

PASTOR'S REPORT



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FEAST SITE CHANGES ANNOUNCED The Festival Office announced that due to severe damage to the metal building caused by heavy snows, the church-owned convention center at Mount Pocono, PA will definitely not serve as a feast site this year. Several other possible locations are already being considered. Squaw Valley also had to be cancelled as a site for the 1978 Festival of Tabernacles because of problems with negotiations between the Church and the U.S. Olympic Committee, which now uses the valley's Blyth Arena to train future Olympians.

Fresno, a central California city, will take the place of Squaw Valley. There is a good variety of restaurants and the housing is newer than at many of the other sites. Fresno will be one of the less-expensive sites for members. Highlighting Fresno are three national parks within easy driving distance (they include Sequoia National Park and Yosemite), several lakes and all kinds of water sports and outside activities. Topping all this is a usually fine climate. More details appear in this week's Worldwide News.

PANAMA CANAL PROGRAM DRAWS HEAVY RESPONSE The recently aired TV program on the Panama Canal had wide, general appeal -- especially since the Canal Treaty issue is before Congress. The WATS Section of MPC reported nearly 20,000 "busy outs" (incoming calls that received a busy signal due to all of our available lines being already used).

The Panama program generated many comments both from the phone calls and mail. Many people wanted to have copies of the broadcast to send to their senators or to the President. One lady asked if we could send a couple of copies in braille to Congress. She evidently felt they are blind!

The year-to-date mail count, as of the end of February, was 326,000 -- up 10.8% over last year. The WATS section reports an additional 99,000 registries for the year.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

LITERATURE INDEX The latest Literature Index, which is included with this Pastor's Report, is a list of all currently available booklets and reprint articles, and is for your personal use. May we, therefore, ask that you not loan out your list or allow it to be duplicated. This could cause considerable expense to the Work.

We are always happy to provide members with any reading material they need or request. However, when long lists are sent in requesting dozens and sometimes hundreds of pieces of literature, our postage and processing costs increase considerably.

Thanks always for your help and cooperation. Any recommendation for improvement in the Index will be appreciated.

--Mail Processing Center

Y.O.U. UPDATE Zero hour is fast approaching. The Big Sandy campus will be a beehive of activity in one week from today. National finals in basketball, cheerleading, and bowling are slated. In addition, Ambassador College is holding an all-star basketball exhibition including many of the best players in Y.O.U. across the country. Also, for the first time, Mr. Kermit Nelson has arranged a girls' invitational basketball tournament. As if that were not enough, several social activities are on tap to fill up the spare time!

Several special guests will be present this year. Mr. Ted Armstrong will attend along with many of the ministers involved with Y.O.U. Mr. Bill Sharman and an associate will be on hand to coach the all-stars and assist Mr. Jim Petty and Mr. Eric Williams of the A.C. coaching staff in locating potential future Royals.

More great news! Again this year the response to Mr. Armstrong's letter on S.E.P. scholarship donations is overwhelming. After only one week we have received over \$6,500. Today's mail alone contained 111 letters and just over \$2,000 dollars. This is ahead of last year's response which allowed us to grant scholarships to 85 students to S.E.P. who would have been unable to attend any other way. Y.O.U. really appreciates this tremendous response and thanks all who were able to sponsor needy students!

--Ron Dick, Y.O.U.

ON THE WORLD SCENE

EUROPE, LEFT AND RIGHT Is "Eurocommunism" the wave of the future for Western Europe? In Italy, perhaps so. In France, we may have to wait a bit to find out -- at least until Sunday for an early indication.

In round one of France's general elections yesterday the combined leftist vote -- Socialists and Communists -- outpolled the government moderate-right forces as expected, but less than expected. Thus chances of a solid left alliance winning in the runoff election next Sunday appear lessened, and along with it, the prospects of a combined Socialist/Communist government, with Communists holding cabinet posts. The expectation now is that the present government will retain control with a majority of 15 to 20 seats.

It could have been that enough voters were influenced by government warnings of widespread nationalization of industry, and a steep rise in taxation if the Left took over.

In Italy, the Communists are no longer on the outside; they are now inside the fence with perhaps only their tail sticking out. The new government formed last week will include open, official support by the Communists for the first time since 1947. Only one thing will be denied them -- cabinet positions.

Until now, the Communists, second in representation to the Christian Democrats, had supported the government in a negative manner by

agreeing not to block key CD legislation. Now, however, the Communists have won acceptance by the Catholic-based Christian Democrats to be included in the "parliamentary majority." The Reds will vote in, support and even help guide the new government. While they will hold no cabinet posts they will have influence in naming some of the ministers who will serve in the new government.

Thus the Italian Communists are but an inch away from forming the "Historic Compromise" they have long sought, which means essentially full sharing of power with the Christian Democrats. And that, in turn, could be but a prelude to exclusive Communist control of Italian national affairs.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau

LETTER COMMENTS

Pastor Plays Dan Thomas Tape

Recently I played for both Columbus and Indianapolis, Indiana, on the Sabbath in place of the sermon, the tape of Dan Thomas' talk to the youth in Big Sandy during the International Youth Conference. I have had many comments from adults that it really was helpful and inspiring. They said it related to their children very well. I would recommend that maybe you mention in the Pastor's Report that the tape might be helpful to the Church if played.

--Vernon Hargrove, Columbus-Indianapolis, IN

General Comments

I was ready to throw the towel in quite a few times when it came to life, but after reading some of the material I've been receiving from you, which has really educated me on a lot of things, I want to live. I want to know God, serve Him and be a real Christian.

--Paul Anthony Gendrew (Cincinnati, OH)

Through this Work of God, God has opened my eyes to the most important truths I could ever come to know. No price could be put on the peace and understanding I now have because of God's Church. Even though I am only 18 and a student, I hope this money can be used to help another life come to see the Truth.

--Todd Engel (Hendersonville, TN)

Some months ago I came across a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine lying in the street. This was my first introduction to your Work. How it has helped me! Thank you for making your publications free. It helps me to believe, even more, that you are doing His Work.

--Rebecca A. Justice (Grand Rapids, MI)

Response to AICF Concerts

The following two letters from professional people in the Southern California area express appreciation for the cultural contributions made by AICF and Ambassador Auditorium. The first

is from the superintendent of Schools in Pasadena, and the second came from a vascular surgeon with offices in Burbank and Van Nuys.

Dear Wayne [Shilkret]:

I wish to personally thank you for your generous invitation to our students to attend the performance on January 14 at your beautiful auditorium. I know that it was a great highlight in many of their lives, and an experience they shall think about for a long time.

We appreciate your interest in our school district and the many opportunities you make available to our children and young people.

Sincerely,

Ramon C. Cortines
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Mr. [Herbert] Armstrong:

I am taking the liberty of writing to you to express my sincerest gratitude for your efforts at the Ambassador Auditorium and the Ambassador International.

In particular I have been most pleased by your support of the Los Angeles Ballet performances. As I have followed these, I have noted continuing improvement in the company and I am pleased to see the high professional level at which the company is now performing. As a lover of the ballet, I am pleased that a local company is providing us with this sort of cultural activity without having to wait once a year for an out of town company to fill this cultural void.

There are two other points that I would like to make. I believe that the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation is to be greatly admired for support of the cultural activities in Los Angeles. You support not only the established artists coming to Los Angeles, but additionally such activities as the National Ballet Flanders, the Dennis Wayne Dancers and the Los Angeles Ballet. Without your support, I doubt that these very worthwhile activities would find a showcase in Los Angeles. I am certain many citizens of Los Angeles who understand the importance of cultural activities in our community recognize your civic contributions.

May I also add that the Ambassador Auditorium is an exceptionally attractive building and an outstanding auditorium for the various cultural activities which find a home there. You have made your community justifiably proud.

Gratefully yours,

George Andros, M.D.