

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 10

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 7, 1986

Dear Ministers of Jesus Christ,

I had a profitable visit this past Sabbath, March 1, to Phoenix, Arizona, where I spoke to the combined east and west Phoenix churches, along with the Prescott and Flagstaff, Arizona, churches. I was able to visit my son, Joseph Jr., and daughter-in-law, Tammy, while in Phoenix, and see my eight-week-old grandson, Joseph III. It was a delight to visit with the brethren after services and to spend an evening with the area ministers. I am planning more of these trips and hope to be able to get around to most of the U.S. areas, as well as the various international offices yet this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Salyer left this past Wednesday, March 5, to lead the annual ministers conference in Australia. I have asked him to pay a brief visit to the office in Auckland, New Zealand after the Australian conference. He will return in about 13 days.

I have assigned Mr. Dean Blackwell to begin serving on the Ambassador College faculty here in Pasadena. Mr. Blackwell will teach several theology courses, and will help take some of the burden off Mr. Richard Ames and Dr. David Albert so they can devote more time to the "World Tomorrow" program.

I hope you pastors are sharing relevant information from the "Pastor General's Report" with your congregations. The brethren do need to be kept abreast of the latest developments and growth in the Work. Though it is true that they may "see it anyway in the 'Worldwide News,'" it is nevertheless important that you, as pastor, are showing them your personal interest, joy and enthusiasm about what God is doing. A leader must lead. I've mentioned before that your example is what sets the spiritual pace and tone for the local congregation you are serving. You should even draw the attention of the congregation to particular articles in the "Worldwide News," "Good News" and "Plain Truth" occasionally. This encourages the brethren to be reading the publications by inspiring them to follow your example--not by telling them to do it, but simply by showing them that you are.

We were again encouraged by last weekend's strong response to Dr.

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David Albert's first telecast, in which the booklet "Why Were You Born?" and the new reprint "What Is Man?" were offered. This topic has always been a lower "puller" than prophetic topics, but nonetheless brought in a 15,471-call response--well above last year's average for doctrinal topics of 10,000-13,000 weekend calls. Reactions to Dr. Albert were quite positive and

similar to those in responses to Mr. Hulme's telecasts. I thought you might be interested in some of the viewers' comments.

I've watched your program three times now, and it is terrific! Both speakers are excellent. It is very difficult to compare the programs. It is so important for us all to understand our human potential.

Wisconsin

The program is working nicely. It correlates history with present-day events. It is so informative and educational. I've been telling all my friends about these new men on the program.

New York

Wonderful program! We do miss Mr. Armstrong but the men carrying on are bringing the same message. It's the message that we're looking for and it's plain enough to understand--not over your head, like some. We are very pleased with the program and look forward to more.

Washington, D.C.

Both of these new men have been doing a good job. I'm looking forward to what he is going to talk about next week. Both of these new men seem to be following right along with Dr. Armstrong, which we enjoy. Both are very good speakers.

Texas

Is he a teacher? He acts like it--I thought he was a college teacher. I liked him very much. I'm glad you're on there--don't go off the air!

New Jersey

I never understood what man was until he said it. I'll listen to him next week. It's not Mr. Hulme's brother, is it?

Louisiana

I am so happy that Mr. Armstrong trained and left capable men to carry on this program.

Florida

I again emphasize how important your prayers are, and the prayers of all God's people in your congregations, in doing this Work! God is with us. We must put our hearts into staying with Him!

On the final topic this time, the question has arisen about whether a local congregation should sell fireworks as a fundraising project. I am told that such a project can be an excellent fundraiser--in terms of proceeds. But proceeds are not the only consideration. We must also consider safety. Now we have nothing against fireworks, or fireworks shows, or an individual's personal, private use of fireworks. But as a local congregation of God's people, I feel that we would be taking undue

chances with safety when we have to store and sell them ourselves. Therefore, the sale of fireworks is forbidden as a fundraising project in the Church of God.

In Christian love,

*Joseph W. Tkach*

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

YOUTH AND FAMILY; SEP APPLICATIONS; NOTICE;  
PRAYER REQUEST; INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**Youth and Family** In the last few weeks a number of questions have come up about various aspects of YOU. These include SEP, District Family Weekends, the use of buses, dances, music tapes, etc. We will do all we can to answer your questions and bring any needed changes to Mr. Tkach's attention. Since Dr. Nelson is still commuting from Big Sandy, you may not always reach him, so feel free to direct any urgent needs to me or Mr. Horchak. As YOU is now a part of Church Administration, we both will be working very closely with Dr. Nelson in building the YOU program as Mr. Tkach directs. We would all appreciate your continued suggestions and constructive criticism on any part of the program.

Mr. Tkach has already begun to set a tone for all our youth activities by stressing the importance of the family. While we strive for excellence in youth activities we must be vigilant not to disrupt family life and therefore negate all we have done.

God is a family! And God created the human family as a type of His glorious family, soon to rule all nations. Anything we as His ministers can do to build and strengthen the family unit glorifies our heavenly Father. Brethren need to grasp the significance of these family relationships and give them high priority. Let's not schedule the young people or parents so tightly that the family is pulled apart in an attempt to be enthusiastic participants in all church activities. We will discuss this in more detail later.

**SEP Applications:** In the coming week SEP applications for both campers and high-school staff will be mailed from Pasadena. All applications will require an evaluation by you. Please note that this evaluation is VERY IMPORTANT to us. This year any applicant you do not recommend will NOT be accepted. So, please consider these young people carefully, and give us your candid remarks. Do not send us young people who are problem youth in your area or who will be disruptive to the camp program. SEP is NOT a rehabilitation camp. We want to create an atmosphere conducive to real growth among those teens who are willing to be led and taught. Problems such as smoking, drinking, homosexuality, drug abuse, etc. are better handled by the local minister. Any comments you wish to make on the application will be welcome.

Camper II applicants must be 15 years old by January 1, 1986. Please strive for an April 1 deadline for returning the applications.

**Notice to All Ministers**

We have received many calls and comments regarding spurious letters received by members and ministers. We feel we know the source of these letters, which are postmarked in New Orleans, Louisiana, or California.

We are not aware that any of these have been received internationally, but please inform us if they have.

At this time we would like you to caution the brethren about this material. Because it does not include a signature it would not be appropriate to use the name of anyone you suspect.

Tell the brethren that the references to Headquarters and the local ministers are false and intended to seduce them with enticing words, as well as discredit the Church.

Please use discretion in not making this a bigger problem than it is.

We appreciate the concern you have shown and the copies we have received.

X **Prayer Request** Mr. Kelly Barfield, pastor of the Scott City and Liberal, Kansas, churches, is again suffering with illnesses including viral pneumonia. His condition is quite serious and his wife Vinita has asked for your prayers on his behalf. Please ask God to intervene and totally heal Mr. Barfield of this condition.

**International News**

X **Minister in Serious Auto Accident** Mr. Josef Forson, our minister in Ghana, was involved in a serious auto accident on February 26, while returning from the Church farm. His auto was a total loss. But due to God's intervention, Mr. Forson escaped with just a few minor injuries. As Mr. Frank Brown reported, "Fortunately, Mr. Forson had heeded Mr. Tkach's rule of wearing seat belts and did not suffer serious harm. His injuries were restricted to minor cuts and bruises with a pain in the hip and the chest." An update on Mr. Forson's condition will be included in the near future.

X **Thank-You From Mr. Chukwudi** As reported in the January 10 "Pastor General's Report," our minister in Nigeria, Mr. Chukwudi, was suffering from a health problem that had severely weakened him. Following is a thank-you and update on his improving health.

Dear Brethren in Christ,

Greetings from Nigeria!

I thought it is very needful to write and send my wholehearted thanks to every one of you for your love to me and my family. This you have all shown by your fastings and prayers for my healing.

In addition, I have been inundated with numerous letters, cards, and notes of encouragement and good wishes, and they still keep on coming! These correspondences came from Church congregations, families, and individuals in far-away places like the Philippines, Canada, New Zealand, the United States of America, Great Britain, and East and West Africa. It is not possible for me to write every one of you personally. This is why I have chosen the media to convey my deep-rooted thanks to you all for such wonderful expression of love.

I am making a steady and gradual improvement in my health. I hope to be completely healed as time goes on, and as we continue to pray for one another more in this evil age.

Thank you, once again, in Jesus' name.

Sincerely yours,

Elijah Chukwudi

**From the Netherlands** The Dutch language members and co-workers were saddened to learn about the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong was mainly known in this area through his writings.

Several of the members and co-workers have reacted in an encouraging way. The brethren in all four Dutch-language churches, although saddened, have expressed their loyalty and support to carry on with the commission and the new Pastor General Mr. Joseph W. Tkach.

Although for most Dutch brethren the name Tkach isn't easy to pronounce, they are praying for him that God will give him the strength and guidance in leading God's Church in the execution of the Work still ahead.

The month of January was the beginning of our 1986 advertising campaign. Flyers were placed in the weekend edition of the TELEGRAAF, circulation 1,000,000, with a response of 2.5% at a cost of \$2.68. A full-page ad was placed on the back cover of the Belgian AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION MAGAZINE, circulation 200,000, with a response of 1% at a cost of \$1.14.

The total number of subscribers of "De Echte Waarheid" is now 60,000 while the international "Good News" list has increased to 10,000.

As a result of the added number of international "Good News" readers and article contents, several requests for visits have come in. This has resulted in church attendance growth in each church area.

Church membership increased 8.25% while church attendance increased 16.66%.

Incoming mail increased 24.12% while outgoing mail increased 4.7%.

(Submitted by Bram de Bree, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Church Administration

#### FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

In my last report I mentioned that we were carefully watching the financial situation day by day. It seems evident to those of us here in Pasadena that God is providing His Church with a very smooth transition in every respect, including the financial situation.

The financial outlook is considerably improved over a month ago. God has provided a good increase, above budget projections, for February. The month's increase over last February was 14.5%, which brought the year-to-date increase to 10.7%.

Information from our international offices has also been encouraging. Even though I do not have specific figures, a number of offices (the Dutch excepted) have reported much larger increases than we have been experiencing in the U.S.

The Arthur Anderson Company has been working for a number of weeks now on the 1985 U.S. & International Audits. At present everything is going well and is on schedule.

In the area of Financial Services news, I would like to report that members of our staff have been visiting some of our international regional offices to discuss financial reporting, budgeting and planning. In the past few months visits were made to New Zealand, Australia, England, the Netherlands and the Caribbean. Don Miller, budget coordinator, and Ritchie Gaston, supervisor of the General Ledger area in Accounting, have just returned from another such trip, this time to the Philippine office.

This has been very helpful to the headquarters personnel, as well as to regional office personnel. Such visits promote unity and cooperation between the offices.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

#### EDITORIAL SERVICES

"PLAIN TRUTH" MEETING; "WORLDWIDE NEWS" PERSONAL

**"Plain Truth" Meeting** Much of our July-August "Plain Truth" planning session concerned publications support of television. Many of you probably have already seen David Albert advertising "What Is Man?", the brochure designed especially for the "World Tomorrow" telecast. The brochure contains an article by Richard Sedliacik and one by Keith Stump. When these two articles appeared together in "The Plain Truth" in 1982, they brought a positive response. The brochure is 12 pages.

Discussed as a theme for the July-August edition was the unveiling of the newly restored Statue of Liberty on July 4. Mr. John Halford noted the interesting parallel of the statue's problems and the United States' problems. He plans to write an article showing that what happened to Liberty is what has happened to the richest and most powerful country the world has ever known. America looks good on the outside, but God looks at Israel through the skin.

Also being considered are plans to use TV program scripts as the basis for "Plain Truth" articles, beginning with the July-August issue. Those readers of the magazine who are not aware of or don't watch "The World Tomorrow" would see a regular column placed near the TV-Radio Log each month titled, perhaps, "From the Telecast," or some other appropriate title. It would be made clear in the drophead that the article was based on a text from a recent television program. A TV-style layout would give the impression that the program was also topical, interesting and worth our readers' time.

Graphics might include a photo of the man himself on the set, or the title logo of "The World Tomorrow" from the TV screen itself. The readers would be directed to the TV-Radio Log at the end of the article. These would be short one-, two- or three-page articles that would quickly get our broadcasters in the magazine.

**"Worldwide News Personal"** Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach's first "Worldwide News Personal" will appear in the March 10 edition. Mr. Tkach writes about the "World Tomorrow" telecast and prayer, and thanks brethren for the cards and letters of support they have given him.

The lead article in the March 10 issue is about Mr. Tkach's March 1 trip to Phoenix, Ariz., to speak at combined Sabbath services there. The trip to Phoenix was Mr. Tkach's first visit to a church area as pastor general.

To cover Mr. Tkach's visits successfully in "The Worldwide News" we will need your cooperation. Just as when Mr. Armstrong traveled to the church areas, we will be contacting you for information and in some instances may want you to provide a photographer from your area. We will try to contact you in advance.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

#### MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

RECAP OF 1986 TELECASTS; MAJOR CABLE STATIONS PRODUCE ONE THIRD OF WEEKEND RESPONSE; UPDATES FOR LITERATURE INDEX; "MYSTERY OF THE AGES" REQUESTS TOP ONE MILLION COPIES; COMMUNICATION FROM HEADQUARTERS MUCH APPRECIATED

**Recap of 1986 Telecasts** For your information here is a recap of the weekend responses to "The World Tomorrow" so far in 1986:

<u>Airing Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Weekend Response</u>
January 4-5	The Sign of the Times	13,005
January 11-12	What Brings Lasting Success?	22,900
January 18-19	Why Can't We Achieve World Peace?	15,271
January 25-26	A Tribute to Herbert W. Armstrong	81,359
February 1-2	What Will the Future Bring?	19,332
February 8-9	Where Are We Now in Bible Prophecy?	44,207
February 15-16	The Key to Unlock Bible Prophecy	21,039
February 22-23	The U.S. and Britain in Prophecy	22,147
March 1-2	What Is Man?	15,471
	Total	254,731

**Major Cable Stations Produce One Third of Weekend Response** Two hundred eighty TV stations now air the "World Tomorrow" program in the U.S. Four of these, which are our largest stations, produce one third of the entire weekend response. These powerhouse cable networks cover most of the TV markets in the United States. They are listed below:

<u>TV Cable Station</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Avg. Weekend Calls</u>
WOR	New York, NY	4,340*
WGN	Chicago, IL	2,260
WTBS	Atlanta, GA	2,094*
LIF	New York, NY	1,430

*5,770 CALLS*

\*Program airs twice on these stations.

**Updates for Literature Index** Last May, you were sent a literature index which listed all currently available books, booklets and other publications. Since this index was issued, the following changes have been made. Please make note of them so your information is complete and up-to-date. A revised and updated index will be sent to all ministers in May.

**NEW LITERATURE:**

<u>Title</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Type</u>
X "What is Man?"	WIM	TV Brochure
X "Bible--Superstition or Authority?" (One-time printing only, to be replaced by TV brochure entitled "Authority of the Bible")	BSA	Booklet
"Mystery of the Ages" (Hardcover)	MAH	Book
"Mystery of the Ages" (Softcover)	MA	Book
X "Bible Story, Volume IV"	BS4	Book
X "Why God Allows Untimely Death"	019	Sermon Summary

**OUT OF PRINT (No longer available):**  
Ministerial Pictorial  
(Four years old, out of date)

MINS Brochure

The following articles duplicate existing literature:

"What is Salvation?"	732	Reprint Article
X "How We Got the Bible"	595	Reprint Article
X "Questions & Answers About the Church"	832	Reprint Article

REVISED LITERATURE:

<u>Old Title and Code</u>	<u>New Title and Code</u>
"Are We Living in the Last Days?" (LD)	"Are We in the Last Days?" (LD)
X "The Silent Epidemic" (258)	"Sexually Transmissible Diseases--Even YOU Could Become Infected" (SXD)

"Who Is the Beast?" (BI)	"Who or What Is the
"Mark of the Beast" (MB)	Prophetic Beast?" (BE)

X **"Mystery of the Ages" Requests Top One Million Copies** We're pleased to report that over 1.2 million copies of Mr. Armstrong's final book, "Mystery of the Ages," have now been requested.

More than 700,000 books were requested by "Good News" and "Plain Truth" subscribers in the U.S. Members and co-workers in the U.S. received 105,000 copies. Another 100,000 requests came in response to the recent special telecast. A total of 290,000 copies have been ordered to fulfill requests for the international areas.

Never in the history of God's Work have so many copies of a single book been distributed in such a short time.

**Communication From Headquarters Much Appreciated** In the past two or three weeks, quite a number of members and co-workers have commented how much they appreciate Mr. Tkach's keeping them informed about the news and events taking place in the Work. His willingness to take the time to communicate to them about these matters lets them know that he genuinely cares. Here are some of their comments:

You will never know how much your two letters lifted my sadness--it was very kind of you. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Who else would take the time to explain?

After Mr. Armstrong died, it seems like a storm went through my mind--"Oh, there won't be any more Church of God, no more telecasts, everything gone!"

I wasn't expecting to hear from you. In your letters you answered every question. I was so happy to get the answers--everything will go on. I have the utmost confidence in you people. This is exactly what Mr. Armstrong would want.

Missouri

Just as we always reminded Mr. Armstrong of our loyalty and support many times, we do so want you to know you have our utmost loyalty and support and prayers daily. We thank you very much for videotaping Mr. Armstrong's funeral. It made us feel like we were actually there. It was a moving ceremony.

The video of your sermon was just so inspiring--please keep up the strong spiritual messages to us. We all need them desperately.

North Carolina

On behalf of my family and others who have expressed their gratitude, we would like to thank you for sharing with the body of the Church the final events of our beloved Mr. Armstrong's life. It surely made us feel united and at one with God and His earthly headquarters.

Nebraska

Thank you for keeping me informed and sharing with me the news about Mr. Armstrong, and for the copy of his eulogy. Thanks also for the data on the current events of the Church and for introducing me to Mr. Hulme, Mr. Ames and Dr. Albert. My heartfelt support and prayers reach out to all of you in your continuous walk with Jesus Christ.

New York

Thank you so much for sharing the funeral service with us. We really appreciated it, along with the memorial "World Tomorrow" program. Mr. Armstrong's last letter and your letters to us are very special. It seems God truly made the right choice and we thank Him for it.

Thank Dr. Hoeh also for the funeral message and the tape we heard last week. We learn so much about things we didn't know previously each time we hear him or read something he has written. God has given us such good teachers!

Nebraska

Thank you for making this transition between administrations a smooth one for all of us, and for your willingness to take the lead, for your inspired messages, both written and on tape, and just generally showing us all the love and concern that has abundantly filled the momentary void of Mr. Armstrong's death. May God bless you and guide you continually.

Montana

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center