

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Recent Ordination

One ordination took place at the first banquet of the sixth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. On June 26, Mr. Glenn Doig, pastor of the Salina and Hays, Kansas churches, was raised in rank to preaching elder.

International News

Australian Update Our four-colour, two-page advertisement in WOMEN'S WEEKLY in May has brought in 4,785 responses so far. This represents a response rate of 0.4% of the magazine's total circulation.

Our READER'S DIGEST advertisement in the April issue of the Malaysian edition has pulled an excellent response. So far 5,487 people (9.5% of the magazine's circulation) have requested PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions. These new subscribers have increased our PLAIN TRUTH mailing list in Malaysia by 77%. Responses are continuing to come in.

Our library/waiting room programme continues to meet with excellent results. So far this year The PLAIN TRUTH has been placed in 3,527 libraries and waiting rooms. Many of the establishments contacted have also accepted a subscription to YOUTH 84 magazine. The libraries and waiting rooms on the list receive the newsstand version of The PLAIN TRUTH so that readers may take the opportunity to use the subscription cards enclosed.

So far this year over 37,000 new subscribers have been added to the Australian and Asian PLAIN TRUTH mailing lists through television, radio, and magazine advertising, and the newsstand and library/waiting room programmes.

May proved to be another exceptionally fine month for mail. We received and processed 32,390 items--a 101.5% increase over the same month last year. Mail year to date now stands at a 50.8% increase over the first five months of 1983. Income for the month of May increased by 6.6%, bringing our year-to-date increase to 14%.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Dear Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I thank you for the third Ministerial Refreshing Program held at Headquarters. We are all seeing the positive fruits produced from the previous two programs. We appreciate the unity you are directing within the Church and ministry. We are thankful for the constructive and insightful material covered in the classes, as well as the high standards you continue to set for all of us. The congregations we serve are anxious to hear the material we were given. We are now in the process of reviewing

our notes. The next step will be applying the information personally and within the congregations. We are very privileged to be in the ministry and to have had part in this dynamic program.

Lyle and Margie Welty

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Although it's been a month since the Refreshing Program we attended began, we can't forget the tremendous blessing we received from being there. It far exceeded the first two programs. God surely has had a hand in mightily turning the Church around since the mid 70s. I cannot imagine a program such as the one we just attended even being considered back then.

More so than ever, we noticed the warm, united, esprit de corps of all the men attending--whatever rank or position. God's Spirit is the cause, but there is no question it first began working at Headquarters, starting with Mr. Armstrong's example, followed by all of you working as a team under him and then affecting all of us in the field ministry. It is a real blessing to be in God's Church and have a part in His work.

Greg and Marian Sargent

Dear Mr. Tkach:

It has been a while since we were at the Refreshing Program, but Vivian and I are still appreciating the blessing of it. This program has been the most beneficial so far for us personally and for helping us carry out our responsibilities more effectively. I have covered a great deal of the material from the program in sermons and Bible studies already, and it has all been well received by the brethren.

The first few sessions set the stage for the whole program. It was greatly inspiring to see how God directly blesses the work of His Church as shown in the sessions, "This Gospel Shall Be Preached." It drove home very clearly the truth that this is not the work of men but of God. God does and will do the work as we become tools He can use. Mr. Armstrong's example has shown that over and over.

Steve and Vivian Moody

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Technological Breakthrough Aids Publications Production

Mr. Armstrong has mentioned several times over the last two years how God has provided high technology in the end time, making it possible for one apostle to accomplish so much more than all the apostles of the early New Testament period. It is interesting to see how this principle relates to the publishing arm of God's Church.

The printing industry for centuries underwent little change or upgrading of technology, but during the last five years, computerization and high tech electronics have exploded upon the scene in this very labor-intensive industry.

The Church has always striven to keep up with and take advantage of any changes in industry in order to reduce costs and expand circulation of our publications that spread the Gospel. Currently, the Publishing Services area is nearing completion of its installation of a new highly-advanced typesetting technology which is the first real-time typesetting unit in the world. Under a co-development contract with the Bedford Computer Corporation, we are developing a system unique to our needs.

As we have explained previously, The PLAIN TRUTH magazine is unique among consumer magazines in the world in that our multi-linguaged and compatible versions are all produced at the same time, saying the same thing worldwide. Since all magazines are produced at Headquarters in Pasadena, the complexities involved in handling the international languages of The PLAIN TRUTH, GOOD NEWS and booklets have dictated the necessity to produce a system that would reduce turnaround time and improve efficiency. The new Bedford typesetting and page markup system will allow us to do this.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Telecasts on Tithing and the Sabbath Draw Excellent Responses

Two of our most recent telecasts, which discussed tithing and the Sabbath, brought in excellent responses, even though they were hard-hitting doctrinal subjects.

Viewers' reactions were overwhelmingly positive to both telecasts, in which Mr. Armstrong spoke directly and powerfully. While many were surprised, even shocked, they were convinced that Mr. Armstrong presented the Biblical truth on these topics. Thousands of our callers were quite eager to receive the literature. Many called for the first time, although they said they had been regular viewers for months.

The program on tithing resulted in a total of 6,276 weekend calls for the booklet ENDING YOUR FINANCIAL WORRIES. The telecast about the Sabbath drew 7,797 calls requesting WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH? Both booklets had never been previously offered on TV. Following are a few comments from the viewers of these programs:

Tithing is one thing I've always wondered about. I'd like to give it a shot and see what happens. Mr. Armstrong never leaves me hanging; he always explains a subject very well. I was raised on the Bible and Mr. Armstrong is very clear about it.

J.D. (Girard, OH)

My husband and I have always felt guilty about not tithing. We don't attend any church, as those we have attended have not taught the words of God. Herbert W. Armstrong's television broadcast of June 17 made it clear that it is our obligation to tithe. We have never known where to send our tithe where it will be used for God's purposes and not for man's. Enclosed is God's 10% of what we've earned from the time we listened to Mr. Armstrong's broadcast. Thank you.

Mr. & Mrs. J.A. (Costa Mesa, CA)

The program is something that is needed today to make people think. I am an Adventist, so I already knew about tithing. Deep inside, I know what I should do--that everything is God's and a little 10% is nothing. Mr. Armstrong explained it very well, so even a child could understand it. Anytime you follow the Bible as it is written you can't go wrong.

W.M. (Washington, DC)

It was beautiful because I'm a new tither. It shouldn't be new, because I'm an old Christian.

V.K. (St. Louis, MO)

The program was excellent. I had never considered which day is the true Sabbath, but it is important for Christians to know. I looked at my calendar and Sunday is the first day of the week--not the seventh. Mr. Armstrong's message struck me to the core.

H.G. (Palms River, NJ)

It shocked me! I always thought the Sabbath was on Sunday. But Mr. Armstrong is very thorough in his studies. Since I have been listening to him, he has enlightened me and helped me to understand. The truth brings me peace of mind and makes me hungry for more.

Y.L. (Bogalusa, LA)

"The WORLD TOMORROW" explains it all and leaves nothing out. I like the fact that Mr. Armstrong tells us not to believe him, but believe what we read in our own Bible. I hope God keeps blessing him to continue to do what he is doing.

L.E. (Tennessee)

Mr. Armstrong makes you think. He's not like other ministers or TV preachers--he teaches without sensationalism. I take pleasure and joy in watching and listening to his message. It's a breath of fresh air.

J.A. (Philadelphia, PA)

"The WORLD TOMORROW" program broke with religious tradition today --but I believe what Mr. Armstrong had to say. We are often taught things from our childhood which are not correct.

E.C. (California)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WILY CASTRO AIDS JACKSON'S "PRIVATE DIPLOMACY";
GORY MOVIE TAKES U.S. BY STORM

Cuban president Fidel Castro, always eager to slap the U.S., and President Reagan in particular, dropped a dramatic present in the lap of Jesse Jackson on Wednesday night, June 27. He agreed to the release of 26 Cuban political prisoners. The Cubans are in addition to 22 American prisoners--most of them minor drug traffickers--Castro earlier agreed to turn over to Jackson.

Castro's move provided a stunning turnabout to Jackson's Central American "peace mission," which until that time had met with only limited success. The move by the wily Fidel, of course, left the Reagan Administration embarrassed, as it was months earlier when Jackson secured the release of a downed U.S. airman in Syria. Both acts, of course, narrowly skirted the legality of the Logan act, which forbids private citizens from negotiating with foreign governments.

Perhaps the most significant event on Jackson's Cuban sojourn was an appearance before students at Havana University. There he received a lengthy ovation when he finished a speech by proclaiming: "Long live Cuba. Long live the United States. Long live President Castro. Long live Martin Luther King. Long live Che Guevara. Long live Patrice Lumumba. Our time has come." Lumumba was the first Prime Minister of Zaire, and was murdered in 1981. Guevara, Castro's top lieutenant in fomenting revolution throughout Latin America, was slain in Bolivia in 1967.

Before leaving Cuba with some of the freed Cubans and Americans, Jackson made a quick trip over to Managua, capital of Marxist-run Nicaragua (whose national anthem proclaims America as the "enemy of mankind"). While there the Democratic Party contender criticized rightist groups working to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, but he did not criticize Nicaraguan-supported leftist guerrillas fighting against the elected government of El Salvador. Jackson, in fact, in a statement particularly galling to both the White House and State Department, urged the Sandinista regime to continue fighting for "final victory" over its enemies.

After he returned to Havana for the return flight home, Jackson met again with Castro in an airport VIP room. Although Jackson does not smoke, the two of them both lit up cigars which Jackson referred to as "peace pipes."

The Democratic candidate, in a way, had his comeuppance in Washington. After disembarking from Jackson's chartered plane, Andres Vargas Gomez, who had served 22 years as a political prisoner in Cuba, reminded Jackson and others gathered that "to go to Cuba to join in a moral offensive with President Fidel Castro is a moral offense.... I cannot be here and allow that you might believe that Fidel Castro is a human being...and that we are here on account of his kindness."

Jackson stood by impassionately while Vargas Gomez spoke, then added: "That's free speech. I have a different point of view." Later, as if to defend Castro's humanity, Jackson recalled how the two of them with their parties "went to church" in Havana.

Even his "Long live Che Guevara" outcry must take second place to another remark Jackson made in Panama, where he stopped en route to Havana. In Panama he denounced America's construction of the fabled Panama Canal as "a badge of disgrace to Americans for its role in the process of de-humanizing" Panama's people. Jackson, it would seem, is on a one-man campaign to repudiate American history and heritage.

Gruesome Movie Is Latest Box Office Smash Hit

The Memorial Day weekend (May 26-28) witnessed the preview of a new blockbuster movie, INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM. Excited audiences, many of them teens and pre-teens, had anxiously awaited this sequel to

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK. If violent action and gore is your cup of tea, INDIANA JONES is your type of movie. Here is what the National Coalition on Television Violence, in a May 28 news release, had to say about this latest effort by the venerated team of Steven Spielberg and George Lucas:

The National Coalition On Television Violence (NCTV) is protesting the very high level of violence in the new movie, INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM and its PG rating. NCTV reports that the two-hour movie contains 215 acts of violence, or 108 acts of violence per hour. NCTV monitoring noted 39 attempted murders, 33 of which were by the evil villains. However Indiana Jones manages to kill 14 villains. A boy hero and a group of children kill 5 more villains....

NCTV is protesting what it calls "extreme and gruesome violence produced to excite and bring laughter to young audiences." NCTV calls the PG rating totally inappropriate and says that an X rating or at least an R rating with warnings would be more appropriate.... [Paramount Pictures, distributor of the film, in fact, warns in its newspaper ads: "This film may be too intense for younger children."]

NCTV says the film contains extreme sadism including explicit Satanic human sacrifice, gruesome evil including the display of bloody human internal organs, the eating of live snakes, beetles, eye ball soup and monkey brains for dessert, extreme gore with the heart ripped out of a man's chest followed by his incineration in molten lava before he can die, the drinking of human blood, voodoo murder attempts, a man crushed by a rock smasher transforming him into only a smear of blood and grit, and crocodiles eating people alive.

NCTV Chairman, Dr. Thomas Radecki, M.D., psychiatrist at the University of Illinois School of Medicine, told reporters, "INDIANA JONES is the romanticization of intense and gruesome violence. Non-stop combat and murder is made thrilling and fun for children and adults. Killing is shown as exciting and as something that works very well for the good guy. There is no doubt that this movie is another step in desensitizing a whole nation and world to murder and violence. There is no doubt in my mind that this movie is highly successful at increasing the likelihood that one will use violence when confronted with a difficult situation. The role model of 10-year-old children in the film murdering villains, obviously placed in the movie to appeal to a young audience, is very objectionable...."

Radecki explained that, in the movie, Indiana Jones falls from the sky into a village in India beset by famine, where the children and the sacred rock of the god Shiva, have been stolen by worshipers of the evil god, Kali. Although Jones was fleeing a Shanghai gangster and had jumped from the plane to save his life, the Indians explained to him that he was actually sent by Shiva to save them from evil. Jones then goes to the evil palace, witnesses the Satanic human sacrifice, fights and murders many evil henchmen. In the finale, Jones calls out to the great god Shiva, as he struggles with the evil high priest, throwing the high

priest to his death. Jones then returns to the village with the hundreds of children he has saved from enslavement, restoring the sacred rock of Shiva to its proper place.

Columnist George Will, who saw the movie, said this about it in his syndicated column of May 31:

A football game is approximately nine minutes of action and a couple of hours of standing around and sorting things out. This movie is about nine minutes of relative calm and 109 minutes of violent action punctuated by intervals of mere repulsiveness....

The flogging, roasting and heart-plucking are not suitable for children.... The truth is that this movie, as fare for children, is unsuitable, and as a cultural symptom is depressing. It is... an example of the upward ratchet effect of shocking extremism in popular entertainment. This march toward the shocking is producing a generation that would yawn through the parting of the Red Sea.

The two persons who are responsible for INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM, Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, are commercial geniuses.... But the sensory blitzkrieg that they have produced to coin money is apt to stunt the imaginations of children.

Just another proof that we are indeed living in the "last days" when "perilous times will come," when people would be "lovers of money...unloving...brutal" (II Tim. 3:1-3 RAV).

There have been so many parental group protests over such violence-filled movies such as INDIANA JONES that the movie industry has been forced to split the "PG" (Parental Guidance) rating into two divisions, PG and "PG-13." The really gory stuff will now be classified in the latter category. The new rating will not require theater operators to bar youngsters under the age of 13 from attending such films. But under the new code parents will be "strongly cautioned to give special guidance for children under 13." Sure.

There's no doubt who is inspiring such so-called entertainment, either. Guess what the latest sequel to the book (and movie) THE EXORCIST is called? LEGION.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau