

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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HOW THE BEATLES CHANGED THE CULTURE OF THE WESTERN WORLD

News coverage virtually equal to a Presidential assassination. What was it that changed lifestyles and social values of America?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

On Tuesday night, December 9, I tuned in to the Walter Cronkite evening news. I was shocked--almost dumbfounded! I had been up late the night before, near midnight, and turned on TV just before going to bed. A special news update announced the murder of Beatle "star" John Lennon. To me it carried no significance. I never was a Beatle fan--nor a "rock" fan. I had dismissed it from my mind.

Then next night, Tuesday, on Cronkite's 5:30 evening news on the Tucson CBS channel, the newscaster I had regarded as "top" in the field shoved aside all news about the Polish crisis, Soviet possible intervention, the war between Iraq and Iran and the threatened war between Syria and Jordan, and started on a long news story of a one-man murder that had occurred after his news program the night before.

I wasn't interested, but due to amazement that the great Cronkite was giving it so much time on national television, I stayed with him. When more than half his half-hour was past, I flipped over to NBC Nightly News. They had not yet come to the Lennon shooting apparently, but in about one minute they did, and announced a whole special program to come on about the "rock" murder later. Nevertheless, NBC still gave it considerable time in the remainder of their regular nightly news. To get something different I turned to the public television channel for the MacNeil-Lehrer Report--always a long, solid national or international-interest subject. But sure enough, here, also, this John Lennon was stealing their show--although they turned it into a more serious discussion about whether the nation should make gun sales illegal.

In disgust, I left TV, but at 10 p.m. tuned in for the LOCAL news. It was all eulogizing the "rock" "musician." A local Tucson crowd of 2,000 had flocked to Reid Park bandshell to leave roses, and mourn for their dead idol. The local station had a lot about the "man and his 'music'" (I had never thought of it as music, but a loud raucous SQUAWK and SCREAM with a fast beat--just an irritating noise).

Pardon me, please! Perhaps I never had any musical education, although I have played the piano since eight years old. I must have been terribly misled, for I supposed that the singing of a Caruso or a Galli-Curci of my father's time or a Pavarotti or Beverly Sills, or an Arthur Rubinstein of our day produced music. I guess I'm terribly out of date.

I have heard roosters make a loud raucous squawk when being captured for a Sunday dinner when I was a boy, but just never had been "educated" to call that "music."

When as a boy I worked one summer in a flour mill, to the constant "beat" of the machinery till it nearly drove me crazy, I somehow never realized that was "music."

Please bear with me in my ignorance.

I do remember, when I was in England at the college just before the mid-60s, the "Beatles" were breaking into public notice. They had a new "way out" style, with an idiotic mop-topped hair style, with hair covering the forehead to the eyebrows, the ears, and longer hair in the back of the head. The forehead is the seat of intellect--the mark of intelligence instead of animal non-intelligence. They started the style of male hair-do to turn evolution into reverse--man was becoming dumb brute animal.

Then followed the era of the hippies, men wearing real long hair like females.

Even the president of the United States had adopted a hair style combing hair down over about half the forehead.

Of the Beatles, Lennon seemed to be the "brains," and his boyhood and life had been troubled and disturbed. He was seeking something that would satisfy. He even delved into religion and politics. But he was influenced by eastern psychedelic and demon influences. His voice was the most gritty, raucous and hard, angry, driving, determined of the group. Yet he became like mild putty in the hands of his Japanese wife. In later years he became the househusband, tending the child and house duties while the dominating wife supervised investments and business matters.

In his search for something that would satisfy his troubled mind, he went into things mystic and psychedelic--not realizing they were Satan influenced. He got out albums with nude covers.

In a way the Beatles started this modern trend in a new Satan-influenced lifestyle of a degenerating culture and sense of social values. But John Lennon was the mind-leader in this.

It picked up what had been started by Frank Sinatra, when teen-age girls ran screaming half out of their minds for his autograph. It was revived and intensified by Elvis Presley. Then the Beatles delivered Satan's knockout blow to any public sense of social values in the world.

The hippie fad followed. Down went morality, rising triumphantly was promiscuous sex, "pot," drugs, divorce, broken homes.

The world will deify and worship one who can start humanity on such a downward plunge. Lennon left a fortune, managed by his Japanese wife, of some \$230 million--but THAT'S OK with the public--as long as he was in "Show-Biz" and leading a misguided humanity further into Satan's way of life.

Lennon even made the statement at one time that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ. He had MILLIONS--untold MILLIONS of worshippers.

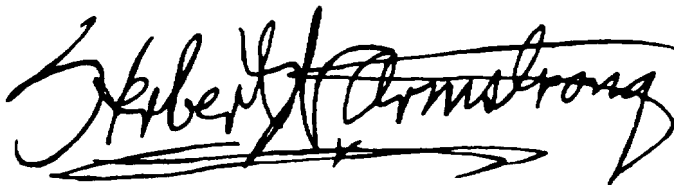
Of course the fact a former "mental patient" shot him--gunned him down deliberately--is to be abhorred. But was not Satan playing his role there? Is it not possible, if not a certainty, that the killer is demon possessed? What did the demon that may be in him have to do with the psychedelic demoniac spirits John Lennon was flirting with? There was something in common. The main eight-column headline in the Tucson Daily Star said, "FIXATED FAN LOVED HIM, AND KILLED HIM."

This world is fast losing all sense--if it ever had any--of true social values. The lower the standard of social values, the more popular they become in a misguided and deceived humanity.

WHAT HOPE IS THERE, IN SUCH A WORLD?

Just one! It's time we all pray, "THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN." And put our hearts and energies in our prayers as disciples, like this now dead "hero" put his into the raucous loud squawk and scream with the "fast beat." The world can put real energy into the things of Satan. Can't we put some real energy into our prayers?

How seriously do we really WANT God's Kingdom to come? Let's put some ENERGY into our prayers for it!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Local Elder Dies in Auto Accident

Peter Van Waardhuizen, Local Elder in Lethbridge, Canada, was killed instantly in an automobile accident December 1. Peter, 34, is survived by his wife, Joan, and their six-year-old daughter, Jackie.

Mr. Van Waardhuizen was born in Holland and moved to Canada when he was a child. He made his home in Fort McLeod, Alberta and served the Lethbridge congregation along with the pastor, Ken Webster, since 1979 when he was ordained. Mr. Webster described Mr. Van Waardhuizen as "...very impressive, a cut above the norm..." as far as his service to the Church was concerned, the personal example he set and the outstanding subject matter of his sermons. Peter was also an example in the community where he was known and admired by all levels of society. The funeral director said his was the largest funeral the town ever had. Less than half the people who filled the chapel to overflowing were local church members. The rest were from the surrounding community, including some ministers of a different faith.

Peter Van Waardhuizen was a man who gave everything his best effort. He was his company's top salesman for all of Alberta. Peter was on the job in his car when the fatal accident occurred. Mourned as a respected member of the community, he will be missed most as a loving family man and a fine minister.

Two Ministers' Sons Need Your Prayers

The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis LaRavia has been in the hospital with severe pain from an accident that occurred Sunday, December 7. Glen, who is 18, was thrown from a pick-up truck near the campus. He incurred many abrasions on his body but the greatest concern, and the cause of a great deal of pain which comes and goes, is a brain contusion (bruised brain). Your prayers and those of the brethren would be deeply appreciated by Glen and his family.

Also, the Jim Chapman family reports that their son Wayne is still in a coma. Nevertheless, he had been improving slowly until this week when he experienced a temporary setback. He is back in the intensive care unit, but has squeezed a parent's hand and opened his eyes momentarily. Your continued prayers for Wayne and his family are also deeply appreciated.

Expense Allotment Year-end Review

Now is the time to review your expense allotment. When your allotment check is mailed it is sent in advance of projected expenses. At the end of the year, the total of all allotment checks will be added to your W-2 form as income.

Unless you can sufficiently justify to the IRS the business expenses that match the expense allotments sent you, you will end up having to pay the tax on it. In order to prevent this from happening you may want to review the record-keeping requirements of the IRS and make sure that you have the proper receipts and documentation.

The allotment check is only to be used for church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. We will need to receive the check no later than the middle of December in order to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If we don't have it by then we can't be sure the necessary processing will get done. What this means is that you will need to approximate the balance of expenses in the rest of the year.

If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by very much, you may want to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with the check when you send it.

Anyone who needs an increase in his allotment should send a memo to Ministerial Services explaining the needed change. These requests are reviewed and evaluated both by Ministerial Services and the Regional Assistants.

International News

French Report A very good response was given to a fair booth set up by the Paris Church in Le Salon de l'Enfance, a fair held each year in Paris. Over 770 people asked for a subscription to La Pure Verite. Not only were these people reached, but many thousands of people stopped and asked questions about the informative publications which--surprisingly to them--were free! It's possible that in the future more may come from this publicity. The booth constructed by the brethren will most likely be used again at other fairs. The members of the Paris Church also were very encouraged

A Voice Cries Out: Why Japan Has Passed Detroit!

Prime Minister Sato, in 1970,
warned me against an industrial
war between our countries!

Appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Dec. 10, 1980

JAPAN automobile production now outstrips that of the United States!

Who would have believed, even 10 short years ago, that could ever happen? And not only Japan, but German, French, Swedish motorcar imports have seriously threatened the American automobile industry.

And that's not all! What is foreign competition in electronics, cameras, watches, many other imports doing to the United States economy, to say nothing of OPEC oil?

We cry out to Japan, "Please establish your plants in America and help our unemployment problem!" but of course they don't!

WHY? There had to be a cause for U.S. unemployment, rapid inflation, the sobering fact the U.S. high standard of living is starting the downward plunge!

For some little time after World War II we had the highest living standard ever enjoyed by any people since mankind inhabited this earth! The United States and Britain, up to and after the first World War, possessed more than two thirds, almost three fourths, of all the cultivated resources and wealth of the earth! All other nations, combined, less than a third! **WHY?**

Britain boasted that the sun never set on her empire. She was GREAT Britain! Not any more. Her empire is gone! Her sun has set! And now the United States is STARTING DOWN! There had, of necessity, to be a cause!

In 1970, in Tokyo, Prime Minister Eisaku Sato said to me "Thanks to the United States, the Japanese economy is rising sharply. Because you now protect us, we don't have to spend multiple billions for armed defense. But I have to warn you, I see approaching the danger of an economic and industrial war between our two countries! We must do everything possible to prevent that, for it might be more terrible than a military war!"

Mr. Sato didn't live to see such a catastrophe come to pass. But I had several conferences with him. Once, in his home after retiring from office, he said, "Japanese production and our economy have done very well, but the prosperity has not yet filtered down to our masses."

Today, however, the Japanese are beginning to lead the world as tourists and world travelers. Their prosperity has mushroomed. **OURS IS NOW OVER THE HILL AND STARTING DOWN - fast!**

On January 6, 1914, I was sent to Detroit by a national magazine, largest in the trade field, to interview Henry Ford on his new, then sensational \$5-per-day wage boost. Ford had just



HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

started assembly-line mass machine production. It greatly speeded up production, and lowered production costs.

But soon not only other motorcar makers, but U.S. industry in general got onto the assembly-line mass machine production for the mass market America provided.

Labor wars ensued. Union scales escalated. This brought to the United States the highest per-capita income and highest living standard ever enjoyed by any people on earth!

In 1960 when I established another liberal arts college in Britain, the average English wage was one third of the United States and the Japanese only one fourth! By then the EEC (Common Market) had provided a mass market for European assembly-line production.

But something else had happened. World War II! Prior to World War II German production had become the most efficient in the world. Hitler had sold Germans on being the "Master Race." Wartime bombing pretty well destroyed European industrial plants and machinery. After the war they lived in shacks, tents, rebuilding their industry came first. Their people sacrificed for country!

Europe and Japan emerged with new improved industrial equipment AND LOW COST LABOR! In 1947 I saw German workmen swinging their lunchboxes walking to work at 5:30 a.m., whistling or singing at the top of their lungs.

Postwar Japanese auto workers worked overtime without pay "for their country." That's why U.S. advertising agencies use the slogan for their Japanese auto client, "WE ARE DRIVEN!"

U.S. workers were working for SELF - more pay, shorter hours, more benefits. Meanwhile, U.S. industrial machinery was not being replaced with more modern models. Neither capital management nor workers were willing to "sacrifice for country" do away with old plants and equipment while rebuilding from the

ground up with the new and improved.

Meanwhile, following FDR's "New Deal," the United States government went on lavish "public welfare" programming. American people wanted to "GET" from government and politicians wanted to "GET" votes. Government was spending much more than it took in. How? By printing more and more money. This escalated INFLATION! The U.S. dollar was taking a beating in foreign countries. Foreign trade deficits rose sharply.

Today this country is in dire trouble far more serious than we realize. Marriage and family life, the foundation of a stable and enduring society, is breaking down. Morals in the crosspoll. Crime escalating. We're in a world of troubles its governments can't solve, recurring wars, governments overthrown almost one a month, weapons of mass destruction that can erase human life from the earth.

WHY? Our troubles are spiritual in nature, governed by a basic spiritual law. It is the way of life I simplify by the word "GIVE" - outflowing LOVE - the way of LIFE of cooperation, serving, helping, sharing. We don't believe it, but it's as inexorable as relentless as the law of gravity! It's the way to peace, happiness, contentment, joy, universal well being.

Break it, and it breaks you! We break it by our "GET" way of life - the way of vanity, coveting, envy and jealousy, competition and strife with violence and wars, resentment of authority.

It's no maudlin, sentimental or impractical religious idealism, but the cold hard FACT that stares us all in the face now - with life-and-death consequences! Our problems are spiritual in nature, and we've lost all sense of the TRUE VALUES!

We need desperately to CHANGE - but we have gone past the law of diminishing returns - past human ability to solve our life-and-death evils.

This voice cries out emphatically that now, that unseen "Strong Hand from Somewhere" is about to intervene dynamically, before man annihilates mankind from the earth, and save a misguided humanity from itself! Your believing that makes no difference - it's as CERTAIN as the rising and setting of tomorrow's sun!

Even our so-called human nature is going to be changed! The world is going to be changed from the "GET" principle of life to the "GIVE." And the GOOD NEWS is, a new world of PEACE, contentment, happiness, universal well being and salvation for all is just around the corner - AFTER a misguided mankind first brings itself to the final grand smash climax of world trouble and to the very brink of total destruction!

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Pastor General
Worldwide Church of God

Those who care for it may have, gratis, with no follow up, Mr. Armstrong's booklet *The Seven Laus of Success*. The nation's top executives have followed the first six. Also, on request, no subscription price, the full-color mass circulation magazine of UNDERSTANDING, *The Plain Truth*, bringing you the meaning behind world news. Address Herbert W. Armstrong, Pasadena, Calif., 91123, or call toll free (800) 423-4444. In California call collect (213) 577-5225.

by their experience in working together on the booth and in having direct contact with the public and, in this way, helping the Gospel to be preached.

Growth in French Canada: Mr. Bob Scott writes from Quebec City that there has been a gigantic influx of new people in the area. In the last month and a half, 26 brand-new people (16 adults and 10 children) showed up at least once at services. About half of them seem very interested in the Church.

Mr. Picard, our minister in Montreal South, writes in his October report that since the Feast, the Church hasn't stopped growing in membership. Four new families, of which eight are adults and six children, attend services regularly now. Several other people have shown interest as well in attending regular Sabbath services.

News from Haiti: In his last letter dated November 8, 1980 Mr. Lionel Estinvil wrote us: "Since my return, Mr. Jove and I have made many visits. Besides the nine visits I have already arranged for next week, we received this week 15 letters, among which there are 10 PV requests, 8 literature requests, 3 requests for visits and two requests for the Correspondence Course. What's more, we also received (orally) 12 more PV requests and one request for the Bible Course. There are three or four people who are ready for baptism...."

On October 17, Mr. Lionel Estinvil was officially given the right of American citizenship. This will greatly facilitate his travel between the United States and Haiti. We are happy to welcome a new American among us!

News from Guadeloupe: Mr. Dubois, in his letter of November 17 addressed to Mr. Apartian, gives us the following news: "Here, as far as the political atmosphere of the country is concerned, the situation is not calm at all. There is an extremist group which demands separation from France. Tonight three bombs exploded in three different areas: one in a bank, another in front of a police station, and the third in the gardens of a large hotel in St. Francois. Because of the late hour at which these bombs exploded, there were no victims. The attempts are meant most of all to create a feeling of insecurity in the country. About two months ago, there was a series of attempts of this kind. But this time a person was killed, a young French soldier who had tried to dismantle one of these bombs. Soon the calmness and the serenity of living in the French Antilles will be a thing of the past...."

Mr. Bernard Hongerlout transferred to Pasadena: The decision has been made to transfer Mr. Hongerlout to Pasadena so he can assist Mr. Apartian in his many responsibilities in the French area of the Work. In the meantime, as the Hongerlouts are expecting a new baby at the beginning of January, their transfer will not occur until towards mid-January.

Income up: The offerings at the Feast this year increased 11% over those a year ago. In October, the revenue in France showed an increase of 21%.

Australian Report At the present time we are going through a consolidation period which includes a slow down in promotions and mail responses to advertisements. Other media have also dropped somewhat compared to last year. However, a solid base of PLAIN TRUTH readers and co-workers has kept our donation and regular mail coming in at a consistent rate.

Our lower mail count has had little effect on income. We are most grateful for an excellent increase in income for November--up 34.8% over the same month last year. Our year-to-date increase now stands at 27%. This solid increase in income serves to remind us that this is not the work of men, but the Work of God, and it is He who lays it on the hearts of members, co-workers, and others to support His Work financially.

Church News: Our Regional Director, Mr. Bob Morton, has been travelling extensively this past month visiting a number of church areas throughout Australia. So far he has visited Perth, Adelaide, Gold Coast, Newcastle, Hobart, Launceston, and Devonport once each, and Sydney and Brisbane twice, conducting Sabbath services and Bible studies, and getting together with the ministers and their wives. These trips are proving invaluable in promoting church unity and in helping the ministry and members to solidly support Mr. Armstrong in doing God's Work in this area of the world.

Mr. Morton leaves this coming Wednesday, December 3rd, for Singapore and Malaysia. He will be visiting with members in that area as well as meeting with the printers and distributors of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Mr. Morton will be investigating ways to improve the quality of the printing of the magazine, as well as the service to our readers throughout Australia and Asia.

Appreciation for Ministerial Refreshing Program

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong:

My wife and I have just returned from the Ministerial Refreshing Program. How I ever got along without this information--without making colossal blunders, only God knows, for it must have been by the grace of God. Now we can all speak with confidence that we are speaking the same thing you are speaking.

We thank you for it. We want you to know we appreciate ministers Joe Tkach, Larry Salyer, Leroy Neff, Dean Blackwell, Ellis LaRavia and others at Ministerial Services for presenting the truth of God to us EXACTLY the way you, Mr. Armstrong, have checked and approved.

We feel that we have not heard the truth preached so exactly as you have taught it for at least FIFTEEN YEARS. I am using the information we received as a guide to every sermon, in every counselling session, in my every decision, even in my thoughts.

Perhaps most of all, we appreciate the total loyalty of Ministerial Services to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, the apostle whom Jesus Christ has used as the instrument to teach us all the truth of God that we know. For this is PROOF POSITIVE that Jesus Christ is putting the Church of God back on the TRACK.

Lynn and Wynona Torrance

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thank you very much for allowing my wife Paulette and me to be a part of the fifth Ministerial Refreshing Program. We also had the privilege of taking part in the last Sabbatical Program which was terminated at the half-way mark. I was somewhat disappointed in not being able to complete the Sabbatical but now clearly see your wisdom and foresight in creating the three-week Ministerial Refreshing Program to replace it.

This new program will bring all of the ministry much more rapidly to the place where we are all speaking the same thing. The faithful team you have chosen to support you in Pasadena are very obviously dedicated and loyal to Jesus Christ and to you, Mr. Armstrong. We were served both physically and spiritually in a way we will not soon forget. Thank you for your love and loyalty to us expressed through this program. Our prayers and thoughts are with you daily as you lead us in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Ron and Paulette Jameson

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I just returned from attending the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We wanted to relay to you our deep gratitude for the opportunity to attend and participate. We found the topics covered and the material presented to be extremely relevant and helpful. The 140 pages of notes I took will serve as a reference notebook for years to come. We found it very helpful to learn what your understanding and the official Church teaching was on the large array of topics covered. We had heard only positive comments from those who previously attended. But the material was even better than we had expected.

Mr. Armstrong, we are inspired by the ways God is using you to reach the world's leaders with His message, as well as the way God is using you to direct His Work. Our family prays for you daily.

Lyle and Margie Welty

Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from Akron, Ohio. My wife and I just returned from the three-week Refreshing Program at Pasadena. We certainly want to join many other ministers in saying a special "thank you" for the fact that you have made this program available to us.

I know one of the things that has been sadly lacking over the past few years in the ministry has been unity. But I certainly know from the three-week program what Christ has led you to understand in all the major doctrinal areas. You can count on us to "teach as we have been taught" these basic spiritual truths.

You are in our prayers daily, and we certainly wish you and your family the best in every way. Thanks for your many years of hard work and dedication to the Work of God. Your example has been an inspiration to all of us in the ministry and church.

Mike and Sandy Swagerty

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

With the commencement of the Refreshing Program for the ministry and our experience of it, we felt that when all Church pastors and their wives had passed through the three-week sessions, we would have the unity and love in the Church and ministry that we've longed for. This, because of the unity we could see among your personal assistants at Pasadena: Mr. Tkach, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. Neff and the other men responsible for delivering to us what you have always taught, and the unity we saw develop in the group we were privileged to be a part of.

However, we underestimated the power of God and what He has been doing through you. For, shortly after returning home we were off again to the Feast of Tabernacles. What happened there this year was incredible! The love and fellowship was greater than we have ever experienced before. God already had brought to pass in the Church as a whole what we experienced on that third Refreshing Program. God has dramatically blessed your every effort and the effort of all in the ministry who have striven to carry out your instructions and leadership in putting His Church back on the right tack. How wonderful it is to be a part of God's Church and how comforting it is, Mr. Armstrong, to be secure in the strong leadership Jesus Christ is providing for His people through you.

Lyall and Winnis Johnston

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

The classes of the Refreshing Program have been extremely helpful and encouraging. I have taken many pages of notes hoping I got all the information given. I especially enjoyed the experiences and discussions concerning the meetings Mr. Tkach, Mr. McNair and Mr. Blackwell and others have had with you, Mr. Armstrong. Our understanding of your office and the government of God in the Church are paramount.

Thank you Mr. Armstrong for your unswerving dedication and leadership. Bonnie and I are eager to serve in any way we can to help you prepare the Church for our King's return.

Bonnie and Larry Greider

Mr. Armstrong:

There is no question whatsoever that Jesus Christ is inspiring these classes. Those you have chosen to teach the classes ARE yielding themselves to God. He is speaking through them giving them wisdom, discernment, and balance in explaining the "faith once delivered."

Thank you very very much, Mr. Armstrong for your leadership. We KNOW God is leading you. We would never have known how far we had drifted had not God raised you up to show us.

Please never forget that we pray for you daily, and appreciate deeply the love you show to us. We are now refreshed and ready to hold your hands up more than ever!!!

Mel Dahlgren

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Recently we began attending the classes of the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We wanted to drop you a short note to tell you that we feel it is a great program and feel it will help us as faculty members in the College.

This program is a great improvement over the sabbatical program of the past. The old program failed to increase one's knowledge of the Bible and how to be a more effective servant of Jesus Christ. Instead, many classes contained a subtle move to discredit certain doctrines and prophetic understandings of the Church. The students left the class with more questions than answers.

The Refreshing Program, on the other hand, is just the opposite or an undermining of people's faith. Instead, it rekindles one's desire to do the Work of God. It brings back old enthusiasms which are so common to those who still have their first love. If any program can bring about a "revival" to God's ministry--it would have to be one such as this which is so meticulous in presenting the teachings which God has revealed to His apostle. The only way this program could be improved is if you taught it personally.

We continue to pray for your health as you lead us in the most important Work on the face of the earth.

Wesley and Linda White

Mr. Tkach:

I know you have received many dozens of notes about the Refreshing Program that is currently being taught for the ministry, but I must add a few comments for my wife and me. We had a splendid three weeks at Pasadena. The opportunity to fellowship with other ministers from all over the globe was priceless. The classes were thorough in their presentation and made interesting by the instructors who taught them.

One other observation that I wanted to make that really impressed me. On the special day of thanksgiving that we had on November 15, the ones doing the serving of the food, the pouring of the coffee, and other such tasks were none other than the instructors who had been teaching us. That typified the serving attitude that we saw for the entire three weeks.

Thanks again to you and your staff for your attitude of service and your loyal support of Mr. Herbert Armstrong.

Mike and Sandy Swagerty

Mr. Joe Tkach:

Greetings. We (Billie Sue and I) are very grateful for the three-week Refreshing Program which Mr. Armstrong made possible. We thank all those who contributed to its success. We are glad to see the closeness that is developing with the ministry and know God is pleased. Hopefully all of the ministry will be given this Refresher as quickly as possible. Thank you for your work and part in making

our visit outstanding. I hope you and your family are doing well. Our prayers are with you and those doing God's Work by supporting Mr. Armstrong. Thanks!

Burk and Billie Sue McNair

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all who so willingly devoted time and effort to making this program the success it was. Every facet of the program was well planned, and the composite result will bear fruit in our ability to do our job that much better.

Once again we are all speaking with one accord, with the trunk of the tree knowledge we were taught in the early sixties by dedicated men like Mr. Gerald Waterhouse. There is no question about the leadership in this Church. Thank you all.

Bryan and Ina Mathie

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for your example of dedication and loyalty to God's Work and Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong is blessed to have you and all the other faithful servants there in Pasadena to instruct the ministers and wives on the Refreshing Program. It was a blessing and privilege to be able to attend the fifth Refreshing Program even though three weeks is somewhat long to be away from the children.

Everyone seemed to go out of their way to serve us, and make our stay pleasant and enjoyable. Mr. Carlton Green is a gem, and he and his lovely wife are a real asset to the Student Center and Ambassador College!

Mr. Armstrong and all of you have given us so much in so many ways, I feel we could never be able to repay you. Hopefully, we all in the ministry can follow your tremendous example of service and give ourselves wholly to serving God and His precious brethren.

May God bless you and your family, and all those in God's Work.

Paulette Jameson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

We have had several weeks to think about the Refreshing Program that we enjoyed participating in. We appreciated the courses and the efforts that you and the other instructors put into it. The fellowship was great and we enjoyed every minute of it. Best of all, is the knowledge that we are on track and all coming to the same understanding.

Our heart felt thanks go to you and all the instructors for your and their efforts on our behalf, and to Mr. Armstrong for his guidance and direction in the Work. A special hello to "Doc" Kessler, whom I have known in the Work for many years, who helped make our stay enjoyable. It has all added up to a great big blessing for us.

Mr. and Mrs. Valden White

Members Appreciate Fruits of Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Just wanted to send you a note of deep appreciation. Our minister just returned from his three weeks at the college, so last Sabbath his sermon was to fill us in on what he did and how it was.

He was so excited and enthusiastic about his experiences. He told us all the classes were based on the Bible and everyone's attitude was so good. Like it used to be. And that the college and students had returned to what it had once been--God's College.

Our minister, Mr. Lambert Greer, was so overcome as he talked about how wonderful and exciting it all was to be back on the right track working with and under converted men....I am so glad the Church has the three-week program for ministers and only wish more could go through it so some wouldn't have to wait so long for their turn.

Barbara Boedeker

Dear Mr. Tkach:

A word of thanks for the most wonderful Feast that my wife and I have ever attended on the beautiful grounds of Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God. Words can't express the beauty, harmony, and oneness of mind that we found there as God did guide the Feast as never before. It was a thrill to hear you speak enthusiastically about God's way of life as we hadn't seen or heard you since about 1965 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

I appreciate very much the Refreshing Program that Mr. Armstrong instituted as it has had a very positive impact on our minister Mr. Dennis Doucet in his preaching, guidance, and instruction. Mr. Doucet is doing an outstanding job here in the Beaumont Church and the Lake Charles Church.

May God give Mr. Armstrong long life as I support him 1000% and you and the others who are helping him to fulfill the Commission.

Eugene G. Koch

Feast-goers Leave Positive Impression on Community

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just though I'd mention that excellent reports are continuing to come to my attention from the local community regarding the conduct of our people attending the Feast.

On the way to services this past Sabbath, one of our members traveling to Rapid City for services stopped at a town along the way for lunch. At the Holiday in Spearfish, S.D. (60 miles from Rapid City), during lunch, they happened to engage in conversation with the owners of several motels in Rapid City. (The owners of the motels were unaware that they were talking to Church members until after the conversation, at which time our people informed them of the same.)

The motel owners mentioned they felt uneasy about the town hosting a church convention, since the _____ had left a bad impression several years ago. But they were highly impressed with the friendship, cheerfulness, helpful attitude, etc. etc. of the W.C.G. members. She also stated her husband had some type of health problem--that is now in the process of being corrected--with dietary helps suggested by our members! They are thankful to have met our people! Thought you might like to know.

Steve Buchanan

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

KINGSPORT, TN--GEORGE ELKINS: In spite of the fact that three new Church congregations have begun in neighboring areas that drew some of Kingsport's attendance, we are still averaging over 10% increase in attendance since I came here 16 months ago! God is truly blessing Mr. Armstrong's efforts in putting us back on track!

KNOXVILLE, TN--DAVID L. ORBAN: Feel the special Sabbath of thanks designated by Mr. Armstrong was a grand idea. It allowed all of us to unitedly express our feelings of gratitude to God in a way we couldn't have individually. Our potluck afterwards had nearly 100% attendance, even though it was 20 miles away from our Church hall.

SAN ANTONIO, TX--GREGORY L. SARGENT: I am well pleased with the Church's progress in San Antonio. Attendance is up. Attitudes have been very good--all seem enthusiastic over new responsibilities with the area monitor system. Mr. Armstrong's Bible study tapes, YOUTH/81 magazine ideas and youthful zest in carrying out this Work's Commission have all been very inspiring to this Church. It has really set the pace for putting the Church back on the track.

LAWTON, OK--DAVID CARLEY: The Church is strong and solidly behind God's Work and Mr. Armstrong.

EAU CLAIRE, WI--ST. PAUL, MN--BILL JAHNS: The Eau Claire Church is in a fine attitude. The Spokesman Club in the area got off to a fine start. Things are also going well in the St. Paul area. The brethren had a very good Feast. And all the brethren are thankful that God has relieved us of the lawsuit in California.

CHICAGO, IL--ROGER ABELS: Very positive comments about the F.O.T. This was the first time in years that I didn't have to deal with negative questions or comments by at least some people. All seemed to be positively moved by the Feast this year.

FRESNO, CA--ALTON B. BILLINGSLEY: Mr. Rader really did a lot for our area by being here in Fresno. The members were really impressed--seeing and hearing him at our special Bible study. One lady who has been critical of him is no longer! She made a very favorable comment to the effect that hearing about him (from critics) and hearing from him are two different things (my words). He and his party did a very fine and impressive job while they were here. We really appreciate their coming and their thoughtfulness, kindness, Bible study, etc. and long, hard hours.

KANSAS CITY, KS--BRYAN H. HOYT: The brethren were very positive about the Feast. They reported it as being encouraging and uplifting.

CASPER, WY--JAMES JENKINS: Area is very positive and stable with personal growth, but no new P.M.'s. I know of no one in the area that is not solidly behind Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and the Church.

JOPLIN, MO--VINCE SZYMKOWIAK: All of the brethren are very excited about Mr. Rader's new book. They are saying they have all come to know and love Mr. Rader much more now. They realize what a loyal servant of God Mr. Rader is.

SPOKANE, WA--ROGER FOSTER: Church realized tremendous benefits from serving others attending the Spokane site. The economic trend is such that new jobs are extremely difficult to find when a job is lost. There is great consciousness of the deteriorating economy. There aren't critical unemployment problems, but certainly not a comfortable situation.

YANKTON, S.D.--GEORGE AFFELDT: The Yankton Church is turning into a very warm and friendly Church. The attendance has been holding up and average of the three Churches is about 20-25 more per week than it was before starting the Yankton services.

DALLAS, TX--RANDALL DICK: Noticed the typical surge of personal problems just prior to the Feast of Tabernacles. Enthusiasm very high, noticed an increased desire on people's part to go to the Feast to worship God rather than to take their vacation and incidentally keep the Feast.

AMARILLO, TX--JIM O'BRIEN: As time passes the members are increasingly convinced by the fruits that are born both locally and around the world that this Work is of God. It is one thing to prove that from Scripture but quite another to prove it from your own life. The people believe that Mr. Armstrong is the Apostle of Jesus Christ because the things he has taught have been proven in their own lives.

Weekly Letter Comments

Every week many members express their heartfelt love, respect, appreciation and support for God's apostle. Readers also continue to be inspired by Mr. Armstrong's book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. Several have now read it for the second time and still keep discovering new truths. And students are thrilled at each new Correspondence Course lesson they receive. For some, the course has unlocked the Bible for the first time.

Brethren Express Heartfelt Appreciation for Mr. Armstrong

I wanted to write you [Mr. Armstrong] to share a few of my thoughts and feelings. First, I want to tell you how wonderful it was to see you live at the Feast. You looked, talked and acted much younger and stronger than last year. My heart overflowed with love for you. I was thinking about men like Noah, Moses, Abraham, Paul and John. You are a man like them, Mr. Armstrong, and we are privileged to know you. We thank God for you, your strength, courage and your great faith in guiding us.

Mrs. Eddie Dungan (Campbell, AL)

I am very grateful that God has restored His government in His Church and that He has placed a man such as you over this era. I thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for the effort that you have made in your life to serve and obey the Great God and for the sacrifices you have made for all of us. I pray that God will strengthen you and give you the wisdom and understanding to do this Great Work and to fulfill the many responsibilities you have as God's apostle.

Janice Drake (Hartselle, AL)

I thank God for the opportunity I have been given to have a part in His great Work. I thank God for you, Mr. Armstrong--for the humble faithfulness and strong character He has built in you over the many years you have been serving Him, that He now can entrust you with the awesome responsibility of leading His people to fulfill the Great Commission to preach the Gospel in this end time. I pray for your strength, both physical and spiritual, every day.

Keith Campbell (Moline, IL)

It is with greatest respect and honor that I write this letter to you, God's apostle and servant. Thank you for heeding God's warning in His Word, to "clean up" and prepare His spiritual nation. Although I am only of Y.O.U. age, I am striving to obey Christ in every facet of life. Thanks be to our Lord and Father, who has provided us with a unified Church!

~~Joseph D. Docket~~ (Monroe, LA)

Thank you so much for all the things of God you have taught us. I know God has given you His truth and you have given it to us. Thank you for being faithful and steadfast in God's Work. Through your example, we are strengthened. I love you dearly and I know you love us also. Take care. I pray that you will have the continued energy and youthfulness in God's Work.

Marla McCarthy (Oshkosh, WI)

I feel moved, sir, to write you and let you know how much love all of us brethren feel toward you, a love that God our Father has given us. I pray that our Heavenly Father will constantly inspire you, fill you with the Holy Spirit and give you the words that you should speak. Stay healthy, Mr. Armstrong. I deeply appreciate all the truth and knowledge God has given us through you, our "Daddy" in the Lord, so to speak. We are all behind you. May our Father bless you in all your efforts to proclaim the Good News.

Daniel Birks (Kalispell, MT)

More Gratitude For THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL

I just had to take the time to write and tell you how much we enjoyed your book THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. It is truly outstanding and loaded with inspired wisdom and information. My husband and I have both read it twice and still find more to be thrilled with. You are truly the chosen apostle for these last days.

Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Waters (Ogden, UT)

I haven't written before. It's about time. I have just finished THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL for the second time and received a lot more understanding out of it. That book is tremendous! Just amazing --thanks for writing it and for all the prodigious volumes of material you've written since then. Thanks for putting us, the Church, back on track as Christ directed you. We'd all be in serious trouble otherwise.

Bob Williams (St. Clairsville, OH)

I have read THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL--as I feel most of the Church membership has. I never thought to write and thank you. But I want you to know I thank God for such a man as you. Believe me, your letting God use you and reveal His deep truths to you for our benefit is greatly appreciated. Again, thank you.

Mrs. Phyllis K. Eastman (Romeoville, IL)

Though I have not written to you personally before, this time I was forced to do so with the arrival of the beautiful book THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. Thanks to God and thanks to you for the work you are doing. Thanks for the changes you have wrought in my life (and my family's) through your books, booklets and Bible lessons.

Dr. Igekekpolo (Benin City, Nigeria)

Thank you so much for that wonderful book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. We have both read it through and are now studying it like we would a good textbook. Thank you again for everything.

Harold & Vera Carter (Lakeland, FL)

I received your book, THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL. It has opened the door to truth and light for me. How can I ever offer you some blessing in the future for that book? I have been looking for answers and the true Church all my yesteryears.

David L. Walkins (Aurora, IL)

Correspondence Course Highly Valued

I can never find words to express thanks for my joy as I study your Correspondence Course. I find it hard to wait for the next lesson to learn more about the Bible and our Heavenly Father. God will surely bless you for caring that others know God's Word. This is the first time anyone took the time to prove the truth to me. I write the questions, copy all the scriptures and write your comments in a notebook. This way I can go back and read them over and over again.

Mrs. Maranca McIlmurray (Kendall, NY)

I have just completed Lesson 7 of the wonderful Correspondence Course. I gather from the truths given in the first seven lessons, that they run according to the Plan of God, starting at the beginning. Eternal life is the main objective. I cannot wait until Lesson 8 arrives because I know it will be another surprise. I find myself

studying them over and over in sequence. Every time I read one of The PLAIN TRUTH magazines or booklets, I find that some of the information from the Course is mentioned. How interesting. Thank you for letting me be a part of it.

Herbert Drisdale (Houston, TX)

Thank you very much for sending me your Ambassador College Correspondence Course. When I received it and started to read it along with my Bible, I was absolutely astonished at how the word of God seemed to be so clear. The way you have drawn attention to different chapters made reading my Bible exciting. I had to write and tell you this as I have sat up late at night, not able to stop thumbing through my Bible, looking up passages, and trying my new knowledge at the test.

L.C. (Fife, Great Britain)

Last night I finished Lesson 3 of your Bible Correspondence Course. I began the lesson at 10:00 yesterday morning and finished around 12:00 midnight. It is such a thrill to go through the questions and to find the answers so plain. Why all of a sudden have I been grabbed by the arm and made to see myself as if through a mirror? Why was I plagued by so many questions and so much uncertainty for so long? After almost 30 years of life during which I have been in constant contact with the Bible, I finally clearly see God's purpose for man on earth.

J.L. Martinez T. (Faiardo, Puerto Rico)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

SCHMIDT IN THE DOLDRUMS: WHAT A DIFFERENCE TWO MONTHS CAN MAKE On October 5, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was returned to power by the West German electorate. The results of the election, however, showed that the chancellor could be in for rough times politically. Specifically, his own party within the coalition barely increased its power, while its junior partner, the Free Democrat Party (FDP) significantly increased its parliamentary representation, hence its leverage within the coalition.

Perhaps no one, however, could have foreseen just how quickly the chancellor was to fall from political grace. In its December 1, 1980 issue, der Spiegel headlined Herr Schmidt's onset of problems this way: "Seven weeks after their election victory, the coalition has gotten off to a false start. The Social Democrats feel imposed upon by the small partner FDP. Skepticism is growing in Bonn as to whether the Schmidt/Genscher government can save itself over the four years of this legislative period. The chancellor himself is spreading the mood of an impending 'end time!'"

At the heart of the problems are the different points of view of the SPD and FDP. Schmidt is caught in a political vise. On the left is the mainstream of his own socialistic "workers" party, beholden to labor interests and the continuance of so-called "co-determination" agreements whereby the powerful unions have a large voice in the management of major industries. To his right, the FDP wants more free market economic conditions to prevail. SPD leftists maintain that the FDP is riddled with "Chicago Boys"--advocates of Professor Milton Friedman's free market school of economics.

The FDP, and the conservative opposition as well, is well aware of the fact that West German productivity is suffering. Wage settlements have been consistently running ahead of the expansion of the economy in recent years. And now it appears the economy won't grow at all in 1981. Over the years of social democracy, West German labor costs (wages plus social benefits employers must pay) have grown considerably more expensive than those in the United States. (Officials at the Volkswagen plant in New Stanton, Pennsylvania insist that their people actually work 42 days a year more than their counterpart in Wolfsburg.)

Reflecting their growing pessimism, West German industrialists are investing increasing amounts overseas. And nearly half of the investment at home is plowed into new processing devices and labor-saving techniques, in an attempt to get around high labor costs.

Nearly everywhere Chancellor Schmidt looks, he sees gloomy signs. Since the start of the year the deutsche mark has dropped over 20% in value against the British pound and about 10% against the U.S. dollar (It is now back to 2 marks to the dollar as opposed to as low as 1.75 to 1 at Feast time). While a good portion of this is attributable to high interest rates in the U.S. and Britain, a large part is also tied into Bonn's declining foreign trade picture. Counting "invisibles" such as tourism and capital transfers abroad, the Federal Republic's shortfall for 1980 could reach a whopping \$16 billion.

"Kicked in the Teeth" by East Germany

On the foreign policy front, Chancellor Schmidt is also taking his lumps. The East German regime dealt him a reeling blow right after his re-election by doubling overnight the amount of money West Germans must spend per day while visiting friends and neighbors in the East. For West Berliners the rate was quadrupled.

Clearly the East German regime is intent on limiting Western contacts in this time of trouble in neighboring Poland. But the manner in which Party Chief Honecker did it showed how little he thought of Schmidt and the SPD leadership, which had labored so many years to foster Ostpolitik, its form of intra-German detente. East Berlin cynically waited for Schmidt to win the election before openly announcing its new policy--a move which would have gained anti-communist challenger Franz-Josef Strauss votes if done before October 5. Little wonder a bitter Schmidt told aides: "We were kicked in the teeth."

Then too, Schmidt made a curious move in his relationship with Washington. He paid an official visit to the White House right on the heels of the American election--for a meeting with loser Jimmy Carter. Even though he also saw President-elect Reagan, why, Schmidt's critics asked, didn't he postpone his trip until after Reagan was in office? Was a potential "lame duck" just visiting another lame duck?

"Chancellor in a Low"

Faced with all these sudden downturns, Chancellor Schmidt has sunk into a depressed state of mind. The Spiegel story carried a cover close-up picture of a very blue-mooded Schmidt, with the title "Kanzler in Tief"--Chancellor in a Low. What a contrast to the jubilant picture of the Chancellor on the December PLAIN TRUTH!

The mood in ruling circles of the SPD is so gloomy that Bonn's Ambassador to Israel, Klaus Schuetz, after a private visit with Schmidt said, "I have never experienced anything like this. I don't know how long it can go on."

The same Spiegel article quoted above related how that Schmidt, in a meeting with top labor union officials lamented, with heaviness, "Who knows whether I will ever be able to last until Easter."

If Schmidt resigns sometime soon, the SPD will have to come up with a new chancellor, assuming it can retain its coalition with the FDP. But the SPD has no one of the same stature as Schmidt waiting in the wings. What if the FDP pulls out, to join ranks with the conservative CDU/CSU? Where would Strauss fit in?

Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau