

# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE  
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL.4, NO.46

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 3, 1982

## FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

### International News

French Language Areas Mr. Armstrong's telecast is now being aired on "Tele Monte Carlo" at 5:15 p.m. every Sunday. The programs have just begun and are subtitled in French as they are on TV-Luxembourg.

We have received a total of 1,178 responses from viewers of TV-Luxembourg during the period of April to September of this year. During the month of September alone, 237 viewers responded.

The radio program "Le Monde a Venir," with Mr. Apartian as speaker, has also received significant responses. During the first nine months of this year we received 2,510 letters. We estimate that if one listener in 1,000 writes in, this would mean that a minimum of 2,500,000 people have already heard the program this year.

In Canada, the French broadcast will now be aired on radio in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia on the following stations: CJVA (Caraquet-Gloucester) Sundays at 10:15 a.m. (850); CJEM/CKMO (Edmunston-Madawaska) Sundays at 8:35 a.m. (570).

In the United States, 48% of La PURE VERITE subscribers have renewed their subscriptions. As of October, 6,794 literature request cards for THE WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW and THE U.S. AND B.C. IN PROPHECY were received in response to the offer in Mr. Armstrong's semiannual letter. This represents a response of 12.8%.

During the month of September, 10,703 pieces of literature were sent out from Pasadena--61% to regular subscribers, 34% to new subscribers, four percent to coworkers, and one percent to donors.

We are currently in the process of sending Mr. Armstrong's letter offering a subscription to The GOOD NEWS to all AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE students. The letter is being sent to 21,071 students worldwide. The breakdown is as follows:

French Canada	11,950	Haiti	599
France	4,869	Martinique	445
Belgium	911	Guadeloupe	367
Switzerland	755	Misc. Areas	1,175

Spanish Language Areas Certainly the highlight of the fall of the year is the Feast of Tabernacles. Reports from the eight Spanish-speaking sites show the following attendance:

Oaxtepec, Mexico	715	Huaraz, Peru	203
Tela, Honduras	330	Rincon, Puerto Rico	172
Monte Hermoso, Argentina	270	Lago Rapel, Chile	105
Melgar, Colombia	223	Cullera, Spain	72

In all, 2,090 attended the Feast at Spanish-speaking sites--a 21% increase over 1981! Also, a total of 21 people were baptized at five of the Feast sites.

Responses to Mr. Armstrong's summer semiannual letter topped 30,000 by the end of October, representing 25% of those who received the letter. The countries yielding high rates of response thus far are Brazil, 65%; Costa Rica, 60%; Ecuador, 50%; El Salvador, 47%; and Guatemala, 42%. Our lone subscribers in Tanzania, Ghana, Kuwait, Sudan and Taiwan all responded. We also received a request from Cuba where we have no Spanish-language subscribers. How that person received the semiannual letter is not yet known.

Our last report stated that a new record was set in August for mail received during a single month. Remarkably, in September 48,298 pieces of mail were received, surpassing August's record by nearly 18,000 pieces, or 59%! September's mail was more than double the monthly average for the first eight months of 1982, a year which has by far been the best ever for mail received. By the end of October, 214,450 pieces of mail had been received--15.4% more than the total received during all of 1981!

La PURA VERDAD circulation remains steady with 169,509 subscribers as of the end of October. This is about 900 less than last reported. This slight drop was due to the fact that the office was closed during the Feast, and so no new subscribers could be added. However, many thousands of new subscribers will be added during the remainder of the year, which will cause circulation to approach 195,000. Since October 1981, the PV list has grown by 73%. By the end of October, 86,437 new subscribers had been added to the PV list, surpassing the old record of 78,870 set last year.

The top ten countries with respect to current La PURA VERDAD circulation are as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Coworkers</u>	<u>Donors</u>
U.S.A.	38,422	494	1,604
Mexico	25,924	194	340
Colombia	21,444	73	164
Argentina	13,337	14	31
Puerto Rico	10,787	99	465
Chile	10,044	32	22
Spain	8,996	19	33
Peru	7,685	35	67
Guatemala	5,282	31	55
El Salvador	4,009	26	32

In these ten countries are found 86% of all PV subscribers, 91% of all coworkers, and 91% of all donors.

Philippines Traveling evangelist Mr. Gerald Waterhouse has just finished his most extensive visit yet to the Churches of God in the Philippines. From October 22 through November 9, he spoke to more than 2,100 brethren in 13 locations where several local Churches held combined services or Bible studies. (He missed one speaking engagement due to a sudden change in the airline's flight schedule.)

Mr. Waterhouse expounded on how God is preparing His people to become the spiritual Temple Jesus Christ will come to and use in teaching the whole world about God's way of life. He explained the miracles God has performed and will yet do to make that goal possible.

Pleased to see the continued growth in the Churches here, Mr. Waterhouse recalled how he had conducted the first Bible studies in Manila with the first four Filipino members. "This is the Work that's going to have to do the changing of the Philippine Islands," he told the tiny group years ago. From that small and seemingly insignificant beginning, God's Work here has grown by faith into one of the largest areas of God's Work outside of the United States.

Mr. Waterhouse was accompanied at the beginning and near the end of his visits by regional director Mr. Guy Ames. For the first time in 22 years, Mr. Waterhouse was able to again visit the brethren in Bukidnon. It was originally planned to have him drive up to the Don Carlos Church in the central Mindanao highlands on dusty and bumpy roads. But at the last minute, Church pastor Mr. Edmond Macaraeg was able to arrange for a modern helicopter to bring Mr. Waterhouse to Don Carlos from Cagayan de Oro City and back at minimal cost. This eliminated several hours of tedious travel time.

Meanwhile, the Work here in the Philippines is experiencing very encouraging growth in both incoming and outgoing mail. For the period January to October this year, the office received 169,802 pieces of mail (up 118.6% for the same period in 1981) and mailed out 266,979 pieces of literature and correspondence (229% increase over last year).

Responses are still trickling in to Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's semiannual letter which was mailed last July. At the end of October the number of responses was 21,331, or 43.2% of the total number of letters sent out.

We have received 3,166 responses to The WORLD TOMORROW television and radio programs for the year through October 31.

#### Comments From Monthly Church Reports

PHILADELPHIA, PA--CARLOS PERKINS: We were all very happy to hear from Mr. Armstrong again, giving us more details about the trunk of the tree. Thankfully, there is no end to learning and it is always a pleasure to realize how God is still teaching us through His apostle.

GLENDORA, CA--CARN CATHERWOOD: We are inviting a good number of new people to church, most showing unusual interest. These people seem more advanced than PMs in the past. This is no doubt

due mainly to the strength of Mr. Armstrong's TV programs plus the stronger meat in the PT. People come along more quickly.

LOUISVILLE, KY--RAY A. MEYER: People are very much uplifted following the Feast and are focusing on the spiritual aspects of life more than ever. This is evidenced by the highest attendance ever for Bible studies, Spokesman and Women's Clubs. The PT newsstand program has expanded to 30,000 magazines per month. We are also having more PM activity and baptisms.

BAKERSFIELD, CA--ALFRED J. MISCHNICK: The "Best Feast Ever" was an expression more commonly heard this year than at any time before that I can remember. With this kind of individual spiritual growth, that statement should continue to be true. The new and exciting trend in new contacts is almost unbelievable. The new TV station at Bakersfield and the vigorous PT distribution program are contributing factors.

GREENVILLE, S.C.--RON JAMESON: This had to be the "Best Feast Ever." I have never heard so many favorable comments from the brethren about any Feast of Tabernacles in the past. All of the messages were very helpful and inspiring. The brethren certainly lived up to the theme of unity set by Mr. Herbert Armstrong at the beginning of the Feast.

MEDFORD, OR--FRED DAVIS: Everyone came back from the Feast very uplifted and motivated. Many have commented about how direct and to the point the sermons were--no pulled punches! Spokesman Club has started on a very positive note. The men seem very motivated to change and grow.

CADILLAC, MI--GERALD WESTON: The Feast had a very positive effect on everyone. This was needed in this area as the economy is a disaster and continues to get worse. People are surviving, but that is just about it. They hope the end of this age comes quickly.

BROOKLYN, NY--EARL WILLIAMS: The brethren have been given a shot in the arm by the Feast of Tabernacles. They have returned ready to live up to their calling. PM activity continues to be strong in quantity and quality.

RALEIGH, N.C.--MIKE BOOZE: The attitude among our members is becoming more intent on studying and preparing for the Kingdom of God. The Feast of Tabernacles was a big turning point for many. People are aware of the fact that we are close to the tribulation and Christ's return!

ANNISTON, AL--MICHAEL HANISKO: Have had numerous comments about how inspiring this year's Feast of Tabernacles was. Several members said this year's Feast has made them see the need to counsel about and really go to work on some longstanding problems they had been letting ride in the past.

BRAINERD, MN--STANLEY McNIEL: People express thanks for the Feast and the messages they heard. Brethren are responding more

to the ministry and seeking counsel about problems. Ladies Club is a real boost for our women.

LOS ANGELES, CA--ABNER WASHINGTON: Members seemed to have been better prepared to have a spiritual Feast. Most came back with a keener awareness of our calling and a greater desire to serve.

WHEATLAND, WY/FT. COLLINS, CO--CHUCK ZIMMERMAN: Have had many positive comments on the strength and spirituality of the Feast sermons. This indicates that our congregation is growing spiritually and is awake. Complaints about physical things concerning the Feast were at an absolute minimum.

PM activity in Ft. Collins is continuing! It's been so encouraging since the telecast has been on the Cheyenne TV station. Most of the PMS are well informed and I expect them to develop into members.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

#### AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

We have only three weeks remaining in this semester before final exams will be given. The students of Ambassador are doing very well both academically and otherwise.

I would like to mention that we are still holding up the very high moral (spiritual) standards of the College, and fully intend to see that Ambassador is kept on the track. I like to think of us as being on track, but we certainly can pick up speed as we roll along God's track.

Occasionally, we have to deal with a student who has let down those high standards, but we are not slow or dilatory in handling such problems. The principle of a "rotten apple" in a basket of good apples still applies. Also, we want to be sure to extend mercy and clemency when the attitude of an erring student sufficiently warrants.

Everything is coming along very well with the Work here at Headquarters. I think all of you know, however, that some influenced by Satan have during the past few years initiated several lawsuits against the Work which serve to be nothing but nuisances. About two weeks ago, I had to give a deposition concerning a lawsuit. Even though I only had to give my name, it took most of the morning.

Remembering how the students and faculty of the College in the early years used to set aside a day of fasting and prayer to get close to God and ask for His intervention in various matters regarding God's Work, I suggested in the forum on Tuesday (November 30th) that a day this coming weekend be set aside for that purpose. I think nearly all of the students and faculty plan on fasting (some few may have prior commitments which will delay their fasts) this coming weekend--probably from Friday evening to the following evening.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and party recently returned from a very successful trip to Africa and Europe. Last Friday night, Mr. Gene Hogberg, who accom-

panied Mr. Armstrong, gave an interesting and inspiring Bible study and slide presentation of their trip. Then, on the Sabbath, Mr. Armstrong gave an inspiring sermon on the serious times in which we are living. He went through a number of prophecies and showed how the soon-coming United States of Europe is right now in the process of emerging. He said we do not have long in which to complete God's Work. He urged all of us to follow his example by really throwing ourselves into God's Work--doing all within our power before the night when no man can work closes in on us. It was a very sobering sermon. I understand a tape recording is being sent out to all the Churches.

This coming Monday another group of ministers and their wives is scheduled to attend the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It is always a joy to meet you ministers and your wives at the MRP, and I am sure that you always look forward to your turn at being back at Headquarters to see the unity, beauty, love and progress with which God continues to bless the Headquarters of His Work and those of us serving Him in this part of the Work.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

#### FROM THE WORLDWIDE NEWS

##### New Procedure for Reporting Church News

Because of inaccuracies cropping up in the Local Church News pages of The WORLDWIDE NEWS, we are asking you pastors to please read over all contributions to this section and to indicate your approval by signing the article to be submitted. We do not want you or your area to inadvertently be cast in a bad light. This situation will also allow you to be aware of who is sending in reports to the paper. Sometimes, people take it upon themselves to send in material and our staff has no way of knowing if you have appointed them as a reporter or whether you approve or not. We will run a notice in the WN with the cutoff date for sending in unsigned material.

We feel this change will also let you know the quality of material being sent out from your area and whether the events reported on are of significant value to the Church as a whole. Some reporters report on every activity in the area week after week without considering the broader interest value of the material.

We feel the reports from your local Churches help tie the Church together as a whole. They encourage service activities and stimulate ideas throughout the Church worldwide. Please encourage your reporters to think quality--not quantity.

Thank you. We feel, with your help, we can raise the standard of the Local Church News section in both interest and accuracy.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Managing Editor

#### MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

As 1982 draws to a close, many new records have been made in response to the Gospel message. This week we are reporting three new records which contribute substantially toward making this year the biggest yet in this modern era of God's Work.

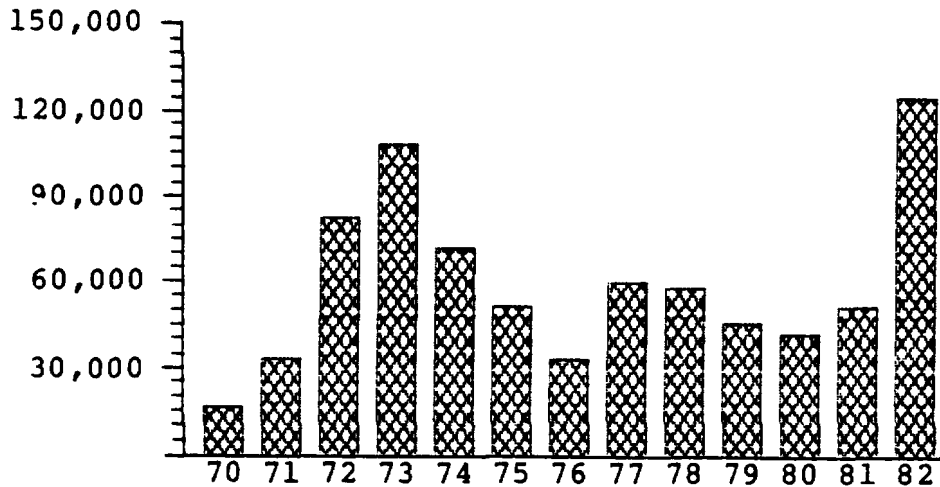
### Record Number of New CORRESPONDENCE COURSE Students

So far this year, 124,486 new students have been enrolled in the AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE in the United States. This is a new year-to-date record and a 143% increase over the same period last year. Over 26,000 students were added in November alone, which is the highest number ever enrolled in a month's time.

The graph below, which compares the number of students added in the first eleven months of every year since 1970, dramatically pictures this increase.

### NEW U.S. CORRESPONDENCE COURSE STUDENTS

JANUARY-NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR SINCE 1970



The large gains for 1982 are the result of more extensive advertising. The CORRESPONDENCE COURSE is now offered in 41 of our booklets and has been promoted in several recent issues of The PLAIN TRUTH.

A total of over 1,237,000 people in the United States have requested the BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE since its inception in 1954!

### Christmas Telecast Draws New All-time Record WATS Response

The WATS line received 10,948 calls in response to this weekend's telecast. This is 480 calls over the previous all-time record and represents a 32% increase over last year's showing of this same program.

The record is remarkable considering that the telecast was preempted on WOR in New York, our largest station. Had it aired as scheduled, at least 1,000 more calls would have been received.

### All-time Record Set for Weekend Mail

A total of 62,578 pieces of mail arrived at Pasadena and Tucson during the November 20th weekend. This is another all-time record, surpassing the previous high (July 24, 1982) by 6.1%. Nearly two-thirds of the mail was semiannual letter responses, which have been coming in heavily over the past several days.

We continue to be well ahead of all past years in the total year-to-date mail counts. 1982 is almost certain to be the biggest year ever for incoming mail.

### Amusing WATS Line Responses to Telecast

Occasionally, the responses to Mr. Armstrong's telecast or the circumstances under which people view it are unique and/or amusing. We thought the following comments heard recently by our WATS line operators would be of interest.

I listen to Mr. Armstrong every night. If I have company, I leave them.

B.F. (Virginia Beach, VA)

Every Sunday my three kids (11, 14, and 16 years old) prefer to watch Mr. Armstrong's program to any other programs such as cartoons or kiddie hours. And they understand what is being said, which is unusual.

D.S. (White Stone, VA)

The whole family sits down and watches Mr. Armstrong before church. Then, at church, we ask the minister questions and get into trouble.

D.W. (Miami, FL)

I'm a Christian and my husband isn't, but he's the one who is getting me to watch this program.

Mrs. R.M. (Belten, SC)

Someone mentioned to me about the program, so I decided to get up early--this is something that I never do. Please send me all the booklets you can.

C.K. (Mobile, AL)

I couldn't remember my zip code because your program shook me up so much.

C.K. (Pacoima, CA)

I can go all day without food after listening to a program like that.

M.C. (Beckley, WV)

I wish Mr. Armstrong hadn't mentioned that Santa Claus is not real. My four-year-old daughter is now asking questions that I didn't want her to be asking at her age.

(Toledo, OH)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

### ON THE WORLD SCENE

POPE PROCLAIMS "HOLY YEAR" TO INSPIRE "SPIRITUAL RENEWAL"  
AND RENEWS CALL FOR UNITY WITH THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES

Taking both Vatican and Roman officials by surprise, Pope John Paul II on Friday, November 26, proclaimed 1983 a "holy year of redemption" to commemorate the 1950th anniversary of the death of Jesus (based, of course, upon a 33 A.D. crucifixion). The pontiff told cardinals at a special assembly in Vatican City that his unexpected decision was based on "strong



motives." He said he hoped the new holy year would bring a "gust of spiritual renewal at all levels."

Vatican sources also said holy year pilgrimages to Rome could give a boost to the Vatican's economy which, as John Paul noted earlier in his speech, now has "extremely limited" funds. The Vatican is embroiled in a scandal involving its bank as well.

Holy years have been celebrated for nearly seven centuries. The first holy year, proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII, was in 1300. Beginning in 1450, the special jubilee years have been celebrated every twenty-five years. The last, proclaimed by Pope Paul VI a year-and-a-half ahead of time, was celebrated in 1975. It brought more than five million pilgrims to Rome from some 58 nations around the globe.

Also, on Sunday November 28, in his noon "Angelus message," the pope prayed once again for future unity between Roman Catholics and members of the Orthodox churches. The pontiff's call came two days before November 30, feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, patron of the Orthodox Church. "The bond of fraternity between Peter and Andrew impels us to move without pause, and with love and wisdom along the road towards unity," the pope said to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square. The president of the Vatican's Secretariat of Christian Unity, Dutch Cardinal Jan Willebrands, headed the delegation sent to Istanbul to attend the Orthodox celebration of the feast.

Meanwhile, in a separate talk to 150 delegates to an Italian congress, as reported in the RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE, the pope said public morality was in "grave danger...not only in Italy but in many nations." He denounced violence, delinquency and "uncontrolled irrational impulses," saying that Catholics had a special duty to promote public morality. He said countries with democratic governments in particular are especially threatened by growing atheism, permissiveness and corruption that can "wrap human society in a cloud of thick fog. More than all other forms of regime, democracy calls for a strong sense of responsibility, self-discipline and rectitude," the pope said.

Pope John Paul II has been speaking out a great deal lately against the corrupting influences in contemporary Western society. The modern democratic world, he said while in Spain, is "driven by materialism and hedonism" that has eroded morality and family values. The pope's solution, of course, is for the Western world and especially Europe, to return to its Christian (meaning Roman Catholic) roots. Thus the pope's call for "spiritual renewal" is bound to strike responsive cords in many who indeed see the same problem he does, but whose eyes have not been opened to the truth of God's Word.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau