

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Spanish Department Update April PURA VERDAD circulation rose to 182,254, a gain of 1.6% over March and only 6.4% below circulation at the beginning of 1983. However, PV circulation is currently 51.4% higher than the same period one year ago.

Mexico now has the highest number of PURA VERDAD subscriptions. The top ten countries in terms of circulation and the number of donors and co-workers are as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Co-workers</u>	<u>Donors</u>
Mexico	35,233	222	347
U.S.A.	33,895	560	1,600
Colombia	20,433	78	160
Argentina	17,401	18	59
Puerto Rico	11,011	133	490
Spain	10,045	15	48
Chile	9,669	37	46
Peru	8,423	49	122
Guatemala	4,888	29	66
Costa Rica	3,925	21	33

The number of active co-workers reached an all-time high last month, with 1,281 listed on our files, a 33.4% increase over the same period last year! Donors presently number 3,536. Sixty-four percent of all donors and 54% of all co-workers reside in the U.S.A. and Puerto Rico, which comprise only 24.6% of the subscription list.

Mr. Herbert Cisneros is planning to give six PURA VERDAD Bible lectures on three consecutive weekends during June in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Guatemala. A combined total of 500-800 people are expected to attend one or more of these meetings. Please continue praying for the brethren in Central America, and for the safety and success of these meetings.

Dutch Report The Netherlands experienced one of the wettest months of the century. It was the wettest month of April since 1840 with hardly any sunshine at all.

In the same month the office in Utrecht received a visit by Mr. Dexter Faulkner, Executive Editor of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Mr. Faulkner was accompanied by his wife Shirley. Mr. Faulkner discussed with Messrs. Bram de Bree and Johan Wilms various aspects of editorial services provided by Pasadena and the interrelationship of articles for the Dutch language PT and GN.

The automatic renewal program of De ECHTE WAARHEID subscription list is doing quite well. Fifty-five percent of primes renew their subscriptions. The ECHTE WAARHEID list now stands at 62,749.

Although The Netherlands has the highest unemployment rate amongst skilled laborers in the EEC countries, God blessed His Work this month with a 7.96% increase year to date and 4.78% over April, 1982. And the incoming mail for April increased 30.39% while Church attendance increased 7.89%.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Even though this is a little late, my wife and I did want to let you know of our deep appreciation for the second Ministerial Refreshing Program.

As in the last program, we found the courses just filled with very helpful and useful material on how to accomplish a better ministry. We certainly learned a lot that the brethren will be able to benefit from. We would sincerely like to thank all those who gave of their time so generously to make this program a success.

Again, it was an inspiration to be at Headquarters and to drink in of the atmosphere there. One thing we especially noticed in the departments we visited this time was the high quality of the equipment and of the work being done. This was a wonderful example for us to follow.

Thank you for everything, Mr. Armstrong. The Ministerial Refreshing Programs certainly do a great deal of good for us.

James and Odile Muir

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Although this may be a bit tardy, we wish to express our thanks and deepest appreciation for the fourteenth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program number two. This was certainly no mere "second time around" but very definitely a rich and rewarding second phase of Mr. Armstrong's unceasing effort to increase and strengthen the effectiveness of God's worldwide ministry.

Without detracting one iota from any other part of the session, let me say that the presentations given by Mr. Hulme and Mr. Matthews, describing the amazing increase in television and PLAIN TRUTH coverage worldwide, were so inspiring that we could plainly visualize the mighty hand of God moving to open doors (and minds) around the globe.

An extra special treat was just to enjoy the privilege of sharing the enthusiasm of the entire French ministry. It was surely like "icing on the cake" to see such zest and excitement.

Thank you and the entire staff for a most exhilarating and helpful two weeks away from the world on the beautiful campus of Ambassador College. With all our love and support for Mr. Armstrong, we look forward to MRP #3 with great anticipation.

Robley and Marguerite Evans

Dear Mr. Tkach and Ministerial Services Staff:

My wife and I certainly appreciated our "refresher" while we were there for session #15! The Refreshing Program is certainly well organized and the open attitude of service, giving and helping exhibited by the staff and teachers is truly a sight to behold. Pasadena is certainly on the track and it is very refreshing to be on campus for two weeks to experience a foretaste of what the whole world will someday be like. Thank you for the classes and information.

Hugh and Linda Wilson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I want to express our deep gratitude for being able to attend the fifteenth session of the Refreshing Program and visiting Headquarters for the first time.

We are very thankful and encouraged by the team effort, quality of teaching, and strength of leadership, coupled with warmth and friendship. Also we appreciate the delicious meals, fine entertainment and many other additional acts of generosity, together with the privilege and joy of being among the students.

The program gave us a sense of urgency in working together as a team to continue to shepherd the flock as God requires. We were very impressed with the love and respect for the brethren that you all expressed to us. We hope we can now measure up to this example to better serve the brethren.

Bill and Lindy White

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We are now in the final week of activities in this college year. This year has certainly been one of the best years (if not the best!) in the entire history of Ambassador College.

God has blessed us with a very fine group of students. We had about 640 students at the beginning of the year, and about 630 at year's end. I feel I am very privileged to be able to work with a very fine, competent and loyal faculty who are deeply dedicated to carrying out Mr. Armstrong's policies in the College.

It is truly a blessing to be able to work on this most beautiful campus on earth, with the peace and harmony, love and happiness which is everywhere. I am sure that all of you ministers and your wives deeply sense this when you are here on the Ministerial Refreshing Program. And by so saying, I mean to include the fact that there is evident harmony between the various departments at Pasadena, as well as within the College itself.

Before leaving on his recent trip to Britain, Mr. Armstrong, in spite of his busy schedule, had three different meetings with some of us in the College in order to decide upon various matters. Both campuses will now offer an

Associate of Arts degree (which includes 26 hours in theology) as well as an Associate of Science degree with three options: 1) General Business option, 2) Data Processing option, and 3) Home Economics option. These three options all include a core of required courses, including about 14 hours of theology. The Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree requires two years of course work.

Mr. Armstrong was also able to include in his busy schedule a meeting with Mr. Ray Wright, several members of his staff and myself in order to go over pictures and copy for the new 1982/1983 ENVOY. This beautiful edition should be ready for distribution at the U.S. and Canadian feast sites during the Festival of Tabernacles.

Since Mr. Armstrong planned to be in Britain at graduation time, he asked Dr. Herman L. Hoeh to give the commencement addresses at Big Sandy and Pasadena. The topic of his address: "The Social Problems Underlying the Crisis in Education."

Over 40 graduating seniors are being hired in the Work. A number of others will undoubtedly be hired later. Also, we have a list of eight seniors who could be used as ministerial trainees--if funds permitted. But at present (partly due to our increased PLAIN TRUTH distribution program) finances do not permit any of these young men being employed to serve in the ministry upon graduation. I feel certain that some of them will later be hired to help reap the abundant harvest in God's field.

By the time you ministers receive this report, most, if not all of the prospective students in your areas who applied to enter Ambassador College, should have already received notification as to whether or not they have been accepted for the coming year. Please do everything possible to encourage any of those applicants who were not accepted. Remind them that we could accept only about one out of six who applied to enter Ambassador at Pasadena this year. And most of those who applied, but were not accepted, could do college-level work.

We of the faculty and administration of Ambassador College are happy to have been chosen of God to serve in this vital area of helping to train the youth of God's Church for even greater service in His Work. We ask your prayers for God's continued guidance and blessings on His College!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM MAIL PROCESSING

"I Was in Prison and You Came Unto Me"

Among the millions of people who come in contact with The PLAIN TRUTH and the Work's other literature are tens of thousands of prison inmates. At present over 50,000 subscribe to The PLAIN TRUTH in the United States. In addition, the magazine is sent to nearly 600 prison libraries.

Since prisoners have many hours of time on their hands, their letters to us are often lengthy and somewhat autobiographical in nature. Also, they usually request, and are sent, many different booklets. Some say they have read all or nearly all of our publications.

Those who write tell us that their plight is made easier to bear, and they are encouraged and gain peace of mind from our literature. A number tell us how their lives are being turned in the right direction with the Work's help. Some few have even become baptized members while still in prison. Following are some comments from recent letters:

I would like to thank all of you very, very much for sharing with me the good news of God! Because over the last 25 years, what you people have done to help me to come to repentance the judges, the reformatory, the county jail houses, and the state prison, as well as the mental health department could not do.

You have made me a better person to God, to myself and to people that I must live among. I have no desire to break the law, my understanding has grown in the right direction and God has preserved me! I will continue my study.

(Soledad, CA)

I respectfully request your help and information that might help me find my way through life. I tell myself that I have faith and that I believe in God, but deep within myself I know this is not so. I have just turned 19 years old. I wish to learn the truth now, not when I have already wasted my life following the wrong trails, such as I'm following now. Your help will more than be appreciated.

(Chino, CA)

A TV channel carrying your broadcast has recently been made available to me. I wish to compliment and commend you on the authenticity and sincerity of your ministry. You have been presenting God's truth for longer than I have been alive.

I would like to avail myself of your kind offer of your publication, The PLAIN TRUTH. Being a serious student of the Bible while incarcerated in prison is not easy, but persons such as yourself go a long way to make my plight more tolerable. Thank you and God bless you.

(Menard, IL)

I was brought up in God's church, but later Satan turned me against God and His Word. I am in the Texas Corrections Department doing a two-year sentence. I have seen what Satan and the world are all about. I am now seeking for Christ and His Work.

When I was younger, I remember picking up books and articles from the Worldwide Church of God. I really enjoyed reading and learning from them. Please send me The PLAIN TRUTH and also your BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. After all these years I have wasted away, I suddenly feel that Christ is calling me to help be a part of His Work. I also feel that this letter is the start to a new life for me serving God and His brethren. Thank you so much for your time and your concern.

(Tennessee Colony, TX)

I'm a prisoner here at a federal prison and have been so for four years. Thank God I have just under a year to go. I have been an

avid reader of The PLAIN TRUTH, and I think, sir, if I discovered nothing else of any importance at all while still in prison, surely The PLAIN TRUTH was worth doing this time. Thanks a million.

(Ft. Leavenworth, KS)

I would like to know if I may have a subscription to The PLAIN TRUTH, The GOOD NEWS, and The WORLDWIDE NEWS. I was a member from 1973 to 1976. Then, because of family problems, and after I learned that my husband had been disfellowshipped, I didn't attend Sabbath services for a long time.

Well, we've really had our share of troubles since then. This, we know, is because of falling away from God and His way of life. Both my husband and I broke the laws of God and man. We got caught by the authorities, and are now both in prison paying for our mistakes. We have each asked God to forgive us for not only this but the past sins which caused my husband's being disfellowshipped and my not going to church anymore.

I hope you can hurry the subscription so we can begin again to put the truth into proper perspective. Would you also please pray for both of us? Being where we are, we need God's guidance and protection.

(Gatesville, TX)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

MIDEAST MESS; CONGRESS UPHOLDS THE BREZHNEV DOCTRINE;
WHY THERE ARE NO MORE "HAWKS" IN AMERICA

"Caution! American naivete at work. Proceed at your own risk." That perhaps explains, best of all, simplistic American attempts to put fractured Lebanon back together again and to put the Middle East "peace process" back on track.

Israel's conditional agreement to pull its forces out of Lebanon looked promising at first. The Begin government is under pressure to "bring the boys home" after last summer's drive into Lebanon. Also, by displaying willingness to agree to the proposals set forth by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Israel hopes to unblock shipments of advanced F-16 fighter planes.

The agreement, however, stands little chance of success. Israel's acceptance is conditional on parallel Syrian troop withdrawals from Lebanon. But the Damascus government has scores of thousands of troops entrenched in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. On Friday May 13, Syria reportedly rejected the Shultz plan. The Soviet Union, which hopes to regain a foothold in the tumultuous region, by backing Syria, has also denounced the withdrawal package.

Irving Kristol analyzed fumbling U.S. attempts to solve the "Middle East problem" in his May 10, 1983 column in THE WALL STREET JOURNAL:

The State Department's Middle East policy...perceives the entire region as one big problem that has to be solved, so it keeps

coming up with one ingenious, comprehensive plan after another. They all fail, of course, but nothing, apparently, can stop the department from germinating new ones.

The Middle East problem, as the State Department sees it, is mutual hostility and distrust between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The solution, therefore, is obvious: a comprehensive settlement of outstanding issues that encourages Israelis and Arabs to live together in peace. This is true enough--only both parties also prefer other things to peace, and their preferences at the moment are utterly irreconcilable.

The Israelis, as a result of successive victories in the 35-years' war that has been the condition of the Middle East, possess territories they will either never surrender--East Jerusalem falls into this category--or are reluctant to surrender (e.g., the Golan Heights and at least a portion of the West Bank). In fairness to the Israelis, it must be said that they sought neither the wars nor the victories. But having achieved those victories, and having endured the sufferings of those wars, they see no reason why they should be deprived of some of the land they deem to be of strategic significance to them.... Most Israelis ...are convinced that...the Arabs will never truly surrender their dream of total reconquest of Palestine.

The State Department, however, is stubbornly convinced that there is a latent "moderate consensus" in the Arab world, and that if our diplomacy can only bring this to the surface, the Middle East problem might be solved. This is a topsy-turvy reading of realities. The evidence is overwhelming that any such moderate consensus is a fleeting, intermittent phenomenon that exists only on the most superficial level of private diplomacy. A ruler like King Hussein of Jordan, who is moderate enough in private conversation, lives atop a volcano, and knows it. What is latent in Arab popular opinion is a pan-Arab and pan-Islamic fervor which is always threatening to erupt in anarchic violence.

That is why there is no such thing as a "peace process" in the Middle East, despite State Department proclamations. Camp David did not inaugurate a peace process. Anwar Sadat did not extend diplomatic recognition of Israel in exchange for peace. He extended it in exchange for the Sinai--a territory that Egyptian popular opinion cared much about, and which the Israelis were willing to give up. Even then, the agreement did not save him from assassination....

To the extent that the U.S. can act as honest broker between Israelis and Arabs, it should. But it will take more than a secretary of state, even with the most angelic intentions, to produce an overall settlement. The age of miracles in the Middle East is long since over.

Monroe Doctrine Out, Brezhnev Doctrine In

The U.S. Congress continues to play its responsibility-ducking game in Central America--one of disaster on the installment plan. A House committee

voted this week not to cut off aid to El Salvador, but to give the President less than what his experts feel is needed to do the job--with the additional noose that the Salvadoran government enter into "unconditional" negotiations with the guerrillas. At the same time, aid for anti-Sandinista forces inside Nicaragua is assured only until the end of September--after which time those trusting in U.S. support may simply be out of luck.

The United States once held fast to the Monroe Doctrine--a self-proclaimed 1823 manifest that warned European powers to henceforth stay out of the Western Hemisphere. However, by declaring Soviet-supported Nicaragua "off limits" the Congress not only pounds one more nail into the Monroe Doctrine coffin, but unwittingly supports another doctrine--the Brezhnev Doctrine. Explains THE WALL STREET JOURNAL in its May 11, 1983 lead editorial:

...It seems that in its wisdom Congress has enacted the Brezhnev Doctrine into U.S. public law. The Brezhnev Doctrine, originally announced to justify the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, holds that once a nation has joined the Communist bloc it cannot be allowed to change its mind. Congress' version, called the Boland Amendment, prohibits covert aid "for the purpose" of overthrowing the Sandinista junta.

A little guerrilla harassment is perfectly OK, in Congress' view, so long as it doesn't become too serious. The U.S. can finance and encourage anti-Sandinista Nicaraguans to take up guns and risk their lives, so long as their purpose is not to reclaim their country from Castroism, but merely to interdict arms traffic to Marxist guerrillas elsewhere in Central America....

For our part, we see no reason in the world that the Brezhnev Doctrine ought to supplant the Monroe Doctrine. Nothing could bring peace to Central America so quickly as the overthrow of the Sandinistas. If there is a chance that this could be accomplished through covert aid to a popular uprising, it would be money very well spent indeed....

"The Hawk Is an Endangered Species"

When Britain's honor was at stake in the Falkland's crisis Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher--"the best man Britain has," many believe--immediately committed her nation's military resources. She didn't hesitate for a minute in dispatching a force to fight a sea battle 8,000 miles from home in the blustery South Atlantic.

Mrs. Thatcher--up for reelection on June 9 (she is expected to win, but one-third of the electorate is undecided)--is what one today calls a "hawk." But do such creatures exist any longer in the United States? Peter R. Kann, associate publisher of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, was moved to write an outstanding opinion piece in the May 6, 1983 issue of his paper, entitled "The Hawk is an Endangered Species." Mr. Kann said he looked everywhere--in vain--for a true hawk. Instead, in the "national political aviary," he could only find doves, peacocks and assorted other birds of peace such as gnatcatchers, ravens, ostriches, warblers, cuckoos and albatrosses. Here are excerpts from Mr. Kann's remarkably insightful article, which confirms, in allegory form, the truth prophesied in Leviticus 26:19--that America has indeed lost the pride of its power.

Ronald Reagan, who we all know is a hardline anti-communist, gave a speech to Congress the other evening. "There is no thought of sending American combat troops to Central America," said the president. Congress rose and applauded. Yet, within hours, senators, scribes and other sages were describing the president's speech in terms that sounded as if he were launching panzer divisions into the Sudetenland rather than assuring Americans their military forces will not, heaven forbid, engage in military force.

"Hawkish," was what one commentator called the speech and that got us to thinking about some ornithological trends in American society. Once upon a time, back in the days of Vietnam, this country actually was home to both hawks and doves. Hawks, you may vaguely recall, were birds who believe that under certain circumstances--to defend an ally, honor a commitment, help resist aggression, protect American interests--we might use military power. Hawks really used to say that. Even in public.

As we listened to the president promising not to send American soldiers to Central America we started wondering where we might find a real, live hawk these days. We first asked our defense correspondent if he'd seen any lately, but he assured us they no longer inhabit the Pentagon. Sending troops to dangerous places, he explained, risked turning public opinion against bigger defense budgets.... This struck us as an interesting new military concept. The Pentagon needs more money, ostensibly to be better able to fight. But if the military risks getting into a fight it risks not getting the money it wants. So, the way to get money to fight is by not fighting. Or, perhaps, the way to get money not to fight is by not fighting. It all seemed slightly confusing.

In any case, there were no hawks to be found at the Pentagon. Peacocks, perhaps, with rich military plumage and long logistical tails.... Peacocks aplenty, but no hawks.

We then called our political correspondent and asked if he'd spotted any hawks over at Congress. Nope, he said, not a one. Some legislators are still supporting economic and even some military aid to Central America, he explained, but for any politician to stand up and advocate the commitment of American troops would be "suicidal." Congress, we began to comprehend, is composed of a good many doves along with a smattering of roosters. These roosters may strut and crow about American power and prestige, but none of them is proposing that we risk encountering foxes and weasels in the fields beyond the safety of the barnyard.

We began to wonder whether hawks had become an endangered species, flown from the national political aviary. On the other wing, we discovered that all sorts of birds of peace have been proliferating across the landscape....

Gnatcatchers: These are sharp-eyed little birds who can see the glint of an American weapon in any Third-World terrain. Some months ago a gnatcatcher spotted one of the 55 American military

trainers in El Salvador actually carrying a gun on a training exercise. Not a briefcase, but a gun. The gnatcatchers set up a loud chirping, President Reagan got embarrassed and the offending officer was unceremoniously recalled.

Ravens: These are dour, doomsaying birds. They nest throughout the U.S., but are particularly prevalent in Washington and New York. Ravens like to give speeches or write editorials. Whenever a raven sees the smallest possibility of American military involvement anywhere in the world it immediately thinks of Vietnam. It then croaks: "Nevermore!" The consequence of this reflexive croaking is to make it more likely that other countries will go the way of Vietnam.

Ostriches: They used to be rare birds in America, but have been actively breeding here over the past decade. They are big, powerful birds, but when confronted with unpleasantness or danger they stick their heads in the sand. This has permitted them to avoid noticing that in recent years Angola, one or more Yemens, Afghanistan and Nicaragua, among others, have all moved, or been pushed, into the Soviet orbit.

Warblers: These are popular birds who sing cheerful songs of peace and friendship, freedom and democracy. The world, they chirp, will be a happy place if only all of us will sing a peaceful song. Warblers are widespread in America and in other Western democracies. Most citizens of other countries don't have much to warble about....

Magpies: They natter and nag. They don't take strong positions, but rather sit on the fence, above the fray, reminding us of our past mistakes. They are good at global perspectives and can cite many examples of poverty and injustice around the world. They frequently remind us that if there were no poverty or injustice there would be no communism. They do not often add that if there were no communism there would be less poverty and injustice.

Cuckoos: These birds, who nest on Capitol Hill, have imposed some peculiar logic on foreign policy. They've voted congressional resolutions prohibiting the U.S. from opposing two Marxist regimes--in Angola and Nicaragua--while making it more difficult for some Marxist-threatened governments to get U.S. military aid. This basically leaves America in the position of providing security guarantees to hostile regimes while reducing American assistance to friendly regimes. To the cuckoos, of course, this is logical.

Albatrosses: They are heavy-baggage birds. We seem to be stuck carrying them about with us forever. They limit our movement and flexibility. Our biggest albatross is guilt. Guilt over killing Sioux Indians, guilt over the Gadsden Purchase, guilt over having a CIA,... Albatrosses are self-imposed burdens.

Grouse: They're a whiney sort of bird. They grouse that authoritarian governments are unworthy of our support. When authoritarian governments are replaced by totalitarian governments they

grouse that we're always backing losers. When we consider opposing totalitarian regimes they grouse about meddling in internal affairs. And when we do nothing at all they grouse that the world is going to the birds....

Well, all of these birds of peace had been easy to identify, but we still had not glimpsed even the tail feather of a hawk. Had the hawk truly become extinct? Had it gone the way of the dodo and the Eskimo curlew? Or does it still survive somewhere in the American political wilderness? If so, if you should happen to spot one, you could snare it and stuff it for posterity. Or, just conceivably, you might find a pair of hawks and decide to take them home and breed them. We're not suggesting that hawks should rule the roost. But someday we might wish we had just a few of them around.

Mr. Kann might also have noted the scarcity of the American eagle in the country which once proudly proclaimed itself as "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Truly as God foretold through the prophet Isaiah "Oh my people! Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths" (Isa. 3:12, RAV).

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau