

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 19

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 9, 1986

Dear Ministers,

I had a fine visit this past Sabbath, June 7, to the Oklahoma City church, which hosted the Ada, Enid, Lawton and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Wichita, Kansas, congregations. Some 1,900 brethren were in attendance. I was able to spend about an hour and a half meeting and shaking hands with quite a number of them after services. I was pleasantly surprised to see several familiar faces of brethren I knew in Chicago more than 25 years ago. What a joy to see the enthusiasm and warmth of God's people on these visits!

Plans for the 1986-87 "World Tomorrow" telecast schedules are taking shape. In a meeting May 29 with Messrs. Larry Omasta, John Halford, David Hulme and my personal assistant, Mike Feazell, I approved a preliminary airing schedule that will begin next fall.

We will begin airing reruns the first weekend in July and continue them through August for a total of nine programs. For these we will select the best programs of each host, and retape their concluding comments so that each program will lead into the next.

The first program of the new season is scheduled to air the weekend of September 6-7 with David Hulme speaking on the timely topic of international terrorism. New special brochures designed to be offered on television will be produced for the new season. These will include such topics as child rearing, family relations, prophecy, making decisions and several others.

Continue to pray for the success of the program and God's direction with each of those working with it. God has given us His Spirit of oneness and unity and to the extent we use that Spirit, letting it lead us, we will be blessed with its fruit. And certainly peace is part of that spiritual fruit. It is refreshing and inspiring to see the cooperation between

departments and personnel here in Pasadena, with all pulling together with one purpose toward the common goal. The same unity is clearly evident in the ministry around the world. This will remain as long as we do our part. God has given us the tools. We have to use them.

By the way, the summer reruns will also give the television department time to prepare this year's "Behind the Work" production, which will again be shown during sermon time on the fourth

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day of the Feast. We will also be taping my opening-night message and final sermon for the Last Great Day during this "break."

I'd like to ask your prayers for God to lead me in these messages, as well as in the live transmission on the first Holy Day. These messages need to inspire and encourage God's people around the world to make their great calling and election sure. I know that with God's help I can do that.

I am planning to make the taped message for the Last Great Day on the subject of understanding the goal before us and letting nothing prevent us from achieving it. This will leave the main speaker at each site free to preach on the actual meaning of the day in the morning sermon without worrying about using all the same scriptures and points that I do.

Last time I wrote you I commented on getting started on an exercise and balanced diet program to set a right example in that way for your congregation. I want to add that it would be a good idea for you full-time men to get a physical examination so you can have a better idea of your condition and what kind of program would be best for you. Mr. Neff tells me that such a physical is covered under our health-care program for all U.S. employees and their wives. Any deductible cost that must be applied can be reimbursed through ministerial expense. You should request reimbursement through the Church Administration Department. Regional Directors should work out a similar plan in their respective regions. These exams should include an electrocardiogram, and the results should be sent to Church Administration with any of yours or the doctor's comments. International ministers should send the results to their Regional Directors, who will forward them together to Pasadena. Let's make every effort to have this completed before the Feast of Tabernacles. I think this will help many of you do something you've wanted to anyway, but probably haven't found the time or money for. Now you have the needed prod.

Have a wonderful day of Pentecost! I plan to be in Stockton, California, where I'll be speaking to the northern California churches. Be sure your offertories inspire the brethren to understand why they are giving an offering to God. Show them that God is a giving God and that we are learning to be like Him. God's true servants should look upon giving an offering as a special occasion--a time for rejoicing as we thank God for all His generosity toward us. Giving our offerings is an act of worship, an opportunity to glorify God with our substance (Proverbs 3:9). And, of course, God does take notice as we enthusiastically put our hearts and minds on His Work, and give cheerfully to Him for His purpose. The offertory time is a time for you to remind the brethren of these things. Pray about your offertories. Ask God to inspire you to inspire His people about the real value and significance of a Holy Day offering, both in terms of doing the Work and in worshiping God. Get excited about it! You should take the sermonette time for it and make it a special part of the service--in preparation for the day's messages about the meaning and purpose of the Holy Day itself.

Some former ministers, no longer with us, used to just get up and say, "Well, it's time for another Holy Day offering." Then they'd read

Deuteronomy 16:16 and announce the special music. In some cases I think they were even a little ashamed to announce the offering, as though it were wrong to teach God's own people what God commands!

Let's do our part. Let's teach with enthusiasm and make this opportunity to praise and glorify God just that!

Keep up the good work!

With love, in Christ's service,

*Joseph W. Tkach*

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

PENTECOST; ANNOUNCEMENT; ADDITIONAL NEW HIRES; RECENT ORDINATIONS;  
INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Germany, United Kingdom, Australia

**Pentecost** As I write, we are busily preparing for the Day of Pentecost, though I realize some of you will receive this issue after the Holy Day has passed. We are sending out 14 guest speakers to the U.S. and Canada in addition to Mr. Tkach's visit to the northern California churches. The Day of Pentecost, standing alone in the Holy Day cycle, is always a very exciting time. As we reflect on both the giving of God's spiritual law at Sinai and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament Church, we should be filled with deep gratitude for the incredible calling God has given every one of us. While Christ intended that these days reveal his unfolding plan, He also intended that they be spiritual high points throughout the year. We ministers need to let God's Spirit stir us up to real zeal and enthusiasm as we observe these days year by year. We must not let them become trite and routine or even boring just because we cover essentially the same material each time.

God's people need the solid instruction of the meaning of the Holy Day, but they also need the inspiration and motivation to face the daily trials and frustrations in this evil world. While this is on my mind, I want to encourage each of you to do your very best to make every Holy Day a truly special occasion. This means careful planning of all aspects of the service. Within the budgetary restraints you have, try to provide an uplifting atmosphere with the hall set-up, flowers, etc. Whenever possible, present your best special music on these days. Then, of course, prayerfully prepare the sermons and sermonettes to make the most effective use of the speaking time. Make these subjects come alive with vision and hope for the fulfillment of God's master plan and our place in His soon-coming Kingdom. Be positive, enthusiastic and encouraging! You won't have to "put on" those appearances if you are close to God and totally yielded to Christ's direction, asking Him to give you His mind and attitude. The observance of a Holy Day should be a profitable, happy,

enjoyable and memorable event for God's people. I know it has been and as we do our part it will continue to be.

I recently heard Mr. Tkach mention the Holy Day offerings and the approach we ministers take in the offertory message. Do we approach this responsibility realizing it is sacred to God? Do we personally have the understanding and faith to really rejoice at the opportunity to give a special offering to God? Do we convey to the brethren, by our example, the excitement and gratitude they ought to have as they give according to their individual ability? As Mr. Tkach put it, "These messages should not be promotional, but they should be inspirational." There are many scriptural examples that can be used to liven up the offering time and help the brethren put their hearts into their giving without doing a sales job on them. We need to help them enjoy the act of giving because it reflects the mind of God and His character. Remind them that their offering is an expression of their faith that God, as a loving Father, has done and continues to do what He has promised!

#### FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Please note that the Feast site in Hengelhof, Belgium, has reached capacity and is closed to further transfer requests as of June 2.

**Additional New Hires** Since the previous list was announced, we have hired two more assistant pastors. They are: Steve Andrews, Garden Grove, California, and Paul Smith, Big Sandy, Texas.

Incidentally, Mr. Smith's situation is unique, as he had previously served in the work full-time for 25 years. We're glad to be able to add both of these men to the full-time ministry.

**Recent Ordinations** Recently ordained as local church elders were Eugene Nouhan on April 24 of the Flint, Michigan, congregation and Dr. Hadden Pace on April 30 of the Pasadena, California, congregation. The following men were ordained on April 24 to the rank of preaching elder: Christopher Beam of the Greenville, South Carolina, congregation and Henry Sturcke of the Union, New Jersey, congregation.

#### International News

**From Germany** During the month of April, I continued the circuit of visiting all the churches in the German-speaking area, which enabled me to reach virtually all the members. My wife and I visited the churches in Darmstadt, Hannover, Ronnenberg (a suburb of Hannover) and Stuttgart and the churches in Basel and Zurich, Switzerland.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread was inspiring. The average attendance for each Holy Day was approximately 830. Attendance for both Holy Days combined was up 6.2 percent over that of last year. The offering for both Holy Days combined was up 1.5 percent over last year.

Other activity this month in Mr. Lapacka's area was a combined Sabbath service of the Swiss churches (both French- and German-speaking) in Egerkingen, north of Bern, on Sabbath, April 26. This was a very special opportunity for our brethren because the French Regional Director, Mr. Dibar Apartian, spoke to some 262 Swiss brethren from the German and French congregations. Mr. Lapacka said that the brethren were visibly enthusiastic and happy that Mr. Apartian took the time to speak to them at this special Sabbath service.

Mail income for the month of April was up 11.4 percent over April of last year and the year-to-date mail income stood at +10.3 percent.

(Submitted by Frank Schnee, Regional Director)

**From the British Office** Newsstand distribution of "The Plain Truth," previously running at 110,000 per month, is to be stepped up to 115,000 copies monthly, starting with the June cover date. The extra magazines will allow us to open several new outlets and make the magazine available to a still wider audience. By the end of 1986 it is planned to boost newsstand circulation even higher up to 130,000 copies per issue.

Mail income for April this year was 7.2 percent higher than last year. However, last year's April figure was very high in comparison to the previous year. Holy Day offerings during the Days of Unleavened Bread were approximately 10 percent up on 1985. Mail income year-to-date is running at 11.9 percent, so we are almost 2 percent over budget.

For the first time, Ambassador Press, based in Radlett, has begun printing the French-language edition of "The Good News" "La Bonne Nouvelle". Over 37,000 copies of the May issue will be mailed out from here to subscribers in France, Belgium, the Middle East, Canada, Haiti and many other parts of the globe. Ambassador Press now handles five editions of "The Good News" each month, including South African and Caribbean editions.

**Europe/Middle East** Much is happening on the tiny Mediterranean island of Malta (known as Melita to the Romans and the apostle Paul--Acts 28:1). Despite a strongly Roman Catholic environment, the Maltese congregation has flourished. Church attendance for the Days of Unleavened Bread was 50-strong, which is up 15 on last year. Offerings were also up by an impressive 50 percent. As well as receiving the "World Tomorrow" program on the Italian TV station RETEQUATTRO, the Maltese will be able to pick up copies of "The Plain Truth" via their newsstands. The newsstand program is continuing here with 1,300 copies of the June issue. Coming up shortly is a four-night campaign, to be held in the island's capital, Valletta, over the Pentecost period. Invitations have been sent to 1,200 "Good News" readers and up to 300 are expected to attend.

For Passover and the first day of Unleavened Bread, the Maltese brethren were able to hear from Mr. Paul Suckling, Director of Church Administration in the U.K., who has been one of several ministers traveling abroad during this Holy Day season. Mr. Suckling traveled on to Athens, Amman, Oman, Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and Cairo. His final port of call was Yugoslavia before returning to England on Monday, May 12. Meetings with 14 prospective members in these several countries had been arranged and reports indicate that all went very much according to plan.

**East & West Africa** My wife and I traveled to Kenya to keep Passover, the First Day of Unleavened Bread and the weekly Sabbath with our brethren in Nairobi, the capital, and Kibirichia, situated at the foot of Mt. Kenya.

After preaching at morning and afternoon services in Nairobi, where attendance reached 91, we flew north for the weekly Sabbath with the Church in Kibirichia. Due to the crescendo of noise on the metal roof of the meeting hall caused by torrential rainfall together with the possibility of roads being washed out, Mr. Owen Willis recommended services be cut short. We were able to greet briefly each of the 72 people attending before reluctantly leaving the area.

(Submitted by Frank Brown, Regional Director)

**From Australia** A renewed enthusiasm and commitment to God's Work by His people was evident here during the Passover season. This was reflected in the fine increase in offerings received on the two Holy Days: 21.5 percent and 14.1 percent respectively over the offerings received in 1985. Attendance at the Passover showed a 6.9 percent increase over last year, and on the Holy Days it was up by 3.9 percent and 1.8 percent compared to the first and last days of Unleavened Bread in 1985. Many commented that this had been their most spiritually profitable Passover season they had observed.

We are continuing to receive large numbers of responses to the "World Tomorrow" program on the four WATS lines. In late April Mr. Hulme's program "The Middle East in Prophecy" pulled the second-highest number of responses ever with 573 calls received. This brought the total number of telephone and mail responses to "The World Tomorrow" during April to 1,286, up 49 percent compared to April of last year. When compared with April of 1984 before the WATS lines were installed, the increase is even more dramatic--243 percent. Clearly the WATS lines are encouraging many more people to respond to the program. We are currently examining the possibility of adding one or two more WATS lines to the four we already have.

Total incoming mail during April increased by 32.6 percent to 26,616 pieces of mail over April, 1985. Overall income for the month was down 1.8 percent over the same month last year, due primarily to the later mailing of the Festival letter this year. Consequently the tithe of the second tithe received so far is lower than at the same time last year. However, income for the year is still up on projected budget by 1.2 percent.

(Submitted by Robert Morton, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

#### FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

During this month the combined worldwide audit was completed and for the first time we had combined figures for 1985. These figures are in both local currencies and in U.S. dollar equivalents. We were encouraged to learn that the worldwide income in dollars increased by 10.8 percent. This figure would have been quite a bit higher if the dollar had not weakened so much during the year.

The May 31, 1986, year-to-date income report was not up to expectations. It turned out that last month's modified figures of 11.1 percent for the month and 11.6 percent for the year, based on the later occurrence of the Holy Days, gave a misleading comparison, and the actual figures were more nearly correct. In May we had an increase of 7.3 percent, while the year-to-date stands at 5.8 percent. This is 1.2 percent below our conservative budget.

On the expense side of the ledger we are in good shape. Expenses are .3 percent below budget. The departments have done well so far this year in staying within what has been, for most, a no-growth mode. The budget was set this way so that needed reserves could be added during 1986. As a result the reserves are increasing in an encouraging way.

Possibly my previous financial reports for this year, along with our continually breaking old records in media response, has helped promote a letdown in prayer and financial contributions.

You ministers will have an opportunity to encourage the congregation this Sabbath to be properly prepared for the Pentecost offering. These offerings do help a great deal in the overall income. So far this year the Holy Day offerings have been ahead of regular tithes and offerings and presently stand at a 10 percent increase over last year. It also might be helpful to mention to the brethren that even a few cents added each day, between now and the Feast, to their Feast of Tabernacles offering, would greatly increase the overall offering.

I hope that all of you have remembered to encourage the brethren to send in the tithe of the second tithe for the festivals, as Mr. Tkach recently requested. This contribution makes it possible to pay for the many different kinds of expense related to the Holy Days, and in addition to assist those who should be assisted to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

Please do not forget to pray urgently for the financial needs of the Church. When we forget, the "numbers" are not so good!

