

# PASTOR'S REPORT



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GTA REPORTS HIS FATHER'S HEALTH Stopping over in Honolulu on his return trip from his Pacific tour, Garner Ted Armstrong said he had just called and spoken with his father for over a half hour. He talked with Mr. Armstrong concerning his trip, and discussed recent world developments in the light of Bible prophecy. In short, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong is in excellent spirits, his voice strong and clear, and he seems to be maintaining his gradual but steady pace of improvement. Mr. GTA said his father sounded "almost like his old self" and was encouraged by his progress.

GTA COMPLETES TOUR OF PACIFIC Garner Ted Armstrong and his group, including Mr. Leslie McCullough, director of the International Division, are headed home after their tour of New Zealand, Australia and the Philippines. In addition to visiting the Work's principal offices in that area of the world, Mr. GTA and Mr. McCullough addressed the church in Hawaii and more than 90 per cent of the members in Australia and New Zealand. Although his trip to the Philippines was short, a total of 1,051 brethren and co-workers filled to overflowing the Meraloo Auditorium to hear Mr. Armstrong speak. The Philippine office staff, ministers, elders and deacons joined the special guests in the home of Colin Adair for dinner and entertainment. The outpouring of warmth and enthusiasm was evident everywhere and moved Mr. Armstrong visibly.

In his sermons to the various congregations, Mr. Armstrong brought news of the Work from headquarters in Pasadena and spoke on world conditions and prophecy, especially in connection with Egyptian President Sadat's visit to Israel and the future of the Middle Eastern situation. Many of the brethren had to travel great distances in order to be at some of the combined meetings but, in addition to stimulating sermons, they participated in question and answer sessions during which many fine questions were asked concerning aspects of the Work, doctrine, and prophecy.

A.C. GIVEN GO-AHEAD ON VISTA The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has given the OK for Ambassador College to take possession of the Vista del Arroyo property which is one block from the campus. A representative of HEW who was contacted by telephone after Dr. Germano received notice of approval of our application, said now that the government approval has been given, it is up to Ambassador to decide if it will use the property.

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong, contacted in route home from his Pacific trip, said "certain technicalities" in the deed to the Vista "need to be resolved. Our attorneys will be working in the next few days with the HEW legal representation to completely resolve any remaining question." He did not feel we could make the final decision involving the acquisition of the property until such negotiations concerning its intended use are finally resolved.

The Vista del Arroyo is a 24-building complex dominated by the seven-story former hotel, on 12½ acres one block west of the college campus. College officials have said it would be used primarily for student housing, a library and classrooms.

NEW DONOR GROWTH UP In the first four months of this fiscal year we added 15,401 new donors to our files, which was twice as many compared to a year ago. These new donors also have given more than three times last year's contributions by new donors during the same time period! Although this present new donor picture seems encouraging, mostly as a result of vigorous PT renewals and Subscriber Development involvement letters, there is a need for continuous growth in the mailing list in order to continue the upward trend.

Real Jesus Book: As the summary mentioned last week -- and the previous weeks before that -- the letter from Mr. Ted Armstrong offering The Real Jesus book to the members has brought in an all-time high response. Final figures have now been tabulated and the response stands at 23,860 -- or 63.5% of member households.

Mail count: Through the end of November we have received 1,738,499 letters and 467,656 WATS calls for the year.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing

NEWSSTANDS TO EXPAND INTO 19 NEW AIRPORTS The Plain Truth Newsstand Program has just acquired approval to distribute through an additional 19 major airport outlets in the U.S. This is in addition to the 17 airports we mentioned in a recent Pastor's Report. The 19 airports are located in: Philadelphia, PA; Waterloo, IA; Nashville, TN; Canton, OH; Cleveland, OH; Washington, DC; Detroit, MI (2); Fairbanks, AL; Green Bay WI; Greensboro, NC; Washington, DC (Dulles); Kansas City, MO; Orlando, FL; Miami, FL; Philadelphia, PA; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Miami, FL. If any of these airports happen to fall within your local church area please wait for the Circulation Department to contact you, as we will have to implement these new distributions gradually.

--Mark Armstrong, Newsstand Circulation

SPECIAL TV PRESENTATION FOR CONFERENCE The Media Division is preparing a special presentation for the upcoming ministerial conference which will consist of segments from Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's first TV broadcast in 1956, Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's very first black and white broadcast in 1967, and the first color videotaped broadcast in 1968. I think you will find it really inspiring to see the contrast and progress made during the first ten years of half-hour TV broadcasting by G.T.A.

During the morning of January 9th both the Radio and TV studios will be open for tours. We plan on having technical personnel standing by to demonstrate how the broadcast is made and how the complex equipment is used and operated. An actual editing session is planned for that morning on one of the programs to illustrate the methods used in producing the final product. We hope all of you will be able to stop by and see the operation.

--John Lundberg, TV Production

A.I.C.F. INTRODUCES GERHARD OPPITZ IN NEW YORK The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation sponsored piano concert in New York City's Lincoln Center last Saturday night, December third, was in all

respects a tremendous success! Gerhard Oppitz, the 1977 Rubinstein International piano competition winner, presented a truly exemplary performance of excellence.

As a result of this concert, the highest strata of New York City now recognizes AICF as a humanitarian, giving, working, outgoing group of church members who are dedicated to helping our fellow human beings. This concert gave church members an opportunity to serve and to work with top community personalities. It is very impressive to these people to see, face to face, the deep, sincere attitudes of our church members -- to see God's way of life in action.

At the reception following the concert, awards were presented to the New York school children who won prizes for their demonstrations of excellence in painting pictures of Jerusalem. Over 1.3 million school children were represented there, and the Board of Education officials gave highest acclaim to the Ambassador Foundation for its aims and goals.

--Dan Spencer, AICF Human Potential Center

GENE KELLY SPECIAL TO BE TAPED IN AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM Once again nationwide attention will soon be focused on Ambassador Auditorium. Thursday evening, December 15th, GENE KELLY -- AN AMERICAN IN PASADENA, a star-studded TV special, will be taped in Ambassador Auditorium for airing on the CBS television network in March, 1978. Appearing with Gene Kelly will be June Allyson, Lucille Ball, Cyd Charisse, Betty Garrett, Kathryn Grayson, Janet Leigh, Liza Minnelli, and in a pre-taped performance Frank Sinatra, Lana Turner, Cindy Williams and Natalie Wood will also appear. Also to be featured are Danny Daniels, Bridgit Kelly, Alex Romero and the Irish Pipers Band of San Francisco. The special is being produced by Marty Pasetta and Frank Konigsberg, producers of last season's BING!, celebrating Bing Crosby's 50th year in show business, which was also taped in Ambassador Auditorium.

Arranged for by Henry Cornwall, Secretary-Treasurer of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, GENE KELLY -- AN AMERICAN IN PASADENA is the second in a series of annual galas benefiting WAIF, Inc. (a nationally noted organization benefiting homeless children) and the Foundation. Patrons of the reception -- immediately following the taping -- and the souvenir program will receive free admission to the taping.

--William Wiemhoff, Performing Arts, AICF