a sincere effort to share the inspiration and knowledge with our local brethren. Again--thank you.

Eldon Davis

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGMail Count Up 54% Over Last Year

Mail response continues to increase rapidly as 1982 moves along. The year-to-date increase stands at 54%! Already 640,693 letters have been received, compared with 416,215 at this time last year.

The response to the winter semiannual letter has been an important factor in this increase. White mail, PLAIN TRUTH literature request cards, newsstand subscription cards and renewals also have contributed to the large increase.

Mail Processing employees are working many overtime hours each week in an effort to keep current with the mail. The harvest truly is plenteous (Matt. 9:37) and it seems the laborers even in Mail Processing are few!

Enthusiasm and Good Response to The WORLD TOMORROW Program Continues

Another impressive response resulted from the telecast "Solution to World Problems" aired February 27th and 28th. A total of 6,440 phone calls came in for the weekend. When compared to the weekend average just one year ago, this is a 925% increase!

Our WATS line operators are making special note of spontaneous comments made by callers as they request literature. Following are only a few of the unsolicited comments received:

Tremendous! I've never seen a man outline exactly what the Bible says. Excellent.

He fills a need in my life.... I appreciate the message that Christ will rule.

I tape it [the broadcast] everyday and analyze it...and it seems he's the only one who's preaching Christianity, not "churchianity." If I'm being deceived this time he's doing a real good job --because I can't find a thing wrong with it. I've been hurt before, but this time I believe he's really preaching the Gospel.

Mr. Armstrong is the first man I've ever been able to understand when it comes to the Bible!

Everyone keeps telling us, "You just have to watch this man Herbert Armstrong!" We just happened to turn on the TV this morning and there he was!

He never asks for money.... He explains it like nobody else does.

Mr. Armstrong speaks in laymen's terms. The Bible is hard to understand, but he makes it plain. I've learned a lot in six weeks.

Can you do me a great big favor? Tell Mr. Armstrong that he opened our eyes to the truth and thank him very, very much. We read the Bible one hour every day now.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE (SPECIAL REPORT, CONCLUSION)

THE "MORALITY CONNECTION"--PART II Almost daily, pressure builds for the United States to do something more concrete about deteriorating conditions in El Salvador and elsewhere in Central America. At the same time counter-pressure builds from the political left (such as Screen Actor's Guild President Ed Asner) to prevent further U.S. military measures.

On March 2, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr. told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that there is undeniable evidence that the insurgency in that nation is not entirely home-grown but is directed from "command and control" centers outside the country; that the Moscow-inspired subversion endangers the "vital strategic interests" of the United States. (Separately, C.I.A. Director William J. Casey, in an interview in U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, charged that "this whole insurgency is run out of Managua [Nicaragua's capital] by...Cubans, Soviets, Bulgarians, East Germans, North Koreans, North Vietnamese and representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organization.")

The following day, Secretary Haig explored the whole range of Central American problems in a 90-minute breakfast session with members of the Washington bureau of the LOS ANGELES TIMES. The Central American crisis, Haig told the TIMES, could pose "a very fundamental threat" to the security of Mexico "in the very predictable future," but that political constraints make it difficult for Mexico's leaders to respond. He added that it is only "a matter of weeks or months" before Guatemala begins to undergo a crisis comparable to that in El Salvador today, with even greater potential for damaging U.S. interests.

"It's not a question of one black chip (domino) knocking over another," Haig said of the rapidly escalating crisis, "but it is a clear, self-influencing sequence of events which could sweep all of Central America into a Cuba-dominated region." That would "put a very fundamental threat on Mexico in the very predictable future," he said.

A guerrilla threat to Mexico from the direction of Guatemala and El Salvador could be particularly dangerous because Mexico's vast oil fields lie in its southern region, near those two countries. And uninterrupted oil sales are vital to the economic growth on which Mexico has pinned its hopes for alleviating widespread poverty. (In the face of declining oil revenues the Mexican government has sharply devalued the peso and imposed sweeping price controls--steps that have helped Mexico's financial structure but have fallen heavily on much of the population.)

Mr. Haig did not elaborate on Mexico's internal political problems. But U.S. officials are known to believe that a combination of historical anti-

Americanism and vulnerability to criticism from the extreme left acts as a restraining influence on Mexican leaders in their dealings with leftist forces in Central America.

The Secretary of State also suggested that President Reagan ultimately might have to make an unpopular move in dealing with Cuba (such as a naval blockade) if he thinks it would be effective in countering Cuban intervention in Central America.

"That's the role of national leadership and it doesn't suggest for a moment that if the national mood were in violent opposition that any responsible leader would (not) have to heed it," said Haig. "It does suggest, however, that you don't approach policy formulation by getting up each morning and putting your finger to the wind to see what the American people will want."

Secretary Haig, in his appearance before Congressional members the day before, expressed his conviction that "the American people will support what is prudent and necessary, provided they think we mean what we mean and that we're going to succeed, and not flounder as we did in Vietnam."

Two assumptions here obviously, in Mr. Haig's remarks. First, that the American public will support the government in whatever it says is necessary. On the Salvadoran crisis issue, the government is confronted not so much with a confused, somewhat fearful public as it is with the all-powerful media who savor a juicy, sanguine "Vietnam II" in the making. The way the powerful opinion-shapers with their biased anti-Reagan reporting tell it, the only people to be believed in the El Salvador conflict are the guerrillas, not Washington, neither the "corrupt" Duarte government. Just as the press did with the 1968 Vietcong "Tet Offensive," the newsmen will present enemy defeats as victories and condition the American public that the U.S. "can't win" in El Salvador.

Secondly, Mr. Haig's pride in America's power--"We're going to succeed, and not flounder as we did in Vietnam"--is unfounded in prophecy. As Mr. Armstrong wrote in the latest edition of THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, page 163: "...the United States, even still possessing unmatched power, is afraid--fears--to use it, just as God said: 'I will break the pride of your power'...the United States has stopped winning wars...America was unable, with all its vast power, to conquer little North Vietnam! The United States is fast riding to the greatest fall that ever befell any nation!"

America's calamitous collapse is drawing ever closer, "for the Eternal hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood. Therefore shall the land [of America and Britain] mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish..." (Hosea 4:1-3).

Just look at a few facts about America's spiraling skid into immorality:

1) Divorce/adultery: In the United States there were 1,182,000 divorces in the 12-month period ending October, 1980, compared with 2,414,000 marriages --a ratio of one to two. This ratio is exceeded only by that of Sweden. Americans are opting for divorce at twice the rate of 12 years earlier. And the number of divorces is triple the number granted 20 years

previously (395,000 divorces granted in 1959). These statistics do not include the hundreds of thousands of couples constantly shifting in and out of "living together" arrangements.

2) Abortions: A record 1.55 million legal abortions were performed in the United States in 1980, ending about one of every four pregnancies. The 1980 figure was more than double the 774,000 legal abortions performed on demand in 1973, the first year of legalized abortions in the nation. Now researchers believe they have come up with the "perfect" (minus some side-effects) abortion procedure--a vaginal suppository. Laboratory tests are said to be very promising, ensuring over 90% "effectiveness." Perhaps American women will soon be able to match the abortion records of the Gentile nations, such as the Soviet Union where the average Russian woman has six abortions during her lifetime (many experts believe the figure is much higher than this).

3) Sodomy: The "gay rights" movement in America is so far advanced that 80 percent of American colleges and universities have recognized student organizations for homosexual activities! The homosexual clubs (such as the "Gay Scientists" club at neighboring Cal Tech) have the same access to general funds as other recognized student organizations. This trend is so established that Ambassador College occasionally receives promotional circulars (advertising gay speakers, etc.) addressed to its "Gay Students Organization"--the assumption being that the college of course has such a group.

In California, Governor Jerry Brown has appointed a gay activist lawyer to the prestigious University of California Board of Regents--the first time an avowed homosexual has served as regent.

4) Immoral "entertainment": Commercial television executives are very concerned over the mushrooming demand for cable television, with its "no holds barred" programming (such as the "Ugly George" show in New York featuring the host and his female guest in full frontal nudity) that doesn't have to be supervised by the FCC. Even Johnny Carson's ratings are down, not to NBC or CBS, but to the impact of cablevision and the purchase of movies for home video players (half of all sales are for X-rated movies). Then there is pornography in general which is now so widespread that one social critic calls it "nothing less than the dominant literature of America."

Preachers, Politicians Blinded

Americans simply cannot connect their plummeting moral standards with the political fires raging on America's doorstep, leading to ultimate social upheaval in America itself--with likely massive waves of aliens swarming in, and eventually flight and captivity of native Americans from their own land. They haven't been told by their preachers (too busy with such "burning issues" as the ordination of gay ministers or the support of guerrilla armies in Africa) that God will punish heavily for such sins.

Regarding homosexuality and other sexual vices, God thunders: "Do not defile yourselves by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am casting out before you defiled themselves; and the land became defiled... do none of these abominations...lest the land vomit you out, when you defile it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you" (Leviticus 18:24, 26, 28, R.S.V.).

Note also some prophetic passages in the Book of Lamentations which seem very apropos regarding America's immoral state and the collapsing hemisphere around her.

"Jerusalem sinned grievously, therefore she became filthy; all who honored her despise her,...Her uncleanness was in her skirts; she took no thought of her doom; Zion stretches out her hands, but there is none to comfort her; the Lord has commanded against Jacob that his neighbors should be his foes; Jerusalem has become as a filthy thing among them" (Lam. 1:8, 9, 17, R.S.V.).

"Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us; behold, and see our disgrace! Our inheritance has been turned over to strangers, our homes to aliens.... Slaves rule over us; there is none to deliver us from their hand" (Lam. 5:1-2, 8, R.S.V.).

Most political leaders are as blind to the clear judgments of God as are the wayward "shepherds" of Israel. A few, claiming to be the "Moral Majority," see at least part of the problem. The liberals are the problem for the most part, having opened "freedom's door" to the inflood of immorality. But many conservatives are wandering around in moral darkness too, especially those claiming to be "neo-conservatives." This influential group consists partly of individuals converted from liberalism who have seen the faults of that philosophy. But the "neo-conservatives" concentrate on economics and foreign affairs, and have no moral underpinnings.

One of America's most insightful social critics, George Gilder (author of the best-seller WEALTH AND POVERTY) takes the neo-conservatives to task for their moral and spiritual blindness in the March 5, 1982 issue of NATIONAL REVIEW. He writes:

"Today, the Neo-Conservative believes that the far Right is altogether too extreme and obsessive on the so-called social issues. These matters, the Neo-Conservative maintains, are a distraction...a mindless religiosity.... Neo-Conservatives, in general, are afraid to fight on ERA, abortion, sex education, pornography, school prayer, and gay liberation. Once again, as in the case of poverty, they underrate the importance of stable families and moral values to a productive and creative society.... They stay fastidiously aloof while the flood of pornography--propaganda for degradation and viciousness that must be seen to be believed--engulfs our nation's youth."

A leading neo-conservative, Ben Wattenberg (who is admittedly very astute on economic issues) was asked to reply to Gilder's assertions. He only proved how blind the neo-conservatives are to moral and spiritual issues. In fact, he made a fool of himself when he wrote: "We talk about an erosion of religion but church attendance in America is up.... I am sure it is true that...in every village in America there are some movie theaters that show movies rated XXX.... You will find good old boys in pickup trucks out there watching these movies, and in the back of the truck you will probably find HUSTLER magazine, alas. But it is also true of these same people that on Sunday morning they will be in church and on the back of their trucks will be bumper stickers that say KILL KHOMEINI. Now this is an interesting set of paradoxes that we might explore, but it does not seem to me to be the characteristics of a society that is decadent, immoral, disintegrating, and ready to disappear."

Mr. Gilder replied in return that "Mr. Wattenberg's amusing comments epitomize the complacency and irrelevance of much Neo-Conservatism." These people, to say nothing of the liberals, cannot see, said Gilder, that "our greatest patrimony as a free people is the religious values and moral laws of the Judeo-Christian tradition."

To the ministers and politicians of modern-day "enlightened" (to sin, that is) America, God says: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame" (Hosea 4:6-7).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau