

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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AUGUST 1, 1980

BOLD NEW THRUST ANNOUNCED AT PRESS CONFERENCE

After 19 months of the Church's defending itself against an unjust assault, Mr. Rader, in a news conference held in his office Thursday afternoon, characterized those past months as "the 'big lie' phase of the Attorney General's efforts to take over the Worldwide Church of God, to bend it to his will or to destroy it." Mr. Rader, who has consistently been forthright, announced that he has been fighting the lies with truth.

Mr. Rader announced that we are about to enter into the second phase of the battle--"a battle [the Attorney General] can't win," quoting from one of Mr. Armstrong's upcoming ads. Mr. Rader proceeded to tell representatives of the media that they might want to call this next phase "the stage of the 'big shoot-out.'" First, however, we have to clear the way by resolving a major area that the Attorney General has capitalized on in his blatant efforts to mislead the courts and the public.

The Attorney General kept misleading the media, the public and the courts by alleging that Mr. Rader was hiding behind the first amendment guarantees of the constitution, as well as other constitutional rights such as privacy, freedom of association and due process. But now that Mr. Rader is producing all of the documents that were demanded of him and is answering every question that has been posed to him under penalty of perjury, the Attorney General will not be able to say "the Church is acting to protect Stanley Rader or that Stanley Rader is acting to protect Stanley Rader" by hiding anything.

In response to a reporter's question whether this was a defeat for the Church or at least a concession, Mr. Rader replied in the negative. He stressed that his privacy has been invaded. But he was willing to answer all questions long ago, but Church attorneys resisted his wishes to turn the documents over before now. In effect, Mr. Rader was standing for the rights of God's Church, all members' and other churches' rights too. Since the Church was "held on the horns of a dilemma in a 'damned if we don't and damned if we do'" situation, Church attorneys felt that he should at last clear his name. So Mr. Rader has made all his personal documents available to the press. Now they can see all or any part of his personal documents going back to 1957!

Explaining further, Mr. Rader said that the "big lie" was the Attorney General saying that Mr. Rader (and others) were hiding behind the first amendment. Added to that were his trumpeted claims of pilfering and siphoning, even after many of those same charges were found to be untrue many months ago in Superior Court.

So Mr. Rader said that we will give first the press and last the Attorney General, the documents he has been wanting "not because I lack faith in our position. I must strip a man who has lied and slandered. I must strip him of that weapon so that he can no longer say that he has posed

questions to me that I have not answered." The Attorney General will have his weapon taken from him. But the Church has a much greater weapon and that is TRUTH; and as Mr. Rader said, "truth will win out!"

One reporter asked Mr. Rader if all of this would stop George Deukmejian. "No," Mr. Rader replied, "I don't think so. But he will have to be more careful!" Careful indeed. He will be named in a massive lawsuit to be filed in the next few weeks. This is the amended \$700 million lawsuit which has escalated, and in which the Church will probably be seeking over a billion dollars in damages! This new figure is not due to inflation, but to our more extensive understanding of the conspiracy since January of 1979 when our suit was first filed in Federal Court.

We will be naming more parties as defendants including Judge Pacht, George Deukmejian, other Superior Court judges, others on the Attorney General's staff, private lawyers and unnamed co-conspirators. This action will be pleaded by Lawrence Tribe who, as we have mentioned before, is widely recognized as the leading constitutional lawyer in the United States today.

In this battle, Mr. Rader declared, the Church has been the Paul Revere to sound the alarm--to warn the public and the churches of this power grab by the Attorney General. Now with the matter of Mr. Rader's personal financial affairs out in the view of any who would be curious enough to look, we can expect some new developments in the case. "Within a very short time, we will build to a confrontation between Christ's Apostle, Mr. Herbert Armstrong, who, by the way, today is 88 years old.... He is going to take on the Attorney General in the State of California in a direct confrontation to decide who will rule God's Church--Christ acting through His chosen Apostle, Herbert W. Armstrong, or George Deukmejian, the Attorney General and self-appointed religious arbiter of this state," said Mr. Rader.

PORTLAND RECEIVES VISIT FROM MR. RADER

Mr. Stanley Rader kept a busy schedule in the Portland, Oregon area last weekend (25th-26th). He arrived Friday and went from the airport directly to a local radio station for an interview on a talk show. That evening he addressed a dinner meeting for the area ministers. On Saturday he delivered the main message to a group of combined Oregon churches.

The weather was warm and clear when Mr. Rader, his wife, Mr. John Kineston and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kotora arrived. It was a pleasant contrast to the cool, damp weather and the disruptive influence of Mt. St. Helens that had kept the area somewhat "under a cloud" recently.

Interviewed on Talk Show

The radio interview at the KXL studios was emceed by a Mr. Alan Budwell, who introduced Mr. Rader as being a man "under the eye of the press and the government, and a regular on '60 Minutes.'" Mr. Rader gave informa-

Mr. Attorney General of California:

Now I will tell you what really happened—when you say I “siphoned off millions every year!”

THE PEOPLE have a right to know! True, I traveled around the world—still do. You said—and front-page banner headlines screamed across the nation—that I was “siphoning off millions of dollars of church funds every year for my personal account.”

Now I tell you—and the nation—what really happened on those arduous trips.

You should have ascertained the true facts before you filed the massive civil lawsuit against the LIVING GOD and His Church—instead of accepting at face value the allegations of ex-members.

In Japan I spoke to several public audiences. The Japanese government conferred on me the highest decoration ever given a nonofficial alien. At His Imperial Majesty's invitation I enjoyed a 35-minute private audience with Emperor Hirohito. Only His Majesty, his interpreter, the United States ambassador and myself were present together. Ten ranking members of the Imperial Japanese Diet call themselves my “Japanese sons.” I am highly respected and loved in Japan and many other countries.

In Japan I have spoken on many occasions both to public audiences and at banquets attended by royalty and officials high in government.

Let me tell you what I said to these public audiences and these important gatherings. I give you here one example as a gist of all such speeches:

I said: “You are a generation destined to live in two worlds—the present evil world of MAN, and the soon-coming PEACEFUL world of GOD! The very first created man—ancestor of all races—was created in the image of GOD. He was made to have a personal relationship with the Creator—to be ultimately born into the very divine immortal Family of the living GOD! But he rejected God as his Maker, Ruler, Revealer of basic knowledge and Giver of eternal life! He cut off, from GOD, himself and the world that should spring from him!

“But that God of love, mercy and forgiveness now proclaims the GOOD NEWS (Gospel) that we may be reconciled to our Creator by the death of His Son Jesus Christ—that we may yet receive that blessed SONSHIP and be BORN AGAIN INTO THE VERY KINGDOM of God!”

My speeches before public audiences were 40 to 60 minutes in length—20 to 30 minutes at important banquets or such luncheons as Rotary Clubs, Lion's Clubs and others. But the above summarizes a gist.



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

A NEW NATION was in process of being formed in South West Africa. Representatives of 11 population groups had been in session since September, 1975, in a constitutional convention at Turnhalle. They were drafting a constitution, forming an interim government and working to achieve independence by Dec. 31, 1978.

I was invited to visit South West Africa and address that convention on the subject of forming a constitution for a NEW NATION! I addressed them on Monday night, March 14, 1977. Here is a brief summary of my address to this convention of nation founders:

“Immediately after the creation of the first human, God the Creator revealed to him the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and its WAY OF LIFE. The basic constitution of that GOVERNMENT OF GOD was the way of “GIVE” meaning outflowing love and concern for the welfare of others—as opposed to the way of “GET” that of self-centeredness, envy, jealousy, competition, strife and violence.

But that first man, Adam, rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and its basic constitutional Law of LOVE. Ever since, mankind has formed man's own governments and a society based on the self-centered way. And man has produced a world full of evils, unsolvable problems, human injustices and agonies.

“And that,” I said to these constitution founders, “is the world in which you gentlemen are laboring here to form a NEW GOVERNMENT.”

I urged them to do a better job—to form a constitution patterned as much as was for them possible on the principles of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD! I mentioned how the governments of man are now toppling about one a month!

On Saturday night, Aug. 6, 1977, I addressed a large public audience in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa. There I told people of that country of the Message GOD sent mankind by Jesus Christ—a Message suppressed, unpreached to the world since mid first century! I traced the course of this present troubled world, filled with human suffering. I announced the GOOD NEWS (Gospel) of the soon coming KINGDOM of GOD! The living

Christ will soon intervene—will establish His GOVERNMENT over all nations of the earth. He will teach all peoples GOD'S WAY and bring WORLD PEACE, HAPPINESS and eternal salvation to all! And THAT was proclaiming to them the true Gospel!

Early last December I was the invited guest of the Communist People's Republic of China—the first and only, so far as I know, leader from Christianity to be invited by that government. I and my party were royally treated by heads of that largest nation on earth!

I had a private one-hour conference with Vice Chairman Fan Zhen-lin, one of the two vice chairmen, and a close associate in the revolution with the late Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai. I had private conferences with both the president and vice-president of Education in China—where the government is responsible for the teachings and beliefs of the whole people.

For nearly 40 minutes I spoke to an assemblage of 400 leading citizens and officials of the government. I spoke another 40 minutes to the diplomatic corps—with ambassadors representing 76 other nations present.

To them I delivered the same message—the evils suffered in this present world—emphasizing that all evils have been caused by living the way of “GET” instead of “GIVE.” I spoke of man's efforts through time to form new and better human GOVERNMENTS—but the present world is in such trouble that it would seem the ONLY HOPE of HUMAN SURVIVAL lies now in the very imminent sudden intervention of an unseen “Strong Hand from Somewhere.” And I announced to them the GOOD NEWS (Gospel) that such a new world will come in our time!

In the Philippines I spoke on successive nights, in the Coliseum, in Manila, to public audiences of 11,000, 12,000 and 14,000, with the personal good wishes of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, and the presence of his mother on the platform. I have spoken to large audiences all over Europe, Asia, Africa, and to leaders in Central and South America. Also large audiences in Australia.

If necessary I was accompanied by my necessary staff and crew of assistants. The total appropriation for these Gospel proclaiming tours was the very smallest on the annual budget of the Worldwide Church of God—under \$1 million per year!

AND THAT IS WHAT YOU HAVE TWISTED, Mr. Attorney General, on testimony of ex-members, to mean that I was siphoning off millions of dollars every year to my private personal account! The people have a right to know the PLAIN TRUTH about politically motivated false allegations embellished by the public media nationally.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

Those who would like to know more of the true Gospel Message now being proclaimed worldwide should request the FREE eye-opening booklet, *Just What Do You Mean—BORN AGAIN?*

Write the Worldwide Church of God, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll-free, (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

If you have some questions for the attorney general of the state of California, write to him, The Hon. George Deukmejian, California Attorney General, 555 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, Calif., 95814.

tion relating to the State of California's attack on the Worldwide Church of God and discussed in detail the controversy that has raged around God's Church since the second day of 1979.

The radio audience was informed of the flagrant and unconstitutional attack by the State of California and the subsequent receivership. It was described as being a bizarre episode in constitutional law, a classic confrontation between state and church. Mr. Rader described how a few dissidents with grievances against the Church fell in with a disreputable attorney, and how from that developed the deceitful and illegal reactions of the State. He then reviewed present conditions relating to the case.

Phone lines were then opened and Mr. Rader answered questions from interested listeners. When the program ended, Mr. Budwell complimented Mr. Rader for his ability to "communicate very well."

Friday evening, ministers from Eugene, Salem and Portland met for dinner at the Benson Hotel, an old and classical building in downtown Portland. Mr. Rader gave personal insights into the events of the past 18 months, relating how those events affected Mr. Armstrong and the Work.

Combined Sabbath Services

Combined Sabbath services were held at a local theater. Mr. Kotora gave the sermonette which described being spiritually clothed and protected for these end times, and then the documentary film "Church versus State" was shown.

Mr. Rader spoke to 1650 members from the Portland, Eugene and Salem congregations, and gave current data about the status of God's Work since the receivership was first imposed in January 1979.

Mr. Rader compared our struggle as typical of the persecution of God's Work throughout its history. He referred to the book of Acts and Paul's persecution as paralleling the persecution the Church is experiencing today.

The persecution of Paul would have resulted in bringing his ministry to a close, but he appealed to Caesar just as we are appealing to a higher court today. Paul was permitted to continue the Work of God until his part in it was completed. The same will hold true for us today, said Mr. Rader, because we have God on our side.

In spite of the persecution of the Church by the State, he said the growth statistics for the Work are impressive. Responses to radio and TV ads and the newsstand distribution of The PLAIN TRUTH are now up to four percent, which compares to a previous one percent response. Church membership is increasing, income is up and the Work is thriving in the face of powerful opposition.

Mr. Rader left us with the clear picture that the Church is mobilized and moving forward to accomplish the Great Commission! His inspiring message was met with an enthusiastic response.

--Morgan Tovey, Deacon, Portland West

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESAppreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thanks most sincerely for the Refresher Program just completed. Charlene and I are extremely grateful for all the actions you have taken to direct the Church and the Work according to God's Word. I am sometimes saddened and frustrated because of wasted efforts while we were "off the track," but now we see a clear track ahead and are determined to use the knowledge received the past three weeks to cleanse and build the congregation you have asked us to shepherd.

I have tried to support whatever "administration" was in effect, but I really see a dedicated effort to support you and follow your direction that I have not seen before. Thanks again for all the time and effort you have put in, in order to give us clear direction in many foundational principles.

Respectfully,
Norman and Charlene Smith

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I are attending the three-week Refresher Course. Words simply cannot express how good it is to be here and have eight hours per day to hear the Truth taught in its purity. To hear the doctrines "once delivered." It's hard to believe that two weeks have already gone by.

Something else has impressed us. And that is the personal conviction and enthusiasm with which the lectures are given. There is warmth and unity here.

As we were leaving to attend the Refresher Course, the last thing many of the congregation said to us was, "We are looking forward to your return to hear what you will receive." We are charged with a desire to do just that. We will try to reflect the spirit of unity and zeal we are experiencing here.

We continue to pray for you and the great Work that God has called you to do. Thank you very much.

Dennis and Lena Doucet

Anne and I feel that this is a superb program! We can't think of a better way to accomplish what God's Apostle has said is absolutely essential in the ministry: that we all speak the same thing! It is inspiring to us to see the change of attitude on the campus from conferences in the past to one of unity and cooperation. It is inspiring to see the men in charge of this Refreshing Program emphasizing loyalty to God and to His Apostle, Mr. Armstrong. They not only speak it, but reflect it in everything they do!

We who are here for this three-week period cannot help but be re-dedicated to do everything we possibly can to ensure that the congregations entrusted to us by Mr. Armstrong all begin to help hold up his hands as never before, as he is led by Jesus Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

Thank you for the privilege we have had bestowed upon us by being included in this first session.

George and Anne Elkins

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to you for your tireless example of devotion and dedication to God and His Work. We both consider it a great privilege to serve as a team in the ministry, feeding the flock and backing you up in the Great Commission.

We were fortunate to be here in Pasadena for the first series of the Ministerial Refresher Program. The classes are outstanding and should prove effective in getting us all to speak the same thing. Being together with ministers from all over the nation and the world for three weeks gives us all a chance to really draw close to one another. It also allows us younger ministers to benefit from the wisdom of those with many years of faithful service. Thank you for initiating the program.

As my wife and I look back over the many blessings we have received as a result of being a part of God's Work, we realize that God's blessing and your willingness to become a "living sacrifice" for the Work have made these blessings possible. You have truly "practiced what you preach" by living the give way.

Our prayers are with you daily as are the prayers of the Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia congregations which we serve. May God continue to richly bless your efforts. Your recent articles in the PT and GN are outstanding! Please keep them coming! Give our regards to your wife.

Warmest regards,
Kenneth Giese

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This is one letter I have begun a hundred times in my mind through the years. I never was sure if you would see a letter I sent you, but now I know it is possible.

I guess more than anything I just want to say THANK YOU!

I thank God that through you my eyes were partially opened to a better way as I approached my teenage years. I was spared much of the grief experienced by peer pressure and premature dating and marriage, plus the insecurity of an unknown future. Whenever my family was frustrated or down, there was always a minister to call upon.

Thank you, too, for the opportunity to attend God's College and learn God's "way of life." Thanks for your willingness to find the means to finance a Big Sandy student with \$20 in hand as she stepped on campus. The experience and education gained from working my way through was invaluable as were the limitless opportunities for spiritual and social development.

I thank God, too, that through you He showed my husband and me the truly important character traits of a mate, a parent and a converted human being. What a precious gift it was to have this knowledge before marriage!!

Thank you for the blessing of being able to work as a fulltime team serving God's people as a minister and wife as we have been served faithfully for so many years.

Now, we have two healthy boys who, hopefully, will grow to adulthood in God's Church. We have an outline before us to help us reach our full human potential. God's plan seems so plain and simple when put in writing by the human instrument God has chosen in this end-time era of His Work.

God has surely given you strength through the years. He has shown you that He is the same "yesterday, today and forever." Since I have "known" you, you have personified this statement, too. Through the 70's "change is a maturing process" became the bywords. They seemed to say "the more our eyes are opened, the more we will see how God's law needs to be watered down." But you have not changed. You have built enough of God's holy character to see through human reasoning. We thank God for your inspiring example.

I hope that we, in turn, can inspire the congregations in our area as well as each other, to grow and develop. I have much room for improvement.

Lastly, I appreciate the refresher course so-o-o-o much and hope that I can take the information gleaned, and the fellowship and unity experienced home and refine myself into the wife, mother and example that I should be.

We have been RICHLY blessed by God, but you, Mr. Armstrong, have been the main instrument God has used to do it.

Gratefully yours,
Kathy Giese

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Marge and I deeply thank you for the opportunity to attend the Refresher Program.

All the classes have inspired us by the very pertinent information about the Work of God and the most intensive teaching of the doctrines of the Church we have ever received.

The concern, instruction and correction from the very capable team you selected to teach us has been well received by the men and wives

here. The team is relating to us what you have taught through the years.

There is a spirit of unity present in all the classes and social functions we have had. The comaraderie shown is excellent.

One cannot express in words how much the program has meant to us. I am sure the incoming groups of men and wives who will attend the Refresher Program will find it equally inspiring.

We love you, Mr. Armstrong, as our spiritual father and Mrs. Armstrong for her dedication to you and God's Work. You both are a constant light to us in the ministry.

Sincerely,
Jim Friddle

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We want to thank you with all our hearts for the wonderful privilege of participating in the first Ministerial Refresher Program. We are very appreciative of the solid instruction in the things we first learned from you. It will even further unify the Church by making it possible for us all to speak the same thing and provide a basis for sound, righteous judgments. The attitude of our instructors, ministers, wives, and staff was wonderful to experience. Surely fine evidence we are back on the track! We love you Mr. Armstrong. Our prayers are for you every day.

John and Evelyn Ritenbaugh

Our sincere thanks for allowing us to participate in a magnificent programme. It was well planned and well administered.

Thank you Mr. Armstrong and your staff.

Steve and Harlean Botha

Just want you [Mr. Joe Tkach] to know: God has taken us, individually, and led us by the hand! The first Refreshing Course, and the ones to succeed are the answer to prayer. God has taken the Church, as a whole, by the hand and put us on the track once more. But, through the refresher classes, He is putting each of His ministers personally back on the track.

Mr. Roy Holladay, at lunch yesterday, asked me if I could think of any subject that had not been covered in detail in these three weeks of instruction and guidance. My answer had to be, "No." You, and those who taught alongside you, had thoroughly covered the ground! My wife and I deeply appreciate the time and enormous amount of prayer and preparation all of you put into the input from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to all of us. Thank you all!!

Never in any previous conference or Feast of Tabernacles has there ever been the wonderful opportunity to meet, get acquainted, and fellowship with so many ministerial couples. God has more purpose in mind for all of us than we can realize at this time, and I know we all sensed it by the time the last class was over yesterday afternoon!

Iris and I toured the auditorium under the inspiring guidance of Roman Borek. I'm ashamed to say it was the first time we had taken the time to see all the ins and outs of that fabulous building! I wonder how many here in Pasadena day in and day out have never paused long enough to take such a tour? Only after one sees the marvelous edifice through the eyes of Roman and hears the unbelievable statistics that are involved both in the building of it and the performance given, can one understand how wonderfully God is guiding His Apostle for this age in putting before the eyes of everyone His own majesty and glory! Only a few of the ministers and wives were able to avail themselves of Roman's tour of Ambassador Auditorium. I hope the tour which was two hours long, will be stressed as an essential part of the coming classes. Roman and his well-trained Auditorium staff are to be highly commended. We all thanked them from the bottom of our hearts.

The saddest part, and the only sad part, of these last fourteen, eight-hour days of classes was in the parting of all the others who had to leave. But we can rejoice that they will be passing on to their congregations all that has been learned!

Selmer L. Hegvold

French Director Visits Quebec Churches

Mr. Apartian has just returned from an extended visit to Montreal, Canada where he met with all the French-speaking ministers in Quebec. It was to acquaint himself with the local situation there subsequent to Mr. Armstrong's decision to place the French-speaking churches in Canada under Mr. Apartian's direction.

Mr. Apartian found the churches there to be growing, and the ministry warm and friendly, and strong. Meetings were conducted during the week commencing Monday, July 21st. There are five French-speaking churches in Quebec now, and several manpower changes have been effected.

Montreal P.M.	Colin Wilkins, Pastor
	Mario Ricci, Ministerial trainee
	Bruno Lederer, Ministerial trainee
Montreal A.M.	Donat Picard, Pastor
Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres. .	Bob Scott, Pastor
Sherbrooke.	Henry Sturcke, Pastor

Mr. Bernard Hongerlout is working in Montreal under Mr. Maranville who pastors the Montreal (English) congregation, and he translates all of Mr. Armstrong's letters into French. Mr. Wilkins also oversees the French-speaking churches under Mr. Apartian's direction.

Mr. Apartian also visited the French-speaking feast site in Canada located at Sherbrooke. The services there will be held in the auditorium of the University of Sherbrooke. Motel accommodations are available within a 10-mile radius of the hall, and around 650 brethren are expected to attend.

Mr. Apartian mentioned he plans to visit the Vancouver office soon to reinforce relationships in administering this part of the Canadian churches.

About the same number of brethren are expected to gather in Luecate, France to keep the Feast there this year. Three other French-speaking sites are situated in the Caribbean in Haiti, Martinique and Guadeloupe. A total worldwide attendance of 1500 French-speaking brethren is expected.

There is further news about the French PT--La Pure Verite. It is now to be printed in Kentucky (same location where U.S. Plain Truth is printed) and dispatched from there to Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. A good savings in cost is realized by this move, and international airmail facilities for the magazines should help delivery time in many areas.

Canadian Office--Mid 1980 Summary

The midpoint of 1980 has been reached and it's appropriate that we look at progress thus far in what has been an exceptional six months for God's Work in Canada.

First off, the month's results: Income held steady at a 27.5% increase, slightly down on last month's 30% due to a slowdown in receipt of mail and a public holiday at month's end.

Ad responses continue to be a major contributor to the overall figures, with 12,915 requests being received. Donation mail was up considerably--the recent clarification on third tithe practice has had quite a marked impact. Total incoming mail for the month was 29,058 pieces.

The ad campaign test of the UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY newspaper flyer has gone according to expectations, yielding a one percent return. 80% of respondents have requested The PLAIN TRUTH. A check on the computer listing shows that 91% of the requests are unduplicated showing, on the whole, that a new audience is being reached. Plans are now well underway for the fall campaign.

Now for the six-month analysis: Mail figures show 263,360 pieces processed in the first six months of 1980. This represents a 173.3% increase over the same period in 1979. Donation mail is up 13%, regular mail up 52.6%, reply cards up 19.5% and advertising response up 1,368.3%!

Church figures up to May 31st reveal attendance up 8.2%; new visit requests up 35.2%; baptisms up 57.6%. By way of an encouraging contrast, disfellowships are down 75.5%. Currently around 8,800 people attend services in Canada each week.

Who Is This Lady???

Can you identify the Miss Julie Mae Smith who was baptized on June 14, 1980 somewhere in the United States? We received a Baptism Notice containing only her name and the date of her baptism. Since there are many Julie Smiths in our computer files, we cannot process her baptism notice until we find her address and who baptized her.

Weekly Letter Comments

In the letter comments selected for this week, members are thanking Mr. Armstrong for his loyalty to God, dedicated leadership of the Work as well as his love and concern for the brethren. Other letters show that Mr. Armstrong's semi-annual letter to all PLAIN TRUTH subscribers has had a great impact. Becoming more aware how fast world events are fulfilling prophecy, people were sobered into realizing that the time left may be very short.

Members Thank Mr. Armstrong

I just wanted to take a little time here to first of all say "Thank you" to our Great God in Heaven. But thank you also, Mr. Armstrong, for your loyalty and the example throughout your life that you have set for us in God's Church. You truly are the one and only one in this age that can be called Apostle.

--Barbara E. (St. Louis, MO)

I read your letter recently. I wish you could realize how much joy I receive from reading your letters and from seeing and hearing you on T.V. and hearing you on the radio.

I sure thank God that He called you to be His chosen pastor on this earth to tell us the Truth. I pray for you and your wife and all the pastors of God's Church twice every day. I am 87 years old. Please excuse this poor writing. God has given me very good health and all the money to purchase everything I need since I heard you on the radio many years ago before you came on T.V.

I am going to increase my freewill offering this year. Every time I increase my freewill offering to God's Church I receive much more joy and peace from God.

May God bless you and your wife and all the pastors of God's Church abundantly every day. Also may God bless all of His Church.

--Lemuel A. (Sunbury, PA)

Thank you so much for the continual support, prayers and spiritual guidance you give us. As the time grows shorter, we realize the fervent prayer and renewed effort that is needed on our part. May God be with you in doing His Work on this earth. Mr. Armstrong, thank you for loving us so much.

--Mr. & Mrs. Roger W. (Mt. Vernon, WA)

Along with my first tithe is this note to tell you how grateful I am to God for you. I pray every day for you because you have a tremendous responsibility. When I think of someone who is 100% loyal to God, you automatically come to my mind. Mr. Armstrong, you are an inspiration to me!

--Brenda G. (White Oak, PA)

I would just like to take the time to express my appreciation to you for your perpetual and exhaustive interest, dedication and devotion to God's Work and His people. Does the sun ever set on your work day, Mr. Armstrong? With all your effort on our behalf it seems you must have 48 hours in your day, considering the amount of work you get done!

--Mason S. (Passaic, NJ)

Thank you, sir, for being so strong, lifting up your voice and showing us our sins against the Father in Heaven, and against His Son, Jesus Christ. Mr. Armstrong, I have known your name all my life, but I never realized just how important and awesome your job is until I was baptized almost two years ago. Even now, I am still learning. Thank you for doing your job faithfully, and for your love and strictness with telling us what we need to do to shape up.

--Kim M. (Ozone Park, NY)

Thank you for the time, leadership and the great wisdom we are learning from you, by the example that you, with your white hairs of experience with God, are showing us as we round the last corners of this age!

--Shelby & Marietta G. (Azusa, CA)

Semi-Annual Letter Has Impact

The letter Mr. Armstrong sent to us, dated June 10, 1980, was very sobering. I too believe that we have but a short time before the Work is completed. I enjoy being a part of this Work and having a human leader like Mr. Armstrong in charge.

--Raymond S. (Taylor, TX)

How comforting it was to receive your letter (June 10), and be given more insight into the approaching times. Your writing sustains and strengthens us all. What a wonderful father figure you are and how deeply we all appreciate all the information you deliver!

--Mrs. Charles T. (Shreveport, LA)

Your letter of June 10 sure has put me to thinking that this civilization is nearing its end.

--Mrs. E.B. (Smithfield, KY)

Thank you for another warning to us. Your letter of June 10 made me more aware of our short time. As for me, I am determined to stick to God like glue. I pray daily for God to lead and direct you in His way. God help us to be ready for the Groom when He comes.

--Mrs. Rose M. (Washington, DC)

Thank you for your June 10 letter. Everything you write is informative and spiritually uplifting.

--Mrs. L.L. (Tampa, FL)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

****FESTIVAL UPDATE****

As of July 25, we have heard from 92% of those who comprise the church attendance figure for the United States churches. However, that means there are still 5,493 people who haven't told us where they plan to attend the Feast!

Please announce to your congregation that whether or not they will be able to attend, we do need to hear from everyone. Making sure each feast site has the proper number of members attending, plus sufficient ministers and volunteer workers, is an important job. We need to make certain that everyone is accounted for to insure proper Festival planning.

We understand that due to job, or other considerations, many brethren must make plans at the last minute. We would like to ask those who can tell us their plans to notify us as soon as possible.

We are still accepting transfers to every site with the exception of Hawaii and Rapid City.

Thank you for your help!

--Festival Office

WAITING ROOM SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM UPDATE

We are pleased with the continued growth of The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list. The Waiting Room Subscription Program in progress in many U.S. church areas is producing excellent results as verified by a number of pastors:

Mr. James Friddle, Nashville, TN, reports an excellent 41% response from an initial 600 contacts. By the time the program is concluded, he estimates his members will have contacted nearly 1,500 businesses with an estimated 500-600 of them added to the subscription list.

Mr. Ken Smylie, Lenoir, NC, reports a 54% response from the 26 towns and cities in the Lenoir area.

Mr. Terry Mattson, Winchester, PA, relates that 45% of the waiting rooms called in his area would like a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH.

Mr. David Orban, Knoxville, TN, who sent in 93 pages of new subscriptions reports that 18 members in his area contacted 1,175 waiting rooms, 510 of which have requested a free subscription. This is a 44% response from the nine county Knoxville area.

The diligent efforts of our church members across the U.S. have resulted so far in adding nearly 2,500 new businesses and libraries to our subscription lists; each one with a potential for more growth. If you are interested in increasing the exposure and PLAIN TRUTH readership in your local area, we would strongly suggest that you take a second look at the Waiting Room Subscription Program. Reports have shown that members really enjoy getting involved in the program.

--Publishing Services

ON THE WORLD SCENEREPORT FROM SOUTH AMERICA--PART 1: CHILE--THIRD WORLD WONDER

Presently, I am mid-way through a three-week, five-nation fact-finding trip through South America. Accompanying me is Mr. Keith Speaks, publicity director for La PURE VERDAD, the Spanish-language version of The PLAIN TRUTH.

The trip so far has been eye-opening, and hopefully will produce good copy for all versions of the PT. We haven't covered much of the Latin American scene in the magazine for some time. But now things are popping, and if there's one thing I've learned so far, it's the crying need for righteous, just, sound government here and everywhere in the world.

The Latin American world is still reverberating from yet another coup d'etat in Bolivia. Poor Bolivia--last year alone it had four presidents. Just two weeks ago, still another military junta assumed control, forcing interim leader Lidia Gueiler Tejada--the nation's first woman President --to resign. This latest takeover brings the tally for coup-prone Bolivia to 189 governments in 155 years!

In neighboring Peru, the president who was deposed by the military 12 years ago--Fernando Belaunde Terry--was returned to office in a civilian government yesterday--on the 159th anniversary of Peru's independence from Spain. How long he'll last this time around, nobody knows. Radical leftists are already promising a terror campaign. Everywhere the continent is polarized between left and right, with no support for the middle, because there is no center.

With this as a background, it was a wonderful surprise seeing what is developing in Chile, the first major stop on our trip. (Comments about Colombia, our first stop, will perhaps be reserved for later, in conjunction with a report on neighboring Venezuela.)

Chile is certainly a beautiful country. Ringed by the awesome Andes mountains, the capital, Santiago, presents a beautiful sight. Chile is making great strides these days. A developing country, it is nevertheless hardly Third World--more like 2.5. Its people are educated, with about 90% literacy.

Oceans of venom have been undeservedly heaped upon this supposed "fascist" state ever since its popularly elected (though minority) Marxist President Salvador Allende was overthrown on September 11, 1973. However, few people realize just how close to a totalitarian state Chile was becoming. Communists, many from the outside, were planning a complete takeover only days hence. Chile came within inches of becoming another Cuba.

At the time, Chile was in desperate economic straits. The country, said one banker, "was on the brink of total collapse. The economy was grinding to a complete halt." Inflation was running wild. However, a group of economists, known popularly as "The Chicago Boys"--because of their having been educated in the principle of free economics under economist Milton Friedman at the University of Chicago--were already planning for the post Allende period. However, their designs didn't take root right away. For

two more years Chile languished, paying the price for not only the catastrophic Allende years with Marxist economics, including land expropriation, but for the previous thirty years of creeping Socialism.

In April 1974, inflation soared to over 1000%. The year 1975, however, was worst of all, when oil prices soared and the price of copper plummeted. Then the Chicago Boys were given firm control by the military, who had confidence in them. They took government spending into hand, stripped away price controls, slashed tariffs, opened up the highly-protected, over-staffed, feather-bedded economy, and encouraged outside investment.

For a while it was tough to adjust from a protected economy to an open one. There still are some problems, the most notable one being unemployment, which is running from about 12-15%. Nevertheless, Chile has enjoyed about three years of solid, 8% growth beyond inflation, which is now down to about 30%.

The government divested itself of all unprofitable state-run enterprises, returning industry to private hands. It actually has increased the share of money going into the social services. Therefore their reforms have not been piled on the backs of the poor, though it is often pictured that way by outsiders. Foreign capital is treated exactly the same as domestic capital. The foreigner can repatriate his profits at any time. The power of the labor unions here is firmly controlled. Crippling nation-wide, industry-wide strikes are not permitted.

We had a chance to speak to one of the "Chicago Boys," Julio Bittborn. He comes from an old family that settled in Chile about five generations ago. Mr. Bittborn explained the seeming contradictions between a conservative military government (political parties are temporarily suspended) and a free economy, perhaps the freest in the world today. The government and the economists hope to so restructure the economy so as to produce solid growth, spread economic benefits to all classes of the people, and inculcate a new way of thinking--so much so that no vote-buying politician will, when civilian rule is returned, be able to revert to the course of the past.

The problem in Chile has always revolved around the politicians. The military in Chile has a long history of being subordinated to civilian leadership. The generals and admirals in Chile in no way have resembled the military in, say, Bolivia. However, in 1976, after the Chilean Supreme Court had ruled Allende was ruling illegally (he even had developed his own personal army) and rumors of a blood-letting by leftists was rife, the military felt it simply had little option left but to step in.

The good news for the Work of God in Chile is that, unlike Cuba, we can still do a Work here, hopefully much more in the months ahead. Although the Church in Chile is small, I'm positive that it will grow. We showed copies of La PURA VERDAD and various of our booklets--especially public service booklets--to the officials that we interviewed. All these individuals seemed quite impressed.

There is complete freedom of religion in Chile, even though the majority of the people are Roman Catholic by heritage. President Pinochet, however, frequently attends services at a huge Pentecostal church in Santiago.

I believe God wants His truth to go out in greater force in this strangely-shaped yet beautiful and geographically diverse country. Keith and I met with brethren--about 44 of them--in Santiago on the Sabbath and encouraged them to be prepared for a surge in Church growth that we feel will come. Conditions are now more ripe than ever before for this to occur.

Next time, Argentina.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau