

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

April 5, 1982

The financial picture is slightly better now than when I last reported about a month ago. The percentage of increased income has crept up a little. The month of March showed an increase of 14.2% over March of 1981. The year-to-date increase stands at 13.8%. As of the end of last week, it was still at that figure.

With this increase we will not be able to grow in the number of stations or expand in publishing without using some of the reserves that built up during 1981. Please continue to pray for more co-workers and donors to help carry the load so we can go forward with ever-increasing effectiveness.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer's Office

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Local Church Telephone Directories

Some local congregations, in order to encourage fellowshiping, have published local telephone directories setting forth the full names and telephone numbers of the members in their congregations.

Recently, a dissident utilized a Church telephone directory to communicate derogatory accusations regarding the Church to the entire local congregation. This incident points out the inadvisability of producing local Church telephone directories.

Headquarters has taken great precautions to preserve the privacy of the membership list and the privacy of the individual members. In fact, prohibiting the use of the membership list for any purpose other than Church purposes has been a policy established by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong for over 50 years.

If the practice of preparing local congregation phone books were to spread to all congregations, a central dissident could, without too much effort, ultimately compile the entire Church membership list through them, thereby subverting this 50-year-old policy of member list confidentiality, as well as invading the privacy of the individual members.

Local Church telephone directories are not really needful because each local member in an average congregation of 300 to 500 members usually communicates with a small circle of friends and acquaintances. If a member does have need for the telephone number of some other member, it is obviously a very simple matter to check the public telephone directory or to call another friend for the member's telephone number. This slight inconvenience is far outweighed by the benefits of the Church policy

protecting the privacy of our members. Therefore, we feel it is necessary to make it a very firm policy to prohibit the preparation of telephone directories for the local Church congregations, either by the minister or any local members.

NOTICE TO ALL MINISTERS

If you are contacted by Gerald Watt, please contact Mr. Dan Fricke before taking action of any kind.

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: It was recently suggested at a deacons meeting that instead of having fund-raising activities, why not ask people to donate two to four dollars per month to a social fund. This would strictly be voluntary and would eliminate the need for time-consuming fund-raisers. This money would be used to defray the cost of our social activities for the Church. Is there any problem with this approach?

ANSWER: Such donation programs should not be implemented. Any such programs now under way should be discontinued. Over the years, experience has shown that many problems eventually result, including unstated pressure on people to donate, bitterness about the use of donated funds, offerings to the Work affected, etc.

Although fund-raising activities do take time and energy, they can often be planned in such a way as to provide opportunity for fellowship and cooperation in themselves--in some cases, even as much or more than some of the activities they help to fund.

International News

Australia/Southeast Asia February was an exceptionally busy month for God's Work in Australia and Southeast Asia. The number of items of literature mailed out is one of the highest on record, reflecting a marked increase in PLAIN TRUTH readers' interest in the publications advertized in the magazine.

However, of concern at the present time is the significant drop in income for the month. Reflecting a worldwide recession, with high unemployment, rising bank interest rates and cost of living, income for February showed a 7.9% increase over the same month last year, bringing our year-to-date increase down to 12.9%. We are monitoring our income carefully, but for the present we are continuing to maintain all programmes currently involved in the work of the Great Commission.

In Southeast Asia, PLAIN TRUTH circulation has been increasing significantly without any promotional efforts. After establishing an ongoing PLAIN TRUTH renewal programme last year, the Asian subscription list fell

from 51,000 to 30,000 readers. Six months later, the list now stands at 36,000 subscribers. This increase has come about mainly as a result of "word of mouth." The magazine is often passed onto friends and acquaintances of the actual subscribers. These additional readers in turn request their own subscription to the magazine.

Apart from The PLAIN TRUTH, the only other major method of preaching the Gospel in Southeast Asia at the present time is The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast over powerful Radio Ceylon. Listeners to the programme over Radio Ceylon were originally experiencing some difficulty in understanding the mailing address (a box number in Dehiwala in Sri Lanka) announced at the close of the broadcast. We recently changed this mailing address to a new box number in Colombo, bringing an immediate increase in response.

An exciting new door for preaching the Gospel in Sri Lanka and Southern India has now opened. It was planned that on April fourth The WORLD TOMORROW television programme will be seen for the first time by viewers in that area of the world. The Sri Lankan state-owned broadcasting system has accepted Mr. Armstrong's television programme, and it will be aired on Sundays at 9:00 p.m. prime time. The programme will be broadcast via a relay system throughout the entire country of Sri Lanka and into southern India, including the area around the major port city of Madras. The potential viewing audience is in the multiple millions--perhaps two to three million in Sri Lanka alone, where we will have a captive audience since the program will run simultaneously on the only two channels!

Caribbean January and February proved to be very good months for God's Work in the Caribbean as far as mail was concerned. The total mail received in January 1982 was 140% more than that received in January 1981. February 1982 experienced an increase of 102% over February of the previous year. It is interesting to note that though the January percentage change was bigger than that of February, the overall mail count for February was greater than that of January. This reflects the positive trend of increasing monthly mail.

Another very encouraging trend which illustrates the growth in God's Work is the increase in PLAIN TRUTH requests. Both January and February showed increases of over 100% in relation to last year. This upsurge in incoming mail in the Caribbean is largely accounted for by the increase in mail from the country of Trinidad. Trinidad's total mail was 36% of the total Caribbean mail for February.

While the mail response was very positive, the income did not show a similar trend. In fact, for both January and February the income fell below that of the previous year. January's income fell by 6.7% while February's fell by three percent. This drop seems related to the general recessionary trend being experienced in the Caribbean.

Some ministerial manpower changes occurred in the Caribbean during the month of February. Mr. Carlos Nieto was transferred from Barbados to the United States. Mr. Nieto and his family are now living in Columbia, South Carolina and he is assisting Mr. John Ritenbaugh in pastoring the churches in Columbia, SC and Augusta, Georgia.

The new pastor of the Church in Barbados is Mr. Arnold Hampton. Mr. Hampton and his family were previously living in Laurel, Delaware. From there he had cared for the Laurel and Wilmington Churches.

There was one other addition to the ministerial manpower in the Caribbean. Mr. Lincoln Jailal was transferred from serving the Imperial Church congregation in Pasadena to assist Mr. Stan Bass in pastoring the Churches in Antigua, Dominica and St. Croix. Mr. Jailal and his wife are living in San Juan, Puerto Rico which is the Regional Office of God's Work in the English-speaking areas of the Caribbean.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It has made me realize you have been used of God to do more than just put the Work back on the track. What I saw through the program was a deeper foundation being laid than at any time previously that I am aware of (I graduated in '68 from Pasadena). Some have called our earlier times "Golden Years." But I think the Golden Years are just ahead of us now because of an even deeper spiritual undergirding God is placing under the "track" you have placed us back on! Many thanks!

Chuck and Barbara Scott

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Connie and I would like to thank you and all on the team at headquarters who put together the very, very profitable Ministerial Refreshing Program. It certainly was good to get back to Pasadena and be reminded what we are ambassadors of.

The spiritual unity and the strength were quite evident to us during our stay. It will enable us in the ministry and the Church to understand more of God's way of life, and what His standards are.

Thank you again for your continued guidance and leadership and the direct contact we had with you.

Gene and Connie Zhorne

Greetings Mr. Tkach & Staff:

My wife and I would like to say a great big thanks to you and your staff for such a successful refreshing program. This one was even better than the first. They have proven to be so valuable to all of us in the ministry. We hope they will continue.

It is very helpful to have the opportunity to ask questions and to receive guidelines from Mr. Armstrong. You can surely see the results of the unity in the Churches when we all are doing and saying the same things.

Thanks also goes to everyone at Pasadena for making us feel at home and treating us like royalty. The hospitality shown to us was tremendous. Thanks again!

Dan and Jan Creed

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

MICHIGAN CITY, IN--RAND MILLICH: Members have been very responsive to the sermon tapes played during services--very powerful messages! Brethren are behind God's Work and Mr. Armstrong. They are looking forward to the Kingdom of God.

NORFOLK, VA--KENNETH GIESE: Keep those tapes by Mr. Armstrong coming! They get stronger and more inspiring all the time.

PORTLAND (WEST), OR--DAN FRICKE: Interest continues to run high and even seems to be increasing regarding Mr. Armstrong's trips and the resultant expansion and growth in the Work. Most everyone recognizes that with the acceleration of the Work, the end of this age is obviously drawing close.

MACON/COLUMBUS, GA--F. OTTO LOCHNER: Mr. Armstrong's meeting after the special Sabbath service in Atlanta was a very meaningful experience! He was so personable and open with the ministers. His candor and comments were a real encouragement. One can see God is truly working with and through him!

MONTGOMERY, AL--PAUL KURTS: All in the area were really inspired and appreciative of Mr. Armstrong's visit to Atlanta on February 27. Many commented that it seemed just like a "mini Feast." Satan was surely active in trying to prevent the brethren from being able to make it to Atlanta by causing a major ice storm in the Atlanta area and surrounding states. While driving into Atlanta, it was amazing to see ice all over the ground and trees, yet not any on the highway anywhere into the city!

GARDEN GROVE, CA--TERRY P. MATTSON: I would like to express my appreciation for the new Y.O.U. Manual which has proven to be a real asset in coordinating Y.O.U. locally. Parents and teens have been very supportive of the guidelines and are both showing a greater interest in Y.O.U.

MELBOURNE/FT. PIERCE, FL--CRAIG BACHELLER: The brethren are pulling together as a team. During the tournament, everyone pitched in and really contributed to the overall success of the weekend. Spiritually speaking, the brethren are growing and making good strides in many areas. However, we are beginning to feel the effects of the recession, with less work to be found, and in one or two cases some have been laid off. All believe that things will work together for good.

TAMPA, FL--RONALD A. LOHR: People are very willing to serve in the PT distribution program. We are having to turn people away. I have noticed more fruits in Y.O.U. and PT distribution since Mr. Armstrong put the pastors directly in charge.

PORTSMOUTH, OH--DAVE TREYBIG: PLAIN TRUTH distribution is a tremendously encouraging program for the local members. More are getting involved all the time and God is blessing the program. Coverage of the church area should go over 6% next month.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

RECORD-BREAKING GROWTH OF PT LIST

The growth of The PLAIN TRUTH subscription list in the U.S. continues to break record after record. During the month of March, 128,129 new people were added to The PLAIN TRUTH mailing list. This is the largest number of people ever added in any single month since the founding of the magazine. The largest number of subscribers came from newsstands, followed closely by television and PLAIN TRUTH insert cards.

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

WEEKLY LETTER COMMENTSThe Work's Impact on Peoples' Lives

Lives are being changed as people come in contact with the Work through The PLAIN TRUTH and other Church literature, as well as the radio and television program. The following comments show how they are finding new purpose and meaning for their lives.

I am writing this letter of thanks because I know that without your literature and Correspondence Course I would not have understood God's plan so clearly. I feel that God is calling me. However, Satan too is at work trying to keep me back. Sometimes I get angry and one or two swear words come from my lips, although I do not mean to use them. I used to drink and curse a lot before I started to study the Bible and your literature. Yet, with the help of God Almighty, I have now given up drinking completely and hope and pray that God will help me to stop getting angry and using profane language.

E.T. (Newfoundland, Canada)

I had been a frightened, lonely widow since 1973 as I did not have anybody who really cared about me. However, to make a long story short, my life changed when I watched you on TV on a Sunday here in my small town. You really made me feel alive. I care to live again.

M.B. (Uhrichsville, OH)

I have always been a believer, but not much of a doer. I have also been a drunkard and experimented with drugs--both prescription and illegal. Ninety-nine percent of my problems were related to that practice.

Our Heavenly Father has had mercy on me. After 25 years of abusing myself and God's laws (I'm now 42), I'm healthy and strong and show no ill effects other than my inner-felt guilt. I want to live the rest of my life for God, family and fellowman. Thank you for the help--for that little push over the edge from darkness into daylight.

K.S. (Lorain, OH)

I just wanted to let you know how much I love and respect you for the great Work that you and the Worldwide Church of God are doing. Without my having heard you one day a little over two years ago, I still would be wandering around looking for answers and not finding them. In this short period of time I have unlearned many falsehoods and learned the real plain truth....I

am now attending Bible studies and services and am just a little overawed to think that God is calling me, a humble muffler man, and to think that I will someday soon be baptized and receive God's Holy Spirit--wow!

D.K. (Torrance, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS FRACAS--WHAT'S AT STAKE? On Friday April 2, an Argentine invasion force, manned with at least 1,400 marines overran the British colony of the Falkland Islands, lying 400 miles off Argentina's southeast coast--and 8,000 miles south of England. There was little the contingent of 80 British marine defenders could do, though they put up a valiant 3 1/2 hour-long defense.

There was also little that the 1,800 people in the Falklands, a thousand of them in the tiny capital of Port Stanley, could do except obey the orders of their new masters, who almost immediately put new rules into effect including a switch from left to right-hand operation on the 20 miles of paved roads in the city. The "kelpers" as they call themselves were also informed that henceforth the official language of Las Islas Malvinas--the Argentinian name for the contested islands (two main islands plus 200 smaller uninhabited ones)--was to be Spanish. Citizens caught disrespecting the new "national symbols" (the Argentinian flag, primarily) were informed they could get 60 days in jail. So much for the human rights the Argentines said they would respect.

As we go to press, the issue is far from resolved. Meanwhile a formidable British naval task force, spearheaded by two aircraft carriers, is heading south to the Falklands--a two-week trip.

Why Argentina Attacked Now

Earlier this year, off-and-on 15-year-long negotiations had broken down again between the U.K. and Argentina over the future of the islands, mainly because the latter's demand for sovereignty now over the islands left little to negotiate about. Britain's position all along has been that the two countries should not negotiate over the heads of the islanders themselves, 97% of whom are English-speaking British subjects who have repeatedly expressed their wishes to remain loyal subjects of the crown. In this sense the dispute is very similar to the fracas over Gibraltar. The 29,000 Gibraltarians don't wish "the Rock" to become a part of Spain.

For Argentines, the Malvinas issue is a highly emotional issue. From practically the first day they study geography, Argentine school children are told that the islands belong to their country, that the British presence there since 1833 is illegal. The Argentines had never successfully colonized the islands, but assert they have inherited, since their independence in 1816, earlier Spanish claims to the islands.

For Argentine politicians the disputed islands have served as a patriotic "safety valve." They have periodically raised the Malvinas question whenever they felt a need to divert public attention from deteriorating domestic problems. In this sense, one could almost see the invasion coming (in fact, some experts say that the British were informed by intelligence

reports of the impending invasion eleven days before it occurred). The Argentine economy is in a terrible mess. Inflation leapt 131 percent last year; unemployment stands at 15%; the rate of business failures is high.

Only two days before the "liberation of the Malvinas" thousands of Argentines demonstrated in Buenos Aires and other major cities against the military regime's economic policies. The scale and aggressiveness of the demonstrators are said to have stunned the President, General Leopoldo F. Galtien. Two days later, some of the same people were shouting jubilantly over their country's cleverly crafted victory. But now, skepticism is once again setting in. What is there left for Galtien to do, now that he had played his final patriotic trump card?

National Honor on the Line

Much is at stake in the Falklands dispute. The main issue on both sides is national honor and prestige. Economic and strategic issues are secondary. The potential for oil in the Argentine continental shelf extending out to the Falklands remains just that. Geologists don't really know how much--or how little--oil may be there. Drilling and producing oil in the windswept South Atlantic is very risky anyway. Many believe worse conditions exist there than in the North Sea or off Newfoundland, where a huge oil rig recently capsized.

The Falklands are economically not that critical to Britain. However, the island economy, based on the wool produced by 640,000 sheep, consistently earns a profit for the absentee British-based landlords. Thus it is a profitable colony, as is Hong Kong. Strategically, the islands don't play the role as a "seagate" that they once did. In the First World War, however, they certainly were important. A critical victory--the Battle of the Falkland Islands--occurred in 1914. Four large German warships were sunk, ensuring British control of the South Atlantic.

What is really at stake for Britain now is her national honor and credibility. The TIMES of London, in an editorial entitled "We're all Falklanders now," reported that "the whole structure of this country's standing in the world, her credibility as an ally" is at stake. "When British territory is invaded, it is not just an invasion of our land, but of our whole spirit."

A burly British telephone linesman perhaps said it best, seeming to echo the 70% positive public response to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's decision to set sail a 40-ship flotilla toward the Falklands: "We have no choice. No one will ever listen to Britain again if we don't go in now. I hope we don't have to, but we must if necessary. Yes, people will be killed, but that's war, isn't it? We'll lose Gibraltar if we don't stand up to people who push us around."

Negotiations with Spain over Gibraltar are also in a very delicate stage. And the 1997 terminal lease date over much of Hong Kong is rapidly drawing nigh.

Life or Death Issue Now for Military Rulers of Argentina

The Argentines also have a lot to lose. The feeling is that President Galtien and a very close circle of advisors acted impulsively, without

advice from Argentine diplomats and civilian advisors. The government miscalculated both British resolve and world reaction. It expected more help in the U.N. Security Council than it got (one vote from Panama; even Russia abstained).

Should a war come about, and should the British fleet and forces--admittedly superior on paper--win, the Argentine government would probably collapse. The Argentine government was forced nearly to the wall in the early-to-mid 1970's in fighting extremely radical leftist urban guerrillas. With a discredited government and a defeated military command (virtually the same thing) leftist insurgency could rise again, this time threatening not only Argentina but neighboring countries in the hemisphere as well.

Will U.S. Sell Out British Interests--Again?

The U.S. is on a hot seat too, trying to balance traditional loyalty to Britain with a perceived need to enlist Argentine aid in combating Soviet/Cuban inroads in Central America. The belief now is that Argentina is looking to the United States for a way out of a military confrontation. Rumors persist that Argentina might be willing to negotiate a diplomatic settlement--such as recognition of Argentine sovereignty in return for a British Hong Kong-style lease for, say, 25 years. Thus, American pressure might force Britain to relinquish this sea gate (even if on the installment plan)--similar to the manner in which U.S. pressure forced Britain and France to back off from retaking the Suez Canal in 1956, after the Egyptians had nationalized it.

Dangerous Precedent

If Argentina gets away with its aggression, hardly a nation in the Western Hemisphere is safe. Practically every nation has some kind of border dispute with a neighbor. Guatemala claims all of Belize, for example; Venezuela claims 60% of Guyana. The new rulers of Guatemala applauded the Argentine action. Other nations in Latin America defend Argentina's claim, but do not endorse her methods. The aggression therefore sets a highly dangerous precedent.

American journalists, it appears from watching TV news, appear to be blind to the bigger questions of national honor, pride and principle, to say nothing of dangerous precedent. One repeatedly hears the question asked of British officials, "Are the Falklands worth fighting over?"

For Americans, pride and principle no longer are important. The United States, threatened with violence, walked out of the Panama Canal Zone. In a curious coincidence, on April 1, the day before the Argentine attack, the United States officially terminated the authority of its police and court system in the old canal zone, ending a 30-month transition period to full Panamanian sovereignty.

If It Comes to War...

Meanwhile the British task force continues its long ocean trek southward. Leading the flotilla is the aircraft carrier Invincible, technically the property of the Australian government, to which it is scheduled to be delivered next year. The financially hard-pressed British government has

been cutting funds for the Royal Navy, and has come under severe pressure for doing so.

Aboard the Invincible is Prince Andrew, second son of Queen Elizabeth II. Andrew is a sub-lieutenant who pilots an anti-aircraft Sea King helicopter. He could very well see action if things get rough.

The size and quality of the British fleet committed to the action is far superior to that of the Argentines. But the advantages of both time and distance to home ports lie with the latter. If Britain chooses to blockade the Falklands they will have to continue resupplying their ships from one-third of the way around the world, perhaps with the use of Ascension Island, 5,200 miles away, as a restaging area. Weather and other factors enter in as well. Note this despatch in the LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The crisis has arisen as winter approaches in the Southern Hemisphere--a time when the weather will drastically deteriorate, when the seas in the South Atlantic will be rough and the islands shrouded in fog. Any amphibious operations by the British would have to contend with a rocky, hostile coast.

Armed conflict would pit a seasoned British force, led by professional officers and noncommissioned officers, against a conscript Argentine army organized, armed and trained for internal defense rather than for combat with a major, technologically sophisticated fighting force.

"The real importance," one Latin American expert said, "is the deep Argentinian desire to recapture the islands. All their life they are taught that the islands are Argentinian. It is a highly emotional, deeply felt matter to all of them, and they might fight more heroically than many of us believe they would, even though their country is politically divided, and even though it has not been to war in more than a century.

"Militarily, one would think the British could certainly take the islands back, but they might have to pay a high price in blood," this source said. The situation that has developed, fueled by explosive political situations in both countries, leaves little room for face-saving by either country.

Does Britain, often referred to as a "Toothless Lion," still have a bite? Prime Minister Thatcher discounts all talk about the impossibility of regaining control of the Falklands, saying:

I'm not talking about failure. I'm talking about my supreme confidence in the British fleet, superlative ships, excellent equipment, the most highly trained men, the most honorable and brave members of Her Majesty's services. Do you remember what Queen Victoria once said? "Failure? The possibilities do not exist."

The next two weeks will prove whether Mrs. Thatcher is correct. If nothing else, her own political future rests on a successful conclusion to the crisis.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau