

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Report From Bonn, West Germany In the first month of 1983, members of the Hamburg and Hannover Churches (in the northern part of Germany) were able to begin attending services on a weekly basis. Presently, all other churches meet every other week due to a lack of sufficient manpower.

Mr. Paul Kieffer, pastor of the Hamburg and Hannover Churches, mentioned that "the members are excited about additional opportunities for fellowship, but even more so, about the opportunity to be able to learn more about God's Word and His way of life." Mr. Kieffer also conducts a Friday night Bible study in Berlin every other weekend. He flies to Berlin from Hamburg on a Friday afternoon, conducts Bible study that evening, stays overnight in Berlin and then flies to Hamburg on Saturday morning. The Hamburg service begins at 10:30 a.m. and afterwards Mr. Kieffer drives 90 miles to Hannover for the 3:00 p.m. service, which completes the three-way circuit. Mr. Kieffer said that it helps not having a speed limit in Germany.

Monthly youth Bible studies have also been put into effect in Hamburg and Hannover. This month, a Y.O.U. Bible study was conducted in Hamburg for six Y.O.U. members and their parents. Mr. Kieffer noted that these studies will give the youth an opportunity for instruction related to their age group, and will also allow local men a chance to conduct the youth Bible studies from time to time.

Requests for literature in January reflected the 80,000 new subscribers added in 1982. Over 24,000 booklets were sent this month--95% more than in January, 1982. This figure represents the second highest monthly total of booklets sent out in the history of God's Work in Germany. Also, a total of 1,839 BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE lessons were sent out--68% more than in January, 1982. The total mail for January was down 61% over last year, but only because of the advertising campaign which took place in January, 1982. In general, we are noticing a big increase in incoming mail and requests for booklets. Also, the growth in our list has been reflected in the increased number of donors and co-workers. Twenty-one percent more donors and 15 percent more co-workers have been added since January, 1982.

The growing donor and co-worker lists have definitely been reflected in the income. Large donations have played a major role as well. For the month of January, the mail income is 51% more than in January, 1982.

Spanish Department News At the end of January the PV subscription list stood at 184,875, a drop of 10,007 from the end of December. This decrease reflects a plan to decrease circulation (due to budgetary constraints) to 150,000 by the June, 1983 issue--a drop of nearly 23%. Newsstand distribution in the U.S., Puerto Rico, and Mexico will be curtailed in 1983. Although the subscription list is destined to decrease, the total number of PVs distributed throughout the year should be even higher than the all-time

high of 1982. Also, whereas the number of subscribers in most countries will decrease, plans are to increase subscribers in Spain, Venezuela, Uruguay and Argentina.

The top ten countries with respect to circulation are as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Subscribers</u>
U.S.A.	34,986	Chile	10,456
Mexico	31,739	Spain	9,965
Colombia	25,085	Peru	9,626
Argentina	16,599	Guatemala	5,664
Puerto Rico	10,749	El Salvador	4,299

Preliminary plans call for PURA VERDAD Bible lectures in many areas. As of this writing, lectures are planned for the following areas: Miami, Florida--March 3 and 4; Santiago, Chile--March 12, 13, 19 and 20; Caracas, Venezuela--April 24; Buenos Aires, Argentina--late April; Guatemala City--early May; Lima, Peru--late May. Lectures are planned for as many as 21 cities in 10 other countries later in the year. A combined total of approximately 40,000 PV subscribers could possibly be invited to these lectures.

On January 18, 19 and 20, Mr. Bob Flores, our minister serving in the Corpus Christi, Texas, congregation, conducted lectures for PV readers in the San Antonio, Texas area. Despite extremely bad weather and a conflicting event scheduled in the San Antonio Convention Center, 18 new people (1.8% of those invited) attended, with several showing a serious interest in the Church.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Messrs. Armstrong and Tkach:

Just a note of thanks for the many opportunities afforded us in the Refreshing Program. What a tremendous way to start a new year! We thought the first program was good and wondered if the second might not seem less important. Boy, were we in for a surprise. The classes were great, especially being able to hear from God's Apostle.

I have given a number of sermons and Bible studies from the material we received. Along with the lectures, my wife and I enjoyed basking in the attitude at Headquarters. What a change from a few years ago. From the attitude of the ministers to that of the students and employees, it was obvious that God's Church is back on the track. We observed the smiles and the general feeling of togetherness displayed by those with whom we were able to talk. All this was very refreshing to say the least! Also, we were delighted to be there with the Spanish ministers and broaden our perspective of that area of God's Work. Our thanks to everyone involved in making Refresher number two such a great success. We are looking forward to number three.

Don and Sue Lawson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Dana and I would like to express our appreciation for Refreshing Program number two. We found the lectures to be convicting, stimulating, and provocative. We were especially moved by Mr. Armstrong's lecture, the slide presentation of the shepherd, and the update of God's hand in the growth of the media. Of course, we enjoyed the positive experience of renewing old friendships and developing new ones in God's ministry.

Michael and Dana Greider

Dear Joe:

This Refreshing Program outstripped the last one and proved to be a real boon. It was physically tiring but very encouraging both mentally and spiritually. To experience the Holy Spirit of God working throughout the program was wonderful and even a little amazing (though it shouldn't have seemed so). The evidence piled up that God continues to be with us in power and unity. The proof was easy to see "in the pudding" and in the fruits.

Please extend our gratefulness to all of those who contributed to our joy and fulfillment from the maid at the apartment (if, indeed, she be the least), to the hairdresser, all of your staff, the lecturers, yourself, and especially Mr. Armstrong for making it possible.

Wonder of wonders--Carlton Green lost the battle! It was a delightful surprise to find that I weighed "back" at the same weight at which I went "in." How about that?

There is no doubt that God will stand by us as we go on serving and obeying Him in the feeding of the flock and giving witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ across the entire world.

"Doc" and Bertie Zimmerman

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

"Direct Terminal Entry" Increases MPC Efficiency

Thousands of telephone calls--now averaging over 14,000 a week--continue to pour in over our WATS lines. A new method of taking information from these calls is now being used by several of our WATS operators. Normally, an operator writes down the name, address, literature requested, radio or TV station, etc., on a card which is then forwarded to our Terminals Section where the information is typed into the computer.

Now, after months of extensive testing of this new method, several phone operators are typing the information directly into a computer terminal while talking on the phone. This new program, called "Direct Terminal Entry," has several advantages:

Increased Accuracy Direct Terminal Entry eliminates possible errors that could be made by a telephone operator, such as taking a request

for out-of-date literature or misspelling the city or state. The computer informs the operator immediately if the literature is no longer available and will not accept a misspelled city or state name.

In addition, the computer will automatically assign the TV or radio station on which the person heard the program by analyzing the zip code, date and time of the call.

Direct Terminal Entry also eliminates the occasional problem we have with cards when an operator's handwriting is difficult to read.

Increased Productivity A call usually can be taken much faster by typing information directly into a computer terminal than by writing it down. If a person's name is already on file, his record can be brought up in a few seconds.

Much time and effort is saved in processing requests. Each card that is produced from a phone call must be checked, counted, sorted, bundled, read and handled in several other ways. With direct terminal entry, these steps are unnecessary since no cards are used.

Higher Employee Morale Our telephone operators are very enthusiastic about this new program. It provides more variety, challenge and interest to their jobs and they feel that they can now contribute more during each hour worked.

Direct Terminal Entry will greatly aid us in doing our work more effectively. We are looking forward to expanding this new project as we train additional personnel.

Readers Share Our Literature

Many of our PLAIN TRUTH subscribers mention that they share their magazines or the Work's other literature with their families, friends and acquaintances. This week we are featuring several accounts which show how our publications are passed along to others--often finding their way into schools, universities and churches, giving hope and encouragement to many.

I sent a request for renewal of The PLAIN TRUTH a few weeks ago. I wouldn't want to be without it. My Church of Christ, Baptist, Methodist and Assembly of God friends all read my PLAIN TRUTH magazines.

Mrs. D.B. (Gallatin, TN)

My mother has been picking up your magazine regularly while grocery shopping. I enjoy your articles. They seem to "hit the spot," and I share them with fellow employees who seem down-in-the-dumps with this world's trials and tribulations.

B.K. (Forked River, NJ)

These booklets (SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS, WHY WERE YOU BORN?, DOES GOD EXIST?, etc.) are required reading for our leadership class in high school. The teacher gave the class your phone number and told us to request them.

M.B. (New York, NY)

I am a university instructor and teach a United Nations designed course on world food and energy problems, which covers all man's physical problems including transportation, starvation, education, health, housing, pollution, etc., and a biblical perspective on many of these issues, including how these problems will be solved in the world tomorrow. I have used articles from The PLAIN TRUTH on these areas, finding them excellent and have received some of your other publications, as well as learning from your television show.

I have somewhat of a big request of you today and dearly hope you can fill it. I have organized a 300-book international development lending library along with hundreds of pamphlets, articles, etc., including the Bible and books concerning the Bible. Hundreds of students make use of and will continue to make use of this library in the future. I would like to add as many of your organization's booklets, articles, and pamphlets as is possible for you to send to me, as they are all relevant to my mission.

D.N. (Greenfield, MA)

Thank you for sending me your literature. It keeps me alive and sane. I listen often when you are on the radio. We have been music teachers for many years and have a studio in our home where I place your PLAIN TRUTH, etc., on the coffee table for our students and their parents and friends to read--so I feel that we are helping to spread the Gospel in that way.

E.K. (Princeton, NJ)

I must tell you how much all your reading material is needed and appreciated. Members of my family and friends wait for me to read and share them. I can tell you they are read and reread by 14 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. The PLAIN TRUTH is worn out after it gets all around to all who enjoy reading it.

E.M. (Brea, CA)

We read your magazines from cover to cover. Whenever I have a doctor's appointment I place the magazine, after I've read it, in his office waiting room for others to read. Also, sometimes I give them to a neighbor.

Mrs. R.P. (Edmonds, WA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

WHAT'S WRONG WITH AUSTRALIA? The day before the critical March 6 West German national elections--hopefully to be analyzed in this column next week--voters in another key Western country go to the polls: Australia. The Liberal Party's Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, at seven years the second-longest reigning P.M. in Australian history, is fighting the biggest battle of his political career. Down by 10% in the polls, Fraser (who has come from behind before) is being stiffly challenged by Bob Hawke, a charismatic former top labor union boss, now heading the Labor Party ticket. Hawke, age 53, is said to have coveted his nation's top job since his boyhood days in Perth.

Mr. Fraser, a fiscal conservative, has pursued a tough monetary policy. He has cut the growth of public service and slashed welfare outlays. Yet Australia, feeling the effects of world inflation and reduced markets for its exports, is suffering from 10.1% unemployment and 12% inflation. The ambitious Mr. Hawke, representing the union-backed Labor Party, pledges his own version of a "jobs bill" proposing to create 500,000 jobs over a three-year period.

Prime Minister Fraser is campaigning hard to capitalize on the public's irritation over continual strikes by Australia's powerful trade unions. He proposes, if reelected, to hold a referendum on curbing union strength. Mr. Fraser says the March 5 election "is about responsibility." He is gambling on popular support from a regularly-inconvenienced public to do what no Australian leader has done before: tame the unions. Problem is, many of the voters in highly unionized Australia are also union members and regard challenger Hawke highly.

One thing to watch in case the high-flying Hawke wins: the Australian Labor Party, in power, would be less cooperative with the United States. During the terms of Fraser and President Reagan, the U.S. and Australia have seen pretty much eye-to-eye on defense matters with regard to the Australasian/Indian Ocean area.

This would undoubtedly change under a Hawke government, reverting possibly to the frosty relations that prevailed between the two countries during the prime ministership of Gough Whitlam, immediately preceding that of Mr. Fraser. Reports the Australian newsmagazine, THE BULLETIN, in its February 15, 1983 issue:

[The ALP] opposes the stationing of United States ships or forces at Cockburn Sound in Western Australia. The party also has called for a nuclear-free zone for all of the southern hemisphere. Both these policies, if pursued in office, could lead to differences with the Reagan Administration which is committed to the expansion of its naval role in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Australia's Morality Connection

As bad as Australia's labor strife is, there is something more fundamentally negative occurring in Australia--a moral undermining of the national character similar to that in Britain and America. Radical social reformers are having a field day. British journalist Paul Johnson recently visited Australia and filed a lengthy report which appeared in the SUNDAY TELEGRAPH of January 2, 1983. Here are a few pertinent excerpts from his article entitled "Whatever Happened to the Lucky Country?"

In the Sixties the phrase "the Lucky Country" was coined. In fact, there was little luck--nothing but hard sweat and peril.... There are far more tales of heroism and sacrifice in the penetration of the Australian outback than in the whole history of the American Far West.

Still, you can see what they mean by lucky. South of Brisbane, Queensland's Gold Coast stretches away into azure infinity. It makes Florida seem dingy, California very second-rate, Hawaii a marine slum.... Not that Australians feel lucky at present. The

great mineral boom of the Sixties and Seventies is over. The East of the country is suffering the worst drought in living memory....

Australians are painfully conscious that, in demographic terms, they are a small nation of 15 million, defending an awful lot of territory. They have always been terrified of invasion.... Now they fear that, in desperation, they may be forced to seek economic refuge in some Japanese "Co-Prosperity Sphere," a fate they narrowly avoided in 1942....

Even more than most Western democracies, Australia expanded her university system with reckless abandon during the Sixties and is now paying the price. The swarms of second-rate Marxist dons who then invaded the campuses turned out indoctrinated pupils who today hold key positions throughout the professions, especially the media....

Singling Out Australia's "Victims"

There is a battle underway to impose a new radical culture on traditional Australian life. It centers on four categories of so-called "victims": women, homosexuals, aboriginals--and kangaroos! They might be called, author Johnson notes, "the Four Horsepersons of the Left Apocalypse." Australia's traditionally masculine society is now being assaulted by a new horde of radical women who, increasingly, have the law on their side.

Australia is now being cocooned in a tangle of anti-discriminatory legislation and radical linguistic activists, which beats anything we have over here [in Britain]....[In New South Wales] an advertisement which states that "proficiency in English" is required may be guilty of discriminating against migrants. One requiring a Higher School Certificate "may discriminate against intellectually handicapped people." Ads which use "sex specific" terms ("fireman," "serviceman") are illegal. All words used must be "sex neutral" or "non-gender specific." Signs, say the rules, must be censored to avoid offense. The Board cites as an example of what is unacceptable the sign "Go Straight to the Club Bar," on the ground that this could mean "Homosexuals are not welcome at the Club Bar."

Creating a Race Problem Where None Existed

The left's biggest effort to disrupt Australian society, however, has gone into creating a nationwide race relations industry, concentrating on aboriginal "rights." There are now probably more well-paid middle-class radical whites working in this industry, as researchers, case-workers, legal advisers and civil service administrators, than there are full-blooded aboriginals with a secondary education.... Wonderful opportunities for trouble-making are opening up. If the aboriginals are told often enough that they have good grounds for a riot--almost a social duty to riot, in fact--they will end by producing a riot of sorts. [An aboriginal "riot" was stage-managed at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane last October.] Then, inevitably, there will be further grounds for a campaign against the police and the authorities for "human rights violations...."

The tragedy is that there is no reason whatever why blacks and whites in Australia should ever be pitted against each other. There is no race problem as such. Most Australians live in a few big cities and never set eyes on a black.... According to one calculation, there are only about 30,000 full-bloods, and well under 200,000 altogether, including the most diluted blood lines. It can be argued, indeed, that Australian blacks now constitute the most favoured racial group in the entire Pacific area. Special assistance schemes, which are provided in addition to normal social services, are running at \$1,690 a head every year.

There are some fanatics who say that the whole of Australia ought to be "returned" to aboriginal ownership. Assuming this is dismissed as impractical, however, there is no doubt that current land legislation treats them with unique generosity.... Moreover, though mineral rights throughout Australia are vested in the Crown, in much of the territory now owned by aboriginals mineral rights appear to go with the freehold, an anomaly which gives blacks privileges never conceded to whites. It is possible that they may come to constitute the wealthiest racial group in the entire population....

The radical Left is also getting increasingly worked up over the state of the kangaroo population, and with even less justification. [There are from 30 million to 50 million of them in the country, twice or three times the human population.] Farmers and others who have to deal with kangaroos have been outraged by a recent film, "Goodbye Joey" (kangaroos are known as Joeys), which depicts the culling industry as guilty of appalling and indiscriminate cruelty.... Farmers shoot kangaroos, to be sure, but probably more are killed by crashing into cars and trucks at night.... The kangaroo lobby merges imperceptibly with the conservationists or "greenies," also dominated by the radical Left. It is essentially an anti-business, anti-capitalist movement, concerned to obstruct progress rather than to preserve nature....

Stifling a Blessed Country's Initiative

A majority of Australia's voters, writes author Johnson, are found in the two "old" states of Victoria and New South Wales. Together they determine what happens in Canberra in much the same way that voters in Ontario and Quebec together determine the fate of Canada. But Australia's future, experts believe, is to be found in Queensland--Australia's California--in the mines and wheatfields of Western Australia, and in the as yet undeveloped Northern Territory. These areas have the present and future wealth. What their citizens lack is the representational voting power to protect themselves from what they consider to be a despoiling federal government. Thus this problem is similar to that experienced by the Western provinces of Canada and America's "Sun Belt." Author Johnson continues:

...Victoria and New South Wales clamour for more protection and Federal aid. Queensland and Western Australia do not want or need either and fear they will end by paying for both. Queensland grows more confident of its independent strength as a steady stream of immigrants from down south vote with their feet for its free-enterprise style.... It is Western Australia, however, which

feels most vulnerable to the threat from Canberra. It is as big as the whole of India, but has only 1,300,000 people. Its burgeoning agricultural sector is already capable of feeding the whole of Europe. Its mineral wealth, especially in gold, nickle, coal, iron ore and natural gas, is awe-inspiring, yet only a quarter of its surface area has even been prospected.... Sir Charles Court, who retired as Premier of WA only last year, now fears that the heavy hand of Canberra plus the growing power of the unions and political Left, could wreck the economic future of his state....

Striding about this dusty earth [in Western Australia], with what is perhaps the world's richest concentration of minerals beneath you, you become acutely conscious of the curious philosophical gap which separates those who create the world's wealth and those whose task it is to decide how to consume it--between enterprise and government. Nowhere is the gap broader than in Australia. This great young nation was created by enterprise and is now in danger of falling prey to government. The outcome of that struggle will determine the nature of Australia's future--or whether it has a future.

Yes, Australia should be in its dynamic prime of life. Instead, like England, its parent, this chunk of contemporary Ephraim is growing prematurely old. "Gray hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knoweth not" (Hosea 7:9). Australia's full potential will have to await the coming "Golden Age" of the millennium.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau