

PASTOR'S REPORT



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To all pastors of churches: Greetings from Adelaide, Australia! As you know, this is my first visit to Australia in 16 years, and I have already spoken eight times in just barely over one week. I have only one more speaking engagement, in Perth, prior to departing Australia for the Philippines.

It has been a very moving and rewarding trip for all of us in the group (Mr. & Mrs. Les McCullough, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Thornhill, as well as my wife and son, David are with me) to be able to see so many thousands of enthusiastic, responsive and excited brethren in New Zealand and Australia.

I cannot help but mention from time to time how one must look back and appraise and assess the "fruits" that God is producing for His Work through weak, human instruments, and be greatly encouraged and inspired.

When I was last in Australia in 1961, after coming originally in 1959 with \$12,000 U. S. dollars to establish a bank account, engage a solicitor, find office spaces and effect a lease, and left Mr. Gerald Waterhouse in charge, there was virtually no "Work" being done in Australia; just a beginning radio broadcast--which I came over for the precise purpose of expanding. There were no churches, no members, and only a very, very few co-workers here and there who never had a personal visit, or any contact other than by letters. And now, as I go around this country and see crowds such as that day before yesterday of more than 1,400, including 100 brethren who chartered a plane to come all the way from Tasmania; it is a moving and inspiring feeling to realize that in that comparatively short span of time there is a vast and growing church in Australia which is far bigger than the whole church worldwide when I was ordained and graduated from college! Even in Christchurch on South Island, in New Zealand, I was privileged to speak to a group of the approximate size of this whole Work on earth when I attended my first Feast of Tabernacles up at Siegler Springs while still in the Navy! One of the deep inspirations to me on this trip is to meet young men whom I had met briefly in Bricket Wood, or had known fairly well and even played basketball with at Big Sandy or Pasadena, in far flung areas of the world and see them as mature, responsible pastors of churches and directors of important phases of the Work overseas. This, too, is proof of much fruit being born by the power of the Holy Spirit!

That's about it for now. I will describe my trip in much greater detail in the WORLDWIDE NEWS for all the brethren. Looking forward to seeing you all at the conference!

In Jesus' name,

FESTIVAL OFFERINGS FOR 1977 Thought we would give the final breakdown of the Festival offerings for 1977 showing the percentages of change over last year. As last reported, Atonement was negative as compared to last year; however, we are happy to report that now has swung to a positive 8.5%. The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day percentages have increased as well.

The figures previously reported were preliminary in that even though the offerings were banked, the total data had not been entered into the computer for a final report. And, of course, a number of offerings are always received after the Holy Days from brethren who, for one reason or another, are not able to attend.

<u>Festival</u>	<u>% of Change</u>
Unleavened Bread, First Day.....	+ 10.6%
Unleavened Bread, Last Day.....	+ 8.1%
Pentecost.....	+ 22.3%
Trumpets.....	+ 5.3%
Atonement.....	+ 8.5%
Feast of Tabernacles.....	+ 10.8%
Last Great Day.....	+ 7.4%

The total overall increase over the 1976 Festival offerings is ~~+10.4%~~ +10.6%. When you consider that the spring special offering was 1.3 million dollars, I think you will agree this is an OUTSTANDING record! Please relay our DEEP APPRECIATION to the brethren and your fellow ministers for their dedicated support and sacrifice for God's Work.

Currently, the income is at +8.6% year to date over last year.
--Ray Wright, Financial Affairs

CONFERENCE UPDATE Hopefully all conference travel forms are in the mail to us as they are desperately needed from all of you. It is getting very difficult to secure late reservations on airlines with the approaching holiday season. Also, it is harder for our office to expedite late travel details amidst the flurry of other details being cared for in advance of the conference.

Last week we sent registration packets to all of you. Please return the registration card as soon as possible. It is by means of this card that we will assign you a place in the seminars and lectures.

We have solidified plans for a concert Saturday night during the conference. Mr. Wayne Shilkret, A.I.C.F. General Manager for Performing Arts, has arranged for a very popular show which is directed to the current interest in and revival of "big band music." Les Brown and his orchestra along with Ray Eberle, Paula Kelly and the Modernaires will provide a very lively evening of Glen Miller hits -- "A Salute to Glen Miller."

The conference plans are coming together very well and we are enthusiastic about the opportunity for your wives to register for and participate in the seminars and lectures as they may desire. This looks like one of our most exciting conferences in terms of quality of information to be disseminated, and opportunities for stimulating and constructive participation.

--Ted Herlofson, Ministerial Services

REAL JESUS BOOK RESPONSE CONTINUES STRONG As reported last Monday, the special letter from Mr. Ted Armstrong offering THE REAL JESUS to the church members is breaking all records in terms of response. As of November 23rd our mail count shows that 22,541 letters have been received -- a 60% response so far!

Mail after the Thanksgiving holiday has fallen off. This is normal and occurs each year. Through November 23rd our mail for the month stands at 116,494, giving us an annual total of 1,716,804 letters received.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing

Y.O.U. YOUTH CONFERENCE Plans are almost complete for the second International Y.O.U. Conference. To date we have received forms from 340 representatives, representing 170 U.S. churches. This means that there are still 75 local chapters from whom we have not heard. We have 30 international youths from fourteen countries coming this year.

We will have Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong at the conference again this year, as well as several other speakers from the college and ministry. We will have Dan Thomas, the major league ball player who is a Church member to discuss sports and Christianity. We will also have a couple of "mystery" celebrity speakers as well. It should prove to be a very exciting and profitable conference. Due to the lack of space in Big Sandy, however, we will not be able to allow any guests beyond the two representatives from each church area. I wish we could, but it simply isn't possible.

--Mike Blackwell, Y.O.U.

QUEST/78 PREPARES FOR U.K./EUROPE LAUNCH We are now getting quite excited about the launch of QUEST in the U.K. and Europe in December of this year. "On sale" date is actually the 21st of December. We have been working closely now for over a year with the New York Office of QUEST and we have appointed an excellent team of professional advisers to help us in the U.K. Our advertising agents, who will be handling the promotion, are one of the fastest growing companies in England. Everyone is genuinely enthusiastic about the product and, as this country more than most needs an uplifting magazine right now, its reception in the trade has so far been excellent. In common with most magazines, sales in the U.K. will be principally on newsstands. We are having excellent cooperation from the distributors and they are providing a good deal of advertising at next to no cost.

We are also getting some welcome breaks in television advertising mainly because of the television companies' commitment to the ideals of the magazine. Normal commercials on U.K. Television are 45 seconds, but we will be having several 2-minute commercials which will be given to us for the same cost! This really is a tremendous break, and it will be the first time a magazine will have had such tremendous exposure at its launch.

The growth of the Church and the Church's impact in the U.K. have both tended to be less than we have hoped for, and while QUEST will not be the panacea for all our problems, we do feel it will give us an entre into England that will serve us particularly well at this time.

--Frank Brown/Francis Bergin, UK Office

WORLD NEWS UPDATE

Sadat Calls for Peace Talks in Cairo The Middle East continues to grab the headlines this week, understandably. President Sadat of Egypt has invited interested parties, including Israel, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to Cairo for a round of talks in preparation for a renewed Geneva conference. So far, only Israel has expressed a willingness to attend (probably to be represented by Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan). Jordan is sitting on the fence, undecided whether to go to Cairo or to attend a rival, rabidly anti-Egyptian Arab summit to be held in radicalized Libya. Odds are Amman will be represented at both meetings.

Talks on Majority Rule for Rhodesia In Rhodesia, Prime Minister Ian Smith has called for talks with moderate black factions to plan for a majority rule government. His invitation apparently is being well received. This puts the U.S. and Britain on the spot: Are they sincere in their professed desire for one-man-one-vote majority rule -- or will they persist in their ill-devised Anglo-American scheme which would practically hand over the country to externally-based Communist-supported guerrillas who have already said they want no part of free elections (since few would vote for them)?

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau