

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

November was the best month for income, from a percentage point of view, that the Church has had for a long time. While regular contributions, which is our largest category of income, were up 14% over November of last year, total income had increased 26.3% compared to 1983! This encouraging increase is primarily a result of excess personal festival tithes turned in after or at the end of the Feast of Tabernacles. Most contributors of such funds probably do not realize how they could affect a month's income so much.

A month ago, at the end of October, the year-to-date income was 15% more than 1983. Adding November, the increase for 1984 is 15.9%. It is hoped that this slight upward trend will continue, or even increase by the end of the year.

The budget team met with Mr. Armstrong about the 1985 budget, and is now in the process of preparing the budget based on his guidelines. The budget process always seems to be difficult for everyone concerned. All departments have needs that they try to fit within the allotted sum. How to fit within this amount usually requires a lot of juggling of numbers until everything fits best, and within the assigned limitations.

The budget team is wrestling with this problem now; the departments will be doing this during the next few days. We hope that the process will be accelerated this year over previous years by new departmental access to the budget area in the mainframe computer.

From comments made to me, I know that many of you are praying daily for improved financial conditions and also for those of us who work with the financial affairs of the Church. For this we want to express our appreciation and thanks. The prayers of God's servants bring real results when they are heartfelt and earnest. I hope that you will continue in your concern and in such requests to God.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Mr. Herbert Armstrong returned from his trip to the Orient, arriving at Burbank airport at 7 a.m. Sunday morning, December 2. Messrs. Apartian, Neff, Helge and I, along with family members of the staff and crew, met the G-III and welcomed Mr. Armstrong.

As usual, Mr. Armstrong was in top form, very energetic and feeling well. I am always amazed at how good he looks and feels after these long and arduous trips, compared to how exhausted the rest of the party looks. I know that our collective prayers for him play an important role in that. God certainly can and does renew Mr. Armstrong's strength like the eagle's, as described in Isaiah 40:31.

Let's be sure to continue praying diligently for Mr. Armstrong's health and vigor, as well as follow Paul's admonition in Ephesians 6:18-20 to pray that God would continue to help Mr. Armstrong boldly proclaim the Gospel. God does expect us, as His elect, to have our hearts in the work of His Church in this way, discussing it with Him daily in earnest, heartfelt prayer. As God's ministers, we should faithfully seek God's blessing and direction upon His Apostle to preach the Gospel to the world with power.

We're very thankful for the continued growth God is giving His Church in each of the international areas. In this week's PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT we are including very positive reports from the French and Spanish Departments. Please continue to pray for each of the Regional Directors of the international offices. As God has called us all to be one body, let us be mindful of the needs, problems, and blessings of our brethren in every part of the world, keeping in mind the Apostle Peter's comment in I Peter 5:9.

There are only ten months left before the 1985 Feast of Tabernacles! This would be a good time to give a sermon on second tithe. Such a sermon would serve to encourage the brethren to be thinking about next year's Feast by including such topics as:

- faithfully saving second tithe as God has instructed (review basic scriptures).
- planning ahead, allowing sufficient time for travel to and from the Feast, etc.
- following instructions so the Feast runs smoothly for all.
- making housing reservations well in advance of departure and in line with guidelines given in next year's FESTIVAL PLANNER.
- carefully budgeting for the Feast trip.
- importance of giving and serving at the Feast, and ways this can be done.
- reflecting on any problems they may have had this year, and to plan on avoiding those problems next year.

Reviewing these important aspects of the Feast while they are still fresh on the members' minds will help them do even better next year, as well as encourage them to faithfully save second tithe throughout the year. It will also serve as valuable instruction for new members.

It would be good to impress upon the brethren the need to review their Feast sermon notes, so that the instruction and encouragement they received this year can be more firmly cemented in their minds.

This year's Feast was the last one for my mother, who died at the age of 93 this week. I was thankful that God allowed her to die with little suffering. She lived a full life and died in the faith. I will be attending the funeral in Chicago this weekend.

### Recent Ordinations

The following men were ordained local church elders on the Feast of Trumpets, September 27: Gabriel Castaneda of Long Beach (East), California; Edwin Jacobs of Portland (South), Oregon; John Orchard of Palmer, Alaska;

Vernon Schemm of Scott City, Kansas; and Larry Sharp of Long Beach (West), California. Ordained to preaching elder on the Feast of Trumpets was Walter Neufeld, who serves the Flagstaff and Prescott, Arizona congregations. During the Feast of Tabernacles, on October 14, Wayne Trainor of the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario congregation was ordained a local church elder.

### Safeguard Your Gelco Credit Card! (U.S. Ministers)

We have received notice that two of our field fleet vehicles were stolen this week. In both cases, the minister had left his Gelco credit card in the car! It is a common human trait to think, "It won't happen to me." I'm sure the two men it happened to thought this.

As a reminder, I am reprinting below the memo Mark Mickelson sent to each U.S. fleet driver last July. Please reread this memo, and do not leave your Gelco card in your car. Our careful cooperation in matters such as this will result in much savings for God's Church, and help each of us be wise stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us.

I hope the services Gelco provides for you are working well. I realize there are problems here from time to time and we are always willing to assist you in their solution.

The Universal Oil Card which Gelco supplies now includes Chevron and Shell. As soon as we have a card with these logos on the back we will forward it to you. Gelco has held off producing this new card because they are still hoping to add additional oil companies this summer. To my knowledge they have the most widely accepted card in the industry.

This credit card does carry a heavy liability with it if it is lost or stolen. We cannot cancel it as you can a personal card and we are liable for all charges incurred regardless of the user. It is very important that you protect these cards and make every effort for their recovery if they are lost. Please do not leave them in your car or anywhere where they could be removed by someone without your permission. We are able to use the program only as long as we can guarantee its integrity.

Thank you for your help.

### International News

Update From the French Department Things are beginning to settle down in the French Department after an exciting Feast of Tabernacles held at six French language Feast sites: Belgium, French Canada, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Haiti and Zaire. This year marked the first time a Feast of Tabernacles was held in Belgium, and the first time held in Zaire (in Kinshasa), where 119 persons gathered under Mr. Bernard Andrist's direction the second half of the Feast.

Total attendance for the first day of the Feast--for all French-speaking sites--was 2,603; the figure for the Last Great Day was 2,676 (including Zaire). Attendance was up 12% over 1983. Donations during the Feast increased 24.9%. As might be expected, this trend is based on solid growth in

the French-speaking membership, which is up 5.36% over 1983 for a total membership of 1,357.

"With the Church's help," wrote Mr. Andrist, "our brethren in Zaire were able to have two good meals during the Last Great Day and the following weekly Sabbath. Most of them had never seen such quality and abundance of food! The brethren over there certainly know that the Church of God is a family. They have great love and a profound respect, doubled by great admiration, for Mr. Herbert Armstrong, whom they recognize as the Apostle of God."

In Belgium, the growth in the Churches has been phenomenal both in attendance and in offerings--174% and 515% respectively over 1983. This growth is mainly attributed to Mr. Armstrong's French subtitled weekly telecasts, as well as Regional Director Mr. Dibar Apartian's thrice weekly morning broadcasts (both on RTL Luxembourg)--and Church pastor Mr. Jean Carion's hard work.

In the West Indies, the Churches on Martinique and Guadeloupe are also growing very fast. The average weekly attendance in Martinique is 296 and in Guadeloupe it is 155.

Recently, a series of Public Bible Lectures was conducted in Paris by Church pastor Mr. Sam Kneller. Outside attendance varied between 41 and 49, a good number of whom were natives of Martinique and Guadeloupe. Nine new people were subsequently invited to Sabbath services.

In Canada, Church pastor Mr. Rejean Vautour conducted three Public Bible Lectures in the city of Thetford Mines, Quebec, on November 4, 11 and 18. We've just heard that the first lecture was a success as 11 new people attended--of whom three were regular listeners to our 15-minute radio broadcast "Le MONDE A VENIR."

Mr. Apartian is visiting the West Indies from December 4 through 10. He will conduct one Public Bible Lecture in Martinique and another in Guadeloupe. He will, of course, also meet with the members and preach during Sabbath services.

The total circulation of La PURE VERITE is currently 145,269 subscribers, and it goes into 134 countries and/or territories. La BONNE NOUVELLE DU MONDE A VENIR--the French GN--presently has a circulation of 12,982 copies, up 26.6% over last year.

During the months of August, September and October, 6,569 pieces of white mail were received--an increase of 33% over the same period in 1983. In these three months we also processed 12,387 pieces of regular mail, and mailed out 80,747 items.

The month of November was sensational because of an ad in the French version of READER'S DIGEST in France and Belgium. We have received to date 11,927 response cards from France and 2,188 from Belgium.

Finally, French Canada also showed very good growth in October due to a very encouraging response rate from a direct mail advertisement. The average response from eight different mailing lists was 8.35%--a total of 8,049 responses to 99,000 letters sent.

From the Spanish Department Brethren from 23 nations gathered at eight Spanish-language sites on three continents to celebrate the 1984 Feast of Tabernacles in a spirit of unity, love and rejoicing. Brethren met in such diverse locales as the tropical clime of Acapulco, Mexico, the lofty (12,000 ft.) Andean site of Huaraz, Peru and the Mediterranean setting of Cullera, Spain. Feastgoers at all sites enjoyed the opening and closing messages from Mr. Armstrong, the Young Ambassadors and Behind the Work films, youth activities, dances, talent shows and opportunities to serve one another. Attendance was up in all but one site, and total attendance was up 2% over 1983. The following summarizes attendance at each site:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Acapulco, Mexico	1,042	Huaraz, Peru	204
Melgar, Colombia	396	El Tabito, Chile	177
Antigua, Guatemala	285	Cullera, Spain	96
Monte Hermoso, Argentina	283	San Jose, Costa Rica	95

Mr. Alberto Sousa, pastor of the Ezeiza, Argentina and Salto, Uruguay congregations, conducted two sets of Public Bible Lectures for readers of La PURA VERDAD in the Buenos Aires metropolitan area in September. A total of 360 new people attended one or more of these lectures. Twenty wanted to be visited, and 150 filled out cards indicating that they desired to attend future meetings. Mr. Sousa said that the majority of those who attended were from Protestant backgrounds, which is unique in that the Argentine populace is considered 90-95% Catholic. The mostly middle-class group had a large number of older people, and appeared to have substantial knowledge of Church literature, according to Mr. Sousa. He also said that two or three people wanted to counsel for baptism, and one lady is already attending services. A follow-up Bible study is scheduled for December 7.

For the first time in over eight years, Public Bible Lectures were conducted in Guadalajara, Mexico, by Church pastor Mr. Pablo Dimakis October 27, November 3, and November 10, with nearly 200 new people in attendance at the Hotel Fenix. Several booklets were offered during each of the lectures, and hundreds were distributed after each meeting. The Hotel Continental in Mexico City was host to Public Bible Lectures on November 3, 10, and 17, where Mr. Salvador Barragan, a minister in the Mexico City Church, spoke to almost 400 new people. Over 1,000 booklets were distributed.

Just 125 miles south of Pasadena, Tijuana, Mexico was the site for lectures on November 3, 10, and 17 conducted by Mr. Fernando Barriga, pastor of the Tijuana and Mexicali churches. Twenty-eight new people attended one or more of these lectures at the Hotel Country Club. Twelve attended all three lectures.

Mr. Thomas Turk, pastor of the Mexico City Church, attended the lectures in Guadalajara and Mexico City. "Both groups were very attentive and were obviously familiar with our literature," he said. More lectures in Mexico are scheduled for February and March.

The last Public Bible Lectures for 1984 are scheduled to take place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on December 8 and 9, and will be conducted by Mr. Herbert Cisneros. Year to date, a total of 2,451 new people have attended Public Bible Lectures in eight cities in six countries.

After La PURA VERDAD reached a record-breaking circulation of 222,735 with the September issue, the number of PV subscribers has hovered around the 200,000 level despite many thousands being dropped due to renewals. Argentina's circulation moved into the top position recently, which is in stark contrast to a few years ago when Argentina had under 2,000 subscribers.

The top twelve countries with respect to PV and GOOD NEWS circulation are as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>PV Circulation</u>	<u>GN Circulation</u>
Argentina	32,388	8,546
Mexico	31,552	2,148
U.S.A.	27,121	2,423
Colombia	16,887	2,005
Spain	15,087	312
Peru	12,072	785
Chile	10,792	762
Puerto Rico	9,304	817
Guatemala	6,523	794
Dominican Republic	6,136	197
El Salvador	4,593	657
Venezuela	4,563	188

Response to recent READER'S DIGEST advertising in Peru, Spain and Portugal has been very good. To date, 664 responses have resulted from a two-page, four-color ad without an insert card in the October Peru issue, which represents a 1.65% response at a \$2.59 cost-per-response. Responses are expected to total over 800. A two-page, four-color spread with a reply card in the Iberian (Spain) edition has netted 6,481 responses to date, a 1.58% response, at a \$2.25 cost-per-response. Around 8-9,000 responses are expected. Lastly, a two-page ad in Portugal's October issue offering THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS and The PLAIN TRUTH in either Spanish, French, English or Italian has brought in 1,045 responses, a .65% response, or \$1.61 per response, with about 1,200 total responses expected. The breakdown of requests for the different PT editions offered in the Portugal READER'S DIGEST ad is as follows: Spanish--66%; French--19%; English--12%; Italian--3%.

The current series of READER'S DIGEST ads have brought in a total of 8,190 responses. A second ad (one page with insert card) in the Iberian edition has been postponed until March, 1985.

Beginning with the January, 1985 issue, La PURA VERDAD will be printed at the Alabaster Passmore press in the United Kingdom, along with the German, Dutch, French, Italian, Caribbean and British editions. It is hoped that some savings may be accrued from lower printing and mailing costs. Delivery time of each issue will be closely scrutinized to determine the efficiency of mailing the magazine from England. Mr. Leon Walker, director of the Spanish Department, and Mr. Keith Speaks, PV circulation manager, will travel to England in early December to witness the initial press run and to confer with personnel involved in production, handling and mailing.

Three students from Latin America--two from Mexico and one from Chile--represent part of the incoming students in Pasadena this school year. There

are presently thirteen students from Spanish-speaking areas attending Ambassador College, Pasadena.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

## YOU UPDATE

### Topic for YOU Essay Contest

This is to inform all pastors that the topic for this activity year's essay contest is "What I would change in the world and why." Rules and details for the contest are listed in the YOU Pastor's Manual. The deadline has been extended two weeks, so entries should be postmarked no later than January 14, 1985. If you have any questions, please contact the YOU office in Pasadena.

--Kevin O. Dean, YOU

### AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We are continuing to have a very busy, eventful and blessed college year. On the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, the College held its annual Thanksgiving dance. Everything went very well at the dance--with good, wholesome music, dancing, and entertainment. Students, faculty, members of the Advisory Council of Elders and numerous guests were present, including Mr. Frank Schnee, Director of the work of God's Church in the German-speaking areas of Europe.

As Mr. Tkach mentioned last week, Mr. Dwight Armstrong's funeral was Friday, November 23rd. The College arranged to have flowers sent to Mr. Dwight Armstrong's family, and I asked Dr. Roderick C. Meredith to represent the College at the funeral. Unfortunately, I had previously arranged to be back East on that Friday and was, therefore, unable to attend. In any event, Dr. Meredith knows Mrs. Dwight Armstrong even better than I.

I clearly remember having hundreds of conversations with Mr. Dwight Armstrong in the early years of the College. Like many others in those years, I tried to let him know how much we appreciated his music; and many of us encouraged him to continue his important music compositions for God's Church.

Mr. Les McCullough, Deputy Chancellor at the Big Sandy campus, and Mr. Jim Kisse, Financial Aids Officer at Big Sandy, were recently in Pasadena. I was able to discuss with them a number of points which concern the two campuses. As you ministers probably know, for the past two years the Pasadena and Big Sandy campuses have resumed, with Mr. Armstrong's approval, the annual exchange of faculty members between the two campuses. Mr. Greg Albrecht, Dean of Students at Pasadena, is now visiting the Big Sandy campus, where he is teaching classes, speaking at a Forum or Assembly, and meeting with various members of the faculty and administration. During the second semester, I hope to be able to visit the Big Sandy campus, and Dr. Meredith will also visit Big Sandy sometime during the early part of 1985.

Earlier this week I spoke to Don Duchene, an AC student currently visiting Pasadena before returning to Thailand to complete his one-year assignment there. Mr. Jeff Caudle (who is a 1983 AC graduate) and three AC students

(Mike Wells, Jonathan McNair, and Don) comprise the group now teaching at various schools and at a college in Thailand. From all reports they are doing a fine job and are all setting excellent examples.

While Mr. Schnee was in Pasadena just before Thanksgiving, he and I discussed the possibility of Ambassador College again sending some German-language students to Germany during the coming summer. It looks as though we will again be able to send from five to seven students to work in the Bonn office, travel to the German Churches, do some sight-seeing, and assist their German-speaking hosts with various chores while living with them during a part of the summer of 1985.

For the past few years, the College has (with Mr. Armstrong's approval) been able to send AC students to the German, French, and Spanish-speaking areas to get valuable foreign language practice, as well as to receive priceless experience through such travel. Mr. Armstrong has always emphasized the importance of travel as a broadening and enriching experience for the students.

I am very much looking forward to the arrival of the new 1984 ENVOY. Mr. Dennis Robertson recently informed me that it is expected here most any day. It has been produced almost completely by the students, and even though it will be mainly a black-and-white production (16 pages in color), I feel certain that it will be another very fine ENVOY all of us will treasure. We hope you ministers who ordered a copy will have it in your hands before the end of this month.

My wife and I were privileged to spend the entire Feast at Rotorua in New Zealand. It was gratifying to see the very fine job Mr. and Mrs. Peter Nathan are doing in New Zealand. I received numerous comments from the brethren showing they appreciated the work he is doing as Regional Director of the New Zealand and South Pacific areas of God's Church.

It was also most gratifying to hear the ministers at the Feast--men whom I had known as young students at Ambassador--giving very fine sermons. We had excellent sermons from the New Zealand ministers--such as Mr. Lyall Johnston and Mr. Don Engle--and we had a fine sermon from Mr. George Birdwell, who also was a guest minister from Pasadena.

I might also add that my wife and I were very thankful to have had the wonderful opportunity to visit with our brethren in Fiji on the Day of Atonement. Mr. and Mrs. Epeli Kanaimawi (Mr. Kanaimawi is God's minister in Fiji) were very helpful and hospitable. We enjoyed getting to know them much better.

We appreciate the continued prayers and support of all of you ministers and wives. We need God's continued guidance and blessings to be able to keep Ambassador back on the track where Mr. Armstrong has set it.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor



UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSINGMail Received Tops Four Million Pieces

We hope we're not bombarding you with too many statistics, but we're happy to report we have reached another milestone. More than 4.3 million letters and cards have been received so far this year. This is a new all-time record, surpassing last year's record total of 3.8 million.

Mail for December is expected to be quite heavy, due primarily to Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter. In the first week, we have already received 100,000 responses. The total mail for 1984 will probably reach five million pieces.

Reactions to Christmas Booklet

Every year, thousands of subscribers request our booklet THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS and are shocked and amazed to discover the truth. They are so impressed that oftentimes they wish to pass on copies to family and friends. Some accept the truth and are eager to act on this new knowledge, even though their decision is an unpopular one. Following are some readers' comments:

My sister-in-law and I are interested in having an appointment with one of your ministers to discuss church membership, celebrating Passover; also Christmas and Santa Claus.

We own a Christmas ornament manufacturing business. Since reading your booklet about Christmas, we've been unable to start up 1984 production and proceed with a pending NFL licensing contract negotiation. This translates into financial disaster versus spiritual disaster--or does it?

M.H. (New Orleans, LA)

Until I read THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS, I thought I was well educated about the day. Was I ever fooled--my education was only in the first chapter.

Never had I read about Nimrod and his mother-wife, nor about the Christmas tree's origin in Egypt. I had always thought the Druids were the real originators of those customs (Christmas trees and Santa Claus worship).

The beautiful Christmas poem I wrote, won several awards with, and sent to you sure must have been an insult in the least. I apologize very humbly to you.

J.R. (Brunswick, GA)

Recently, a friend of mine shared your booklet, THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS, with me. It had a great impact on my attitude toward Christmas. It was also an answer to prayer, for I had recently completed reading a series about Nimrod and his mother-wife and their deeds. I asked God for verification from another source. I was given your booklet.

I am very excited, and am interested in additional enlightening information and sharing the knowledge that I've gained with my

pastor, Bible study group and youth group. Please send two dozen copies of THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS to me at the above address.

M.S. (Elkins Park, PA)

I recently received your two booklets titled NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD and THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS. I was very impressed with THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS, and would like six more copies for my married children, and to share with friends. Out goes our Christmas tree!

E.R. (Racine, WI)

I am writing to request 20 copies of your publication THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS. I am glad to see someone with enough respect for Christianity to be willing to risk ridicule by publishing the unpopular truth about Christmas. I wish to share this with friends and family and hope you can send them soon.

S.C. (Columbus, OH)

I have not only received your booklets but also read them and find them very interesting. My daughter is a little disturbed about what you wrote in your booklet called THE PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHRISTMAS, where you said something about Jesus not being born on Christmas Eve, but in September instead. I didn't get the chance to read this booklet but my daughter told me about it.

Could you also send me this booklet so I can read it and see what she got so disturbed about? She ripped hers up. So far you have proved everything you said and I believe in what you have written.

B.H. (Holyoke, MA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### THE EMPIRE SHRINKS BACK; ANOTHER PAPAL APPEAL TO EUROPE'S "ROOTS"; WHAT SCIENCE CAN'T EXPLAIN

The British House of Commons has unanimously approved the accord reached with China this past September, turning Hong Kong over to China thirteen years from now. Later this month, Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will be in Peking. On December 19, Mrs. Thatcher and Chinese officials will sign the agreements.

Under the terms mutually agreed to, Hong Kong reverts to China in 1997, becoming a "special administrative region." This is to be followed by an additional 50-year span during which China "guarantees" that Hong Kong can pursue its independent trading and financial policies. Since China itself has been moving into more of a capitalist economic mode of late, short-term fears in Hong Kong have not been as great as anticipated. But there lurks a long-term lack of confidence that China can stay on course and not snap back into a revolutionary framework.

As if to show the tenuous, highly personalized content of the accord, British Foreign Minister Sir Geoffrey Howe called the draft accord "a bold and imaginative plan," adding: "The concept of maintaining two separate politi-

cal, economic and social systems within one country is a far-sighted one, which is closely associated with Chairman Deng Xiaoping himself." Deng is presently in control, spearheading China's modernization drive. But he has his enemies, those of a doctrinaire, reactionary Communist bent, who don't like the direction he is taking the country.

### Gibraltar Next?

Following in tandem with the Hong Kong reversion is a new preliminary agreement between Britain and Spain over the future of Gibraltar--the last and perhaps most symbolic chunk of Imperial real estate. On November 27, Foreign Minister Howe and his Spanish counterpart, Senor Fernando Moran, reached a breakthrough understanding during negotiations in Brussels. It was hailed as the beginning of an "historic new process" by Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

In the short run, both sides benefit. Spain agreed to the total lifting of the blockade on Gibraltar imposed by the late General Franco fifteen years ago. As of next February 15 there will be free movement of people and traffic across the narrow flatland that connects Gibraltar to the Spanish mainland province of Andalucia. To a great degree, Spain, now a fledgling democracy, had no choice but to lift the blockade. Madrid hopes to enter the Common Market on January 1, 1986. Gibraltar, of course, is British territory, and EC law requires that all member countries have open borders with one another.

In return, however, the British negotiators, for the first time, agreed that the tricky question of sovereignty will be open in future negotiations. At the same time, the British have stressed that "the wishes of the people of Gibraltar" will be respected. About 30,000 British subjects live on Gibraltar. They are overwhelmingly opposed to becoming Spanish citizens and are some of the most loyal subjects of the Queen to be found anywhere. Statements made by Spanish officials after the agreement were hardly comforting to the Gibraltarians. Here are excerpts from an article, datelined Madrid, which appeared in the November 28 issue of the TIMES of London:

Spain emphasized Britain's express commitment to negotiate the sovereignty of Gibraltar. "For us, this really opens a process of decolonizing the Rock," the Spanish Foreign Minister spokesman said. The state radio and television said it was "the first time since 1713, the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, when Spain lost the Rock, that a British government had ever agreed to tackle sovereignty."...

From Gibraltar, Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, speaking by telephone, said the agreement was an "honourable outcome" to lengthy negotiation and a first step towards fruitful cooperation between Gibraltar and its vicinity. However, he reiterated Gibraltarians' opposition to any negotiations over sovereignty. "We have always placed our faith in the British Government and people and we will continue to do so."

When the Spanish Foreign Ministry spokesman was pressed by Spanish reporters to say exactly what recovering sovereignty meant, he replied: "That Gibraltar becomes just one more piece of Anda-

lucia, of Spain." Sir Joshua, asked to comment, said: "That's bloody nonsense, in my best Spanish."

Some of the Spanish outspokenness was dismissed as being for "home consumption." Spanish officials privately do not expect a rapid return of "the Rock." Admitted one: "We know we are not going to get Gibraltar back tomorrow. It is much rather a case of a generation." Even Sir Joshua Hassan, Gibraltar's chief minister, curiously declared to British television that Gibraltar could not be Spanish for at least a couple of generations, a tantamount admission that the handwriting--in Spanish--was on the wall. Spanish officials are also privately concerned over whether a slow-reversion process will really work. The November 28 FINANCIAL TIMES reported:

Public opinion in Spain will, sooner rather than later, want progress on the actual devolution of Gibraltar, with demonstrable gains and timetables in place of words and promises.

British and other NATO military officials are also a bit queazy about the "historic process" now underway. Gibraltar is still an important naval and intelligence base located in a very strategic spot. Spain is now a member of NATO, but a very reluctant one. A majority of Spaniards, surveys reveal, want Spain to pull out. What if Spain does leave NATO and extreme leftists should one day control the country (Franco battled them for four years during the 1936-39 civil war). The Soviets even now are frequent visitors to the Rock. They would love to see a Spain in sympathy with them, and in possession of such a potential bottleneck to the entire Mediterranean.

#### Another Papal Reminder Concerning Europe's Roots

On Tuesday, October 30, Pope John Paul II received in audience a group of European parliamentarians who were taking part in the Western European Union (WEU) conference which was being held to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of its foundation. (At this session, the WEU pushed ahead its proposals for greater Europeanization of European defense, as well as for formally lifting remaining proscriptions on West German development of offensive weaponry. See PGR, November 16, 1984.) The Pope had other things on his mind in addressing the WEU officials. He used the occasion to once again remind Europeans of their collective "soul" in Christianity. His comments were recorded in the November 19 Vatican semi-official publication, L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO:

"Ladies, Gentlemen, in the course of the brief extraordinary session of your Assembly which you are holding in Rome, you have desired this meeting with the Pope. I appreciate this trusting gesture which allows me to greet the parliamentarians who belong to the seven countries of the Western European Union, and to express to them my esteem and my encouragement for their important task aimed at strengthening the ties and consolidating the peace in this part of Europe....

"I am sure that you understand that it is not within the competence of the Holy See to enter into the technical, military and political debates that constitute the object of your meeting. But, on another plane, the promotion of a community structure

and, I dare say, its defence, depend also on moral and spiritual values, and there, the Church feels very much concerned. We have a certain idea of civilization, which, though it may take concrete form in diverse cultures within Europe as a whole, draws its strength, nevertheless, from imperatives common to all: respect for the liberty and the fundamental rights of man, for his life, his conscience and his spiritual needs, for the vocation of the family...the struggle against individual and collective egoism, the good use of liberty....

"Despite limitations and failures due to human weaknesses, Christianity has given the peoples of Europe a sense of these values. It has set their foundations firm; it has formed generations in this way; it would like to, and it can, even today, accomplish this service. The civilization to which the European countries are justly attached will be strong, it will be able to defend itself from within, if it keeps its soul, if it takes every measure to strengthen convictions and to educate in the direction of the imperatives which I have mentioned. This is a service in which the Church, in which Christians take part with all their might, but which concerns also all men of good will, all those who wish to promote the union of Europe and to allow it to make its contribution to the progress of peaceful international relationships...."

### Brain Scientist Asks "Who Am I? Why Am I Here?"

A rather remarkable one-page article appeared in the December 10, 1984 US NEWS & WORLD REPORT, entitled "Science Can't Explain 'Who Am I? Why Am I Here?'" It was written by Sir John Eccles, a Nobel laureate in medicine and physiology and a pioneer in brain research. A neurobiologist, he has taught at universities in Great Britain, Australia and the United States. He is co-author, with Daniel Robinson, of the recently published book THE WONDER OF BEING HUMAN: OUR BRAIN AND OUR MIND (might be a good one to check out). Here are excerpts of his remarks:

We need to discredit the belief held by many scientists that science will ultimately deliver the final truth about everything. Science doesn't deliver the truth; what it provides are hypotheses in an attempt to get nearer to truth....

Unfortunately, many scientists and interpreters of science don't understand the limits of the discipline. They claim much more for it than they should. They argue that someday science will explain values, beauty, love, friendship, aesthetics and literary quality. They say: "All of these will eventually be explicable in terms of brain performance. We only have to know more about the brain." That view is nothing more than a superstition that confuses both the public and many scientists.

My task as a scientist is to try to eliminate superstitions and to have us experience science as the greatest human adventure. But to understand is not to completely explain. Understanding leaves unresolved the great features and values of our existence.

I have spent all my life working on the brain and know what a wonderful structure it is, how it gives us an immense range of experiences. It is also a tremendous storehouse of memories, which is what it's principally for. But examining the brain in all possible scientific ways doesn't mean that I can know why, when I open my eyes, I see a world of light and color.

We live in the world of experiences, not in the world of the brain events. I've never seen my brain. All I know is that from morning to night I'm living amid sound and light, touch and language, thought and action. This is my world, and much of it is not explicable scientifically. Science also cannot explain the existence of each of us as a unique self, nor can it answer such fundamental questions as: Who am I? Why am I here? How did I come to be at a certain place and time? What happens after death? These are all mysteries that are beyond science.

Science has gone too far in breaking down man's belief in his spiritual greatness and has given him the belief that he is merely an insignificant animal who has arisen by chance and necessity on an insignificant planet lost in the great cosmic immensity. But that does not mean that religion and science are necessarily at odds. Max Planck, the great physicist, was a practicing Catholic. Albert Einstein believed in a God of the cosmos.... I, myself, am a practicing Christian. To hold views such as mine about the mystery of existence, you don't have to be a religious person. The great philosopher of science Sir Karl Popper, with whom I have written a book on this subject, holds similar beliefs--and he describes himself as an agnostic. Both of us recognize the great wonder of existence. We believe in both a material world and a mental-spiritual world.

Sir John Eccles' remarks certainly corroborate the truth about the difference between animal brain and human mind that God inspired Mr. Armstrong to understand.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau