

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 31

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 16, 1986

Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

God's Work is indeed growing, and growing rapidly! With growth comes the responsibility to efficiently and effectively control that growth, so that it is manageable and productive.

When God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, He instructed them to "dress and keep" it. It was a beautiful garden. It contained all their needs for productive, abundant lives. God Himself had planted it, which means, of course, that it was perfect. Yet, once He had created it and set them in it, He told them to dress and keep it.

It became their responsibility to properly care for it. They would have to prune. They would have to pick. They would have to responsibly control the growth of the vegetation in the garden. God did not say He would do that for them.

God knew what would have happened to the garden if all the trees in it were allowed to simply grow unattended indefinitely. Sure, there would still be fruit. But the fruit would not be the best quality. And the appearance of the garden would become less and less beautiful. Eventually it would become more of a jungle than a garden. Even getting around in it would become increasingly difficult as the ever-thickening foliage clogged more and more available space. God simply is not that kind of God! He is the author of peace, not of confusion. He is the Creator of beauty, not unkempt ugliness.

Now maybe there are some in God's Church who think I should just let the "Plain Truth" magazine circulation increase as fast as we can possibly make it do so, and then trust God to send us the money to back

that up. Maybe some think we should just go on more and more television stations, any time a new opportunity comes available. After all, they reason, shouldn't we walk through every open door and simply trust God to give us the money?

I hope none of you run your own family finances that way!

God has given us, His Church, a commission. That commission is

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twofold. The first part is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations as a witness, and the second part is to feed the flock, that is, see to the spiritual guidance of the congregations of those God chooses to call.

In fulfilling that commission we must remember a basic principle God has given us--He and only He calls people into the Body of Christ. How many times did Mr. Herbert Armstrong boom out, quoting John 6:44 to us, "No man CAN come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him"? And he always placed that emphasis on the "CAN." Yet did we get it? God and God alone decides whom He will call. We don't. It is not up to us to do God's job for Him. It is up to us to do the job He gave us. He told us to preach the Gospel and feed the flock He calls.

When one comes to the Church as a result of having heard the Gospel, we are then to confirm by the fruits whether God is indeed calling that individual, and to baptize those who have repented. But we don't do the calling. Some few of our brethren have on occasion thought, it seems, that the Church should focus on developing ways to "bring people along" towards baptism. That is precisely not what God has commissioned us to do.

What we should strive to do as a Work is be there when people need us. We should make helpful literature or counseling available as it is requested--not as it is pushed on people. It is certainly appropriate to ask questions on the telecast or in the magazines that challenge people or make them think. It is appropriate to boldly and without reservation proclaim the Gospel, and to "show My people their sins." It is appropriate to offer them other pieces of literature on the telecast or in the publications that will help answer the questions that the truth of God invariably raises. But it certainly is not appropriate for us to bog ourselves down with extensive research to determine just how we can bring people along more rapidly toward baptism, or how we can "increase the income" by "developing" people more rapidly. THIS IS GOD'S WORK--NOT OURS! WE'D BETTER DO IT HIS WAY--NOT OURS!

Our job is to preach the Gospel and feed the flock. God gives us certain resources with which to do that job. He expects us to be wise stewards with those resources. If we spend all He gives us on preaching the Gospel, how can we feed the flock? If we spend all He gives us on feeding the flock, how can we preach the Gospel? If we allow any one or more areas of the Work to grow so rapidly that we cannot effectively maintain and support them, would that be wise stewardship? Would God bless that kind of irresponsibility by giving us even more resources to work with?

What is the source of the Work's income? Is it from brilliant programs we devise ourselves to "develop" subscribers into co-workers? Or is it rather from the Head of the Church--the One who called us, gave us this commission and told us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you"? The income and other resources, even our various talents and abilities, all come from God. We rely on Him to provide the needs of the Work. And then we must look to Him for the guidance of His Holy Spirit to wisely and efficiently use what He gives us!

Mr. Herbert Armstrong more than once told me that some seemingly "open doors" are in reality trap doors! Just because an opportunity comes along does not always mean that God expects us to jump at it. God's Word is filled with principles about living within our means, of counting the cost and of careful consideration of a matter in prayer before making a decision.

We could very easily have a worldwide "Plain Truth" circulation of 15 million by this time next year. But would that be wise stewardship? Would God be pleased with that kind of "growth"? Or would we have to suffer a financial hardship until we learned the lesson?

This past September I directed Mr. Ray Wright to hold the circulation of "The Plain Truth" to a worldwide total of seven million for at least all of 1987. Seven million is a very strong circulation figure, and even at that level, it will still take a good deal of time for our field ministers to "catch up" so they can effectively support the growth that has already taken place. As I told Mr. Wright, it is important that we do not allow the circulation of "The Plain Truth" to outstrip our ability to support all other aspects of the Work, including the PT itself, properly. The turnover rate for "Plain Truth" subscribers is roughly 50% per year. That still leaves plenty of room for new subscribers to come on each year.

With the giant leaps of growth in the Work, I've had to take an overall hard look at just how we are accomplishing God's commission to us, His Church. Are we directing our efforts properly? Do we need to restructure and refocus in some areas? Are we using the resources He has given us to the greatest extent we can?

I have been holding regular meetings with key personnel to further consolidate and organize our energies. As we look to God through prayer and fasting, He will lead us through the doors HE is opening. Sky Channel has opened to us. Now local television coverage may be opening in Europe. We must plan ahead wisely to be prepared for whatever God has in mind. As God sees us utilizing what He gives us to work with wisely, He will know when we are prepared to handle more.

Mr. Larry Omasta and the TV crew and our telecast presenters have been doing a fantastic job, but all are beginning to feel the strain. To take the pressure off, and to more effectively coordinate our resources, the writers and researchers of Editorial Services are now preparing material for the presenters and TV staff well in advance of scheduled programs. This will allow us to plan far enough ahead that "The Plain Truth" and the telecasts can be coordinated in their approach.

To allow Mr. Dexter Faulkner and his staff to redirect their efforts toward this goal, I am also directing that "The Good News" and "Youth 87" each be published six times a year, alternating monthly, instead of the 10 issues we have been producing annually. Our regular readers, especially our members, will be better able to "keep up" with the magazines and therefore less likely to miss important and helpful articles.

Because we are already in production on several of next year's magazines, we will still have eight issues of "The Good News" in 1987--January, February, March (spring Feast edition), April-May, June-July, August, September-October (fall Feast edition) and November-December. "The Good News" will continue to be 32 pages, full color.

The publishing schedule for "Youth 87" is January, February, March-April, May-June, July-August, September-October and November-December--for a total of seven issues in 1987.

In 1988, the full transition to six issues annually for both publications will be complete.

"The Worldwide News" will still come out every two weeks, but will be pared down to an eight-page issue as its standard. Again, this will aid our brethren in not having so much to read that they miss important articles or information contained in each of the publications.

This "girding up of our loins" is in preparation for even greater growth to come. We must be ready, and we will be ready, for whatever God in His infinite wisdom is planning for us to accomplish! Let's be sure that we are about our Father's business in every way, both collectively as His Church, and individually as members of the Body. Remember, when our ways please God, He will bless us. Let us live our lives as faithful children.

With love, in Jesus' name,

*Joseph W. Teach*

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

ORDINATION CARDS; Y.O.U.; CASSETTE ALBUMS; "INTERIM" CHURCH DANCE TAPES; CASSETTE TAPES; MINISTERIAL 800 LINE--REMINDER; MINISTERIAL FEAST TRANSFERS FOR 1987; Q & A; LITERATURE REVISIONS; RECENT ORDINATIONS

As the responses to the telecast continue to pour in, more and more visit requests are inevitable. In fact, through September of 1986, new contacts by the ministry are up 44.2% in the United States and 24.9% internationally. Baptisms are up 14.4% in the United States and 12.6% internationally. Potentially these numbers could climb much higher in the months and years ahead. While such dramatic growth is inspiring and gratifying to us all, it behooves us to consider its impact on the way we do our work.

I am well aware that some pastors are virtually overwhelmed with work in keeping up with these new contacts, baptismal counselings and all the

attendant support functions. And again I want to say I deeply appreciate the wonderful job you are doing. Nevertheless, it is critical that we consider the responsibility such growth puts upon us in the ministry. We as shepherds must be concerned about the whole flock over which God has made us overseers. The more members we must attend to, the more difficult it becomes to ensure that each of them receives the solid, doctrinal teaching that forms the foundation of their spiritual growth through God's Spirit. Many of you simply can't spend adequate personal time with new members to thoroughly ground them in these basic doctrines. It is therefore imperative that we be preaching meaty, doctrinal sermons on a frequent and regular basis. Don't fall into the trap of thinking that you have to come up with some new or unusual approach to sermon subjects. Mr. Tkach regularly reminds me that repetition is the best form of emphasis.

Keep in mind that we have had dramatic growth in the Church over the last seven years, and many of these members are actually still babes in Christ. Not only that, but most of the older members also appreciate regular review of the basic doctrines. Check yourself by reviewing your sermon topics over the past year. How many doctrinal subjects did you cover in depth? Do you see a pattern that reveals an emphasis on areas of your personal interest? Or perhaps evidence that you tended toward subjects that required little preparation?

When you're terribly busy it is easy to rush your sermon preparation. But if you consider the number of man-hours invested by the congregation in listening to your sermon you can readily see the importance of thoughtful and prayerful preparation. You must know the needs of your flock and feed them with food "convenient" for them. Avoid the natural tendency to focus your attention and energy on the small minority who may be frustrating you with persistent problems.

Every sermon you give is a priceless opportunity to edify and encourage the brethren. Ask God to inspire you and use you as a powerful tool--a sharp instrument in His hands. Effectively educating and motivating all in the congregation through sermons and Bible studies will strengthen their relationship with God. In turn they will be less dependent on you and more able to help one another.

Even if you are not now experiencing dramatic growth you should realize that these principles still apply. Building a stable congregation creates a climate into which God can introduce sudden growth with confidence that new members will be cared for properly.

**Ordination Cards** I want to remind you all of the importance of sending in the ordination cards for deacons, deaconesses and elders promptly after they are ordained. The card is the only official way to add these men and women to our files and mailing lists. We do not consider them ordained until we receive the card.

**Y.O.U.** It has come to our attention that there have been several recent tragedies in high school cheerleading in the United States. At least two deaths have resulted from cheerleaders falling off human pyramids. The State of Ohio has outlawed such pyramids. After careful

consideration I am instructing you to limit such Y.O.U. cheerleader pyramids to two tiers, so that no one will be more than a few feet above the floor. Please see that this is clearly understood by all participants.

**Cassette Albums** We have been overwhelmed with orders from around the world for the various cassette albums offered at this year's Feast of Tabernacles. In the case of the Choral version of the Bible Hymnal, our inventory has been completely depleted. We are looking into the most expedient way to produce more albums but in the meantime, we will fill all the other orders as soon as we are able. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

**"Interim" Church Dance Tapes** The church dance tapes will be mailed to all church pastors in the next few weeks. These are not the final product. We are in the process of recording selections performed by our own talent. Since it may take as long as another year to complete the project, we are sending these tapes for your use during the interim. Please remember that the "interim tapes" are not the final product and should not be endorsed as the culmination of our effort.

**Cassette Tapes** In the past, approval has been given to various ministers to receive audio cassette tapes of Bible studies and sermons from Pasadena. Effective January 1, 1987 all church pastors must request and acquire the tapes from their regional director. The only exceptions are Canada and the United States.

#### **Ministerial 800 Line--Reminder**

As of December 8, 1986, the 800 line for on-campus connections has been changed. The NEW NUMBER is 800-423-3984.

If you should dial the OLD NUMBER (800-423-4464) you will reach a recording which says the number has been disconnected and there is no new number. This is being done to prevent unauthorized use of the new number.

Remember, this new number can only be dialed from the United States--with the exception of Alaska and California. Ministers in those areas should utilize their Expense Allocation to reach Pasadena departments. The Telephone Response number, 800-423-4444, should continue to be used for any service needed from Mail Processing Center, i.e., Personal Correspondence, Literature Requests, etc.

(A reminder--this number is for ministerial use only. Please be prudent in the use of this number. Do not give it out indiscriminately.)

**Ministerial Feast Transfers for 1987** All ministers employed by the Church are expected to attend their assigned Feast sites with their local congregations. The Feast of Tabernacles is considered a part of your routine responsibilities in serving the brethren, even though you may have no specific assigned duties at the site your congregation will be attending.

Only those who are requested to fill a need at another site will be permitted to transfer. However, if you feel there are special or extenuating circumstances in your case, please send a written request and explanation to Church Administration for consideration. Please also inform the coordinator of your assigned Festival site that you have requested a transfer. All international ministers requesting transfers should send their requests to their Regional Director.

Note: All ministerial requests for transfer to United States or international sites must be received by March 1.

#### **Question and Answer**

**Q.** Is it proper to perform weddings for members on the Sabbath, and may members attend weddings outside of the Church on this day?

**A.** Here in Pasadena, we have discouraged people from planning to have their weddings on the Sabbath because the preparation involved often detracts from the spirit of the Sabbath. For instance, it would be difficult for the bride to properly keep this day if her mind is on her wedding preparations. However, this is not a hard-and-fast rule. A wedding could be performed after services for a couple who want a simple ceremony, but would like the congregation to have an opportunity to attend. After the ceremony, a simple reception would be appropriate. The fellowship, of course, should be in keeping with the Sabbath.

It is permissible for members to attend and even participate in weddings outside the Church on the Sabbath as long as this does not interfere with properly keeping the day, including attending services.

**Q.** How should Ambassador College students figure their third-tithe cycles?

**A.** This applies to Ambassador College students only: Third-tithe cycles are normally counted from the Passover or Feast of Tabernacles closest to either the date of one's baptism or the time one comes to the knowledge of third tithing. Even though students of Ambassador College do not pay third tithe, attending Ambassador College does not alter their cycles.

For example, if someone who has not previously begun a third-tithe cycle enters Ambassador College and is baptized soon after the Feast of Tabernacles of his freshman year, he would begin his third-tithe cycle from that Feast. This means that the third year of his cycle would begin with the Feast of Tabernacles of his junior year at College. He would not, however, actually pay third tithe until the sixth year of his cycle, which would be after graduation.

Another typical example would be someone entering Ambassador College who has already started a third-tithe cycle. In this case, the Passover of his sophomore year happens to begin the sixth year of his cycle. He would not pay third tithe in that year, however, because he is an Ambassador College student. He is baptized soon after the Feast of Tabernacles in his junior year, but this does not alter his already established cycle. The seventh year of his cycle would begin with the Passover of his junior year. His cycle would start over again with the Passover of his senior year. He would pay third tithe two years later.

A third example would be a young lady who is in her third-tithe year when she enters Ambassador College. She would stop paying third tithe upon entering the college, but would not alter her cycle. Her third-tithe cycle would remain the same until she is married, at which time she would adopt the cycle of her husband.

○ **Literature Revisions** As we mentioned in the last "Pastor General's Report," when it becomes necessary to reprint a piece of our literature, it is standard procedure to reedit it as instructed by Mr. Armstrong years ago. This ensures a regular review and updating.

We will give you these updates in the "Pastor General's Report" as they are available. Please review them.

● "The World Won't End This Way!"

This booklet was previously titled "Are We in the Last Days?" The old title was an excellent way to present the topic to an earlier generation. But the new generation of television viewers simply did not respond to this prophetic title as they do to other brochures and booklets on prophecy. Apparently they surmised the answer is "yes" and saw little reason to request the booklet under the old title.

Editorial and Television found a solution in the new title and cover (a picture of a nuclear mushroom cloud). To link the text with the new title and cover, the original text is now designated "Part Two" and a five-page "Part One" by Michael Snyder has been added from articles that appeared in "The Plain Truth" in 1982.

● "What Is the Reward of the Saved?"

No significant editorial updating, except for a revision of the last sentence on page 17, which now reads: "...a world-ruling government headed and ruled by Christ, occupying the very land promised Abraham--from the River of Egypt to the Euphrates."

This sentence is reworded so as to avoid identifying the River of Egypt. The author thought it was the Nile and used that definition instead of the expression in the Bible, "the River of Egypt." The new wording is in keeping with Bible terminology and with both historical and modern understanding. The River of Egypt was originally the border between Egypt and Canaan. It was not the Nile. Later, when the Philistines occupied a part of Canaan, the River or Brook of Egypt was the border between Philistia and Egypt. Modern Israeli policy is based on this

fact--that the Sinai peninsula westward to the Nile was not part of the land of Canaan promised to Abraham. Any modern Bible dictionary may be consulted on this historic subject, as also any Bible atlas covering the period of Solomon's reign, during which the border of Israel was the "River of Egypt," but not the Nile.

- "Ending Your Financial Worries"

No significant substantive changes were made in the new edition. However, since the booklet was written more than a quarter century ago, several stylistic changes appear in the drophead and on pages 1-3. For example, in the drophead such expressions as "average American" and "most Americans" are deleted, as is the reference to "the war in Vietnam."

On page 8 the sentences: "We are the wealthiest nation on earth. We are the wealthiest nation of all history..." are deleted as other, smaller nations have a significantly larger per capita annual income than does the United States.

Also on page 8 the sentences in the short second paragraph under the subhead now read: "One of those prophets is Malachi. Listen to his teaching! He quotes God, who is speaking to us today...." The words "New Testament" that appeared before the word "teaching" have been edited out as the original text offered no explanation as to how a Hebrew prophet of the fifth century B.C. could be a New Testament prophet.

Rather than add material to explain that the New Testament Church is built on Old Testament prophets and the apostles--an explanation that would distract the reader--it was deemed better simply to delete the two words. Elsewhere in our literature it is explained why Malachi's message is for "us today."

- "The Incredible Human Potential"

The following edits appear in the new edition: On page 5 (page numbers refer to the paperback edition) the expression "the lost century" has been rephrased. It now reads "an obscure period in the history of the true Church." The reason is that certain of John's letters and the book of Revelation come from the period after A.D. 70. In them is very significant information that would make "the lost century" hardly appropriate. It was also the lifetime of Polycarp of Smyrna, who died in A.D. 155.

Under the subhead on page 5, the first sentence now reads: "By about A.D. 50..." rather than "By about A.D. 58"--an older erroneous date that the author later abandoned. The simple round figure of the nearest decade was deemed better usage. The last line on the page begins: "To the Thessalonians, in A.D. 51, Paul wrote..." instead of "about A.D. 54...." The earlier wording was not in keeping with the information available to students at Ambassador College and was based on outdated information printed in some older Bible margins.

On page 41 the reference to Genesis 19:26 has been replaced by Genesis 47:26. Both are suitable examples in English of the use of the word "became." But the new reference is a better verb form in Hebrew, corresponding more closely with "was" in Genesis 1:2.

On page 44 the reference to Lucifer is expanded to make clear that the Latin name is Lucifer and is a translation of the Hebrew Heylel, which means "shining star of the dawn."

On page 51 the word "uni-plural" is replaced with "plural." In all our literature this change will be introduced as there is no "uni-plural" grammatical form in Hebrew. The text now reads: "...'Elohim,' a noun plural in form, but with either singular or plural usage. God is a Family. There is one God--the one Family, but more than one Person."

On page 61, in the third paragraph, the third sentence to the end of the paragraph now reads: "It is a noun, plural in form, but with a singular or plural usage. It means one God, but more than one Person composing that one God--just as a family is one family, but may be composed of two, five or more persons."

On page 64, the fifth paragraph under the subhead now reads: "It is probable that no form of physical life had survived the destruction that befell the earth when Satan fell (Psalm 104:29-30). The very first written example of reproductive life in the week of re-creation was that of plant life--at the time God was renewing the face of the earth (Genesis 1:11-12)." This new, expanded wording gives a different emphasis to events.

On page 69, the first paragraph, "uni-plural name" is replaced by "plural form often with singular usage." In the fourth paragraph, the second sentence now reads: "During this 'creation week' of Genesis 1, God formed life forms that reproduced themselves...." The words "the first" have been deleted from the clause that previously read "...God formed the first life forms that reproduced themselves...."

On page 72, the next to last paragraph now reads: "It is that nonphysical component in the human brain that is the ingredient that makes possible the transition from human to divine, from matter into spirit, at the time of the resurrection...."

The wording is smoother and avoids the wording "without changing matter into spirit"--which puzzled a number of readers who brought up Paul's examples in I Corinthians 15.

On page 87, the paragraph in the middle of the page now reads: "The body that comes in the resurrection from the dead is not the same body that was flesh and blood in this human lifetime. The flesh and blood physical body, after death, decomposes and decays...." The second sentence is deleted because of Paul's description of the change that takes place in those who are alive at Christ's return. The author, in writing this paragraph, focused only on the raising of the dead, not on the living who are changed according to I Corinthians 15.

On page 93, next to last paragraph, "the Old Covenant made at Mount Sinai..." now reads: "the Covenant made at Mount Sinai...." God, in point of fact, did not make an "Old Covenant." It became that much later when a New Covenant superseded it.

On page 143, in the sixth paragraph under the subhead, the second sentence now reads: "It is a plural form often with singular usage."

The last sentence above the subhead on page 187 now reads: "...in the latter days'--this pulsating time in which we are living now and the years just ahead."

Several pagination changes occur in the index, usually one page higher, due to copy editing. Also, in the index on page 204, under "Elohim," the word "uni-plural" is replaced by "plural." And on page 205, under "Life," the words "probably first" are deleted.

● "The Middle East in Prophecy"

The next edition of "The Middle East in Prophecy" will have the following changes: Page 3--the exact location of the quote from Rawlinson will be correctly specified (Clarendon Series, 1880; page 208). Page 6--verse 14 of Daniel 11 will be quoted from the "New King James" version, which is a clearer rendition.

**Recent Ordinations** The following individuals were ordained in October as local church elders: Dwight Dean, Robert England and William Fairchild from the Washington, D.C., congregation; James Jobe from the San Bernardino, California, congregation; Willie Kempin from the Grande Prairie, Alta., Canada, congregation; Louis Pansky from the Lethbridge, Alta., Canada, congregation and John Stovell of the Hamilton, Bermuda, congregation.

Ordained as local elders in October were: Todd Martin from the Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, congregation and Colin Wallace of the Winnipeg, Man., Canada, congregation.

--Larry Salyer, Church Administration

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

We have just completed a series of very successful meetings with the regional directors. You have no doubt read about them previously. One morning was devoted to a workshop session with directors and their business managers, and the department heads from Financial Services. We presented business and financial material of common interest and concern to the international men. This proved to be very profitable from our point of view, and I believe for them as well.

During the meetings each regional director and business manager submitted the proposed 1987 budgets to the budget team. This information, along with budget submissions by all U.S. departments, will be presented shortly to Mr. Tkach for the final setting of next year's budget.

This month almost completes another year. If financial conditions continue at the present level during December, we will just barely meet the income budget set early in December last year. The increase in income for the year is now at 7.2 percent.

In the area of expense we have not done as well. A month ago we were only 0.8 percent over budget, which was an improvement compared to the previous month. This month we have increased this overage to 1.4 percent. The net effect of this will be a lower-than-expected year-end balance in bank reserves.

Another task is now about to begin which greatly affects our accounting area. That is the 1986 audit by Arthur Andersen & Co. As a result of improved procedures and more experience, we are hoping to complete it a few days earlier in 1987 than we did last year.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

#### EDITORIAL SERVICES

MAJOR DECISIONS ON PUBLICATIONS; "GOOD NEWS" UPDATE; "YOUTH 86" UPDATE; "WORLDWIDE NEWS" CHANGES, NEW TV BROCHURE

**Major Decisions on Publications** Since Mr. Tkach's decision to involve Editorial Services in scriptwriting and researching for the "World Tomorrow" telecast, we have been forced to stand back and take a good look at our responsibilities here. We had come to the place where our resources were getting thin. We hadn't the space to increase our staff, yet we needed help and immediately. Now Mr. Tkach has relieved that pressure and solved those problems by paring back and refocusing our efforts in the publications.

**"Good News" Update** As it always has, "The Good News" will continue to contain clear, positive, hard-hitting articles about God's way of life and the soon-coming Kingdom of God. Now, with extra time between issues, readers will be better able to read, study and put into practice the crucial knowledge offered in articles. At this time we have a tremendous backlog of articles that have been accepted for publication in future issues. We will need to reassess this material and determine what "The Good News" will now require. If we find we do need more subjects covered, we will let you know later. Unless you have already been contributing regularly, please do not submit any new articles to "The Good News" until further notice.

**"Youth 87" Update** In "Youth 87" we will go to a combined issue in the March-April issue and produce an issue every two months after that. We plan to make readers of this magazine aware of the vast array of other publications we produce, and that they are available to them. They can receive their own subscription to "The Plain Truth." They can also send for copies of the many booklets and brochures we advertise. They can enroll in the Correspondence Course.

We want them to know there's a lot of helpful information available if they just write or call and ask for it. Again, any who might wish to write articles for "Youth 87," please don't send in your manuscripts

without contacting us first. We will send you a list of topics and writing guidelines if you are interested.

**"Worldwide News" Changes** The change in "The Worldwide News" from a regular 12-page issue to an eight-page one means space economies will need to be made. Mr. Tkach's "Personal" will continue to run every issue, but other columns will alternate at times. "Iron Sharpens Iron" will appear every other issue and will be shortened to one-half page.

"Accent on the Local Church" will be shortened to about half a page. Obviously, we will not be able to run everything from your church areas. Please send in only four items a year covering your most important activities. We will be able to use only those articles with the greatest human-interest value. The writing style will be similar to that used in "From Our Scattered Brethren." We appreciate the hard work and faithful dedication your church news writers have shown "The Worldwide News." We are now asking them to be even more circumspect in what they write, and to not be too disappointed when everything doesn't appear in the paper.

On the "Announcements" page we can no longer run personal anniversary greetings. We will publish anniversaries of 25 years or more in this section. "Weddings Made of Gold" will continue as is, as well as "Weddings" and "Birth Announcements."

**New TV Brochure** By now you have seen the new TV brochure "Your Awesome Future." This brochure contains portions of the booklet "Your Awesome Future--How Religion Deceives You" as well as a section from "The Incredible Human Potential." The booklet "Your Awesome Future--How Religion Deceives You" will not be reprinted when supplies run out, since the new brochure addresses the question of our future destiny quite adequately.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

#### MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

WEEKEND RESPONSE TO WT; SUBJECTS THAT DRAW VISIT REQUESTS;  
UPDATE ON SEMIANNUAL

**Weekend Response to WT** Response to the weekend airings of "The World Tomorrow" program continues to be very favorable. Five of the 14 programs shown since the season began in September have exceeded 30,000 calls.

Mr. David Hulme's telecast "Do We Need the Bible Today?", televised over the weekend of November 29-30, brought in 29,006 telephone responses to Pasadena and Big Sandy. An additional 6,169 calls were taken by in-home operators. Also, 78 people requested a ministerial visit.

On the weekend of December 6 and 7, Mr. Hulme also presented a telecast about the Sabbath, "Truth or Tradition?" It produced 32,104 calls--the best response yet for a telecast dealing with the Sabbath. In-home volunteers received an extra 6,041 responses. Callers requesting a visit numbered 154, which is 56 percent above the weekend average for such requests.

Both of these programs stimulated a high number of comments and were well received by viewers. For example, many people remarked after seeing the Sabbath program that it was clear, thought-provoking and especially well-researched. Their response indicated a deeper conviction to study into the subject.

**Subjects That Draw Visit Requests** So far this year, more than 4,000 people have called our toll-free number on Sabbaths and Sundays to request ministerial visits. This accounts for about one fourth of our total visit requests (15,100 received this year). An average of 98 viewers ask to counsel with a minister each weekend. Some telecasts, however, draw a much larger number.

As you can see from the listing below, the subject matter of certain programs tends to prompt more visit requests. Topics of a strong doctrinal nature (such as the Sabbath or man's destiny), as well as prophetic subjects, usually motivate more viewers to seek ministerial counsel. The 10 highest are:

<u>Telecast</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Visit Requests</u>
When Is the Christian Sabbath?	28,404	250
Truth or Tradition?	32,104	154
Is There a Real Hellfire?	38,089	153
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	37,748	149
The Secret of the Human Mind	18,356	138
The Authority of the Bible	29,600	134
Is There a Real Hellfire?*	35,626	132
The Key to Unlock Bible Prophecy	21,039	131
Where Are We Now in Bible Prophecy?	44,207	131
What is Man's Ultimate Destiny?	17,762	128

\*Second airing

**Update on Semiannual Mailing** of Mr. Tkach's fall semiannual letter was completed on Friday, November 22--three working days ahead of schedule. A total of 3,377,316 letters were sent out, making this the largest semiannual mailing ever. A breakdown of this total by categories is as follows:

Members	43,084
Co-workers	67,084
Donors	80,188
New Subs	1,410,307
Primes	<u>1,776,653</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,377,316</b>

Response to this letter has been coming in steadily over the past several weeks. So far, 360,000 PT subscribers, co-workers and members have responded. We are expecting at least another 80,000 people to reply to this semiannual over the next four weeks.

Traditionally, semiannual letters have always proved to be a major source of new donors and co-workers. This letter is following the same pattern.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

## THE IMPACT OF THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR

"The subject has achieved liftoff and a bloodlust is in the air." That is how William Safire, the NEW YORK TIMES' token conservative columnist, analyzed the current uproar in Washington over the arms-to-Iran/money-to-Nicaraguan-contras affair. "The scandal train has already started rolling," added THE WALL STREET JOURNAL's Suzanne Garment.

Investigations by Congressional committees have begun, even prior to the convening of a special counsel which President Reagan, anxious to clear up the matter, has requested. The machinery of government for much of the remaining two years of the Reagan administration could grind down to a crawl as energies are expended in public hearings and secret testimonies--which Congressmen, eager to discredit the President's policies, will leak to an anxious press corps.

There will be three main areas of impact of the Iran-contra controversy. <sup>1</sup>The first centers on the ability of the U.S. to maintain its leadership role in the Western Alliance. <sup>2</sup>The second involves the conduct of the administration's foreign policy in Central America (simply put, the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries, or contras, have lost!). <sup>3</sup>The third is the domestic political impact--from taxes to trade to who will likely capture the White House in 1988. Regarding the impact on America's allies, especially in Europe, the December 15 issue of TIME commented as follows:

The question that dominated foreign ministries in capitals around the world last week, as the Iran-contra scandal continued to explode, was whether it would have the same kind of disabling effect on Ronald Reagan's presidency as Watergate had on Richard Nixon's. That was a matter of great concern to both friends and foes, but particularly to U.S. allies. "There is a basic given within the NATO alliance," said a French official. "This is that we rely on the solidity of the American regime." His unspoken point was that, temporarily at least, this basic stability has come into question....

The allies proved reluctant to say anything officially about the mounting crisis. At a European Community summit in London last week the twelve leaders agreed to avoid criticizing Washington. In France, an assistant to Premier Jacques Chirac said, "We don't intend to add the least little grain of salt" to the Reagan Administration's wounds.

America's allies in Europe are concerned over the possibility of another time of "rudderless America." This will accelerate calls for closer cooperation among the Europeans in the political and military sphere. "The loss of trust [in Washington] is much greater than the objective damage from this affair," observed West Germany's Franz Josef Strauss. "American foreign policy must be dependable and predictable."

The most immediate foreign policy impact will be on Central America. Had the "Watergate II" affair been limited to the Iran arms deal alone, there is little doubt that the crisis would have been quickly resolved,

with a few admissions of lack-of-best-judgment and the dismissal of personnel directly involved. Looking back, it is ironic how often the media criticized the President for not turning over every stone to free American hostages in the Middle East, some of whom had undergone torture. Mr. Reagan listened to the impassioned pleas from family members of the hostages and acted, perhaps more out of personal concern (proving he's not the "heartless" individual his critics maintain) than the long-term unemotional national interest.

What really has turned the incident into a juicy scandal is the revelation that funds from the arms sales were funneled to contra rebels fighting to unseat the Marxist regime in Nicaragua. That is what upsets liberal members of the House of Representatives who have battled the President over contra support for the past four years. They simply do not believe the situation in Nicaragua represents a long-term threat to American security in the manner the President and members of his National Security Council staff do.

The President was finally able to arm-twist a reluctant Congress to appropriate \$100 million in unrestricted aid to the struggling contras last October. But for two years previously Congress had shut off funding for military aid entirely and prohibited any "direct or indirect" help by government officials. This is what led administration officials to probe every available legal or not-so-legal means to keep the contra effort alive. They even "privatized" the war, tapping the resources of wealthy citizens and organizations at home and welcoming donations from individuals and governments abroad concerned about the spread of communism, such as the wealthy Sultan of Brunei. It was during this two-year prohibition period that the opportunity arose to channel proceeds from the Iranian arms sales to the contra effort, violating a law passed by Congressional liberals specifically for the political purpose of opposing the foreign policy initiative of the executive branch of government. The current affair differs from Watergate in the nature of the laws broken. Watergate involved clear-cut criminal acts of breaking and entering, burglary and resultant attempts to cover up the facts.

Meanwhile, as Congress diddles with the dangling contras, alternately turning on and off the money tap--angry liberals vow they will close the valve again, even on money they authorized in October--the Soviets continue to ship weapons unimpeded to their allies in Managua. The December 9 WALL STREET JOURNAL editorialized:

Reports say that the Sandinistas now have three battalions specially trained in counterinsurgency warfare. According to the latest Pentagon numbers, they have 35 Soviet Mi-17 armed, troop-carrying helicopters, 12 advanced Mi-24 helicopter gunships, a quantity of modern Soviet SAM-14 anti-aircraft missiles, and some 150 tanks of various descriptions. By one estimate, the Sandinista army now has 35,000 to 40,000 regulars, and total military forces number some 120,000....

Fraternal countries of the Soviet bloc--Cuba, Bulgaria and East Germany--are supplementing the Soviet arms with training, military construction and field advice. In a few more years, with two large, new military airfields to receive equipment and supplies directly from Cuba and other Soviet satellite states, the Sandinista army will be better yet.

It is in the face of this buildup that Washington's political establishment has once more embarked upon an aid-to-the-contras debate.... The record of Congress on the Nicaraguan question is perhaps the most convincing chronology available to demonstrate why Congress is not equipped to manage U.S. foreign policy.... Rather than accepting responsibility or forming policy, its approach to Nicaragua has been to enact pettifogging restrictions, and then complain that an administration trying to conduct a policy is "violating the law." This, as we are again seeing, is a recipe for disaster abroad, and at home.

President Reagan had succeeded in retrieving for the executive branch some of the constitutional authority in the areas of foreign policy which had been lost in the aftermath of Vietnam and Watergate. Now, reports the December 15 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, "the pendulum, much to Reagan's chagrin, is almost certain to swing in the opposite direction, toward even stronger surveillance by lawmakers. The President who so badly wished to reverse the post-Watergate trend toward more checks and balances on the Oval Office may have served mostly to reinforce it."

The end result of the contra connection is already predictable. An anti-contra American journalist, Pete Hamill, perhaps said it correctly, in the December 1 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

No matter what else happens in the unraveling melodrama in Washington, one thing now seems certain: The Sandinistas have won their war against the contras. The fighting will go on for a while, soldiers and civilians will die, schools and granaries and bridges will be destroyed. But if the goal of war is victory, this one is over.

To which the December 8 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT added:

The consequences for Reagan's Central America policy could be disastrous. Some in Congress surely will argue for withholding what's left from the \$100 million, especially if it turns out that any of the diverted money was looted by contra leaders. The estimated 10,000 rebel troops, most of them barely tolerated guests in the Honduran jungle, could be left as wandering gunmen while their wealthy leaders retire to villas in Miami. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could well find the political ground more fertile when he visits the area next year.

Yet the issue that drove Reagan to his current policy and his aides into scandal will remain. Either this President or a successor may face the tough task of finding a way short of covert action to prevent consolidation of a Marxist regime on the mainland of North America.

Speaking of Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader is indeed planning a trip to America's backyard early this coming year. One of his stops will be in Nicaragua, where the Sandinistas are certain to give him a triumphal welcome. Aspects of the General Secretary's itinerary were outlined in the October 31 DAILY TELEGRAPH of Britain:

Mr. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, is planning a diplomatic offensive in America's backyard by visiting a number of Latin American countries next year. Top of the list is Mexico, whose political stability is of deep concern to Washington. Many American officials believe one of Moscow's ultimate goals is to see Mexico go the way of Cuba and Nicaragua in falling into the Marxist embrace. Brazil, Cuba, Nicaragua, Argentina and Peru are also said to be on Mr. Gorbachev's tentative itinerary. The only previous known visit by a Soviet leader to Latin America was Mr. Brezhnev's trip to Cuba in 1975 to attend the Communist party congress.

The Soviets clearly intend, as they always do, to capitalize on American weakness. Charles Krauthammer, writing in the December 22 issue of THE NEW REPUBLIC, analyzed the peculiar American vacillation between super-powerdom and crawl-back-into-the-hole isolation:

This affair is not a Reagan crisis nor a presidential crisis, but a recurring American crisis, rooted ultimately in the tension between America's need to act like a great power and its unwillingness to do so. Into the breach between will and necessity have stepped people willing to violate the law. The result is disaster.... In the current case, an administration prevented by a deeply divided Congress from funding the Nicaraguan contras used the Iranian arms deal to get around the law.

The United States has a vital interest in preventing the consolidation of a Soviet satellite in Central America. There are compelling moral reasons, too, for preventing Nicaragua from suffering the fate of Cuba. But the major point, and the major contradiction, is strategic. The United States has the responsibilities of a superpower, but not the national inclination to carry them out. In retrospect, it is the bipartisan internationalism of the first two postwar decades, and not the isolationism of the subsequent "Vietnam syndrome," that constitutes the historic aberration. America has reverted to its natural foreign policy instincts: a feeling of national moral superiority harnessed to a desire for isolated quiet. The result is a willingness to influence the world by example only.

Last year a French commando team was caught red-handed blowing up a Greenpeace ship in New Zealand. That pathetic little vessel was harassing French forces conducting nuclear tests in the South Pacific. One man died in the sinking. When the French cover story collapsed and the operation was revealed to be the work of the French secret service, there was a brief whiff of scandale in Paris. Brief. A few weeks of newspaper revelations. A principled resignation or two....

Compare the French reaction with the following. Two weeks into the Iran affair, Bob Woodward's lead story in the WASHINGTON POST revealed this: "The covert action...allows the Central Intelligence Agency to interfere in the affairs of a foreign government." Goodness. In what business is the

CIA, if not interfering in the affairs of foreign countries? Agriculture?... [One of President Reagan's aides, Pat Buchanan, pointed out that there were "illegal" secret U.S. attacks on Nazi submarines before the U.S. entered World War II. President Roosevelt did not suffer politically for this.]

No one doubts that American life would be happier and more prosperous (less defense spending) and less riven by division were we to be free of the responsibilities of leading the alliance of free nations. Who would not prefer that we adopt the foreign policy of 19th-century America or Switzerland today? But neutrals can enjoy the luxury of neutrality precisely because they can take shelter behind the protection of superpower. America did that for a century behind the British navy, as Switzerland now does behind the United States.

But American abhorrence of sordid realpolitik is nothing more than a sentimental anachronism. America can never again be a hemispheric Switzerland. As Walter Lippmann pointed out 35 years ago, the United States cannot even be 20th-century Britain or France. Unlike Europe, which could always rely on the reserves of the United States to come to its rescue, "we have to shape our policies with the knowledge that there are no strategic reserves upon which we could draw if our plans miscarried."...

Either the Executive accedes to congressionally mandated passivity, the result being a geopolitical crisis (the successive defeats of the late Carter years). Or the Executive tries to circumvent its constraints, the result being a constitutional crisis (the lawbreaking of the Nixon and now the Reagan administrations).... Until we resolve whether or not to accept the responsibilities of a superpower, we must expect more debacles of this sort.

This reality--that America's elected officials no longer have the stomach to keep the U.S. as the superpower leader of the free world--is what has yet to fully sink in on the leadership of U.S. allies, specifically in Europe. When it does, the Europeans will have no choice but to more closely coordinate their political and military policies.

There is no doubt the Watergate style investigations will drag on for months. The Congressional inquisitors are not so much interested in coming up with "the truth" as in bringing out into the open every detail of every violation of laws that Congress has passed in recent years specifically directed against a disliked foreign policy.

The Democrats hope the affair can be stretched out to have a favorable impact, for them, on the 1988 presidential election, in much the same way Watergate sunk a Republican president and ushered in the previously little-known Jimmy Carter in 1976. A former political advisor to President Reagan conceded "the damage right now is to Ronald Reagan. But if he doesn't get back up, then the whole Republican pile slides down." Already the front-running Republican candidate, George Bush, is considered by many to be tainted with the Iran-contra brush since, as Vice President, he is privy to top-most White House decisions.

President Reagan gives no indication of wilting before his critics, but he confessed his feelings to TIME magazine's Washington Contributing Editor, Hugh Sidey, a journalist generally sympathetic to him:

"I have to say that there is bitter bile in my throat these days. I've never seen the sharks circling like they now are with blood in the water. What is driving me up the wall is that this wasn't a failure until the press got a tip from that rag in Beirut and began to play it up. I told them that publicity could destroy this, that it could get people killed. They then went right on.... The frenzy in the Congress is not unusual for them.... This is a Beltway bloodletting.... I'm not going to back off, I'm not going to crawl in a hole. I'm going to go forward. I have a lot of things to do in this job."

The word "Beltway" and the phrase "inside the Beltway" refer to official, bureaucratic Washington. The capital is surrounded by an interstate belt-highway network. The connotation is that of liberal and highly gossip-driven officialdom out of touch with "real" America. It is the political version of the academic "ivory tower."

The news media knows there is still a large reservoir of public good will toward President Reagan. Therefore they have been relatively restrained so far. But they also feel that the President's "Teflon coating" which has warded off their barbs for six years is beginning to wear thin.

Despite Mr. Reagan's efforts, the next two years will be difficult. Some say the "Reagan Revolution"--conservative economics, pared-back governmental social services, a strong defense and heightened world posture--already is dead. The President will certainly have a tougher time promoting--or rather defending--his programs. Fred Barnes wrote in the December 22 issue of THE NEW REPUBLIC:

Now, after six reasonably productive years come two years of strife and drift. Whatever Reagan wants from Congress, if he wants anything, he'll have enormous trouble getting. He's as circumscribed as Gerald Ford was after pardoning Nixon....

In the next Congress, for example, the President may not be able to stop dangerous trade legislation from racing through Congress, especially now that the Democrats have gained control of the Senate. Last year, it was the Senate that refused to go along with a wildly protectionist bill pushed through in the House. *if trade doesn't cross today, someone will.*

Some influential Democrats have also voiced an opinion that taxes may have to be raised to cut the deficit (forget about cutting spending). The new Congress may find it irresistible to tinker with the new, simplified income-tax structure by "postponing" reduced upper-income tax rates. That could cause a furor, since it would break the sensitive compromise reached in the tax-reform process--namely that tax rates were lowered in return for eliminating loopholes and deductions. The new speaker of the House, Jim Wright of Texas, places cutting the budget deficit (meaning raising taxes or slashing the defense budget) and cutting the trade deficit (meaning some form of protectionism) as two of his priorities in the coming 100th Congress's two-year session.

All in all, the next two years could be, as many have said, a period of "drift and deadlock" at the apex of American government, with all the repercussions in critical foreign policy areas we noted above.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau

Editor's Note: The Spanish word "somos" in Mr. Tkach's letter last issue was misspelled as "samos."

Also, in the process of editing, we did not make clear in "Ambassador College Update" that, due to new state legislation, Ambassador College, and all colleges authorized to issue degrees under a particular section of the California Education Code, were required to be reviewed by the State Department of Education this fall. As a result of that review, Ambassador had been reauthorized under the new law to operate as a school of theology (an option the law did not previously make available to us). The new legislation might have eventually required compromise of Ambassador's policies had we sought reauthorization as a "liberal arts institution."

As a school of theology, we are authorized to confer degrees of Bachelor of Arts in Theology, Associate of Arts in Theology, and Associate of Science in Theology. Students may still emphasize, however, particular areas of study, such as business, communications, home economics, data processing, etc. in receiving their theology degrees. And we are able to maintain the policies and Church government that Mr. Armstrong first instituted for Ambassador College.

This state authorization has nothing to do with accreditation. It is merely an updating of the standard authorization the College has had from its inception. The overall effectiveness of our degrees will not change. More details will appear in an article in an upcoming issue of "The Worldwide News." We apologize for any misunderstanding created by the brevity of last issue's article.