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

#### EDITORIAL SERVICES

"PLAIN TRUTH MEETING; "YOUTH 86" UPDATE;  
"WORLDWIDE NEWS" UPDATE; UNUSUAL LETTER

**"Plain Truth" Meeting** On the September cover of "The Plain Truth," we plan to feature an article on teen pregnancy. A pregnant teenage girl, who looks so young and vulnerable that almost anyone would think that "she could be my daughter" is pictured on the cover. We feel this cover will go very well on the newsstands.

In our October issue we plan to run Earl Williams's article on what the missing element is in life. Mr. Williams's article is interestingly titled "What Are You Doing About That Hole in Your Head?" In October we also plan to include Clayton Steep's article, "But Why Sex?" Since sex is not required for reproduction among many life forms, Mr. Steep asks and

answers the question, Why sex? In the "From the Telecast" column, we will introduce the third speaker on the telecast, Richard Ames.

**"Youth 86" Update** On the August cover of "Youth 86" a family saying good-bye to an older teenager leaving home is featured, with the thought-provoking cover line, "Are You Really Ready to Be on Your Own?" We hope to make parents and teens both consider all the preparation needed before young people are ready to leave the nest.

Plans for the September issue include articles on stopping worry, group dating, improving your memory, folk dancing and the outlandish opossum. We plan to run the first in a series of career articles, beginning with an interview with a computer programmer. A new column, "I Didn't Know That Was in the Bible!" written by Ronald Kelly will also be introduced in September.

**"Worldwide News" Update** In June we plan to publish in "Iron Sharpens Iron" articles about family relations. Titles are "Living With Unconverted Mates" by K. Neil Earle, "The Passive Husband: Hallmark of Our Time" by Paul Linehan, "The Mission of Motherhood" by Ricky Sherrod and "The Greatest Gift You Can Give Your Child" by Richard Rice.

We are also introducing a new feature titled "On Stage at the Auditorium." We plan to run occasional reports from staff members on concerts performed in Ambassador Auditorium. The series will begin with an article by Sheila Graham on the premiere performance of the Kirov Ballet. (Even though this performance was in the Shrine Auditorium, it was sponsored by Ambassador Foundation.)

This special feature will introduce readers to the most uplifting music and some of the finest artists performing today. We are bombarded today by the substandard, the mediocre, even the obscene in musical expression. Mr. Tkach feels, as did Mr. Armstrong, that we should learn to appreciate those performers who dedicate their lives to excellence.

**Unusual Letter** Support comes from the strangest corners sometimes. We were surprised to receive a letter from the president of "The International Flat Earth Research Society of America" noting that we did not include one mention or photograph of a globe in the June-July "Good News." He was hoping that we had finally accepted the "proved demonstrated fact" that the earth is flat.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

#### FROM FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION

During the month of May, Ambassador Foundation was given the prestigious opportunity of participating in the first cultural exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union. During the Geneva Summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Gorbachev, an agreement was signed to initiate cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The first such exchange from the Soviet Union was the Kirov Ballet, which had not appeared in the United States since 1964, a 22-year absence. The Kirov is scheduled for a three-city tour, which began in Los Angeles on May 21 at the Shrine Auditorium under the auspices of Ambassador

Foundation. Since the completion of the engagement in Southern California, the Kirov Ballet is performing in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

From the concert program:

Named for a hero of the 1917 revolution, Leningrad's Kirov Theatre of Opera and Ballet is the fountainhead of the classical ballet as we know it today. Originally the Bolshoi Theatre of St. Petersburg (1738), it was renamed Maryinski Theatre by Imperial Decree of Catherine the Great in 1783. In 1860, designated the Imperial Russian Ballet and attached to the court of the Czars, it moved into the magnificent building designed for it by architect Cavo, where it continues to perform to packed audiences.

Kirov performed for six evenings at the Shrine, which housed 6,300. Each performance was sold out.

Preceding the opening-night performance of the Swan Lake Ballet, Mr. Joseph W. Tkach hosted a dinner for 150 Southern California dignitaries and members of the Church. The dinner was held on the premises of the Shrine Auditorium in an enormous exhibition hall. Our own Auditorium staff coordinated and served the dinner as well as overseeing the staging of the ballet in the theatre.

Also present at the dinner was Viktor Lopatnikov, Department Chief of the Ministry of Culture in Leningrad, home of the Kirov Ballet company. Toasts and friendly exchanges were made between Mr. Tkach and the Russian visitors regarding our mutual hope for world peace. The pastor general was able to understand much of the conversation of the Soviet visitors and communicated certain phrases in the Russian language.

Following the historic performance, Mr. Tkach introduced Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles and Mayor John Crowley of Pasadena who presented awards to the ballet company. These presentations were made backstage in the presence of the entire company and staff consisting of 200 visitors from the Soviet Union.

--Ellis La Ravia, Facilities Administration

#### MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

CO-WORKER GROWTH; LARGEST MAILING EVER; TOP TEN TELECASTS; SACRED CALENDAR; THANK YOU; PENTECOST OFFERING REPORT; CHILDREN TITHING

**Co-Worker Growth** Since our last report on co-worker growth, about 3,000 new co-workers have been added to our files. This brings the year-to-date co-worker count to 12,100, which is the highest January-to-May count in the Work's history. It is also a 12.2 percent increase over the same period last year.

**Largest Mailing Ever** The semiannual letter, which was completed May 28, set a new all-time record. It was mailed to 3,228,310 subscribers in the United States, including co-workers and members.

In order to accomplish this mammoth task, we hired additional on-call personnel and kept the machines running 12 hours a day for three weeks straight. By mailing the semiannual letter in-house instead of using an outside vendor we were able to realize a number of advantages: 1) Over \$20,000 was saved; 2) A higher quality of work was maintained than would have been done on the outside; and 3) The confidentiality of our subscription list was insured.

You may want to remind members to continue praying for the success of the semiannual letter in bringing in more co-workers to aid in God's Work.

**Top Ten Telecasts** The ten telecasts which have pulled the highest responses in the Work's history have been aired since January of this year. (This does not, of course, take into account programs that would have had a higher response if there had not been major preemptions.) They are listed below:

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Weekend Response</u>
1.	4/06/86	The Middle East in Prophecy	45,290
2.	2/09/86	Where Are We Now in Bible Prophecy?	44,207
3.	5/18/86	Is There a Real Hellfire?	38,089
4.	5/04/86	The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	37,748
5.	5/11/86	Mystery of the Ages	35,288
6.	4/20/86	STD: Our Modern Plague	32,055
7.	3/30/86	The Plain Truth About Easter	31,853
8.	5/25/86	The Authority of the Bible	29,600
9.	4/13/86	When Is the Christian Sabbath?	28,404
10.	3/23/86	The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday!	28,154

**Sacred Calendar** "God's Sacred Calendar," which was offered in the February "Good News," brought in an unusually high number of responses. More than 30,000 co-workers and subscribers sent in the GN lit envelopes which advertised the calendar. Normally, we receive an average of 12,000 of these envelopes per issue.

Apparently, many of our newer readers were unaware that this piece of literature existed, and they were interested in knowing how God reckons time.

**Thank You** Once again, we would like to thank the membership for their help in carefully and accurately preparing their spring Holy Day offerings. We were pleased to note that there were very few problems this year. By members avoiding mistakes and oversights less processing time was required.

As Pentecost approaches, we would like to encourage the members to keep up the good work. You can help us do this by reminding them to: 1) Use the pre-labeled envelopes sent from headquarters. 2) Completely fill out their checks, including the date and signature, and be sure the numerical and written amounts agree. 3) Keep their "Plain Truth" subscription number in their Bibles, in case they forget their preaddressed envelopes.

**Pentecost Offering Report** As a reminder, please make every effort to get your phone reports and packages in on time. The telephone report is due on Monday, June 16, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Pacific Time). Please use the toll-free number (1-800-423-4444), except for those calling from Alaska, who should call collect at (818) 304-6111.

Also, be certain to send the packages by Registered Mail only. Do not use Certified or Insured Mail.

Thanks again! Your promptness in reporting the spring Holy Day offerings was much appreciated. If you have any questions, please call and let us know.

**Children Tithing** Surprisingly, a number of youngsters regularly tithe and send offerings from money they earn. It is heartwarming to see their enthusiasm and attitude of obedience to God's Word. Here are some of their letters:

✓ My name is Jarrett. I am in level 5 of the YES Lessons. I am 10 years old. I have enclosed my tithe for this year. I love to tithe. This is the first year I have saved second tithe. My dad said when I'm 13 years old I can save third tithe.

Thank you for sending me my own Holy Day envelopes. I really enjoy getting them and putting my offerings in my envelopes, instead of right in the basket. Love, your friend,

Jarrett K. (age 10)  
(Sugarloaf, PA)

✓ My name is Courtney and I would like to give my money to the Wold Wide [sic] Church of God and I am a kid and I wanted to know if you have youth books for kids about God.

Courtney H. (age 9)  
(Aurora, CO)

I'm sending in my first tithe of \$10 which I earned from my paper route. God has blessed me very much with a job, and I'm glad I'm able to tithe from the profit I make.

Rebeka R. (age 13)  
(Harleysville, PA)

What a blessing it is to be able to tithe to God's Church. This is my family's third tithe year. It sure is a blessing to be able to give more money because of this job that I received from God in my third tithe year. Have a nice day and may God bless you always.

Laura K. (age 16)  
(Yorba Linda, CA)

✓ Early this summer I received a paper route from the neighborhood paperboy who was getting 'old for his job.' I started out only delivering 24 papers. I was not bringing in too much money, but still I enforced God's law of tithing. Through this job I have learned the responsibilities of tithing and how it backs up God's Work.

Today my paper count has almost doubled. The reason being that God is blessing my paper route, because I have kept his law of tithing.

Dan R. (age 14)  
(Harleysville, PA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

#### ON THE WORLD SCENE

#### AIDS UPDATE; THE NEVER-TO-BE-MARRIEDS; "COHABITATION" SWEEPS FRANCE

**Aids Update** A focus on major social trends this time. First of all, the ravaging effects of the AIDS epidemic continue to mount. The complex syndrome is evolving so rapidly that AIDS victims are now contracting several different terminal ailments in addition to those contracted when the AIDS epidemic began five years ago. As a result, many newer AIDS victims do not meet the original criteria for defining AIDS. These individuals are instead classified, for now, as having AIDS-related complex, or ARC.

It is estimated that 21,000 Americans (mostly homosexual men) meet the traditional criteria for AIDS established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. Another 100,000 to 200,000 people have the AIDS virus and have developed a disease outside the AIDS category--in other words, ARC. Another one million to two million currently healthy Americans have antibodies to the Human T-lymphotropic virus, type III (HTLV-III virus). The CDC estimate that 5 percent to 25 percent of these will progress to AIDS and another 25 percent to one of the ARC illnesses. An article in the May 30 WALL STREET JOURNAL analyzed the spread and mutability of the AIDS syndrome:

AIDS--often called a tip-of-the-iceberg phenomenon--is causing far more real illness than official figures convey. About 21,000 people, mostly homosexual men, have met the technical definition of AIDS, and more than half of those have died. But like an iceberg's unseen bulk, ARC patients...outnumber AIDS patients by an estimated five to 10 times. Between 10 percent and 25 percent of them are expected to develop full-blown AIDS.... [ARC sufferers are excluded from the official toll as well as from some benefits, including the instant disability status accorded AIDS sufferers under Social Security.] "The difference between AIDS and ARC is semantic. It's a construct," says Patricia Christen, a spokeswoman for the San Francisco AIDS foundation.... The syndrome itself is evolving scores of new forms; and doctors under-report its occurrence out of sympathy or discretion....

When the epidemic began five years ago, doctors at the CDC defined AIDS as an immune disturbance with certain infections, such as pneumocystis carinni pneumonia (often called pcp pneumonia), or certain malignancies such as Kaposi's Sarcoma, a capillary cancer.... Clinicians from Boston to San Francisco now realize that AIDS is a hydra-headed complex of diseases,

embracing not only the narrow syndrome first described, but many more infections and cancers. Infected people are appearing with tuberculosis, regular pneumonia and hemophilus influenzae (a bacteria that can cause everything from pneumonia to meningitis).

Dr. [Jerome] Groopman [at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston] says he is tracking several new AIDS-linked cancers, including Hodgkin's disease, squamous cell carcinoma of the mouth (a cancer of the lining of the mouth), and adenocarcinoma, "an extraordinarily aggressive glandular cancer that is just ripping through people." Among the most devastating of the uncounted manifestations of AIDS are its neurological diseases: psychosis, seizures, paralysis and neuropathy--pain in the legs so extreme patients sometimes cannot bear to have their covers moved. David Ho, a doctor at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, has examined 10 cases of neurological disease that failed the technical AIDS definition, including two with "full-blown dementia and death."

Donald Abrams, a physician at San Francisco General Hospital, asserts that such individuals may suffer more than people who meet the CDC definition of AIDS. "Some people with Kaposi's Sarcoma have a few purple spots for three years but otherwise feel very well. But I remember another man, hospitalized five or six times...who became demented. We had to ask his lover not to bring him into the clinic anymore because it was too disturbing for the AIDS patients to see him." The man died without a diagnosis of AIDS....

Ms. Christen, the spokeswoman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, adds that excluding ARC from AIDS also leads to under-reporting the problem.... Another reason for the under-count is a tendency by some physicians not to report AIDS cases to the CDC, or to omit AIDS from death certificates. Dr. Groopman says, "Every case I see I report to CDC, but there's enough irrationality around that I don't put AIDS on every death certificate. It could hurt families."

**The Never-to-be-Marrieds** Meanwhile, the phenomenon of single people remaining single longer--with many of them ultimately never marrying--is a definitely discernible trend in the United States. Particularly affected are college-educated women who, pursuing a career during the prime years of their 20's wake up, after age 30, to find the market of available men drastically reduced. There are two significant summaries of the never-to-be-married phenomenon. The first is from the May 28 WALL STREET JOURNAL:

Many in the baby-boom generation...have postponed wedded bliss for so long that the U.S.--in a change with wide social and economic implications--soon may have more lifelong singles than at any other time this century. The far-reaching shift results from women's increased education and career options, improved contraception, greater social tolerance for cohabiting couples, single parenthood and homosexuality.

The proportion of never-married men and women in their late 20s and early 30s more than doubled between 1970 and 1985, census figures show. There are 4.2 million such women now and 6.1 million men. And because nearly all first marriages occur by age 35, some demographers believe that two to three times as many adults will stay single as did so just a generation ago. "It's a major trend that most people don't understand is in the offing," says George Masnick, a demographer at the Harvard-Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Joint Center for Housing Studies. "Marriage has ceased to be the economic institution that it once was."

Staying single longer, perhaps for good, is already reshaping the way Americans live and spend their money. Unmarried persons, for instance, typically spend 50 percent of their food dollars dining out, compared with 37 percent for two-person households.... Especially startling is the fact that the buying habits and social attitudes of still-single adults increasingly mimic those of married couples. Rather than postpone purchases until a marriage that may never happen, many singles are fashioning satisfying, independent ways of life.

The unmarried state no longer represents "a period of marking time or making do. It's a period of acquisition," says Ann Clurman, a senior vice president with Yankelovich, Clancy and Shulman, a New York market-research firm. "You can see the change in the numbers of single people buying single-family homes, china, silver and all the other goodies.... They are earning good money and want good things."

Today's never-married individuals often prefer the housing space and privacy that they remember from growing up in suburbia. Single-family houses accounted for nearly two-thirds of the homes purchased by single persons in 1984, according to a nationwide survey by the National Association of Realtors. "The 700-square-foot condominium isn't going to do it for them," says Kenneth Rosen, the director of Salomon Brothers Inc.'s real-estate research group....

Several major department-store chains recently have switched their bridal registries to "gift" registries, largely to attract unmarried customers...who wish to furnish their households better and let relatives and friends know their gift preferences. A Bloomingdale's store in Rockville, MD, canceled its traditional spring bridal fair this year. Instead, one sunny Saturday afternoon last month, 350 shoppers attended a "Not for Brides Only" event at which manufacturers promoted everything from silver to fine crystal, tablecloths and luggage....

In their search for permanence, more highly educated career women are choosing motherhood without marriage--and winning sex-bias cases when companies fire them for the out-of-wedlock births. There is even a national advocacy group, begun in 1981

and grown to 1,200 members, that encourages this single parenthood. The group is called Single Mothers By Choice. Barbara Jo Davis, a pediatric nurse in Richmond, VA, decided when she turned 30 two years ago that she "wasn't going to hold out" for marriage forever. But childbearing "was something I didn't want to miss out on," she recalls. Fearful that she might not marry before menopause, Ms. Davis became pregnant through artificial insemination. She gave birth to twin boys last July.

Unlike married couples, however, still-single adults usually must manage their lives alone. So innovative home-maintenance services catering to singles have sprung up. Memphis, Tenn., builder Don Tillilie says that he quickly sold 28 duplex homes last year after offering free maid service for a year.... There also now are "life organizers" or "rent-a-wife" services on both the East and West Coasts. The wife-substitutes aid busy singles, mainly women, by waiting for a plumber, unpacking long-neglected moving boxes, getting groceries or arranging parties. Clients "don't have the time to do the picayune, everyday things a wife does, like buying plants when a plant dies," says Leah Blitz, a life organizer in Potomac, MD....

Still-single adults who enjoy living alone sometimes are surprised to discover their secret anxieties about staying unmarried.... [One] California real-estate agent thought the prospect of remaining single "didn't bother me at all" until she got depressed reading a magazine account of a controversial new study that says women her age face less than a 5 percent chance of ever marrying. She says she burst into tears twice.

The survey mentioned above--which concluded that college educated women who are still single at the age of 35 have only a 5 percent chance of ever getting married--formed the basis of the cover article in the June 2 NEWSWEEK entitled "Too Late for Prince Charming?" Here are excerpts:

The traumatic news came buried in an arid demographic study titled, innocently enough, "Marriage Patterns in the United States." But the dire statistics confirmed what everybody suspected all along: that many women who seem to have it all--good looks and good jobs, advanced degrees and high salaries--will never have mates. According to the report, white, college-educated women born in the mid-'50s who are still single at 30 have only a 20 percent chance of marrying. By the age of 35 the odds drop to 5 percent. Forty-year-olds are more likely to be killed by a terrorist: they have a miniscule 2.6 percent probability of tying the knot.

Within days that study, as it came to be known, set off a profound crisis of confidence among ranks of single women. For years bright young women single-mindedly pursued their careers, assuming that when it was time for a husband they could pencil one in. They were wrong.... The study...points out that for those who wait, "not now" probably means "never"--and it

pertains mainly to the huge cohort of baby-boomer women, the victims of what demographers call the "marriage squeeze." Between 1946 and 1956 each year's new crop of births was greater than the one before. Since most women marry men several years their senior, baby boomers looking to pair up with even slightly older men far outnumber the available pool. "If we tried to match each woman born in 1950 with a man three years older, we would come out with millions of women left over..." [Berkeley University].

And the older a woman gets, the worse her chances of finding a suitable partner. One reason is that divorced men remarry women four to seven years younger. Factor in a gay-male population estimated to be 13 percent--three times that of lesbians--and you have a numbers game women can't win.

Even more unsettling than the statistics, however, are the long-term social implications. The study reflects a time of transition...for the institution of marriage itself. Many career women no longer need husbands for economic security. Nor, thanks to the sexual revolution, do they need to marry for sex. Indeed, as the marriage rate has declined, the number of people cohabiting has been rising sharply, quadrupling since 1970. But while couples continue to get together, they seem to have trouble connecting.... Even though men say they respect women's career aspirations, many openly long for full-time wives and mothers....

Perhaps no one was more stunned by the reaction to the study than the authors--Yale sociologists Neil G. Bennett and Patricia H. Craig, and Harvard economist David E. Bloom--who disclosed their findings in an interview with a small Connecticut paper. The report was widely misunderstood, which is not surprising given that it is still unpublished. For one thing, 8 out of 10 female college graduates will marry, so the researchers are admittedly "talking about a select group of women."...

The study's main message--that delaying marriage may ultimately mean forgoing it--clearly came as a slap in the face to this generation's best and brightest women. "When you look at men who don't marry, you're often looking at the bottom of the barrel," says Berkeley sociologist Nancy Chodorow. "When you look at the women who don't marry, you're looking at the cream of the crop." Career patterns are mainly to blame. Up and comers are expected to work hardest in their 30s; that those are also the years a career woman would wed and have children is her tough luck....

Most men would like to meet somebody and marry...but their feelings of self-worth come primarily from work. For women, however, marriage seems to be far more central to their basic identities. Even now, many singles, including those without any husband prospects in sight, cannot imagine never marrying

and in their most private moments they testify to the anguish of being single.... The pain may be most acute for singles in their 30s who still can have children but are running out of time. Even though a growing number of women can and do have kids on their own, "very often what a woman wants is not the actual child," explains UC Berkeley psychologist Karen Paige. "She wants the closeness and intimacy of a whole family." "All my friends are having kids," says Penny Stohn, 33, a director for the New Jersey Department of Higher Education. "They tell me how glamorous my life is but I just sit there and envy them their kids."

One of the things that is "never satisfied" (Proverbs 30:15-16) is "the barren womb." Tragically, the career woman, so glamorized in ads ("You've come a long way, baby"), is paying the ultimate price of spinsterhood. It's obvious that there is a great deal of difference between a young woman working at a job to help prepare for marriage, and one who strives to carve out a career, often competing with men in the professional world. The latter must work hard to make her marks during the years that should be devoted to motherhood ("the children of one's youth"--Psalm 127:4; "the wife of your youth"--Prov. 5:18).

Thus we have the phenomenon of increasing numbers of professional whites (and some blacks) who never marry and produce families, while at the same time illegal (mostly Latin and Roman Catholic) aliens pour into the country, some with families, others certainly with the intention of raising large families. The children of Jacob no longer enjoy the "blessings of the breasts and of the womb" (Genesis 49:25). One of the promises to Israel for obedience to God's commandments, statutes and judgments is given in Deuteronomy 7:11-14--"And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb...There shall not be a male or female barren among you." It's hard for a nation condoning homosexual gay rights and "fem lib" to be multiplied.

**French Choose "Cohabitation"** In France, too, the singles scene and its corollary, "cohabitation," is a growing phenomenon, as reported in an article in LE MONDE, translated and published in the May 4 GUARDIAN WEEKLY of Britain.

Sociologists...have been aware for some time that more and more Frenchmen and Frenchwomen are living together without getting married. But a symbolic milestone has just been passed, according to a survey by Pierre-Alain Audirac, published by France's official statistics office, INSEE, in its magazine ECONOMIE ET STATISTIQUES: There are now one million such couples in France.

Each year, there are fewer marriages and more divorces. A new record low was reached in 1985, when only 273,00 marriages were performed by mayors and, in many cases, notaries. That figure marked the 13th consecutive fall since 1972 and the lowest level in peacetime since the turn of the century. A million cohabiting couples may not seem all that many in proportion to the number of married couples, over 12 million. But the

figures take on a different complexion when examined by age bracket. For while cohabitation has increased only moderately among the over-35s, it has boomed among the younger age groups: in 1968, for example, there were 67,000 unmarried couples under 35; by 1985 that figure had soared to 589,000....

People living in northern France are the most attached to the idea of marriage. Paris, on the other hand, breaks all records for cohabitation: if one examines the total number of males in the capital living with women either in or out of wedlock, it emerges that lovers are more numerous than husbands....

It should also be remembered that there are significant tax benefits to be gained from cohabitation as opposed to marriage, particularly in certain pay brackets when both man and woman pull in the same salary. They can make out separate tax declarations and divide the children up between them. They are then entitled to tax allowances and deductions twice over. Unmarried couples still do not enjoy any legal existence.... But town halls will issue a "certificate of cohabitation" to anyone who requests one. The document enables unmarried couples to enjoy the same benefits as married couples when dealing with welfare bodies or obtaining fare reductions on public transport.

Cohabitants are coming increasingly to resemble spouses.... But then what is a couple anyway? With the increase in the number of desultory, temporary and other laid-back forms of relationship, perhaps someone should come up with a new definition of the word.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau