

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

April 13, 1983

I thought that I had already done a report for March, only to discover that none had been written. Therefore, this is a little late for this month. It seems like the months roll around so quickly that it's hard to keep up with everything.

We ended the month of March with only a 9.7 percent increase year to date over the same period for 1982. This is a little lower than we were doing for a while, but still a little above budget. The month of March was only 6.2 percent more, which brought the overall average for the year down from what it had been.

There was a 13.3 percent increase in the offering on the first holy day, and a 4.1 percent increase in attendance over last year. The average per person was \$20.75, which was up considerably over last year's average of \$19.07.

The second holy day, which actually occurred this month rather than in March, showed a smaller increase of 8.9 percent, but the average per person was \$21.74. No services were held in a few churches because of weather conditions, so possibly these preliminary call-in figures might be increased somewhat.

We are still hoping for more substantial increases, but as yet they have not materialized. We hope you will all continue your urgent prayers in this regard.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Sacramento to Replace Squaw Valley Feast Site

As a result of the collapse of the roof of Blyth Arena (see April 1, 1983 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT), Squaw Valley became unavailable to the Church as a Feast site. Immediately we began to check out several possible alternate sites and can now announce that Mr. Armstrong has approved Sacramento, California as a replacement site.

We are currently in the final stages of negotiations with the city of Sacramento for the necessary meeting space and parking. The arrangements should be completed very soon.

Those assigned to the former Squaw Valley Feast site will receive information on the new site, including housing, within two to three weeks. Since we will be negotiating rates with the housing properties in the area, no one should make reservations there before we send the information.

Further details will follow in the WORLDWIDE NEWS and the PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT as soon as they become available to the Festival Coordinating Team. Everyone's continued prayers for the completion of these arrangements would be appreciated.

International News

Report From The Netherlands Passover was celebrated by the four Dutch-language congregations at four different places in Belgium and The Netherlands, with 190 people in attendance. This was an increase of 9.8%.

All four Churches met at one place just outside Utrecht to observe the first and last days of Unleavened Bread. God enabled us to be together in one place again and blessed us with a most joyous feast. Attendance on both days increased 14.2% compared to one year ago.

Two deacons were ordained on the first holy day: Mr. Rien Kersten from the Bilthoven Church, and Mr. Frans Peeters from the Tilburg Church.

The offering on the first holy day amounted to a 27.5% increase, and the offering on the last holy day was a 26.5% increase. This is a tremendous blessing for this area of God's Work.

For the first time in the history of God's Work in the Dutch-language area, our PLAIN TRUTH (ECHTE WAARHEID) circulation this month topped 60,000 subscribers'.

We placed flyers in the Saturday edition of DE TELEGRAAF Holland's largest newspaper and in DE KAMPIOEN, the magazine of the Dutch Automobile Association. At the same time we ran a full-page advertisement on the back cover of DE AUTOTOERIST, the magazine of the Belgian Automobile Association and TROS KOMPAS, one of the Dutch TV guides.

Responses were as follows: DE TELEGRAAF--3.57% at \$1.88/response; DE KAMPIOEN--0.9% at \$4.70/response; DE AUTOTOERIST--0.45% at \$0.81/response; TROS KOMPAS--0.32% at \$1.79/response. The newspaper flyer in DE TELEGRAAF gives us the broadest exposure and the best response.

Total incoming mail this month was a plus 46%. Income increased 9.32% year to date and 12.36% over March, 1982. Church attendance increased 14%.

German Office News The highlight of this month undoubtedly was the opportunity for brethren from all over the German-speaking area to gather together in four separate locations for a few days before and after the Passover.

Because services can be held only twice a month in most Church areas here, brethren have always come together for a few days during the Spring Feast. This year Church members went to their respective locations Saturday, March 26 and returned home after the first day of Unleavened Bread, Tuesday, March 29.

Mr. Frank Schnee, regional director of God's Work in Germany, along with his wife, was able to spend some time in all four Festival locations. Mr. and Mrs. Schnee spent the first day, Saturday, in Hankensbuttel, where Mr. Schnee conducted the afternoon service. Hankensbuttel is located in the scenic Luneburger Heide, about 60 kilometers northeast of Hannover. As with all other locations, brethren stayed in hotels near the service hall. Hankensbuttel was host to approximately 150 brethren from the Hannover, Hamburg and Berlin Churches.

On Sunday, March 27, Mr. and Mrs. Schnee flew from Hannover to Frankfurt to conduct the morning service in Eltville, which is 60 km northwest of Frankfurt. Eltville is called the "sugar basin of German white wines." Two hundred ten members of the Bonn, Dusseldorf and Darmstadt Churches were guests in this beautiful wine-growing region along the Rhine River.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Schnee left Frankfurt to fly to Titisee, which is located in the renowned Black Forest. As with Hankensbuttel, the service hall in Titisee is situated by a lake, with a rear view of the mountains and forest. Titisee was host to 180 people from the Zurich, Basel and Stuttgart Churches. Mr. Schnee conducted the Passover service Sunday evening.

The next morning, Monday, was spent in Titisee, where Mr. Schnee gave the sermon. In the afternoon both Mr. and Mrs. Schnee flew on to Seekirchen, Austria for the Night to be Much Observed and for the first day of Unleavened Bread. Seekirchen, near a lake, is located about 12 km east of Salzburg and hosted approximately 135 brethren from the Salzburg, Vienna, Munich and Nuremburg Churches.

This month the incoming mail showed a decrease compared to 1982, mainly because advertising hasn't started yet this year. Our donation mail, however, showed an increase of eight percent over March of last year. The number of booklets sent out this month has increased 26% compared to March 1982.

The total income for the year to date showed a 29.5% increase over last year. Our holy day offering for both the first and last days of Unleavened Bread showed a 13.5% increase over last year.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

Affectionate greetings from Central America! It was very inspiring to listen to you for two and one-half hours, during which time you exhorted us to go forth with this great job which has been commissioned to no one except those whom God has called to carry it out. As co-workers with you (God's apostle in this 20th century), our job is the proclaiming of the good news of the government of God and teaching the Church the truths which will prepare it as the future bride of Christ. As you explained, to carry out this job properly it is necessary for all of us who are laborers to be prepared in order to teach the Church.

It is for that reason that the inspiring Refreshing Program is so stupendous. In this way we learn from God through you and also through those who have served us as teachers, with one voice. Thank you very much, Mr. Armstrong, for sharing these blessings with all of your sons in Jesus Christ!

Herbert and Conchita Cisneros

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you once again for the privilege of attending the Refreshing Program. My wife and I were truly inspired and encouraged by all the lectures, films and presentations. As one of the

ministers put it, "The best way to examine yourself before Pass-over is to attend the MRP." We saw the urgency to make full proof of our ministry in order to be able to help those whom God has called.

As usual, the campus was beautiful, the students were friendly, and the atmosphere reflected peace and harmony. We enjoyed the fellowship and all the considerations given to us--including eating in Faculty Dining.

One thing we want to mention: there is something special about the Sabbath at Headquarters. We noticed and sensed a feeling of tranquility and joy. The environment really adds to the meaning of the Sabbath. Again, thanks for all you and the other instructors did to make the fifteenth session most memorable.

John and Susan Foster

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thanks for the privilege we were given to attend our second Ministerial Refreshing Program. It was a very enjoyable and profitable experience for us.

I started working for the Work in the mailroom in 1956, and comparing then to now is astounding! It has been a pleasure to have had a direct part in this great Work since that time. Again, thanks very much for everything.

Norvel and Alvah Pyle

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Please pass along our great big thank you for the Refreshing Program to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and to all of those, including yourself, who worked so hard and put so much thought and effort into making it such a success.

What can be said about the Program? All the superlatives seem to have already been used in describing it, and they are all valid. The presentations, material, instruction, atmosphere, accommodations, food--it was all tremendous and very much appreciated.

I would like to say that for me personally, the program had a very positive impact in "recharging my batteries." It inspired and motivated me to draw closer to God and to strengthen my relationship with Him. It also gave me material which I already have used to help others do the same. From the feedback I have received so far, it appears that it has and will help others too. Thank you all again for a very great Program.

Richard and Betty Duncan

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Why Church Publications Are Not Distributed at Services

From time to time, members suggest that the Work's publications, such as The PLAIN TRUTH, The GOOD NEWS, The WORLDWIDE NEWS, YOUTH 83, etc., be

distributed to the brethren in each local Church area at Sabbath services. While on the surface this suggestion may seem to have merit, we would like to explain why it would not be practical or economical.

The logistics and setup of such a system would be very involved and complicated--both here in Pasadena and on the receiving end at individual Churches. The coordination, counting, packaging and other preparation for shipping the literature would become a mammoth project--tying up much labor, time and materials.

A distribution system would also be required for each church. A designated member would have to keep track of the number of each publication needed from month to month and record who did or did not receive a given issue. This would entail a great deal of work on the Sabbath. Other potential problems involve waiting in long lines to receive the magazines, the temptation to read them during services, and possibly even leaving them behind!

Also, members who cannot attend services regularly or who become ill or visit another Church area might not receive their literature for weeks. Extra copies could be sent in anticipation of visitors, however, there would undoubtedly be either shortages or surplus copies that would be discarded.

Currently, our monthly publications are mailed to all subscribers at once--including coworkers and regulars as well as members. Making one large mailing enables us to maximize the advantages of our computer filing system and zip code sorting, which speeds delivery. More importantly, each magazine is individually addressed to those who subscribe to it, ensuring that everyone automatically receives his personal copy. Most items are sent by special bulk mail rates, available only to nonprofit organizations. These are still quite economical--at present just 5.2¢ per piece. Packages of the size and weight that would be needed for local Church distribution would not qualify for these reduced rates.

Clearly, our current delivery method is the most efficient and cost effective way to dispense the literature to the brethren.

Tithe Payers Receive Employment Blessings

Although many members have faced tests and trials in relation to their employment, most eventually have been blessed with fine jobs. They have found that if they faithfully tithe and look to God to provide for their needs, He does provide--often in unexpected and dramatic ways. The following letters show some exceptional job blessings.

Today, my wife and I are sending our first tithe check. It isn't a significant amount in comparison to a lot of people's. However, we feel it's noteworthy, because amid the bad economy and job layoffs of friends in the same trade working right beside us, we have continued to have a good income and steady work.

I have been employed in the logging industry here in Oregon for some twelve years. In this trade it is normal to lose a few month's work each year. However, for the last two years I have had steady work and even turned down some jobs. The pay has stayed the same, but with continuous work, my income has grown by some 15 percent per year. Of that income, God's tithe is

paramount, hence the reason for the increase. My wife and I are very thankful to the One responsible for this--the great God.

Mr. & Mrs. B.K. (Banks, OR)

God has blessed me so greatly recently--including a good job which I started mid-February. I wasn't scheduled to receive my first check until March 15, but due to a change in company policy I received a full pay check after only two weeks of work--just in time to pay the rent on the first of the month. God really looks out for us when we are willing to step out and put our lives in His hands.

D.B. (Visalia, CA)

I prayed and asked for a financial blessing to prove to my daughter who lives with me that God does bless for tithing faithfully. Well, He certainly has opened the storehouses of heaven. I start a new job today at \$4,000 a year more, with much less pressure than the previous one. Yes, God does keep His promises and blesses those who seek Him and His ways. Thank you for the truth, for otherwise I would never know this.

Y.B. (Westminster, CA)

After two years of being unemployed, and even after I had exhausted all the potential places that might have had a job opening, a job came up that I didn't even apply for. I didn't think I had a chance to land it. But after two interviews with the company representative, I got the job, in spite of the stack of applications! This was two weeks after the Feast, and also the beginning of our third tithe year. God can really provide!

L.M. (Peru, IN)

Having lost my job recently (due to lack of wisdom and discretion on my part), I wanted to learn from the mistake I made. Soon afterward, I was given a tip concerning a possible job which paid nearly twice as much as the other, and which had other desirable points. I was successful in my pursuit and was given the job over the phone. To top that off, I also was able to help a younger Church member secure his very first job--what a thrilling thing to happen!

When we arrived, I asked my new boss if he'd be burdened by our taking Saturdays off each week. He then inquired our reason for such a need. My reply was, "Well, sir, we attend church services and do not work on that day." He then asked our Church's name. When I told him the Worldwide Church of God he exclaimed, "Yeah, now I know that I can trust you. My wife has been a member of that Church for over 20 years--they've got a lot of really fine people in that Church, fine people!" At this point, struggling to close my gaping mouth while he phoned his wife to tell her about all this, I came to the wonderful realization, yet once again, that God, our God, is fabulous--add to that, great and gracious.

P.T. (Atlanta, GA)

We asked for prayers a few months ago for our son who was unable to keep a job because of the Sabbath. After the Feast of 1982, he

was offered a job in his trade as an electrician and has the Sabbath and holy days off. Thank you all, and above all we thank God for intervening on his behalf.

Mr. & Mrs. G.K. (Hazleton, PA)

After hearing your sermon at the first of the year, I realized there were things I needed to do. I went job hunting again and in no time found one. I now work when I can and do not have to worry about getting off for the holy days because I schedule my own hours. Now isn't that the kind of job to have?

A.O. (Jonesboro, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

CHICAGO ELECTION; THE "AIDS" SUPER-EPIDEMIC America's second largest city now has joined Los Angeles, Detroit and about 210 other cities, large and small, with having a black mayor. It was inevitable, given the massive black influx into Chicago from the South since the end of World War II and subsequent population growth. Blacks now comprise roughly 40% of the city's population.

The victory by former U.S. Congressman Harold Washington was accomplished by an unprecedented voter registration drive and election-day turnout in the inner city black wards, where he received almost 100% bloc support. But Washington needed--and received--heavy support from Chicago's growing Hispanic community and enough (nearly half) of the crucial white liberal professional vote to put him over. (Washington's opponent, Republican Bernard Epton himself is a white liberal, which made it difficult for Chicago's conservative white ethnic groups, such as the Irish and Poles, to vote for him.) Washington received about 20% of the total white vote.

The election has implications for both the Democratic and Republican parties on the national level. Increasingly, the Democratic Party is becoming a coalition of blacks, Hispanics and white liberals coupled with labor union leadership. Blacks, in fact, are now the party's base. The Republicans, on the other hand, are becoming a "white only" party, depending upon traditionally Democratic white blue-collar cross-over votes at election time. Current polls show almost no strength for President Reagan among blacks--as opposed to 1960 when Republican candidate Richard Nixon garnered nearly a third of black votes.

Mr. Washington's victory in the campaign was achieved despite his allegedly questionable background. On the day before the April 12 election, the WALL STREET JOURNAL commented:

The prospect of a Washington victory has electrified and united blacks of all walks of life and neighborhoods. "There's only one issue for the voters in my ward this year," says black alderman William Barnett: "The chance to have a black mayor."

Mr. Washington's legal record has...received considerable publicity. In 1972, he was briefly jailed after being convicted of failing to file income tax forms for four years, and in 1970 he was suspended from legal practice after failing to provide services that five clients had already paid for. Today he frankly admits his mistakes....

In social policy, Mr. Washington, 60, is a very liberal Democrat. He has...a two-year record in Congress as a consistent opponent of cuts in Social Security, food stamps, school lunches, college loans, cost-of-living adjustments for federal employees, and government social services in general.... For Chicago, Mr. Washington calls for expanded public services and investments.... However attractive these programs might be, the question arises about who will pay for them, coming on top of a Chicago budget already at least \$80 million to \$90 million in deficit this year.... [If taxes on business and personal property are increased, the flight of industry and white residents will accelerate.]

Mr. Washington's plans for a civilian police review board have galvanized his supporters and his opponents.... The proposed review board appears to be the principal reason that white policemen have become one of the strongest forces in the Epton campaign.

In the days running up to the election, television network news concentrated heavily on the emotion-charged race issue and the often crude campaign sloganeering. But the largely liberal reporters gave the impression that racism proceeded from one side only. The April 15 NATIONAL REVIEW examined (before the election) the blindspot that liberals have on issues racial.

The fine distinction being advanced by liberals is that there is a big difference between racial pride and racial hate, between voting for and voting against.... Liberalism thrives in great part by intensifying group loyalty among minorities while undermining it among the majority. Be that as it may, the white reaction is probably due less to Washington's race than to the way he exploits it. He lacks the bland but reassuring style of a Thomas Bradley [mayor of Los Angeles] or an Edward Brooke [former Senator from Massachusetts], each of whom could persuade white voters that he was their kind of guy. Harold Washington apparently has not convinced, or tried to convince, Chicago's white voters that he will strictly subordinate race to a more general conception of the public weal.

The Chicago election has a national impact given the growing numbers and influence of not only black Americans but other minorities upon U.S. society (Deuteronomy 28:43). Black leaders such as Jesse Jackson have been organizing to nominate a black for president at the upcoming 1984 Democratic Party convention. It is highly unlikely that such a move would succeed at that time (and the Democrats might not succeed in the elections if Mr. Reagan chooses to run again). But in 1988?

It is a temptation for any minority group, having been in the background and without political clout, to look after its own interests at the expense of the aspirations and concerns of other groups large and small. Mr. Jackson, for example in calling for a black presidential candidacy, argues that it should be built on "an agenda that grows out of the black experience in America." The Democratic Party, he adds, should be turned into a "coalition of the rejected--the real silent majority."

Thus, in the future (1988 if not 1984) the nation could pass through even greater political and social divisiveness.

"AIDS"--Explosive "Gay Plague" Becomes Public Health Menace #1

Virtually overnight a lethal fast-acting degenerative disease has leapt into the medical headlines. "AIDS"--Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome--is devastating America's homosexual population and threatening to spread via so-called "bisexuals" into the promiscuous heterosexual society. Intravenous drug users and hemophiliacs who rely on a freeze-dried clotting agent derived from blood plasma are also highly susceptible. So too, curiously, are Haitian immigrants to the U.S. (The disease is apparently spread from victim to victim via bodily fluids such as blood, saliva and semen.)

In a particularly noxious side-effect, "gay" leaders are protesting attempts by blood-donation organizations to screen out homosexuals. They are screaming "discrimination." They would apparently rather have innocent parties contract the disease than for donors to be asked to reveal their sexual orientation when giving blood.

It is among gays that the epidemic is most prevalent, taking the wind out of the flamboyant life-style in which many have engaged, similar to the way herpes has deflated the sexual revolution. However, herpes is rarely, if ever fatal. AIDS nearly always is.

Here are some excerpts from the lengthy cover story "The AIDS Epidemic" which appeared in the April 18, 1983 issue of NEWSWEEK:

Since it came into public view in 1981, derisively called "The Gay Plague," AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), which ravages the body's immune system, has stricken 1,300 Americans--more than half of them in the last year. And there is no cure in sight....

The death toll to date--489--is far higher than the combined fatalities from Legionnaire's disease and toxic shock syndrome. Fewer than 14 percent of AIDS victims have survived more than three years after being diagnosed, and no victim has recovered fully. [Victims often die of Kaposi's Sarcoma, a type of skin cancer. AIDS is, in effect, a "set-up" disease which annihilates the body's immune system, leaving the victim prey to KS or other terminating agents.]

The lethal disease, first reported in the homosexual communities of New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, has spread to 35 states and 16 foreign countries, including France, Germany and Denmark. And although gay men still account for 72 percent of cases, AIDS seems to be moving into the population at large. First, intravenous drug users of both sexes, then Haitian immigrants, and more recently the sex partners and children of both groups have been afflicted. Hemophiliacs and at least one recipient of a routine blood transfusion have also been stricken. And then there are those who fall into no apparent category.

"As the months go by, we see more and more groups," says Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "AIDS is creeping out of well-defined epidemiological confines [population groups]." According to Dr. Jeffrey Koplan,

a public health expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Ga., AIDS will begin appearing with greater frequency among heterosexuals as the epidemic grows. And growth is one thing most AIDS researchers seem sure of: by the end of this year, predicts Dr. James Curran, head of CDC's AIDS Task Force, there will be more than 2,000 cases. "It has caught everybody by surprise," says Dr. Abe Macher of the National Institutes of Health. "Textbooks are being rewritten. We're observing the evolution of a new disease."

The gays who [initially] got AIDS, it turned out, had often had many...sexual contacts (a lifetime average of 1,100 partners).... Not surprisingly, they had also played host to more frequent bouts of infections, including common venereal diseases like syphilis, gonorrhea and herpes, as well as the cluster of viral, bacterial and parasitic disorders that make up what is known as the "gay bowel syndrome."

Among gays, sexual transmission of AIDS is almost a certainty Mapping these sexual histories revealed an ominous pattern: the incubation period for AIDS (the time between infection and the onset of symptoms) varies from a few months to more than two years. If, like many diseases, AIDS turns out to be contagious during this "latent" stage, next year's victims--who may be feeling perfectly healthy today--could unknowingly be infecting hundreds or even thousands of others.

Intravenous drug users make up the second largest category of AIDS victims, with more than 16 percent of the total cases. Not all are addicts, explains Dr. Gerald H. Friedland, who has treated more than 50 of these patients at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, N.Y. Some use the drugs recreationally, he explains, "but they probably all shared needles." According to one young AIDS sufferer who used to shoot heroin and cocaine twice a week, the same needle might "hang around for three or four weeks" in one of the "shooting galleries" where addicts congregate.... Some researchers suspect that the reason AIDS has spread to this group may be that 5 percent of the homosexual victims also shoot drugs.

...Treatment of AIDS patients has been remarkably unrewarding. Although drugs can sometimes cure the opportunistic infections, the patients' severely weakened immunity leaves them vulnerable to one illness after another....

The specter of a killer disease, inexorably mowing down its young victims, has ignited the fears of thousands of ordinary Americans. Where will AIDS strike next, they wonder, and could they become victims? Fortunately, the prognosis for most people is reassuring. "We are not dealing with the Black Plague," declares Dr. Ilya Spigland, chief of virology at Montefiore. "You're not going to get AIDS from toilet seats or eating in restaurants." Ninety-five percent of AIDS victims have identifiable risk factors; the disease doesn't strike at random, and does not seem to be spread by airborne droplets of a cough or sneeze, like influenza. Most physicians agree that extremely intimate contact--or exposure to blood--is probably necessary for infection.

"We don't know" remains the frustrating answer to almost all questions about AIDS. We don't know what causes the disease, we don't know how to treat it and we don't know whether the epidemic is about to level off or race through the population like a forest fire. For the moment, reports CDC's Curran, with three to five new cases reported every day, "there are no signs of any slowdown." But most researchers believe that outside of the homosexual community, the AIDS curve will rise much more slowly.

The same issue of NEWSWEEK took a sympathetic (naturally) view of the impact that AIDS is having in the corrupt gay world. It said, in part:

The four young men sat in the semi-darkness of the deserted ward waiting for their weekend shot of interferon at New York's Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. They tried not to look at the fifth man, the law professor. His face was swollen and disfigured by purplish Kaposi's sarcoma (KS) lesions; his frail body, wracked for months by pneumonia and other recurring infections, weighed no more than a child's. He was beyond hope, beyond terror. They fought not to see their fate in his. And again they fought the old fears and doubts. Their life-style wasn't sinful. AIDS was not a gay plague sent down upon them. "God doesn't do things like this," said Alan, a quiet Southerner who works in a bank and sings in church choirs. "I'm not being punished for anything. It's bad luck or fate or something I have done that has caused this to happen."

The nightmare rumors that swirled through the homosexual communities of New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles almost three years ago have become a cruel fact. The dire warnings in the gay press were well founded. Suddenly, everyone seems to know an AIDS victim. The disease's drawn-out incubation period has thousands of gay men sweating in terror.... An infectious agent loose in the hothouse environment of a gay bath, where some men have as many as 10 anonymous sexual contacts in one night, would spread exponentially. Ironically, the freedom, the promiscuity, the hypermasculinity that many gays declared an integral part of their culture have come to haunt them. "Isn't it something that what brought most of us here now leaves tens of thousands of us wondering whether that celebration ends in death?" said Randy Shilts, a San Francisco journalist.

The shared wisdom in the gay community these days is that you "change your life-style, not your sexuality" [meaning that steady partners are now in vogue]. But as Dr. Weisman points out in L.A.: "Some gays don't want to change and continue playing Russian roulette." Still, many more say tentatively that they have moved beyond shock and fear and anger to a feeling of relief that they finally have a medical reason to slow down their lives.

If ever there was a built-in penalty for breaking God's Law, confirming the truth of Romans 1:27, "AIDS" is it: "Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another...and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (R.A.V.).