

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 21

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MAY 21, 1982

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Questions and Answers

Because of Mr. Armstrong's busy schedule in preparing for his trip to Europe, he was unable to go over the question and answer section for this week. We will resume this section upon his return.

International News

Southern Africa Regional Director Dr. Roy McCarthy reported that a very sobering and rewarding Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread were experienced by the Church throughout Southern Africa. Following is his report.

In South Africa we are very thankful for 19.9% and 18.2% increases in the offerings on the first and last days of Unleavened Bread. In Zimbabwe we had 29.0% and 12.1% increases respectively.

Mr. Peter Hawkins was sent to Mauritius for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread and had some excellent increases to report. The attendance for Passover was 38--an increase of 58% over last year. The attendance on the two holy days averaged 67, which is 53% up on 1981. And the offerings showed a 294% increase. He counseled with several prospective members and baptized five. At the same time Mr. Terry Browning visited Lusaka, Zambia where he baptized six. The attendance there was up 70% and the offering on the first day of Unleavened Bread was up no less than 409%!

We have just launched our new advertising campaign. The first advertisements appeared in the national weekend newspapers SUNDAY TIMES and RAPPORT during the weekend of April 25th. RAPPORT, our Afrikaans weekend newspaper, carried our advertisement in English. The combined readership totals just over 2.5 million, and to date over 1,000 responses have been received. We estimate that more than 7,000 will ask for The PLAIN TRUTH magazine as a result of this part of the advertising campaign. Advertisements will follow in the FINANCIAL MAIL, VOLKSHANDEL and BARCLAYCARD magazine. A special advertisement will appear in GARDEN AND HOME and FAIR LADY magazines. The present campaign which ends June 30th, 1982 will reach a readership of approximately five million. We estimate that about 18,500 new PLAIN TRUTH subscribers will be added to the list during the next two and one-half months.

We are building a fine relationship with the South African branch of B.B.D.O. (Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborne), the advertising agency now being used in so many international areas as well as the U.S. They seem to have our interests at heart and are serving us well.

In mid-April all the ministers and wives came to Johannesburg for a four-day conference. It was the first time in two and one-half years that they had an opportunity to be together. During the conference we discussed the

various aspects of God's Work in Southern Africa and passed on information from the present Ministerial Refreshing Program in Pasadena. There was even time to meet socially, as some had not seen each other for up to three years. The ministry in Southern Africa is truly united, inspired and enthused to complete God's end-time Work.

Canada April turned out to be a very positive month for God's Work in Canada! We had an increase of 185.1% in new people contacting the Work for the first time. The total of all incoming mail was 43.3% over last year. Income for the month is up an encouraging 15.6%, bringing the year-to-date figure to 15.3%.

The French-language branch of God's Work in Canada continues to exhibit positive growth. There was a 143.5% increase in people contacting the Work for the first time and a 59.9% increase in all incoming mail.

As with other years, the Canadian office staff has been extremely busy handling holy day offerings. The percentages of increase were as follows: first holy day, 5.1%; second holy day, 7.2%. Attendance was up 2.0% on the first day and 3.9% on the second. For the first time in the history of God's Work in Canada we had over 10,000 people attend services on the first holy day.

Figures related to Church growth for the first three months of 1982 are very encouraging. New visit requests are up 10.1% over last year, and baptisms are running at a plus 27.4%. Attendance is up 2.7%.

A new television station in Burlington, Vermont has been added to the growing list of stations airing the broadcast. Although the station is in the United States, the signal can be picked up in Canada via the cable system.

A number of ministers have conducted Bible lectures in the last few months. The highest percentage of turn out occurred in the Barrie, Ontario area where 4.2% of those invited attended the lecture. On the first night of the campaign the new people outnumbered the membership, with a total of 54 new people attending the lectures. Other lectures have had bigger turn outs, but not as large a percentage of the mailing list. A number of ministers have commented on the quality of the new people who attended and the interesting questions they asked.

Mr. Gerald Waterhouse has arrived in Canada to begin his tour of the Churches from Victoria to Montreal.

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

LOUISVILLE, KY--RAY A. MEYER: Considerable upswing in both church and Bible study attendance. Continuing growth in the quality of PM's. Ten baptisms prior to the Passover. There appears to be some interest in coming back to services on the part of some who left several years ago.

TAMPA, FL--RONALD A. LOHR: Church is responsive. Some ex-members are contacting me about coming back to Church. Following is a quote from a report to me by one of our deacons concerning service in the Church: "Brethren eager to serve and help no matter how menial the job may be. Am reminded of the late 60's

when you asked for 20 volunteers and got 40. This is making all of our jobs easier."

GAINESVILLE, GA--MARC S. MASTERSON: The overall attitude and spirit in the Churches here are fantastic. The brethren are really fellowshipping. They are behind Mr. Armstrong and God's Work as never before.

SPRINGFIELD, MS--LYLE WELTY: Have received a large increase in the number of PM's. In one month we've received more than half of what we received for the whole of last year. Mr. Armstrong's telecasts are having quite an impact on this area.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH--EUGENE NOEL: The Church is very encouraged by the fact The WORLD TOMORROW is now on a local television station. The PM's have more than tripled. Most of them are individuals who are very interested.

FORT WORTH, TX--BOB SMITH: We have been quite impressed by the quality of some new families moving into the area. With the addition of local PM's--most of whom are friends or family members of current members of the Church--we crescendoed dramatically to an average attendance, for eight services, of 550!

OMAHA, NE--ARTHUR W. DOCKEN: Several young people who were turned down for Ambassador College and a couple of other teenagers are asking for baptism. Also, there has been a significant upturn in PM's contacting us. In spite of some unemployment and reduced working hours, the offering on the last holy day was a record.

LIBERAL/SCOTT CITY, KS--KELLY BARFIELD: In Scott City the brethren have their hearts in the Work--total offering first holy day was \$30.00 per person. Went to Hays last holy day to hear Mr. Dean Blackwell--they really appreciated hearing from someone from HQ. Liberal brethren had an offering of \$47.14 per person on the last holy day!

LONG BEACH, CA--AL DENNIS: We have had a very fine spring holy day season. The Church is alive and looking forward to the end of this age. Everybody, it seems, has a problem of some kind that is causing him to grow. Several people have volunteered to work on the WATS line on Sunday.

BOISE, ID; BAKER/ONTARIO, OR--JEFF MCGOWAN: Most people in Boise are doing well spiritually and they seem to be making it financially in a depressed economy. The people in Baker, overall, are stable and with the Work. The brethren of Ontario are doing well. They seem to be really seeking their God and Father in heaven to help them with their problems. People with serious afflictions have shown remarkable courage to face their problems and not lose hope. Truly all of these people have been a real inspiration to me because of the severity of the problems. They not only endure them, but they have not lost their senses of humor and their capacity to cheer those who visit them.

BANGOR, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: I want to thank all the various departments that work together with Ministerial Services to make my service locally a much easier and smoother operation--from Ambassador College to Publishing, Media (all facets), Y.O.U., Festival, Transportation, etc. (even the WATS lines!). It is indeed a real comfort to know what a fine team God has called and placed here to help Mr. Armstrong accomplish the greatest Work man has ever known! Keep up the vigil. Our people here are totally supportive of God's great Work.

JOPLIN, MO--VINCE SZYMKOWIAK: Please convey my deep thanks to Mr. Armstrong for the small black handbook in which he gives instructions on how to conduct funerals and the Passover. His wisdom and guidance to us is invaluable. I often refer to his instructions in the handbook and really appreciate the knowledge contained in it. His teaching on how to pastor churches gives us all great confidence.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

FROM PUBLISHING SERVICES

PT/YOUTH 82 Circulation Continues to Soar

A few weeks ago we reported that in March we added the highest number of new subscribers ever. Well, the April figures have just come in and once more a new record has been set--138,034 new people were added to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list last month! Thirty percent came from newsstands, 25% from radio and TV, 18% from blow-in cards and the rest from other circulation promotion programs. The total United States circulation is now over 3.2 million and the worldwide figure is approaching 4.8 million.

Recently, Mr. Armstrong has been advertising YOUTH 82 magazine on his TV program and already more than 5,000 people have called in for a subscription. This, combined with the response from the YOUTH 82 subscription offer in the semiannual, has increased the May circulation by 170% over April.

Newsstand PT Comments

Steve Nutzman of Terre Haute, Indiana sent us a copy of the "We're Moving" card on which the restaurant owner wrote, "Don't move! We need you, PLAIN TRUTH. Come back, please!"

We are also including the following excerpts from newsstand subscribers for your interest.

I have been a subscriber to The PLAIN TRUTH for a few months now, having been introduced to your magazine at the airport where I am taking flying lessons. Your work is much needed in our world. I would like to contribute the enclosed to the further progress of your many good projects.

J.N. (Wilton, CT)

Will you please send me the magazine The PLAIN TRUTH. I would especially like to have a copy of the February, 1982 issue. I

read this in the beauty shop and found it to be exceptionally interesting. I would like a copy for myself, if it is possible.

O.B. (Shreveport, LA)

On behalf of the Superintendent and the members of the New Jersey Memorial Home, I wish to extend to your organization our sincere thanks for your donation of The PLAIN TRUTH magazines which you provided for our members. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated.

J.C., New Jersey Memorial Home (Vineland, NJ)

I would like to request the free booklet WHO IS THE BEAST? I found a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH in the courthouse on a table. You said it was free, so I am writing a note and sending the card I found in your book.

J.T. (Paxton, IN)

I think it is a wonderful thing you are doing, getting this good magazine out to so many people. Only God's people would do this free of charge. I started receiving my magazine a few months ago and really enjoy it. I picked up your magazine in the doctor's office while waiting on my father. After I read the first page I knew it was great.

H.W. (Canton, OH)

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Sabbath Volunteers Answer 80,000 WATS Calls

Over 3,000,000 calls have been received on the WATS lines since they were first installed in 1971. We now have 85 national WATS lines and 45 local lines, totaling 130 lines.

In March, 1981, Mr. Armstrong gave approval for a WATS Sabbath Volunteer Crew. Since that time over 400 Church members and Ambassador students have become volunteer WATS operators!

Each volunteer is given special training and then serves a four-hour shift about once a month on weekly Sabbaths and the holy days. Since some of the calls occur very early on Sabbath morning (coming in from the East Coast which is three hours ahead) some members and students must arrive to answer phones in the predawn hours--3:30 a.m. and onward.

After one year of service this volunteer team has donated over 10,000 man-hours and answered almost 80,000 calls. If we had used recording devices on the lines instead of "live" operators, the trade record shows that about 40% of those calling would probably have hung up. Some of these people do call back during the week, but the majority will try only one time.

Enthusiasm among the volunteers for the opportunity to serve the Work is running high. In the past two weeks the number of volunteers wanting to serve on the WATS lines has risen by 15%. These brethren are effectively backing up Mr. Armstrong's messages by helping to respond to those God is calling through The WORLD TOMORROW programs.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

BRITAIN CONFRONTS TWO CRISES AS SPLIT IN WESTERN WORLD WIDENS; A FALSE CHRIST IS ABOUT TO APPEAR As all-out war looms in the Falkland Islands, allied support for Britain's position is eroding. At the same time a rift is developing between the Anglo-Saxon Protestant powers on one hand (the United States confirmed publicly its support for Britain on April 30) and the Spanish-culture Roman Catholic world on the other. The latter side now is being joined by other Catholic cultures, even in Europe.

The Falklands conflict has taken a curious twist during its development. At first, America tried to walk the stony middle ground between Buenos Aires and London while Britain's allies in the European Community rallied almost immediately to her side. The EC quickly rammed through a one-month trade embargo against Argentina. But continental (and Irish) support for the British position began to melt away once the shooting started.

Early this week Italy and Ireland balked at continuing the Argentine trade sanctions a second month. Only a week's extension was agreed to, and Italy and Ireland will abide only on the imports side of it. As the LOS ANGELES TIMES reported in its May 18, 1982 edition, in a dispatch from Luxembourg, site of the EC meeting:

Four out of 10 Argentines are of Italian descent, and the Italian Parliament in a bitter debate last week indicated overwhelming disapproval of any extension of the embargo. Italian political leaders have talked recently about "blood ties" with the Argentines. And the Irish government, which follows a neutral foreign policy, also would have faced internal criticism for supporting Britain on any military action that smacked of colonialism.

Had no compromise been achieved here, the failure of the EEC to extend the embargo in any form would have signaled a significant erosion of European support for Britain's strategy at a critical juncture.

Spain, while not a member of the EC, would like to become one nevertheless. It would have to have British support for entry. Hence the Spanish nation is in a quandary over the Falklands crisis. The Spanish public has shown strong support for Argentina's seizure of the Falklands. Parallels to Spain's dispute with Britain over Gibraltar are certainly made. Spanish officials admit privately that they are under monumental pressure to show open support for Argentina. One top Spanish official puts it this way: "This is the worst thing that could have happened to us."

Serious Common Market Rift

At the same time, Britain's relations with its fellow Common Market members are stormy once again over economic issues, after a short lull during which time the British share of the EC budget had been readjusted in Britain's favor. Britain's relations with its nine partners in the EEC plunged to a new low in May when other member governments voted through 1982-83 farm price increases without Britain's consent.

Here is a REUTERS dispatch concerning this development:

In an unprecedented vote, a majority of EEC governments approved more than 60 new Community regulations to implement the price package beginning Thursday. The price increases now had legal force throughout the 10-nation EEC. Britain, Denmark and Greece did not participate in the voting, they said.

Diplomats said there were angry exchanges among ministers as the voting was concluded. British agriculture minister Peter Walker told reporters the unprecedented vote violated the basis on which Britain had joined the EEC, or Common Market, in 1973.... Diplomats said Walker warned his colleagues the decision would wreck the consensus politics under which the EEC worked. In a bitter attack on the French and West German ministers, he told reporters it had made "an impetuous decision which on reflection the majority of ministers would come to regret." Britain would be "urgently considering the implications of this new and dangerous principle," Walker said.

The Common Market decision has obviously come at a very awkward time for Britain, considering its desire for firm support from the EC over the Falklands crisis. Another REUTERS dispatch, a day later (May 19) from London reported the following:

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said today a decision by Common Market countries to override a British veto on farm price increases had provoked the greatest crisis in the European Economic Community in nearly a decade.

She said her government would consider the matter carefully and would not rush into a reaction to the unprecedented move by seven EEC farm ministers who yesterday pushed through the price package over the objections of Britain, Denmark and Greece. Mrs. Thatcher has come under strong pressure from politicians and the press to retaliate by cutting off British contributions to the budget of the 10-nation community.

Britain said the vote broke a 16-year practice--the so-called Luxembourg Compromise created at the insistence of late French President Charles de Gaulle--under which members are allowed to block decisions vital to their interests.

In Greece and Denmark, which both joined Britain in abstaining on the vote on farm prices, government officials said they were profoundly worried by the apparent change in the way the community worked. French President Francois Mitterrand said the farm prices decision was not a break with precedent and added that the existence of the community had been at stake. In a French television interview from Algiers, he said the move raised questions not about the principle of unanimity but about the role Britain intended to play in Europe.

In a wider perspective, Geoffrey Godsell of the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR delves into the split between the English-speaking Protestant and Spanish-speaking Catholic worlds in the newspaper's May 11 issue:

In terms of great-power geopolitics, the most embarrassingly threatened actor in the drama is the United States. At risk, even if sometimes only by implication, are:...

--In this hemisphere, the relationship--sometimes strained--between Latins and the English-speaking U.S.

--In the world, the modus vivendi between the two main religious cultures of European origin. These are the till-now globally dominant English-speaking Protestant camp and the Hispanic Roman Catholic camp, which has had to play second fiddle since the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 and the subsequent European settlement of pacesetting North America by English-speakers.

This religious issue is such a sensitive one that there is an understandable tendency to avoid meeting it head-on. But religion--above all, fundamentalism within the world's three great monotheistic faiths--is in fact playing an increasing role in global politics in this last quarter of the 20th century.

DAEDALUS, the quarter journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, devoted its entire winter 1982 issue to this. In it, George Armstrong Kelly of John Hopkins University writes: "When I speak of the United States, I am referring to what in my judgment is a Protestant...culture....Although Roman Catholics are, by far, our largest single church and have an average per capita income slightly higher than that of the Protestants, few who have lived their lives in the United States would doubt that dissenting Protestantism is the wellspring of our ethos. Both Catholicism and Judaism, by multiplying and prospering in America, have become partly Protestantized...."

In this context, it is not surprising that most Americans are instinctively drawn to support Protestant Britain over the Falklands, while Argentina draws instinctive support (although of varying degree) from virtually all lands of Catholic Latin America and from such governments as those of Catholic Spain and Ireland.

This traps the government of the U.S. in a crossfire, since foreign-policy planners in Washington are aware of the dangers for long-term U.S. interests in the hemisphere if Latin America as a whole is driven into active anti-Yankee hostility by U.S. acquiescence or participation in humiliation of the Argentine junta.

"Siding With Britain Will Cost Uncle Sam Dearly," headlines an article in the "International Outlook" section of the May 17, 1982 BUSINESS WEEK:

Washington will pay a heavy price in Latin America for supporting [London]Buenos Aires has the sympathy of the continent. The Venezuelan delegate to the Organization of American States reflected the typical attitude at an early session on the Falklands when he recounted the long list of British interventions in Latin America that have left almost as much bitterness as U.S. attempts to create order. In an effort to exacerbate anti-U.S.

feeling further, the Soviets, Cuba, and their allies already are exploiting the "ganging up" of the Anglo-Saxon powers....The effort by Washington to draw a line between Moscow-Cuban adherents and a wide diversity of democratic and anti-Communist elements in the hemisphere has now been blown apart.

Britain has received solid support so far from fellow Anglo-Saxon power, Australia--again revealing the "who's-for-me-and-who's-against-me" division taking place. The other day, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser pointed up the danger to the entire free world alliance structure should the British, in going to war, fail to receive whatever help is necessary from its allies. Again, from our REUTERS news service:

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser tonight said he believed Britain would expect the major members of the Western Alliance to provide "whatever help is required" if the Falklands crisis resulted in a war. He told members of the Foreign Policy Association that failure to resolve the crisis in a manner satisfactory to Britain would severely damage the Alliance.

"I believe in those circumstances [of open hostilities], they will be expecting the major members of the Western Alliance to provide whatever help is required," he said in response to questions after delivering a speech to the Association. He added: "If the matter is not resolved in a manner satisfactory to the United Kingdom I believe the consequences for the Western Alliance will be immeasurable, incalculable, far-reaching and enormously damaging."

But he said that Western democracies had no option but to make certain that aggression did not succeed in the Falkland Islands and that Argentine troops were withdrawn by "one means or another." Otherwise, he said, other countries would be encouraged to use military means to settle territorial disputes.

The possibility of having to come to Britain's aid more directly in the likely event of an all-out war in the South Atlantic--which would ignite anti-Yankee recriminations--has U.S. leaders very concerned. Notice this from the May 24, 1982 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT:

Some observers even cited the danger that a setback for the British could present Washington with the choice of going to their rescue or leaving a close ally in the lurch.

If either of Britain's two aircraft carriers or other essential warships were sunk, an influential British journal, the ECONOMIST, asked: "Would America conceivably fill such a naval gap?" It was this somber picture that prompted the Reagan Administration to throw its full weight behind the mid-May drive at the U.N. for a negotiated settlement of the conflict....

Two points are conceded in virtually all assessments of future U.S. relations with Latin America:

--Direct U.S. military intervention in the Falklands conflict would inflame Latin opinion to a dangerous level. As one

Argentine diplomat put it: "If American planes refuel bombers on their way to kill us, the U.S. will be back to the days of Teddy Roosevelt and his Big Stick" in Latin eyes.

--U.S. hopes for joint economic ventures and moves against Communist insurgents have probably suffered severe short-term damage in any case.

Nowhere is there more basis for gloom on that point than in Argentina itself....What dismays leading Argentines is that, before the Falklands crisis, the Reagan Administration had been courting the right-wing junta in Buenos Aires as a natural anti-Communist ally [i.e. "lover"]. What is more, the courtship apparently had been paying off.

"If it were made public how close we really were to the United States," says one senior general, "many people here would accuse us of being traitors to Argentina."

"False Christ" About to Reveal Himself

Perhaps some of you have already seen the one-page ads appearing in 17 major newspapers around the world, such as the TIMES of London, the NEW YORK TIMES, LOS ANGELES TIMES, etc. The ads are all the same, headlining that "The Christ is Now Here."

The ad states that this Christ, the so-called "World Teacher," will reveal himself before July 1 and "will speak to humanity through a worldwide television and radio broadcast. His message will be heard inwardly, telepathically by all people in their own language. From that time, with His help, we will build a new world."

A leading spokesman for this "World Teacher" is Benjamin Creme (pronounced "Krem"), a 59-year-old Scotsman from London. Creme was recently in Los Angeles, where on Friday May 14 he held a news conference. This is the way the LOS ANGELES TIMES of May 15 summed up Creme's remarks:

The Universal Christ--the World Teacher--lives in "a totally indestructible body" in the Pakistani-Indian community of South-east London. [Author's note: This is hardly the high-rent district of London. Prophetically it would qualify as a "secret chamber"--Matt. 24:26.]

[Benjamin Creme's] press conference at the Ambassador [Hotel] in Los Angeles climaxed a seven-year campaign--aided in recent months by a well-oiled media blitz and full-page ads in 17 major newspapers of the world--to announce the reappearance of the Christ. Now it is up to the media to find the Messiah, who will live on earth for the next 2,000 years or more and be the founder of a new world religion, Creme told about 100 journalists, cameramen, cult-watchers and advocates of conventional religion who had turned out to hear his pronouncement. Creme [is] a straight-standing man with bushy gray hair and luminous eyes....

Creme says that the Messiah has been living in London since July 19, 1977 and claims to receive direct telepathic messages from

the Christ and other ascended masters "through mental overshadowing." According to Creme, the Christ individual--the World Teacher--is the one awaited by all religions under various names: "For Jews he is the Messiah; for Moslems, the Imam Mahdi; for Hindus, Krishna; for Buddhists, the fifth Buddha; and for Christians, the Second Coming of Christ."

But Creme says the World Teacher is not the same as Jesus Christ--"The World Teacher of all humanity embodied Jesus for three years between his baptism and crucifixion." Jesus Christ is also now alive, however, according to Creme, who says he lives in a 659-year-old body in a place Creme did not disclose.

Within a week, Creme predicted at the press conference, the Christ in southeast London will hold his own press conference and for the first time acknowledge his identity. Then, on the "Day of Declaration," as Creme calls it, the Messiah will make an appeal for world peace and the sharing of food resources by all nations through a worldwide television and radio broadcast. "He will be heard inwardly, telepathically, by all people in their own language," as his face is seen on TV screens, Creme said, describing a kind of modern-day Pentecost in which language barriers will be supernaturally transcended. Simultaneously, Creme said, "hundreds of thousands of healings will take place throughout the world." [Author's note: "great signs and wonders"--Matt. 24:24?]

Within a month, Creme said, the Christ will introduce 12 of his disciples, including "the true apostolic Jesus who will take over the throne of Peter of Rome"--a reference to the Holy See at the Vatican.

No doubt there will be others the likes of this "World Teacher" who will come along in this end-time age. But his pretentiousness will be hard to top.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau