

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

June 3, 1983

The month of May ended with a financial increase of 14.6 percent over the same month last year, which is 0.7 percent more than the increase for April. The year-to-date increase is now 11.9 percent more. Even though we would like to see better increases, these are still good, considering the U.S. economic situation. According to current income and expense projections, we should finish the year with a small amount added to reserves.

The Pentecost offering in the U.S. came to a 6.6 percent increase when finally tabulated. The preliminary estimate, based on call-in figures, was only a 3.7 percent increase, but there were quite a few offerings that were mailed in, which increased the figure significantly.

The 1982 U.S. and worldwide audits have now been completed by Arthur Andersen & Co. Our project manager and two of the partners have had their annual meeting with Mr. Armstrong and me. The audit has not yet been signed and printed, but that should be done soon. I am sure you realize that this is the first combined worldwide audit for the Work, and we are pleased that it has gone so well. It has been quite an exercise for our accounting staff, the regional directors and their accounting staffs, as well as Arthur Andersen.

You should remember a short article and worldwide financial report in February which was based on our internal monthly reports. I am happy to report that the audited statement will show more income than this article stated, due in part to the way the international amounts are translated into U.S. dollars. Total support and revenue figures were \$120,904,000, and expenses were \$116,097,000. It might be interesting to know that almost exactly one third of the support and revenue was paid out in salaries.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Update From the French Office As a footrace bursts into motion upon the crack of the starter's pistol, so the French phase of God's Work rushes into what appears to be an exciting summer of growth!

The initial burst of energy comes from an exciting response to a magazine insert similar to what the German Department used in DER SPEIGEL. We placed our inserts in the French weekly magazine VALEURS ACTUELLES which has a circulation of 122,000. To date we have received 6,307 requests for a subscription to La PURE VERITE. This is a 17.41% increase in our PV circulation in France in just two weeks!

Our next growth booster should be the response to a similar magazine insert in the Belgian weekly magazine FEMMES D'AUJOURD'HUI. This magazine has a circulation of approximately 507,000.

With this type of fast pace set, we are looking for a lively response to the French Reader's Digest--SELECTION--advertisement in France, Belgium, Switzerland and French Canada. The response should start in June and continue strongly for two or three months. The combined circulation of these versions is 1,664,000.

Mr. Dibar Apartian, Regional Director of the French phase of God's Work, flew to Quebec on May 19 to conduct a conference with all the ministers, ministerial assistants, deacons and wives. On Saturday, May 21, the two Montreal Churches met together both in the morning and the afternoon to hear two sermons from Mr. Apartian. A total of 561 persons were present.

That evening, Mr. and Mrs. Apartian flew to Quebec City to keep Pentecost with the Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres Churches. Again Mr. Apartian gave the morning and afternoon sermons, this time to an assembly of 155 persons.

Sunday evening, a Public Bible Study for La PURE VERITE subscribers was held at the Auberge des Gouverneurs and it was a great success, surpassing what was even hoped for. A total of 89 new persons were present to hear Mr. Apartian speak for over an hour on the economic crisis in Quebec--and its solution! The audience was very attentive, and afterwards a group of about 40 persons gathered around Mr. Apartian to ask questions. So far there have been six requests for visits and three of these were from people who drove over 150 miles to attend the meeting!

Several years ago at a previous Public Bible study in Quebec, the Archbishop of Quebec had come to hear Mr. Apartian. This time, the presence of the Cardinal's right-hand man was noticed! One wonders just how much the Catholic Church in Quebec is interested in our activities.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you so much for the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. It was a tremendous benefit to my wife and me. We had read and heard so many positive comments from others who have been on the program but couldn't really appreciate what they were all saying until we had experienced it for ourselves. It was even better than the first Refreshing Program, which was hard to beat. These Refreshing Programs produce such positive fruits, individually and for the entire Church, that we sincerely hope that they can be continued indefinitely.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the current program is the opportunity to witness the loyalty, dedication and wholehearted support for God, God's Church, His Work, and His end-time apostle by the entire team working at Headquarters. It was not a put-on. It was so real you could almost touch it. This is so encouraging to the ministry in the field--to see that the team chosen to work directly under you is truly practicing what we preach.

Mr. Armstrong, my wife and I sincerely believe that the vast majority of the ministry and the members of the Church support you and God's Work with a total commitment. We love you and pray for you daily.

Ron and Paulette Jameson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I want to add my thanks to all the expressions of appreciation from those who have had the privilege of attending the Refreshing Program, and for being taught by loyal, loving and converted men, such as Mr. Tkach, Mr. Blackwell, Dr. Hoeh and all the others who have taken their time to teach us the truths revealed to you from Jesus Christ. It is an exciting experience for us who have never had the opportunity to attend Ambassador College, and to top it off to be taught in person by God's apostle. Thank you again for allowing the local church elders to attend these classes.

Irvin Hardiman

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Now back in England, Margaret and I want to express our thanks through you to the entire Refreshing Program team.

The atmosphere of unity and harmony (not to mention the excellent material presented) was even more pronounced than programme number one. It shows no phase of God's Work can stand still.

Something that hit us appreciably was that there were no "super-stars" at Headquarters--no "solo-stars"--just a dedicated, converted team supporting Christ's apostle and serving the ministry worldwide. Many thanks.

Robert and Margaret Harrison

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I, having recently returned to Columbia, South Carolina from Pasadena and MRP session seventeen, wanted to drop you a few lines of appreciation while the session is still fresh in our minds.

We have been visiting the Headquarters of God's Work since 1974 for Ministerial Conferences, etc., including a one year Sabbatical in 1976/1977, and wish to assure you that none of those sessions were as balanced or spiritually refreshing as our refreshing classes in Pasadena.

Not only are the current MRP sessions balanced, refreshing and educational, but the cooperation and dedication displayed by all is evident. This is also borne out in the current growth and potential trends for the Work.

We are praying that all the good things that were evident during our two weeks in Pasadena will be solidified during the months ahead, giving even greater impetus for the future growth of God's Work.

Please convey our thanks and appreciation to all those who taught us in class and who served us in many other ways while we were there. We look forward to Ministerial Refreshing Program number three.

Carlos and Shirley Nieto

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We are very grateful for the opportunity to have attended the fourteenth session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. Thank you for all the hard work done by yourself and the Ministerial Services team to produce such a valuable course.

Not only did we appreciate the warm atmosphere, physically speaking--away from our cold Quebec winter--but the same type of atmosphere prevailed in other and more important ways, and we really enjoyed it. It surely was a pleasure to be with such friendly, converted people at Headquarters.

We especially appreciated the welcome extended by Mr. Apartian (who personally met our group at the airport in spite of a traffic jam). He and Mrs. Apartian were perfect hosts, as usual, at the enjoyable reception they organized for the French ministry at their home. This Refreshing Program also enabled us to have the unique opportunity of renewing friendships established years ago among the French ministry in Europe.

Thanks for everything!

Bob and Eloise Scott

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

During the summer months we are again offering a number of classes here at Pasadena. (Mr. Les McCullough informed me yesterday that they are doing the same at Big Sandy.) In addition to the summer classes being offered here in Pasadena for credit, we are offering a number of Continuing Education classes, but no college credit is given for those classes. Employees and Church members are welcome to take the Continuing Education classes to increase their knowledge and understanding in theology, or in other areas.

This summer Ambassador will receive another group of Japanese students from Bunkyo College in Tokyo. In the past we have had from about 65 to 70 Japanese students, but this year we anticipate having about 90 students attending Ambassador for a three-week intensive study of English, American history and culture.

Ambassador College has also been asked to send two teachers to Thailand in order to help teach English to some of the monks. We will not, however, be sending any more students to teach English to the refugees in Thailand. Apparently, the Thai government no longer feels the need for this service; but in the past, they have shown great appreciation for our efforts in this area when it was needed.

Also, we are sending a group of ten Ambassador students to the People's Republic of China for seven weeks this summer! They will be studying the Chinese language and, among other things, will do some traveling in China before returning to Pasadena for the beginning of the College year here in the fall.

In addition to the ten students, we are sending a member of the Pasadena faculty, Mr. Ralph Levy, who has taken several years of Chinese, and should be able to assist the students in this linguistic undertaking. Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pelfrey will also be a part of the group. Mr. Pelfrey was the Project Manager of our ACEPT project in Thailand, and did a fine job. He will be in charge of the group. Later, the Chinese government wants us to send a number of our students and/or College-trained personnel to teach English in China. As you can imagine, this is a very interesting and exciting project and will afford those students being sent to China a wonderful opportunity to learn another language, experience another culture, and to see some of the world on the other side of the Bamboo Curtain.

We just never know what might come of such a project as our "China Project." Apparently China, like so many other countries, realizes that if she is ever to really get ahead, a significant number of her people need to learn English. I believe it was Prime Minister Nehru of India who once said that the English language was India's window to the world. English is now the lingua franca of the world--the language of diplomacy, business and commerce. Most of the important scientific and technical books and journals are published in English and then later translated into other languages. This takes both time and considerable expense. Anyway, all progressive countries realize the necessity of having many of their people trained in the use of the English language.

My wife and I were privileged to spend the weekly Sabbath before Pentecost with the Norfolk, Virginia Church, where I spoke. Then we had combined services for the Richmond, Virginia Church (pastored by Mr. Ken Giese) and the Norfolk Church (pastored by Mr. Ed Faulk) on the day of Pentecost. We had 513 in attendance, and had a good offering for the area--\$23.76 per person. Mr. Faulk informed me that nearly 100 people have been added to the Norfolk Church in just over a year.

All continues very well with the many areas of the Work of God here in Pasadena. We need your continued prayers, as you also need our prayers--that all of us unitedly can accomplish the Work which God has called all of us together to complete!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

Multiple Literature Requests

Because some of our literature has widespread appeal to many public and private groups and organizations, the Work frequently receives requests for multiple copies of such publications. These come from schools and universities, hospitals, civic organizations, government agencies, even from some churches. The following from a chamber of commerce is a typical example:

Please forward to us 25 copies of your book THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY. We would like each of our members of the Board of Directors to have a copy. Thanking you in advance.

Generally, we only send limited copies of a particular publication. We carefully try to prevent situations which might cause offense by having our literature distributed to people who have not requested it. For example, during the Christmas and Easter seasons individuals often ask for many copies of our booklets on these holidays to send to friends and relatives in

place of greeting cards. In cases where we do not send multiple copies, a letter is sent, explaining that others who are interested in the literature should write in for their own copy.

However, since our printed material is made available to the public, bulk requests are evaluated and fulfilled whenever our booklets can be used in an educational way. The most asked-for items include "The Silent Epidemic," "Modern Social Curses" (Alcohol and Drugs), THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, and CRIME CAN BE STOPPED--HERE'S HOW.

Countless individuals have been helped by the many thousands of booklets and articles that have been distributed through multiple literature requests. Here are a few letters which illustrate the value of this program:

I wish to acknowledge the receipt of 25 copies of the booklet entitled "The Seven Laws of Success." It is a superb little booklet and will be used most effectively with the students for whom I am sponsor in Phi Theta Kappa, the National Scholastic Fraternity for two-year colleges. Again my most sincere thanks.

College professor (Massachusetts)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Worldwide Church of God for the excellent literature "Alcoholism--a Worldwide Abuse" and "The Dilemma of Drugs." A strong focus is on education here at the Alcoholic Clinic...and recognizing that alcoholism is a treatable family illness we recognize that recovery begins with a change of thinking. Your contribution will help those patients and their families begin the change process by giving them good factual information.

We will be giving the magazines to our patients and their families. We also do outreach in the community and will use the literature as part of our packet of information.

Alcohol Clinic Counseling Coordinator (Ohio)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Worldwide Church of God for the excellent literature, "The Dilemma of Drugs," "Crime Can Be Stopped," and "The Silent Epidemic." In our community, as the Law Enforcement Agents, we are endeavoring to increase awareness and understanding about the prevention of crime, disease and drugs. Your contribution will help in providing our locality with good factual information.

Thank you and your concerned congregation for aiding in the enlightenment of these dangers. We are very grateful for the clarity and directness of thoughts of organizations such as yours.

Police Department Captain (Pennsylvania)

We would like to request copies of the booklet, "The Silent Epidemic--Facts on VD." This has proved to be a very good publication used in connection with our STD Clinic. If possible, we would like to obtain 500 copies. Please let us know if this is possible.

We should also like to add we appreciate your cooperation in the past in our ordering of these booklets. They have been of much benefit to us and to our clinic.

County Health Department (Indiana)

I am very impressed with your booklet, "Managing Your Personal Finances," and would like to use it in my class. Please send me 100 copies.

Graduate School of Business (Oklahoma)

Colorful Quotes

Some of our subscribers, filled with enthusiasm for the Work, its publications and programs, express themselves in colorful ways. Occasionally, they use interesting analogies and graphic descriptions when sharing their feelings, as this week's comments show.

My wife and I have a very small income but I'm sending \$2 to help with The PLAIN TRUTH. I get more nourishment from The PLAIN TRUTH than I could from \$2 worth of food.

L.P. (Federal Way, WA)

I anxiously wait for the magazine--it is just like a big check.

Mrs. D.P. (New Orleans, LA)

In a world of bad news, The GOOD NEWS is always welcome.

Mr. & Mrs. E.R. (Washington, PA)

My mailbox has become the door to a great friend and my Bible the greatest of treasures. The combination of the two are more of an instructor than I had dared hope for, at least in this life.

T.A. (Ft. Valley, GA)

Thank you very much for the literature your church sends out to people like myself who have needed to understand more fully what Christianity and the Bible are all about. It is like coming out of a mysterious dark closet after many years and suddenly finding light and understanding.

J.A. (Red Oak, IA)

Your literature is like a guiding light through the passageways of the Bible. It is helping our Creator's instruction book to teach me the ways of His perfect character, that with His help I hope to develop.

M.F. (Calgary, Canada)

I was once as an orphan because of the lack of knowledge, or rather because of the many false doctrines that left many unanswered questions. But I feel now as a child held safely in the embrace of his father's arms, reassured, confident and secure because his knowledge is mine.

D.S. (Old Hickory, TN)

I wish to thank you for the booklets and magazines that you have sent me. I have studied the Bible with other students and on my

own for many years, but I still had doubts. The literature I received from you was like the missing parts of a puzzle. Now everything is falling into place nicely and I am, at last, getting a complete picture.

W.S. (Sarasota, FL)

Last Sunday, sitting alone in my hotel room, I turned on the TV merely to hear another voice while working on some legal papers. Here in Connecticut the weather has been as miserable as every day's headlines. Your lecture was a sparkling ray of sunshine and hope. Thank you very much.

Mrs. J.O. (Blackrock, CT)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ALL SMILES AT THE SUMMIT--BUT PROBLEMS PERSIST Earlier this week I had the opportunity of heading back to the East Coast for the purpose of attending the ninth annual free world economic summit (Mr. Ken Giese, pastor of the Richmond Church accompanied me) as well as conducting several interviews in Washington, D.C. (accompanied by Mr. Richard Frankel, Washington Church pastor).

Regarding the summit, the present moderate upswing in economic fortunes throughout much of the Western world virtually assured that this year's seven-nation Summit of Industrialized Nations would be a success. There was to be no major confrontation, such as the crisis over East-West trade which doomed the previous summit in Versailles.

With hopes renewed that the gloomiest clouds of the recent recession were at last lifting, the leaders of the U.S., West Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy pledged to keep up the fight against inflation and to back off--for now at least--from the brink of an all-out trade war.

The general consensus among the 3,000 or so journalists gathered at the Williamsburg, Virginia summit site was that the "winner" was the host head-of-state, President Ronald Reagan. The TIMES of London correspondent said that the conference marked the occasion "when President Reagan emerged as an international leader of stature, finally managing to shed his cowboy image."

With the U.S. obviously in the position of being the "locomotive" of recovery, the other leaders were in no position to rock the boat. Widespread predictions that there would be loud complaints over continuing high interest rates in the U.S.--a contributing factor to the strength of the dollar over the other currencies--failed to materialize.

Not that frictions over this issue have faded far into the background. Immediately after the summit, the beleaguered French franc plummeted against the dollar once more. Anticipating this development, U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan repeatedly stressed at the summit his belief that the real problem is not with a strong dollar but with lack of confidence in the French currency due to President Francois Mitterrand's persistence in pursuing costly socialist programs.

It may indeed have been "Mr. Reagan's Summit." For the first time, the U.S. chief executive found a healthy majority of support for his policies--on

economic issues especially, as well as on the broader range of East-West political and security relations.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher--who could attend only one day in Williamsburg before flying back home to continue her election campaign--is often referred to as an "ideological soulmate" of Mr. Reagan's. The new chancellor of West Germany, Helmut Kohl, a first time summiteer, is considerably more in tune with the U.S. President's thinking than was former chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Italy's Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani represents the NATO country that has been the least problem to Washington concerning the deployment of the new Pershing II and cruise missiles. Finally, Prime Minister Nakasone of Japan and Mr. Reagan "hit it off" well when the former visited Washington earlier this year. This personal relationship helps smooth over the perennially bumpy relationship of the two countries over trade issues.

Key: Confidence in America

Viewing the activities of this annual "summit of summits" (my fourth such conference), one thing was impressed upon me very forcefully: Just how important is the factor of confidence in America to the stability of the entire Western world.

This was amply demonstrated by the crude attempt on the part of the Soviet Union, just as the summit began, to rattle those in attendance. Moscow warned that if the Pershings and cruise missiles were indeed deployed in Western Europe beginning at the end of 1983, it might feel compelled to move some of its own Euromissile nuclear weapons forward into some of its East bloc satellite countries. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz declared that the Soviet warning was intended as "a shot across the bow of this conference."

The Kremlin threat backfired instead. In an unprecedented show of solidarity, the eight leaders assembled (the Common Market President also attends) unanimously vowed support for the NATO deployment program. The unanimity was all the more surprising considering it entailed support from non-NATO Japan and from France, which maintains a separate defense structure and participates with the alliance only on political matters.

Superficial Unity

Behind the smiles and the optimistic joint statements arrived at in Williamsburg, however, are serious and widening differences, only papered over for now in the pastel bloom of economic recovery. A serious rift between America and her friends is only a matter of time.

Before the conference, I had the opportunity of talking to several foreign relations experts in three of the many "think tanks" that are headquartered in Washington, D.C. The upshot of their comments to me: Watch out for the next few months!

The fabric of European-American relations could well be ripped asunder over the issues of missiles in Europe and the deepening U.S. involvement in Central America--an area of the world that most Europeans view with far less alarm than the current administration in Washington.

At the Center of Strategic and International Studies, defense analyst Mike Moodie told me that nearly all likely outcomes of the Euromissile deployment program bode ill for the Western Alliance. A less than unanimous decision on the part of NATO's sixteen members to proceed with deployment by December would not sit well with the United States. "An 8-7-1 decision," he said, hardly would reflect confidence in U.S. alliance leadership. A decision to postpone the deployment--advocated by some Europeans--would be considered even worse.

Without solid European backing, said a German, Manfred Hamm, at the Heritage Foundation, the United States would certainly be justified in calling for the removal of its ground forces from Europe, rather than exposing them to greater Soviet risk.

At the same time, said Dr. Hamm, the Europeans are deeply concerned that the intercontinental strategic (U.S. rather than European-based) nuclear weapons that protect them are in danger of being "frozen" into disuse because of the mushrooming "nuclear freeze" movement in the United States. Particularly alarming to Europeans is the pro-freeze position recently taken by America's liberal Roman Catholic bishops. West German and French bishops, interestingly enough, have publicly stated their opposition to the thrust of the position of their counterparts in America.

Central American Turmoil

Western Europeans are worried, too, that the United States is becoming mired in a "new Vietnam" in Central America. Mr. Reagan confirmed their fears during the summit when he removed two key officials in his Central America policy structure, replacing them with individuals considered to be more "hard line."

According to Mr. Moodie, Central America promises to be the most critical foreign policy issue of the 1984 Presidential campaign. "Over the next eighteen months," he said, "Central America has the potential to rip us apart again."

Logically, said fellow CSIS member William Perry, the U.S. should seriously consider sending its own troops in. It would take probably no more than 25,000 to wipe out the small number of guerrillas in El Salvador. However, U.S. public opinion just won't permit this. "The real battleground is this country," Mr. Perry said.

There is a definite domino effect possible in Central America, noted Mr. Perry, but it doesn't necessarily include Mexico. Mexico would certainly become more vulnerable should every country below it succumb to Marxist revolution. But he felt that "to go after Mexico," as he put it, would require a deliberate decision on the part of Moscow and Havana. Presently, the leftist sympathies of Mexico serve the latter well.

Should this decision be taken, Mexico could hardly stand up to leftist revolution. Its small army (half the size of Cuba's) said the outspoken Mr. Perry, is run by "octogenarian clowns" and Mexico's admirals "have no boats." Nevertheless, the government would have to fall back on its logical pillars of support: The wealthy and the middle classes, the army--and ultimately the United States. The revolution would have to be ruthlessly crushed--which means the U.S. would again be accused of being on the side of an "oppressive regime."

The controversy over Central America, Mr. Moodie added, "feeds into European relations"--and from two opposite angles.

Many younger generation Europeans, feeling more sympathy for leftist causes, believe that the current U.S. approach to the spreading crisis in Central America is dead wrong. This adds to the impression the majority of young Europeans have about America: Namely, that the U.S. is a greater threat to world peace than is the Soviet Union.

Conservative Europeans, on the other hand, wonder whether the United States any longer has the will to stand up to a threat from Moscow, this time right in America's "front yard."

If America can't defend its own interests close to home, reason the Europeans, how can the U.S. be depended upon to continue to defend Western Europe from Soviet pressure.

Mr. Moodie recounted a recent conference in Washington, D.C. dealing with the future of the Western Alliance, at which some European delegates argued very strongly for an independent nuclear capability for Western Europe.

In conclusion, there is a lot simmering behind the happy facade of Williamsburg. The European-American pot will boil over before long.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau