

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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## REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

The first quarter of 1985 is now history, and although the income has not reached expectations, it is still quite good. The year-to-date figure is 10.8% more than 1984, with March registering a slightly lower increase of 10.2%. These figures would be lower if it were not for Festival contributions (tithe of the second tithe), which were 35.4% more than last year! It is somewhat surprising that the general contributions are less than expected, while the Festival contributions are more than expected.

The departments have been working together to keep expenses below budget. As a result, our cash balances, though low, are slightly above projections. We have passed the projected low point for the year and are expecting the trend to be upward from now through the remainder of the year. However, the departments must still be careful with expenses so we do not repeat last year's overspending during the summer.

The Arthur Andersen auditors are continuing their audit of our financial records. The U.S. audit is a little ahead of schedule, and is now being reviewed by the partner assigned to that audit. Several of the international areas have had their audits completed and the figures are being combined for the worldwide audit. The international audit is right on schedule. Our accountants say that the audit process this year has been the "smoothest audit ever."

This Thursday (April 4), my wife and I will leave for a quick "Feast" trip to the Caribbean. We will be visiting the San Juan office and the churches in Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Barbados, Trinidad and Martinique. We are very pleased to have this opportunity and pray that we and all of you will have a spiritually beneficial and inspiring Feast of Unleavened Bread.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

As summer draws closer, the time for transfers of ministers in the United States and some international areas draws near as well. Transferring is never easy. Moving to another city is difficult enough, but is even more difficult and complicated when it involves adjusting to a new ministerial assignment.

The most important factor in a transfer is the attitude in which we accept it. Naturally we are going to feel sad about leaving behind the brethren we've worked with, encouraged, cried with, suffered with and rejoiced with. We know we will miss them. We are understandably concerned about how they will fare without us there to care for them and help them along. Truly, transferring is not easy.

Oftentimes, a transfer is more emotionally difficult for our wives. In general, women tend to identify more with a particular home or situation, and feel more disoriented and unsure about a move than men do. Most minis-

ters' wives eventually grow accustomed to transferring and don't have too difficult a time coping with it. But it still may not be easy for them emotionally. You husbands need to be aware of that, and make the transfer as positive and encouraging for your wives as you can.

Another reaction you may feel toward a transfer is that all your work and effort over the past several years is just now beginning to bear fruit. The newsstand program, public Bible lectures, and perhaps the recent addition of the telecast to your area are all beginning to have positive results. Growth is beginning to take off.

We must remember the Apostle Paul's words in this regard: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase" (I Cor. 3:6-7, RAV). The work we are doing is the work God has given us to do. He is the One who gets all the credit. We are really only tools in His hands, as long as we are submissive to Him. He is the One doing the work through us.

We can truly rejoice that God has given us a period of time with a particular group of His people. We can be thankful for the growth He has granted through our labors. But we can also rejoice when it comes time for us to move on to a new pasture to serve a new flock--a new opportunity to serve God's called-out-ones. As Paul continues in I Corinthians 3:8: "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor." We are all servants of God. We are called to do His bidding, wherever that may be. And at Christ's return, we will receive a reward for faithfully laboring in His service.

Of course we realize transfers often entail certain sacrifices. Moving children into new schools. Packing. Sometimes broken or damaged possessions. A new climate. Perhaps housing problems. The list can go on. But the fact that we are in God's service makes all the difference. One minister mentioned how much he appreciated the frequent transfers he has had in his ministry because of the positive benefits to his children. He said that their travel experiences and opportunities to live in different parts of the country have given them a broader perspective of the world in general than many other children who have little or no opportunity for such experiences. In fact, he said that his family was actually strengthened as a result of the moves, because his children were never in one school long enough to develop relationships that pulled them away from the family. He and his wife felt that although the children had to work harder to maintain good grades, the advantages far outweighed the disadvantages.

I'm not asking every minister to view this aspect of a transfer in the same way, but I feel that this is an excellent example of how we should look at the positive side of what might otherwise seem to be a negative experience. Often there can be many hidden blessings in serving God that we simply never think about.

Those of you who will be transferring will need to carefully review the guidelines in the pastoral instruction 2.2.1 entitled Pastoral Transfer. It covers in detail the spiritual and physical considerations of transferring. This material is essential for a smooth, harmonious and unified transition of administration. It should be carefully studied and followed

completely. This instruction would also be helpful to review for any who have transferred within the last year or two.

We hope to announce this summer's transfers shortly after the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers for Mr. Armstrong and those of us here in Pasadena. Our thoughts and prayers are with you continually.

We in Ministerial Services wish you a pleasant and meaningful spring feast!

\*\*\*\* TO BE ANNOUNCED IN ALL U.S. AND CANADIAN CHURCHES \*\*\*\*

Important Notice to All Approved Caribbean Transfers

The Caribbean regional office has recently mailed confirmation letters to those approved to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in the Caribbean. The letter asks for a deposit to be sent to the office in Puerto Rico.

If you received a confirmation letter, please note that your deposit check should be made out to: WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD. This is vital for the processing of your check. Thanks very much for your attention to this matter.

International News

From Mr. Frank Brown PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the United Kingdom continues to grow steadily, peaking in February at 166,419--a 33.4% increase over February, 1984. Circulation in Scandinavia, the continent of Europe and the Middle East peaked at 35,526, 41,303 and 14,498 respectively. There will be sharp drops in these circulations with the next issue because of a large mailing of renewal notices, but circulation will then rise for the rest of the year.

The offer of The GOOD NEWS to PLAIN TRUTH subscribers of two years or more has been very successful, with the first mailing to the U.K. pulling a 46% response. The second batch of 10,000 letters has just been mailed and responses are presently coming in. We have just started to print the GOOD NEWS for this area in the U.K., with an initial print run of 24,000.

The total number of baptised members in the U.K. is 2,448, with an increase of approximately 12 members per month. This year it looks like we will pass two and one-half thousand!

Mail income in the U.K. for February was up 4.8% over last year, but the year-to-date figure is a minus 2.3%. This is due to the fact that January, 1984 was a month of very high income. We hope the overall trend, of course, improves as the year advances.

Finally, various changes are being made to the offices here in England. The ceiling of the reception area has been raised to give a much lighter and

more open feeling and appearance, and the Postal Services area has been greatly enlarged with a separate office being created for the Production/Mailing Manager, Mr. Tony Lodge. The changes in this area reflect the greatly increased printing activity in England, and the steadily increasing volume of outgoing mail.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

The PLAIN TRUTH Newsstand Distribution Program is one of the most exciting aspects of the work of God's Church. Many thousands of brethren are involved in assisting Mr. Armstrong in proclaiming the Gospel to the world through their diligent efforts in serving with the Newsstand Program. New outlets and opportunities are opening up daily throughout the United States.

Obviously, as the witness becomes more powerful and God's message permeates local communities, persecution in certain areas will intensify. As a result, we are sure that in some locations the Newsstand Program from time to time may need to be adjusted, refined or changed. We therefore urgently request that any ministers in the United States who are experiencing major difficulties with the Newsstand Program in their area, or feel they have reached a point of saturation or diminishing returns, please contact either Boyd Leeson or John La Bissoniere. They may be able to offer some alternatives.

We would appreciate your input as soon as possible.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

#### UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

##### What Five Dollars Can Do

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the dollar lost more than one-half of its buying power in the last ten years. Despite this alarming trend, the generous offerings of God's people are bearing tremendous fruit. For example, each five dollar contribution accomplishes one of the following:

- 15 people are able to view one "WORLD TOMORROW" telecast.
- 65 people are reached through PLAIN TRUTH in-home subscription issues.
- 80 are reached through PLAIN TRUTH newsstand copies.
- 20 PLAIN TRUTHS can be placed in waiting rooms where hundreds may read them.
- 25 people can receive one lesson of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.
- 25 booklets can be sent.
- 65 new subscribers can be mailed one of Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letters.

- 75 can receive strong spiritual meat from The GOOD NEWS magazine.
- 50 teenagers and other family members can read YOUTH 85.

As the above statistics show, God is tremendously blessing the use of each dollar given to His Church.

Telecast on Resurrection Receives 17,008 Calls!

"Was the Resurrection on Sunday?" aired March 30-31 and brought in 17,008 WATS calls. This is the second highest response ever received, and 37% above the year-to-date average. The all-time record response of 17,229 calls was set by "What Are the Seven Laws of Success?" in February of this year.

The telecast was preempted on 22 stations due to the Easter Seals Telethon. Without these preemptions, we would have received nearly 1,000 additional calls. Sunday evening response was also reduced due to the world premiere of the mini-series "A.D."

This is the fifth time the "Resurrection" telecast has been aired. Following is a comparison of each year's response:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Weekend Response</u>
1981	2,420
1982	8,637
1983	9,148
1984	10,499
1985	17,008

Based on its past record, this weekend's program, "The Plain Truth About Easter," may produce an even higher response than the "Resurrection" telecast.

Visitors to Pasadena Campus Struck by its Beauty and Atmosphere

From time to time we receive thank-you letters from members, co-workers and others who have had the opportunity to visit headquarters in Pasadena. These people are a bit awed and overwhelmed with the beauty of the buildings and grounds. They are also struck by the warmth and friendliness of students and employees. Many compare the atmosphere to that of the coming World Tomorrow. Following are some of the letters we've received:

A few days ago I was privileged to tour Ambassador College in Pasadena. The high quality in character, beauty, education, warmth and friendliness was breathtaking. It is a beautiful example to this world and a beginning of the "World Tomorrow." I was so excited.

Then I came home and looked at all the unhappy and empty lives, the grief and suffering going on in Satan's world. Oh, how I want to help change this! It has inspired me to get behind you and pray for you and this work more than ever so God's will can be done on this earth.

C.C. (Elk City, OK)

I want to tell you that I toured the Ambassador campus back in November. What a beautiful campus. I could certainly feel God's presence there. The young man who took me on the tour was a delightful, pleasant person. I thoroughly enjoyed it. How blessed we are to have such a beautiful place for our young people to attend.

H.N. (Stuart, IA)

My husband and I spent our honeymoon there at the campus. We wish we knew how to express our deep appreciation to everyone there. We were overwhelmed by the outgoing love and concern that is an integral part of the college.

Mr. & Mrs. L.S. (Versailles, MO)

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at headquarters for the most inspiring and meaningful Feast I have ever attended. Ambassador Auditorium, the grounds, but most importantly the evidence of God's Spirit was overwhelming as I attended services and walked about the college. Everyone who is responsible for the maintenance and care of such a lovely oasis must surely take their responsibilities very seriously as they work before God. I hope everyone who has the opportunity will plan to spend at least one Feast at God's headquarters.

S.B. (Cincinnati, OH)

My wife and I appreciate your kindness in letting us visit and use your facilities. We attend your concerts, run on your track and walk around your grounds. Your college is always a very pleasant place to visit. Enclosed is something from us in return.

Mr. & Mrs. D.O. (Pasadena, CA)

I want to thank the staff for their kindness when I toured Mail Processing, WATS and Editorial during my visit for my daughter's graduation. Everyone was very friendly and serving! Also, Mr. Roman Borek's guidance through the Auditorium was most memorable! Being at Ambassador was like being in a miniature Kingdom of God --a sure delight.

S.W. (Duluth, MN)

Visited your campus last weekend. I felt like I was in paradise. Such beauty, and people to match it.

A.G. (Inglewood, CA)

We just returned home from visiting your fine campus. Ambassador Auditorium is so breathtaking that you just can't describe all its beauty to anyone. We hope that all the brethren will get a chance to see this fine building, and to stop and think, that it is just a sample of what will be in the Kingdom to come.

Mr. & Mrs. J.F. (Bruce, WI)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

IBERIA JOINS THE MARKET At the end of last week, on March 30, the European Community heads of state and government took the last steps to open the way for Spain and Portugal to enter the EC on January 1, 1986. A compromise was worked out with Greece whereby it will be granted compensation for expected product competition from the two Iberian countries. Two other Mediterranean nations, France and Italy, were also granted adjustment aid, but it was Athens' objections which had been most difficult to deal with. The following excerpts from an editorial in the April 3, 1985 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR give an overview of the impact of the expansion of the EC from ten to twelve next year:

The admission of Portugal and Spain into the European Common Market marks an important historical turning point for Europe.... A new 12-nation Common Market, instead of the current 10-nation market, will eventually become one of the largest cohesive trading communities in the world, with a combined population of over 325 million people. Moreover, the linkup--when it becomes official early next year--will cement most of affluent and industrial northern and western Europe with the less affluent and more agricultural regions of southern Europe. The linkup also provides western Europe an important new political and economic "bridge" to North Africa, in the sense that the Iberian Peninsula--culturally and historically--has as much looked southward over the centuries to the Mediterranean Sea and North Africa as to the European Continent itself....

The admission of the two nations into the Common Market will not come without major challenges for the rest of the trading community. The two nations are among the poorer nations of Europe. Both have high unemployment. That means that the rest of the Economic Community will presumably have to provide special financial assistance for the two nations over time. Moreover, both are major agricultural producers. It was this latter element that led Greece for so long to oppose their entry into the Common Market....

Will the inclusion of the somewhat poorer heavily agricultural nations of southern Europe impede Europe's movement toward unification? The initial impetus for the Common Market began with the industrial nations of Europe. The nature of the trading community has thus changed substantially since 1957.... Still, it is hard to discount the significance of the Common Market's new linkage with Portugal and Spain. How does one measure a historic milestone? Many political rulers over the centuries have dreamed of a United Europe. The Continent is still a long way from such a vision. But all the same, being able to drive from Paris east into West Germany, or southeast into Italy, and now, southwest into the Iberian Peninsula, through a common trading community, must be considered no little achievement in the long march of European history.

For Spain, the entry into the Community is even more of a political milestone than an economic one. It marks the end of Spain's long semi-isolation from the rest of Europe. An interesting analysis of this was published in

the April 2, 1985 LOS ANGELES TIMES. Written by Stanley Meisler, it was entitled, "Spain Swept by Euphoria on Entry to Common Market":

RONCESVALLES, Spain--Here in a famous pass through the Pyrenees Mountains that had long been considered a southern border of Europe, it is easy to understand why Spaniards are treating their impending entry into the European Community as a momentous step in their history.

A kind of euphoria has raced through the political life of Spain ever since the announcement at the end of last week of the agreement on the entry of Spain and Portugal. King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sophia honored Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and his negotiating team with a reception at their palace. Juan Carlos spoke movingly of "the emotion I feel both as a Spaniard and as a king."...

ABC, the most influential right-wing newspaper in Madrid, headlined its main editorial "A Historic Day." El Pais, the most influential left-wing newspaper in Madrid, headlined its main editorial "Hallelujah for Europe." ABC said the entry ranked with such events in 20th Century Spanish history as the Civil War and the restoration of democracy. El Pais said that entry will "rupture the traditional isolation that has been hanging around our necks since the religious wars" of the Middle Ages....

As far as Spain is concerned, the entry into the Community, including the Common Market, has little to do with economics but everything to do with history and psychology. At long last, Spaniards can feel themselves part of Europe....

The history of separation was reinforced in the 20th Century by 40 years of dictatorship under Generalissimo Francisco Franco. Franco, the only fascist dictator to survive World War II, was the pariah of Europe, and Spain became more isolated than ever. Many Spaniards now feel that full entry into the European Community--a first concrete step into Europe--will consecrate the democratic system that has taken hold in Spain since Franco's death in November, 1975.

A feature article in the April 2, 1985 CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, written by Kathy White, probed both the historical significance of Spain's acceptance into the contemporary Western European family of nations as well as its expected problems of adjustment to the EC system:

Seven hundred years of Moorish presence, 100 years as a supreme world power, 400 years of darkness and isolation, and now it can be said: Europe. That is how many Spaniards see the main landmarks of their history....

The Socialist government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, all the political parties, the press, and it seems most of those Spaniards who have been abroad have hailed the event as an ineluctable [inevitable] step in Spain's development. However,... many Spaniards, for whom Europe is a hazy concept anyway, are be



gining to wonder what the benefits of membership are going to be. The first point that seems to have made an impact is the down-to-earth fact that prices will go up owing to the EC's system of value-added tax.

"Our small businesses are already sinking. What's going to happen when that tax is added? I'm not thrilled. I'm plain worried," says Jose Cepero, who runs a small household goods store in Madrid. "I trust the government knows what it got us into. They didn't tell us what it's all about, and the people simply don't know," he adds. For the most part, the daily press barrage of technicalities in the negotiations has failed to contribute a clearer picture of Europe....

Most likely to benefit from accession will be Spain's agriculture, although profits may be marginal as Spain already exports 50 percent of its fruits and vegetables to Europe.... Accession will be felt most by Spain's industry. Whereas EC markets were already opened to Spain under a 1970 preferential trade agreement, the reverse was not true. Now Spain will have to lower its barriers, introduce a value-added tax, and modernize production.... Accession will mean the moment of truth for the small- and medium-sized enterprises that dominate the Spanish economy....

On another level, the free movement of workers throughout Europe will give Spanish society a new perspective. Manuel Marin, Spain's secretary of state for European affairs, says: "Spaniards will be able to go all over Europe.... Our society, which has long been isolated...will gain."

The other morning I had an interesting experience via my shortwave radio. At about 6:10 am I came across an English-language commentary regarding the entry of Spain and Portugal into the EC. It was a very favorable report, and expressed the hopes that the growth of the EC could lead to a more unified Europe. After the report was finished came the announcement that the audience was tuned to "Radio Beijing." It's obvious that the Chinese still advocate a strong Europe to counterbalance the Soviets. This should dampen somewhat the speculations that the Chinese and Russians, under Mr. Gorbachev, will quickly mend their fences. While there is some movement in this direction, the Chinese are being very cautious toward both superpowers. Because Beijing has opened up considerably toward Washington, Chinese leaders want to show some attention to Moscow as well so as not to project a pro-U.S. position.

This third expansion of the Common Market (Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined on January 1, 1973 and Greece on January 1, 1981) raises the old question again of whether the Community is becoming essentially ungovernable. In this regard a committee was set up by the EC last year to make recommendations to streamline the Community's functions. It has been reported that the committee, headed by former Irish Foreign Minister James Dooge, suggests that the right of individual EC countries to veto Common Market policies should be much more strictly limited. Such a policy would be strenuously opposed by some members, most notably the British. But it is believed that both the French and the German views are much more in line with the Dooge committee recommendations regarding majority rather than

unanimous voting, of enhanced powers for the European Parliament and of the setting up of a political secretariat attached to the EC Council of Ministers. The FINANCIAL TIMES of London, in its issue of March 25, 1985, reported:

If the EEC summit in Milan in June ended in failure or made insufficient progress, French officials say it is not ruled out that France and Germany would launch their own initiative [for greater political harmony].... But while nobody knows what is in their leaders' minds, among the wild cards mentioned are a move towards joint FFfr/D-mark currency or the revival of a French-German union to which other states could adhere.

Periodically there are rumors of a desire to create a "two-tier" Community, with the original six members (France, West Germany, Italy and Benelux) setting a faster economic and political pace, leaving the poorer countries plus the troublesome British behind. The issue of a "two-tier" Europe was examined in the lead article (editorial) in the March 26, 1985 DAILY TELEGRAPH:

Do President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl mean what they say about the ripeness of the moment for a new advance toward a more genuinely supra-national Community to leave the laggards and the doubters on the fringes?

Word has gone out from Paris that President Mitterrand is minded to tear up the "Luxembourg compromise" by which his predecessor President De Gaulle obliged his partners to accept the concept of the national veto where "overriding national interests" were deemed to be at stake, and to restore the original concept of the founding fathers by which the Community would come to decisions binding on the membership by weighted majority voting....

If the French and Germans prove to be in earnest about the abolition of the national veto we shall be heading for the "two-tier" or "variable geometry" Community, since there is no prospect that either [Britain's] Prime Minister or Parliament would accept the surrender of national sovereignty that would be involved.

The editorial writer reveals, with recent key examples regarding fishing and agriculture, that both the French and the Germans themselves are reluctant to give up the veto since on these issues they were able to block legislation they deemed went against their national interests. Nevertheless, the issue of weighted majority voting will continue to come up. If it is adopted one day, it could rip apart the Community as it now exists, with Britain for sure thrust into an outsider position, and perhaps Denmark too. With these two northern, Protestant-cultured nations out, and Spain and Portugal in, integrated Europe would take on much more of a continental, Catholic flavor.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau