

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.3, NO.13

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 27, 1981

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Special Film to Be Viewed Nationwide

Plans are now complete for distribution of the special film that Mr. Herbert Armstrong wants shown to all the churches in the U.S. The film, as you recall from last week's Pastor General's Report, is Mr. Armstrong's March 7th, 79-minute sermon to the Southern California churches, transmitted by microwave from Tucson.

All U.S. pastors should have already been informed when the film is to be shown in their churches, who will be sending it to them, and where they will need to ship it for the next Sabbath's viewing.

Please be assured that we want this project to run as smoothly and efficiently as you do. It is our desire that you have complete confidence in all of the details--without any doubts or confusion whatsoever. If there is anything that you need clarification on, please don't hesitate to call Andre Zick at Ministerial Services for assistance.

A checklist and instruction reminder will be included in each film case.

SHIPPING PROCEDURES: The entire success of this project lies, for the most part, with the shipping procedures. We need to guarantee that each film reaches the next church area on time for Sabbath services the following week.

Ideally, of course, it would be wise to hand deliver the film--where feasible--from one church area to the next. However, since this is not always possible, shipping the film becomes necessary.

Whatever method you use, BE PROMPT. Ship the film to the next church area as soon as possible.

In most cases, U.P.S. will do the job adequately at a moderate cost--especially if the area you are shipping to is nearby. U.P.S. has the advantage that an immediate trace can be put on the film if it does happen to get lost. However, if you are in an area where you know the service is poor, or you need to ship the film long distances, EXPRESS MAIL can be used. EXPRESS MAIL often guarantees overnight delivery between many metropolitan centers for a price of \$10 to \$20. In certain extreme cases, it may be necessary to send the film by an air freight service--such as EMERY EXPRESS or AIRBORNE. (However, this situation will probably be very rare.) The cost for air freight service averages \$25. If in doubt, or if you have any questions whatsoever as to how you should ship the film, please contact Dave Simpson at the Shipping and Warehousing Department in Pasadena.

The last church scheduled to view each film should ship it promptly back to Pasadena (in care of Ambassador Television Productions--300 West Green Street, Pasadena, California 91123). U.P.S. will be adequate for this purpose.

FILM SPLICING: The films being used are of high quality. With normal use and proper handling, each copy should have a very long life span. However, should a break in the film occur, have it taken to a local camera store, or to a high school or college where you know a lot of quality processing work is done, or to any competent person that you can be sure is capable of doing a professional splice. If the splice is done properly, it will not impair the quality of the film to a significant degree.

Finally, we know that with our combined diligence, teamwork, and cooperation, this operation will be a smashing success!

(Pastors outside the U.S. will be contacted by their regional directors regarding the showing of the film in their areas.)

Guidelines for "Night to Be Much Observed"

Recently several pastors asked whether they should have one large congregational group meal for the "Night to be Much Observed," or have the members continue to observe this occasion in smaller family groups. The following is a quote from a pastoral letter of April 8, 1970 giving Mr. Armstrong's last official statement on this subject:

Mr. Herbert Armstrong had intended to write you all a note regarding how to conduct the "Night To Be Much Observed." However, with the financial crisis and many other things, he has been extremely busy and unable to. In fact, he is out of town today. So he told me to go ahead and tell you that he has now decided that there should not be any type of service or Bible Study on that evening with the new format we will now be using.

He said to simply tell the brethren to have two or three families eat and fellowship together on that evening in an attitude of thankfulness and rejoicing for the deliverance from sin which we as New Testament Christians experience. The host or leading man should ask God's blessing on the meal and the occasion but no further "sermonizing" will be necessary or helpful since the brethren will be meeting, for the most part, without an ordained minister present.

You ministers be sure to explain carefully the Sabbath before the meaning of this night of rejoicing and then tell the brethren to bear that in mind as the background and focus of the spiritual fellowship through that particular evening. But we feel it is better NOT to give them an outline of some kind of service...they will all get to hear from God's ministers twice on the very next day, the Holy Day, anyway. So, no Bible Study or sermonizing is necessary on the previous evening. It will merely be your responsibility to appoint elders and deacons to check with the brethren and be sure that the widows and other single people are included in the dinner and fellowship with one or more families so that no one is left out of the fine feast and fellowship on this night which pictures Israel's thankfulness and rejoicing in coming out of Egypt and our deliverance from sin.

A Voice Cries Out: Money Is Not the Root of All Evil!!

The *plain truth* about an old adage

Appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL, March 23, 1981

MANY HAVE supposed the Bible says money is the root of all evil. It doesn't.

Money is a commodity—a medium of exchange for human convenience. It replaces the need to swap goods and services.

The thought that money, of itself, could be an evil reminds me of a boyhood experience. I was brought up in a respected church. Somehow I had the assumption the church believed that a pair of dice, a glass of wine, a cigarette or a theater was sin. Therefore we teenage boys stole away without parental knowledge on a Sunday afternoon to enjoy a matinee.

I suppose the motivation compared to that which caused people to buy a booklet on Hollywood newstands some years ago titled *How to Sin in Hollywood*. The little book merely carried the names of restaurants and night-clubs.

Just what *IS* this thing called "sin"? I once asked a crusading evangelist if he would give me a biblical definition of the word. He couldn't—or wouldn't. But to satisfy curiosity you'll find the definition in I John 3:4, coupled with Romans 7:12, 14. Sin is a harmful way of life. It is transgression of an inexorable spiritual Law, as relentless as the law of



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

gravity. It is *wrongdoing*. The thing or the commodity is not evil, but the wrong use of it may be. The evil comes from evil motivations, intentions, attitudes and actions. It comes from what we call "the heart." It is spiritual, not materialistic, in principle.

Therefore, our troubles, sufferings and evils in the world are spiritual, not physical or materialistic, in nature.

That's why human accomplishments and achievements in the world are **AWESOME**, while at the same time we cannot solve our problems or eradicate the world's evils.

The basic spiritual Law—invisible, not understood, yet inexorable—is a **WAY OF LIFE!** It is the way of outflowing love. Its violation is the way I term "GCR" for brevity. This world has been living the way of "GCR"—of coveting—of vanity and self-centeredness, but, toward others, of hostile competition leading to strife, violence and

war—of envy and jealousy, of resentment of authority. That incentive of mind and heart is spiritual in principle. It is the root cause of all the world's troubles, seemingly unsolvable problems and evils that beset us.

The basic invisible spiritual Law is outflowing LOVE—loving God from the heart and mind, and loving neighbor *as self*.

But what about MONEY? Money of itself is not evil. What the Bible does say about money is "the *love* of money is the root of all evil" (I Timothy 6:10). Money itself is a material commodity. It may be put to a very good use. It is the wrong motivation and attitude of mind and heart in relation to its use that may be evil.

Jesus did not decry money. Many of the great of the Bible were wealthy—Abraham, Joseph, Job, Joseph of Arimathea. Jesus did not disdain the rich because of money, but dined with them as well as with the poor. He called on all people to repent of transgressing the way of outflowing LOVE toward others. The test is the spiritual motive and attitude of mind and heart. They, not money of itself, are the root of all evil.

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

For those who have already made extensive preparations and commitments for having a large group meal on that night, it will be okay to go ahead with your present plans. For the rest of the churches, the "Night To Be Much Observed" should be kept as explained above.

Recent Ministerial Transfers

Recently Mr. Armstrong approved several transfers to fill manpower vacancies in the United States. Below is a list of the latest moves.

<u>MINISTER</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Vic Kubik	Paducah, Kentucky	Minneapolis, Minnesota (as Associate Pastor)
Clyde Kilough	Yorkton, Saskatchewan	Jonesboro, Arkansas Poplar Bluff, Missouri
Ron Howe	Winnepeg, Manitoba	Pasadena Auditorium A.M. (as Associate Pastor)
Norm Strayer	Westlock, Alberta	Pasco, Washington Tonasket, Washington (as Associate Pastor)
Wil Wooster	Edmonton, Alberta	Casper, Wyoming Wheatland, Wyoming
Jim Jenkins	Casper, Wyoming Wheatland, Wyoming	Union, New Jersey
Warren Heaton Jr.	Rolla, Missouri	Houston (West), Texas (as Associate Pastor)

International News

Dutch Office Report February has been another month of blessings for God's Work here in the Netherlands. When we tested a newspaper flyer more than a year ago, the response was very low and costly. This month we inserted a flyer in The Telegraph, one of the largest newspapers in the Netherlands. We placed the flyer in a total of 105,000 Saturday editions in different parts of the country. We received a three percent response at a cost of \$3.50 per response. In addition to the flyer we placed ads in three other newspapers which resulted in a cost of \$2.50 per response.

The flyer and advertisement offer the reader a choice of receiving The PLAIN TRUTH in one of the five languages. They also contained a picture of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and front cover pictures of the PT's in the five languages. The international approach of the flyer and advertisement seems to appeal very well to the Dutch population, and so we intend to continue this format. As a result of this recent promotion the renewed readership of the Dutch PT stands at 19,500--an increase of 28% compared to February 1980.

Income for February shows a year-to-date increase of 34.87%. Church attendance increased 26.02% compared to one year ago, while the membership increased 8.6%.

News From Australia February was a month of excitement for God's Church in Australia as the tempo of the Work increased dramatically.

Final plans were laid this month for the commencement of television and radio broadcasting of Mr. Armstrong's latest programmes. Contracts have now been finalized with fifteen television and twenty-two radio stations throughout Australia to begin broadcasting next month.

Our newsstand programme was initiated with 15,000 copies of the newsstand edition of The PLAIN TRUTH distributed through outlets in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. By the end of February we had received a 1.9% response.

Plans for March included adding outlets in Brisbane, Bendigo, Hobart and Perth and increasing the number of copies distributed to 25,000, and to 50,000 in April.

We received 14,100 letters this month and mailed out 28,000 booklets and articles to interested readers of The PLAIN TRUTH. In addition, 12,000 copies of Mr. Armstrong's book, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, were sent out.

Mail income for February was an encouraging 29.9% increase over the same month last year, and our year-to-date income is 17.7% ahead of 1980.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Ann and I would like to take the opportunity to drop this note to you and very greatly thank you for having provided the Ministerial Refreshing Program.

The beautiful campus, superb weather, warmth and hospitality shown by faculty and students alike all combined to make three memorable and inspiring weeks. Indeed I really hope this can be an ongoing program. It's a benefit to the Church in terms of unity and all speaking the same thing is inestimable! Again, thanks to you and all your staff for making it possible.

John and Ann Adams

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I want to say a special thank you for making it possible for me to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. All the lectures were very interesting and the time at Pasadena passed too swiftly. My thanks to all the men who gave such inspiring talks. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude. It was a much needed break.

Carol M. Lester

Dear Mr. Tkach:

This is a belated thank you from both of us for the Ministerial Refreshing Program which is very well named. We are thankful for the work the whole team is doing in carrying out the instructions of God's apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Since we first heard

him speak in 1962 we have found him to be right down the line scripturally speaking and rejoice in his leadership. We will always be thankful to him for guiding us as God has guided him to do. We felt the whole program and the format was top-notch. What a relief it was to see the dedication and concern of all the instructors. We would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Hoeh who added so much in dimension, scope and clarity to the program.

Since our return I have come down with a blood clot and therefore partially collapsed lung and pleurisy. I am over that and raring to go again. However, we have found that my wife Joan has what seems to be diagnosed as breast cancer and is somewhat advanced. We would deeply appreciate prayers on our behalf as we have always had excellent health and there is little reason for either of these illnesses to strike except that Satan is on the rampage.

We thank God for the privilege of serving Him, and with His help and the support of our brothers and sisters in Christ, our family will step out boldly in this crisis we now face. With sincere thanks and appreciation.

Bob and Joan Berendt

Dear Mr. Tkach:

God is at work in His Church and the eighth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program was an additional proof confirming this fact. Monique and I feel most privileged to have this unique blessing of returning to Montreal with so much spiritual food and so many personal and moral experiences to share with the brethren.

It is difficult to find new words to express our "PROFONDE RECONNAISSANCE." First, we do thank our God and Mr. Armstrong for the love he has for us ministers of Christ. We also thank you and Messrs. Blackwell, Hoeh, McNair, Neff, LaRavia, Hogberg, Faulkner, Salyer, Helge. Everyone's contribution fulfilled a need. These men have so much to give that three weeks is too short a time for us to receive it all.

Even with all that, God decided to give us more. He granted us to see Mr. Armstrong in person! I was very impressed by his presence, realizing that Christ Himself deals directly with Mr. Armstrong as He did with other spiritual leaders of His true Church. Is there any greater man on earth today? If John the Baptist was the greatest among men because he prepared the first coming of Christ in the flesh, how great is the one who is now preparing the second coming of the Messiah? It is easy to respect and love such a man.

Thank you again, Mr. Tkach. We look forward to another refresher next year!

Donat and Monique Picard

Apreciable Sr. Walker:

Por medio de la presente quiero agradecerle a nombre de mi esposa y en el mío propio, todas las facilidades y atenciones que amablemente le proporcionaron a mi esposa y a nuestro pequeño bebé durante las semanas en que se llevó a cabo el Programa de Refrescamiento Ministerial. Muchas gracias de todo corazón, aun por todos aquellos pequeños detalles con que hicieron más agradable nuestra estancia en el colegio en Pasadena.

Creemos que es muy difícil tratar de expresar con palabras todo nuestro amor y gratitud a todas las personas que hicieron posible lo que parecía imposible, al lograr reunir a todos los ministros de habla hispana de América Latina y del Caribe, para recibir todos juntos un tesoro maravilloso de enseñanzas bíblicas de la Iglesia.

Reciba usted Sr. Walker en lo personal y junto con el Departamento Hispano, nuestro agradecimiento por haber hecho realidad un anhelo que desde hace mucho tiempo se albergaba en nuestro corazón. Fue muy agradable y placentero disfrutar del compañerismo y amistad con los ministros de tierras muy lejanas, así como volver a vivir momentos inolvidables con los ministros y hermanos de la Iglesia que en épocas pasadas nos brindaron, al igual que hoy, su amistad y cariño en forma espontánea y sincera.

Queremos también pedirle, Sr. Walker, sea tan amable de transmitir al Sr. Herbert W. Armstrong nuestro cariño leal y sincero, así como nuestra gratitud perenne, por haber preparado con tanto esmero y dedicación todas las instrucciones y orientaciones tan valiosas que recibimos. Siempre viviremos agradecidos a Dios por habernos dado en esta época, un padre espiritual tan amoroso como es el Apóstol de Dios, y de quien continuamente estamos recibiendo conocimiento, sabiduría y amor.

Y teniendo un ejemplo tan grandioso de inspiración, nos alentará cada día a esforzarnos más y llegar a ser con la ayuda de Dios, mejores servidores de la Iglesia en el lugar donde nos encontremos.

Alfredo y Maria Mercado

Dear Mr. Walker:

I am writing to thank you, on behalf of my wife and myself, for all the help and assistance you so kindly furnished my wife and our little baby during the [seventh session of the] Ministerial Refreshing Program. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, especially for all those little details with which you made our stay at the college in Pasadena so much more pleasant.

It is very difficult for us to try to express in words all the love and gratitude we feel towards everybody who made possible what had seemed impossible, in managing to have all the Spanish-speaking ministers from Latin America and the Caribbean get together, in order for all of us, unitedly, to receive a wonderful treasury of the biblical teachings of the Church.

Mr. Walker, we want to ask you personally, as well as together with the Spanish Department, to accept our gratitude for translating a long-held and heartfelt yearning into reality. It was delightful and very pleasant to be able to enjoy fellowship and friendship with ministers from distant lands, as well as being able to live unforgettable moments with ministers and brethren of the Church, who in times past as now offered us their spontaneous and sincere friendship and love.

We should also like to ask you, Mr. Walker, to be kind enough to convey to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong our sincere and faithful love, as well as our eternal gratitude for having prepared with such painstaking care and dedication all the invaluable teaching and guidance we received. As long as we live we will be grateful to God for having given us at this time a spiritual father who is as loving as God's Apostle, from whom we are continually receiving knowledge, wisdom and love.

And having such a magnificent example as our inspiration, it will encourage us to strive harder every day, and with God's help to become better servants of the Church wherever we might be.

Alfredo and Maria Mercado

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

BANGOR, ME--LEONARD HOLLADAY: Congratulations are in order for those working with the new Junior College. Everyone here is very excited and grateful that more young people can attend Ambassador for a period of time. As a Big Sandy graduate, I was personally happy that it was reopening. Our people are very happy that Mr. Armstrong is endeavoring to be in regional sites all over the U.S. to speak every two weeks--We hope he can make it to New England soon.

DETROIT, MI (EAST)--EARL H. WILLIAMS: The brethren are inspired to see God using Mr. Armstrong so mightily. They are anxiously anticipating a visit from Mr. Armstrong in the near future.

CINCINNATI, OH (EAST)--LESLIE L. McCULLOUGH: The people are very encouraged by the reopening of Big Sandy and Mr. Armstrong's new telecasts. They are excited about his comments in the co-worker letter on the stronger thrust of the Work in regard to the broadcast. They keep asking when he will visit the Cincinnati area. Everyone is very much behind Mr. Armstrong and his leadership.

WASHINGTON, D.C.--RICHARD J. FRANKEL: Highest monthly church attendance in the last eleven months. The brethren are really turned on now that the local church is following the balanced way of life as taught by God's servant, Mr. Armstrong.

MEMPHIS, TN--ROWLEN TUCKER: Many highly favorable comments have been heard locally concerning the reopening of Big Sandy as a junior college. They are encouraged by the prospect of many more young people now getting the chance for an Ambassador education, including many of their own children now with increased chances for acceptance.

ELKHART-MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: Unemployment and illness seem to be the concerns in the Elkhart area. Members have been supportive of each other in these trials. This support has been encouraging to those facing these problems. There has been a positive and enthusiastic response concerning Mr. Armstrong re-opening the Big Sandy campus as a junior college. Some students are now considering going to Ambassador College who would not have in the big city environment of Pasadena.

More members in Michigan City have been commenting on the TV and radio programs by Mr. Armstrong than before. They are encouraged by the work that he is doing in reaching the public. They are praying that God gives him the strength to continue the demanding pace.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH--EUGENE NOEL: Mr. Armstrong's tapes are drawing large numbers for our Bible studies. About 60% new PM's continuing to pick up with several progressing toward baptism.

FT. WAYNE, IN--STEPHEN SMITH: We have had a large number of people who have been sick. In spite of this, the spirit of God's people remains quite high. Many have expressed appreciation of Mr. Armstrong and his dynamic leadership. We have seen an attitude of greater concern for every member of the Church as Mr. Armstrong continues to instruct us in the give principle. It has been rewarding to the whole Church.

PITTSBURGH (WEST), PA--DON J. LAWSON: There seems to be a trend in the North-Northeast to move to the Sun Belt. Can't blame the people for that. Jobs are scarce here in the area and the weather is not good. Pollution is also getting worse and traffic problems terrible.

CHARLOTTE, NC--GEORGE PINCKNEY: The brethren are overjoyed that Mr. Waterhouse will be visiting us in April and are eagerly awaiting the encouragement and exhortation he always brings us. I have noticed a continued improvement in attitudes and a deeper resolve to overcome as the brethren follow Mr. Armstrong's leadership. This Church is definitely making progress, but much remains to be done.

NASHVILLE, TN--JAMES L. FRIDDLE: I wish to express my deep thanks and appreciation to Mr. H.W. Armstrong for including me in the congress of leading ministers worldwide to hear his inspiring and stir-to-action emphasis on stepping up the intensity of God's Work necessitated by the accelerated fulfillment of Biblical prophecies. Mr. Armstrong looks great and is dynamic, strong and inspiring in his speaking and actions. His zeal and enthusiasm in everything is surely a strong example for all of us to follow.

CINCINNATI, OH(SOUTH)--JIM LICHTENSTEIN: The Church is stable and a warm group to work with. I especially enjoy the Sabbath fellowship and I'm not alone in this! The children look forward to services and being with their friends. The Sabbath is a real treat.

LOUISVILLE, KY--RAY A. MEYER: People have been responding well to the sermons I have given recently, especially those on prayer, fasting, and Bible study. I believe many have neglected these

important spiritual tools and activities. Many are beginning to see that the cause of their problems is more from a spiritual origin than from anything else.

FINDLAY-MANSFIELD, OH--DENNIS C. DIEHL: Thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication at putting and keeping the Work and Church on course.

Weekly Letter Comments

All around the world, readers of The PLAIN TRUTH are finding our magazine interesting and informative. As the first group of letters indicates, it is also providing answers to many of their questions. People are also discovering eye-opening and fascinating information in the booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, and are receiving a totally new insight into the Bible as a result. To close this comment section, we include comments from members who are grateful for their privileged opportunity to be a part of the Church and to support God's Work in tithes, offerings and prayers.

Readers Worldwide Enjoy The PLAIN TRUTH

A while ago, when I was still living in Holland, a fellow employee at Radio Netherlands where I was working at the time, gave me a copy of your respected magazine The PLAIN TRUTH. It was an older issue, but I can say that I am completely in agreement with the content of the articles. In agreement because I'm convinced of their validity! It would please me very much if I could read your magazine regularly!

Cornelius N. (Stuttgart, West Germany)

I hope that the voice of The PLAIN TRUTH will be heard more and more in our hopeless world. That's why it has also become my desire to bring this magazine to the attention of my friends.

J.B. (Wallisellen, Switzerland)

I enjoy reading your magazine every month. It has answered many questions which I have been pondering over for years. Before now I had not even looked at a Bible for 16 years, but since reading your magazine I have been able to understand its meaning clearer than ever before.

H.E. (Coorparoo, QLD.)

One day I chanced to go through one of the monthly issues of the magazine The PLAIN TRUTH. Never before in my life have I seen such an excellent magazine. The contents of the issue really overwhelmed me. Your unbiased reports about world affairs and the emphasis on religion made me wonder why I had not heard about this magazine before.

B.C. (India)

I am happy to receive your magazine because you explain what is going to happen and how to escape it, with God's help. Thank you for all the articles which should be read by the entire world in order to enlighten consciences.

J.G. (Brive, France)

Please send me The PLAIN TRUTH. I was once, some 8 or 10 years ago, on your mailing list and can still remember The PLAIN TRUTH predicting the very things that are taking place in our world today.

P.K.F. (Malaysia)

Not to receive your magazine would mean a big emptiness in my life. Only a year ago I was still an atheist. I was, in fact, in favor of the theory of evolution which I had studied thoroughly. Truthfully, I used evolution to kill all religions! And then, one day, I read your magazine and a metamorphosis occurred in my thoughts. Today, I own a Bible and save all the copies of your magazine. Your're doing a beautiful work and I hope it will last.

R.F. (Rosemont, Canada)

"United States and Britain in Prophecy" Is Eye-opening

I have been studying the new booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I can't get over how wonderful the things I'm finding out are. It is great. There is so much I didn't understand before, and through you God has made it known to us. I thank you and our Father for it.

Mrs. Sherman Tindell (Poplar Grove, AR)

I've read the booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, that I borrowed from my sister. I had never before known the truth. However, reading this booklet, and following the Bible passages with it, I can see very clearly now who we are and what everything is about. I was walking in darkness, not knowing the real truth, but now it is plain as day.

Mrs. Cora Carter (Cincinnati, OH)

Your booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY--well, words fail me. My vocabulary is too limited. Anyway, I've read it three times and it grows more thrilling with each reading. It makes the Bible come alive.

Mrs. E.B. Marechale (Buford, GA)

I have received the booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I'm almost through reading it for the third time. Each time I read it I get more from it than the time before. Thank you so much.

Helon B. Ingram (Red Level, AL)

I just had to tell you how much I'm enjoying THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. It is such a fascinating story. I don't think I'll ever get tired of reading or hearing about it. Thank

you for the time you took to rewrite it and make it even clearer. Your words tell the story in a warm, tender and yet truthful manner.

Barry & Janet Frank (Girdle Tree, MD)

I have almost finished the booklet, THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. I am staggered as I read these lines and their truth rushes on me. How you could have possibly gotten all this information together is more than I can understand!

There is so much here that I didn't know. It has been revealed to me how far I have yet to go, but with God's help I'm on my way. I have friends that I would like to have read this message. They are hungry for something better and I know it would help them. Many thanks again and may God richly bless you and your noble Work!

Mrs. Louise Sheets (Abingdon, VA)

Members Cherish Their Part in the Church

Oh, Mr. Armstrong, how I love being one of God's people. It's the highest honor a human being could have. Just those two words, "God's people," makes me feel so strong and secure. I am growing more and more dependent on our loving Father all the time.

I delight so much in the Sabbath and Holy Days. There is no finer time for hearing and learning God's word and being with the brethren. To make a long story short, I am so happy I could burst. I have been in the Church for four years now and it gets better and better.

Louise Opalenik (South Hadley, MA)

The past few weeks I have been meditating about my part in this Great Commission. I've realized that sending my tithes and heartfelt prayers to God for this Work are among the most important things I can do in this life--not merely a routine duty to be done indifferently or by constraint.

--Gary Childers (Pasadena, CA)

Our calling is indeed a divine miracle given to us by God's grace. I am so proud and happy to be able to give and be a part of our Father's Work and Plan! Thanks again.

Lyndon B. Graves (Las Vegas, NV)

It is such a wonderful pleasure and honor to be a part of God's family--to help in a very small way with my prayers and offerings and be a part of the plain truth plans.

Mrs. William La Rue (Seward, PA)

We are an older couple, my husband is almost eighty and I am seventy. We are so happy to be a part of the Worldwide Church of God--it is the greatest thing that ever happened to us.

Mr. & Mrs. J.G. Hardyk (Fort Dodge, IA)

It is certainly a great privilege to be firing away in the trenches with our tithes, offerings, and prayers against the ever-persistent Adversary, as you (Mr. Armstrong) continue to inspire us with your God-given leadership, along with our faithful and capable ministry working together. It is more and more exciting, in spite of the increasingly frightening world we are living in. Also, it is sobering and comforting to know that we are drawing so close to the coming of God's Kingdom.

Mr. & Mrs. J.L. Stedham (San Antonio, TX)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

ON THE WORLD SCENE

GROWING ALLIED DOUBTS ABOUT U.S. POWER POLITICS While Americans in general applaud the Reagan's administration's new show of strength in world affairs, the perspective is quite different among some U.S. allies. It is in one crucial area--the Middle East/Persian Gulf--that the greatest doubts persist about the new U.S. "act tough" posture.

Allied foreign policy planners in Europe are said to take the view that the United States could be more of a threat to Western vital interests in the oil-rich region than the Soviet Union. They are especially wary of Washington's desire to deploy forces in or near the Gulf to insure uninterrupted oil supplies. The United States has obtained permission to use and to upgrade facilities in Somalia, Kenya and Oman. The largest regional base of all will be a bit further out in the Indian ocean, on the British island of Diego Garcia.

Another particularly controversial proposal would have the U.S. station more than 1,000 peace-keeping troops in the buffer zone to be created in the eastern Sinai when the Israelis complete their withdrawal from Egyptian territory in April, 1982.

The growing fear in West Europe is that a more visible American presence could somehow "destabilize" the region. Worst yet, there is the fear that Washington might use its presence not for the intended purposes (to guarantee Egyptian-Israel peace in the Sinai plus keeping the Soviets at bay elsewhere) but might be tempted to intervene indiscriminately in local issues (such as on the side of the Saudi royal family if it is threatened).

The Sunday Telegraph's Peregrine Worsthorne (acclaimed as Britain's top journalist in 1980) notes that there is "sober doubt about American capacity to use conventional armed forces discriminately in an area about which they know little, without stirring up the sleeping dogs which might otherwise continue to be dormant."

Adding to doubt over U.S. wisdom is the cold fact of U.S. military defeats and blunders since the Korean War stalemate: the Bay of Pigs fiasco; the agonizing defeat in Vietnam; the failure of the rescue operation in Iran. These failures hardly inspire confidence. Adds Worsthorne: "Precisely because the stakes are so momentous, mistakes have to be avoided at all costs.... The Persian Gulf is a vital West European interest, incomparably more so than Cuba, say, or Vietnam. A Bay of Pigs type blunder there really would be the end of us. Yet this is the kind of American blunder which the West Europeans have good reason to fear in the Persian Gulf.

Of course, it would be well-intentioned, aimed at preserving Western civilization, etc. But then so was the American intervention in Vietnam.... The unwelcome truth is that few in Western Europe have any confidence in the American ability to undertake that kind of job without doing more harm than good."

The Americans, West Europeans feel, are totally naive to think that U.S. or Western allied armies could, in a mideast outbreak, sweep in and secure the oil fields and operate them without local support. This apparently is one of the key premises upon which the so-called "rapid deployment force" is based. Circles in West Europe believe such a concept is not only impractical, but if ever attempted, would lead to a ruin more swift and disastrous than an uncontested Soviet takeover of key Middle East oil suppliers.

Because of these growing doubts, there is a growing mood in West Europe to "accommodate" the Soviet Union in any threat from the latter to the Middle East, rather than relying on U.S. power and its uncertain consequences. It's not exactly the old "Better Red than dead" syndrome, Worsthorne observes, rather more one of "Better Red than bankrupt."

Worsthorne concludes his March 1, 1981 Sunday Telegraph analysis by saying: "Oil fear reaches parts that others don't, from where a formidable neutralist virus is beginning to spread."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau