

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 4, NO. 13

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 26, 1982

NEWS FROM THE PASTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE

Television and Radio Station Update

We have been in the process of renewing a number of U.S. radio and TV stations during the past several weeks. In some cases better times have been negotiated, and as we detail below, a number of new stations have been added. Mr. Armstrong made the decision last week to accept an offer from WNEW TV, Channel 5, New York for 7:00 a.m. Saturday. At first impression this may seem a poor time, but there is no competition from other stations at this time (most air cartoons) and many people are up and tuning in, judging by the surveys available to us. The program first aired on March 20th. If our experience with the WGN Chicago slot of 7:30 a.m. Saturday is repeated, we can expect a substantial number of phone calls for literature in the coming months.

Superstation WTBS Atlanta, while still indicating they would like to air The WORLD TOMORROW TV program and have placed us at the top of the waiting list, cannot yet offer a time slot. Your prayers for this opportunity to reach a potential eighteen million homes via satellite and cable in the Midwest and Southeast would be appreciated.

On the international front, radio time has opened up on the 10,000-watt Hong Kong independent broadcasting station. This is the only commercial radio station in Hong Kong. The offer of Saturday and Sunday air times is being reviewed by Mr. Armstrong at this time.

TELEVISION

Arizona

KNAZ (NBC--Ch. 2), Flagstaff--
9:30 a.m., Sun.

California

KCST (NBC--Ch. 39), San Diego--
7:30 a.m., Sun.

KHJ (IND--Ch. 9), Los Angeles--
8:30 p.m., Sun.

KTTV (IND--Ch. 11), Los Angeles--
9:30 a.m., Sun.

Colorado

KOA (NBC--Ch. 4), Denver--7:00
a.m., Sun.

*KWGN (IND--Ch. 2), Denver--7:30
a.m., Sun.

Florida

WBBH (NBC--Ch. 20), Fort Myers--
9:30 a.m., Sun.

*WTVJ (CBS--Ch. 4), Miami--9:30
a.m., Sun.

Georgia

*WAGT (WATU) (NBC--Ch. 26),
Augusta--10:30 a.m., Sun.

WTOC (CBS--Ch. 11), Savannah--
10:30 a.m., Sun.

Hawaii

KIKU (IND--Ch. 13), Honolulu--
9:30 a.m., Sun.

*New stations

Illinois

WGN (IND--Ch. 9), Chicago--7:30
a.m., Sat.

Indiana

*WISH (CBS--Ch. 11), Indianapolis
--7:00 a.m., Sun.

*WTVW (ABC--Ch. 7), Evansville--
7:00 a.m., Sun.

Maine

*WVII (ABC--Ch. 7), Bangor--
10:30 a.m., Sun.

Maryland

WHAG (NBC--Ch. 25), Hagerstown--
7:00 a.m., Sat.

Minnesota

*KDLH (CBS--Ch. 3), Duluth--7:30
a.m., Sun.

Missouri

KCMO (CBS--Ch. 5), Kansas City--
9:30 a.m., Sun.

KDNL (IND--Ch. 30), St. Louis--
10:00 p.m., Sun.

Nevada

*KCRL (NBC--Ch. 4), Reno--8:00
a.m. (7:30 a.m. during football
season-schedule unknown at this
point), Sun.

Alabama

WYDE, Birmingham (50,000 W/850)--
10:30 a.m., Sun.

California

KFRE, Fresno (50,000 W/940)--5:00
a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m.,
Sun.

KGIL, Los Angeles (5,000 W/1260)
--11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:00
a.m., Sun.

*KVBC (NBC--Ch. 3), Las Vegas--
7:00 a.m., Sun.

New York

*WNEW (IND--Ch. 5), New York City
--7:00 a.m., Sat.

North Carolina

*WITN (NBC--Ch. 7), Greenville--
11:30 a.m., Sun.

WRAL (ABC--Ch. 5), Raleigh--7:00
a.m., Sun.

Pennsylvania

*WSEE (CBS--Ch. 35), Erie--10:30
a.m., Sun.

South Dakota

*KXON (ABC--Ch. 5), Sioux Falls--
10:30 a.m., Sun.

Tennessee

*WTVF (CBS--Ch. 5), Nashville--
11:00 a.m., Sun.

Texas

*KJAC (NBC--Ch. 4), Beaumont/Port
Arthur--10:00 a.m., Sun.

Washington

*KNDO (NBC--Ch. 23), Yakima--7:30
a.m., Sun.

RADIO

KLAC, Los Angeles (5,000 W/570)--
8:30 a.m., Sun.

KRAK, Sacramento (50,000 W/1140)
--10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30
a.m., Sun.

Colorado

*KLAQ, Denver (5,000 W/1600)--5:30
a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:30 a.m.,
Sun.

*New stations

Georgia

WPLO, Atlanta (5,000 W/590)--
11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30
a.m., Sun.

*WSB, Atlanta (50,000 W/750)--
10:30 p.m., Sun.

Hawaii

*KIOE, Honolulu (5,000 W/1080)--
11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:30
a.m., Sun.

Idaho

*KUUZ, Nampa (44,000 W/96.9)--7:30
a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 9:30 a.m.,
Sun.

Illinois

WMAQ, Chicago (50,000 W/670)--
4:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:00
a.m., 10:00 p.m., Sun.

Kentucky

*WCII, Louisville (10,000 W day,
1,000 W night/1080)--9:00 a.m.,
Sun.; 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

*WKJJ, Louisville (20,000 W/99.7)
--8:00 a.m., Sun.

*WTKC, Lexington (2,500 W day,
1,000 W night/1300)--7:30 a.m.,
Sun.; 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

Massachusetts

WITS, Boston (50,000 W/1510)--
5:00 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5:30
a.m., Sat; 6:00 a.m. and 8:30
a.m., Sun.

Michigan

WLQV, Detroit (50,000 W/1500)--
12:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:30
a.m., Sun.

New Mexico

KBCQ, Roswell (50,000 W/1020)--
7:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat., 7:30
a.m., Sun.

KOB, Albuquerque (50,000 W/770)--
7:00 a.m., 11:00 p.m., Sun.

*KRZY, Albuquerque (1,000 W/1450)
--11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:30
p.m., Sun.

New York

WMCA, New York (5,000 W/570)--
10:30 p.m., Sun.-Sat.

North Carolina

*WIST, Charlotte (1,000 W day, 250
W night/1240)--6:30 a.m., Mon.-
Sat.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.; 10:30
p.m., Sun.

Ohio

WMNI, Columbus (1,000 W)--5:00
a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:00 a.m.,
Sun.

Oregon

KWJJ, Portland (50,000 W day -
10,000 W night/1080)--10:30
p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m.,
Sun.

Pennsylvania

WHP, Harrisburg (5,000 W/580)--
7:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 7:30
p.m., Sun.

Tennessee

WREC, Memphis (5,000 W/600)--4:30
a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 6:00 a.m.,
Sun.

*WSM, Nashville (50,000 W/650)--
4:30 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 11:00
p.m., Sun.

Texas

KPRC, Houston (5,000 W/95)--10:30
p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:00 p.m.,
Sun.

*New stations

WOAI, San Antonio (50,000 W/1200)
 --10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30
 p.m., Sat.; 10:00 a.m., 7:00
 p.m., 11:00 p.m., Sun.

Virginia

WNIS, Norfolk (5,000 W/1350)--
 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:00
 a.m., Sun.

West Virginia

WWVA, Wheeling (50,000 W/1170)--
 5:00 a.m., Mon.-Sat.; 10:30
 a.m., Sun.

Wisconsin

*WIZM, La Crosse (5,000 W/1410)--
 7:30 a.m., Sun.

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: Should I be using my Local Church Elders for contacting new PM's and for baptismal counselings? I've heard this should not be done, but I'd like to know for sure.

ANSWER: Local Church Elders should not be used to contact new PM's, nor should they be used for baptismal counselings. Only in an emergency situation would there be an exception.

Church Pastors should make most first contacts and conduct most baptismal counselings themselves. Associate and Assistant Pastors should be used for some of the intermediate and follow-up visits if the Pastor does not have time.

Along the same line, the Church Pastor should also make all serious problem visits and may use Associate or Assistant Pastors to follow up.

Local Church Elders should be used for anointings and encouraging-type visits, especially to the sick, elderly and widows, besides hospitality in their own homes, and social-type visits to help bring people along.

Be sure to remember that a Local Church Elder has a Christian responsibility to his employer to be a light and to set an example of giving his best to the job. Do not make him cut into that responsibility.

Also, remember not to gobble up an LCE's time that he needs to spend with his family. He needs to be able to set a right example in that area as well.

QUESTION: Should Local Church Elders pay third tithe?

ANSWER: Local Church Elders do incur certain expenses in serving the congregation. Because of their responsibilities and the expenses involved in travel, etc., Mr. Armstrong has decided that Local Church Elders are not required to pay third tithe, unless they are being reimbursed for their expenses.

QUESTION: Should Local Church Elders perform weddings and funerals?

ANSWER: Normally they should not. If there is an emergency where a full time man of Preaching Elder rank or above cannot perform the wedding or funeral, then it may be permissible. But such a decision should be made by Pasadena.

International News

Philippine Update This year began with a great thrust forward as Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's WORLD TOMORROW television program went on the air for the first time in the Philippines, January 9 and 10. Two of the nation's top networks--RPN and GMA--carry the program on nationwide TV.

The weekly telecast has made some good impact on local audiences not only in Metro Manila, but also in the far-flung provinces. Already 429 responses have been received, including several positive, enthusiastic comments. One has even asked for a ministerial visit! The broadcast series on "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" has especially drawn keen interest. The beginning of the telecast here certainly was timely, with Mr. Armstrong's Manila campaign following in a month's time.

As a result of Mr. Armstrong's two-night campaign at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), we have received a total of 5,772 requests for The PLAIN TRUTH. At least six new people have come to Sabbath services in Manila.

The week after Mr. Armstrong's visit, Philippine Regional Director Guy Ames called all the ordained ministers and their wives, who were then in Manila for the campaign, to a two-day ministerial conference. Mr. Ames announced the plan to establish eight new local churches early this year. This will bring the total number of churches here to 29.

Mr. Edmond Macaraeg, pastor of the Baguio City Church, and his wife Lorna left for Pasadena in February as the first couple from the Philippines to attend the second Ministerial Refreshing Program at Ambassador College.

On the financial side, the Work here got off to an excellent start with the January income registering a 35% increase over January, 1981. A 10% budget increase has been planned for this year, so the Work here hopes to build up its reserves.

Mr. Armstrong's November, 1981 semiannual letter offering the booklet NEVER BEFORE UNDERSTOOD--WHY HUMANITY CANNOT SOLVE ITS EVILS, has received 5,817 requests. This represents a 17.33% return from the 33,600 letters mailed out.

New Zealand The highlight this month was the running of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's full-page WALL STREET JOURNAL ads each Monday morning in THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD, the country's largest circulation and most influential daily newspaper. The circulation of the HERALD is 240,000, so the series of ads is probably being seen by at least half a million people. Although the primary purpose of the ads is to get a message across, some requests for new PLAIN TRUTH subscriptions are coming in. By the end of February, over 200 coupons had been returned. The series of ads will continue each Monday right through the month of March.

Income for February resulted in another good increase--23.0%. Mail for the month was up by an encouraging 132.8%.

The major reason for the increase in mail was that responses to Mr. Armstrong's December, 1981 semiannual letter began coming in from the Pacific Islands this month. The total semiannual letter response has now reached 8,745. Just under 500 newsstand cards were received during February, and around 1,000 PLAIN TRUTH renewals came in.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Greetings from South Africa. My wife and I have just returned from the second session of the new Ministerial Refreshing Program.

As with the first, this second program will enable the ministry to better serve and feed the flock in our respective church areas. Furthermore, it will help us to speak the same thing and promote unity among the membership.

It was most gratifying to see the unity and togetherness of the team God has chosen to assist you at Pasadena. Their warmth and willingness to serve and finish this Work was very evident.

We were especially inspired to see the way God is strengthening and empowering you. We were excited after seeing The WORLD TOMORROW TV program on one of the Los Angeles stations. What an outstanding program! It was especially exciting as we are unable to air the program here in South Africa. The government keeps strict control over TV. But we realize that God has the ability to open doors!

Once again, thank you for the Ministerial Refreshing Program and for the strong leadership you continue to give us.

Andre and Elize van Belkum

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I should have written before now to tell you how much Millie and I appreciate all you have done in setting up the Ministerial Refreshing Program. It has been about a month since we finished the first session of the second series.

We had thought that the program we attended last year could not have been topped. But this session and last year's mutually excelled each other. We found this session to be more specific than last year's, filling in many areas which were dealt with in a general way last year.

We shared an apartment with Dr. and Mrs. Roy McCarthy and enjoyed thoroughly the fellowship we had with them and with all the ministers present. The fellowship highlight for us was being your guests for dinner. Recently we received photographs of the occasion which brought back fond memories.

Clarence Bass

Dear Mr. Tkach:

I wanted to write this before I departed from the U.S.A. for foreign shores. Mary and I cannot express deeply enough the thanks we feel for having attended the second session of the second Refreshing Programme. I do not want this to sound trite or obsequious because neither of us feel that way, but the programme was excellent!

A few years ago, we felt what was the point in coming to Pasadena because we felt lost, unwelcome and that it was a waste of time. But these two Refreshing Programmes have proven their value over and over again. We do now feel welcome and we identify with a team at headquarters that is friendly, committed, dedicated and sincere.

It was especially good to see and hear from Mr. Armstrong. There is a man about whom we need to say little. His example says it all.

Please convey our warm regards to all the men who took part in the programme. They are the kind of guys (please pardon the slang) you really want to know.

Special thanks to our good friend Rod Matthews. His warmth and smile are an asset to HQ.

Dave and Mary Magowan

Dear Joe:

Thank you for the warm reception we received coming to the Refreshing Program again this January. Especially thanks for accommodating us as ministers' wives in the program, so we can be a better help to our husbands. Perhaps this is more important to me since I have not had the blessing of an Ambassador College education in preparation for this present role.

Working with Frank these two and one-half years helps me to understand the importance of the subjects covered and how critical it is to answer people accurately. I also know the pressures that the ministry faces daily and the dedication that must come from the love of God within. This means that you receive many times the bombardment of pressure from all corners of the globe, as you assist the ministry in performing their duties and handling the serious decisions that must be made. It is so good to know you as a friend and one who is tirelessly working to assist the ministry in every way you are able. You are always in our prayers and thanks to God.

Charlene McCrady

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just a short note of appreciation for the opportunity my wife and I had to attend the second Refreshing Program.

We were especially impressed with the unity of you men in key positions. Your warmth and concern for us and the membership was obvious. Ministerial Services certainly serves! I hope we can carry that spirit of togetherness over to our churches.

Elize and I felt inspired and uplifted on our return. That was due largely to the fact that we detected an even greater zeal, warmth and outgoing concern among those in Pasadena than on our last visit. And the growth of the Work in the U.S. and international areas is most encouraging. Also the way God is empowering Mr. Armstrong, and his steady, strong leadership.

Andre and Elize van Belkum

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

OKLAHOMA CITY/ENID, OK--ARNOLD CLAUSON: There seems to be a great deal of appreciation in the Oklahoma City area for Mr. Armstrong's direction and leadership during this end time. Members are becoming more and more concerned about the impending troubles, and are desiring God's protection during the Great Tribulation. Enid is a warm, unassuming church. They are solidly behind the Work and God's Apostle, Mr. Armstrong, as is evidenced in nearly every opening and closing prayer by the deacons and leading men.

CINCINNATI (WEST), OH--JEFF BARNES: Desire to really understand and apply spiritual knowledge is on the increase. Members as a whole are striving to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ as admonished by Mr. Armstrong. I am trying to follow this lead in sermons and Bible studies. The seriousness of the times we live in is also a main focus at this time.

SOMERSET, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: PM's are picking up dramatically. More people are realizing the closeness of the end of this age. Bible studies on Revelation are stirring people to study and pray more than ever. Tremendous involvement in everything--even parents of teens are supporting activities!! The telecasts by Mr. Armstrong are getting so powerful, clear and inspiring. This last one on the Nile Hilton address was very moving to me. God was so obviously guiding every word Mr. Armstrong was saying, I couldn't help but include my feelings here. Please let him know the effect the telecasts are having; I'm anxious for each one!!

TONASKET/QUINCY, WA--NORM STRAYER: More PM's here--curiosity as well as sincerity! There are several members' older married children who want to be part of God's Church again. Some new PM activity in Quincy with good questions. Some members struggling with the economy and jobs. But still we have work being found and people moving into the area!

WAUSAU/APPLETON, WI--DAVE FIEDLER: Baptizing four second generation Christians and counseling four others. It is my observation that since the Church is stressing getting back on the track, that a much higher percentage of our young people are staying with the Church and becoming baptized. But when things were

loosened up in the 70's with the intention of attracting the young, it just did not work. Truly, God's way is best. Thanks so much for the bound set of Church lit.; it has come in handy already.

SAN ANTONIO, TX--GREGORY L. SARGENT: Church was uplifted and encouraged by Mr. Waterhouse's visit. Very solid message--best ever from him. He is directing God's people to look to God and His messenger.

LAKE CHARLES, LA/BEAUMONT, TX--DENNIS DOUCET: Mr. Waterhouse visited us on January 25th. Members are still talking about his sermon. The area around Lake Charles is under economic pressures of unemployment that have plagued the nation. Beginning in November last year, petro-chemical plants, plastics plants, synthetic rubber plants, petroleum plants, etc. have terminated hundreds of workers. An aluminum plant which normally operated with a crew of about 750 will keep only 150. Making a bad situation worse, a labor strike is also in progress in the Golden Triangle of Port Arthur, Orange and Beaumont.

BIRMINGHAM/JASPER, AL--KENNETH M. MARTIN: Unemployment has hit this area pretty hard. Some brethren just can't find a job anywhere. Some considering moves to better employment areas such as Texas. Overall, the attitudes of God's people have been SUPER! Pre-Passover trials are beginning early this year for some of the brethren. Some few are having a difficult time controlling their attitudes as they face the problems of life. Effects of the recession are beginning to squeeze some brethren financially. Comments are positive regarding articles in PT and GN.

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: Mr. Gene Hogberg's material in the PGR is of great value to the Church. We are kept abreast of the important news and how it is relevant. Much appreciated!!

TERRE HAUTE, IN--STEVE NUTZMAN: More brethren here have commented on how fine the last few issues of the GN have been than ever before. These are unsolicited comments so I know them to be sincere and meaningful. Many thanks to those responsible at HQ for this excellent publication. I don't see how the GN can get any better, but no doubt it will! The article on gossip by Mr. Apartian was very timely.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

LEGAL OFFICE UPDATE

Amarillo School Case Upheld by Federal Court of Appeals

On March 11, a three-judge panel of the Federal Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court decision in the Amarillo School case which had been decided in the Church's favor.

As you may recall, about a year ago a federal judge in Amarillo, Texas ruled that a school board policy which prohibited the Amarillo Schools from giving excused absences to Worldwide Church of God children for taking off for

the Feast and Holy Days was unconstitutional--in violation of the First Amendment. The lower court had also ordered the school board to grant the children makeup school work and tests, and to give the children grades accordingly. The school board was also prohibited from in any way penalizing the children for taking off for the Feast.

The Federal Court of Appeals decision is binding on the states of Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana (the sphere of the Fifth Circuit's jurisdiction). And it will also have a very persuasive effect in the other 47 states since courts look at prior decisions on the same matter ("case law") in making their own determinations.

Nevertheless, because God's Holy Days are "a strange thing" to the world, we anticipate that this decision will not automatically end all of the Church's school problems. Therefore, if any of the local members in your area have problems in regard to their children getting off for any of the Holy Days, or if they are penalized in any way for taking off after they have made a proper request, please have them immediately contact the Legal Office. We will evaluate their situation to determine what other steps may be advisable under the circumstances.

Incidentally, many problems can be avoided at the parent/teacher level by giving adequate advance notice of days your child will need to be away so that makeup work can be arranged without inconveniencing the teacher. Obviously, the Amarillo case should not even be mentioned in the initial contacts with the school officials. Wisdom dictates that we must be discreet and encourage mutual cooperation and not permission through legal coercion.

--Ralph K. Helge, Legal Office

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

(Pasadena Campus)

The College is already in the second half of the last semester of the 1981-82 college year. Thus far we have had a very good year with comparatively few problems, and with the students doing very well academically.

Judging by their comments, it is evident to the visiting ministers (and to others who visit the campus) that the College has been put firmly back on track by Mr. Armstrong--along with the Church and other facets of the ever-growing worldwide Work of God. The students, as well as the faculty, continue to reflect God's way. The vast majority of them sincerely want to learn--and diligently live--God's way of life. We do, of course, always have a few students who are slow to get the picture. And from time to time we have to drop a student or two for academic inadequacies or for seriously breaching the high moral (spiritual) standards of Ambassador College.

Just two weeks ago, while Mr. Leon Walker (Deputy Chancellor for the Big Sandy campus) was here, Mr. Armstrong made several decisions relative to the College. He approved of our sending another (the fifth) group of A.C. students to Thailand to serve on the A.C.E.P.T. program. (Two Big Sandy students will also participate in this next program.) Also, he recently mentioned that the very good work done by the A.C. students in Thailand had come to the notice of King Bhumibol--who was quite pleased with Ambassador College's participation in the refugee training program in his country.

It now looks as though this fifth group of students may well be the last ones to serve in Thailand. We are now preparing to "wind down" our participation in the refugee training program. This fifth and last group will leave for Thailand in mid-summer, and will then return to Pasadena in January, 1983.

Mr. Armstrong also recently made a couple of decisions which will enable the A.C. campus at Pasadena to take in a few more students next fall. I explained to Mr. Armstrong that we would only be able to take in about 30 to 40 freshmen at Pasadena this coming school year if we didn't do something to increase the total number of students. Such a small freshmen class would destroy the proportional balance of the classes at Ambassador College.

Why would we only be able to take in about 30 to 40 freshmen here next fall? Simply because we do not have enough bed spaces. Let me explain: We expect to lose about 30 to 40 due to normal "attrition"--i.e. the loss of students due to academic failure, disciplinary action, insufficient finances or because of some few getting married. But last fall, 75 students were transferred from Pasadena to Big Sandy. About 70 of them will return to Pasadena next fall as juniors. But those 70 returning students will take the place of the 65 seniors who will graduate this May.

So in order to help cope with this problem of limited on-campus space at Pasadena next fall, Mr. Armstrong recently made the decision that we could increase the number of beds for single on-campus students from about 472 to 500. Therefore, if we lost about 40 (from attrition), and if we add about 28 beds, and if we transfer 50 freshmen (who will be sophomores next year) to Big Sandy, this will make it possible for us to take in about 120 freshmen at Pasadena next fall.

We here at headquarters have just finished hosting our third session of the ministers and their wives. It is always a treat to see old friends, and to get to know the servants of God more intimately.

Mr. Armstrong spoke to the ministers and their wives on Monday, March 15, and gave us an inspiring account of how this Work of God developed during the last 50-plus years. He also mentioned the possibility of the Work expanding its broadcasts to the Middle East in the not-too-distant future. And last Sabbath, Mr. Armstrong gave a pre-Passover sermon on examining ourselves to see if we are true Spirit-filled members of the spiritual Body of Jesus Christ.

On Wednesday, March 24th, Mr. Armstrong took off on his three-week trip to the Middle East. I am sure we will remember Mr. Armstrong's admonition to pray for the success of this important trip. He spent Friday in Britain, seeing our new office near London, and plans to speak to our British brethren on the Sabbath of March 27th. Mr. Armstrong also plans to spend the Passover and part of the Days of Unleavened Bread in the Mideast.

Again, I ask that you please continue to remember the students and faculty of Ambassador College--both campuses--so that we can diligently train many others to join the ranks of God's end-time laborers!

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

FROM PUBLISHING SERVICESU.S. PT Circulation Breaks All Records

PLAIN TRUTH circulation in the U.S. now exceeds three million copies, setting a new all-time record for the Worldwide Church of God.

The incredible growth in God's Work in the last 12 months has exceeded anything we have witnessed in more than a decade. God is surely blessing this Work as never before. The avenues open for obtaining additional subscribers to the PT are surpassing all of the original 1982 budget forecasts.

Mr. Armstrong's recent telecasts are bringing five times more responses than a year ago today. Newsstand responses are more than double a year ago. Every program has virtually doubled in response during the past 12 months. This growth has been exemplified by the subscriber renewal rates increasing steadily throughout the year, meaning that more of the PT readership is staying on for the long term.

Letters From PT Newsstand Readers

We are including some recent letters from PT newsstand readers for your interest, as well as a few comments from members assisting in the newsstand program. This program is becoming more and more successful with each month. The work that is being done in the local church areas is really bearing fruit for God's Work!

Recently I picked up a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH in my dentist's waiting room and began leafing through it. I was so inspired by the articles within that I just had to write and praise you, and also ask you to put my name on your subscription list.

M.O. (Newark, DE)

In bus stations (two or three) I found three issues of The PLAIN TRUTH, and was pleased to have such informative and enlightening reading while on the bus. Never before had I seen the magazine. It contains my favorite type of reading! Please put my name on your mailing list. A contribution is enclosed. Thank you!!!

Mrs. E.H. (Clay Center, KS)

I first learned of your magazine nearly four years ago while waiting to board a flight for West Germany in the JFK International Airport in compliance with military orders--I am a career member of the U.S. Army. It was in the waiting area that I picked up a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH. Although I did not realize it then, it was to have an enormous impact on my life. Throughout the subsequent hours of the flight I read and reread the magazine.

M.K. (Fort Wayne, IN)

My husband and I began reading The PLAIN TRUTH in June of 1981. We picked up the condensed version from a display in one of our favorite department stores.

D.D. (Chehalis, WA)

I had an appointment at the Veterans' Administration Hospital. I sat down, and on the table was a magazine, The PLAIN TRUTH. I picked it up and started to read it. It was so good, I brought it home.

C.A. (Buffalo, NY)

I picked up your magazine The PLAIN TRUTH from a rack in front of a post office here in Irving, Texas in December of 1981. I enjoyed it very much and sent for a free subscription.

R.L. (Irving, TX)

I was fortunate enough to find not only one of your issues, but four issues at a local newsstand. I've enjoyed reading them all so much.

B.C. (Greenville, SC)

I wasn't doing very well in my life--going nowhere. I saw The PLAIN TRUTH in a newsstand outside a grocery store (Willowtree Bestway, Cookeville, TN). Out of curiosity I took one and read it. I found it very interesting and, I believe, true. You have certainly helped me and pointed my life in the right direction.

D.G. (Cookville, TN)

I pick up a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH every time I see one at the grocery store and don't stop reading it until I've read it through.

Mrs. A.P. (Lynch, KY)

I'm so glad I picked up the first PLAIN TRUTH magazine in Springfield, Missouri at a bus station as I was traveling to my granddaughter's. She picked up one, too. I'll send you a check for \$10 to help pay postage, if nothing else. Thanks again.

M.S. (Portland, IN)

I recently picked up your sample copies of The PLAIN TRUTH at a local department store. I had no idea what kind of magazine this was at the time. I have found this magazine to be very encouraging, helpful and truthful.

D.A. (South Shore, KY)

Comments From Members Assisting in Newsstand Program

The newsstand program is going like wildfire here....

Mrs. M.B. (Kalamazoo, MI)

We have a PLAIN TRUTH stand here on the west side of Great Falls that has been emptying quickly. It's exciting!

B.S. (Great Falls, MT)

We very much appreciate the various PLAIN TRUTH programs as a means of getting the Gospel message out to what would otherwise be virtually unreached "cities of Israel."

Brethren of the Harrisburg, PA Church

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING CENTERMinisters to Receive Sabbath Book

All ordained ministers worldwide will soon be receiving a copy of Mr. Armstrong's book entitled WHICH DAY IS THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH? This publication was recently reprinted in a perfect bound, soft-cover format in contrast to the former saddle-stitched booklet. There were no editorial changes.

"I Was Sick and You Visited Me..."

The Work's literature and programs encourage and give hope to many shut-ins at home, in hospitals or retirement homes. Some of our readers are bedridden, disabled or in pain. Others may have lost loved ones and feel lonely or depressed. Below are their comments of heartfelt appreciation.

I just want to tell you how grateful I am for the books, magazines and literature you have been sending me. It is hard to believe that all of this is free. It couldn't have come at a better time. I have been disabled for two years and as yet have not received any income or Social Security....Again, I must say, you could never know what this means to me.

N.P. (Laurel, MS)

I have been getting The PLAIN TRUTH for so many years--at my 84 years of age I can't remember exactly how long it has been. I have been a widow since 1953, have no family and can hardly walk any more. My eyes are nearly gone too. But I sure would miss my PLAIN TRUTH magazine if it didn't come. When I read it I try passing the news along to the shut-ins I write to.

K.D. (Chicago, IL)

I've been listening to your sermons for years and think they are wonderful. They mean so much to me. My husband passed away eleven years ago. I'm alone most of the time--my daughter stays with me but she is gone a lot. I turned 100 years old about five months ago. I am very weak but still get around.

A.S. (Groltoes, VA)

I wish to express my thanks for the most interesting and instructive magazine I have ever received--The PLAIN TRUTH. At last I am really beginning to understand the Bible....I'm now in my 80's and as a result of reading your magazine and letters, my mind can grasp the deeper meanings--or at least some of them.

The help that I have received from your teachings has enabled me, in turn, to help fellow residents at the retirement home to which I have recently been moved. Many of these elderly women are lonely, bitter, fearful or resentful and I find that if nothing else, I can talk with them, encourage them to express their feelings and perhaps even help them to feel less lonely and depressed.

M.O. (Tigard, OR)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

THE ROLE OF THE PRESS IN "VIETNAM II" AND AMERICA'S IMMORAL STATE The news media, especially television, now occupies such a pivotal role in American life that wars and empires can be won or lost according to the manner of news reporting. Moreover, members of the so-called "fourth estate," overwhelmingly non-religious by their own admission, are responsible in large part for setting contemporary moral (or immoral) standards.

Recognizing the importance of the media, leftist guerrillas in El Salvador astutely court U.S. as well as other Western news media in a determined effort to "sell" their revolution. So far, the newsmen seem to be buying their line. "We have to win the war inside the United States," said a Salvadoran rebel leader attached to their civilian office in Mexico City. An associate of his revealed that the rebels have learned the real lesson of Vietnam, adding: "The American media, especially television, turned public opinion against the war."

On location in El Salvador, the rebels employ "media relations officers," some even sporting three-piece suits intended to impress the news media types who largely come from northeast or north central regions of the U.S. The March 15, 1982 issue of NEWSWEEK described one such rebel PR man:

In his pocket he carries an up-to-date list of all the foreign correspondents currently in the country, their hotel-room numbers, a schedule of the precise times when the American television crews feed their taped reports to New York, a chart of picture deadlines for the major news magazines and a list of "closes" for the big American papers. "Winning the hearts and minds of the international press is as important at the moment as winning the hearts and minds of the Salvadoran people," he says. "Winning the one now will help us win the other later."

It is not clear that he has made any converts in the press, but his smooth professionalism certainly helps his cause...the Salvadoran guerrillas have been getting a relatively good press--and the Salvadoran government a relatively bad one....In an angry editorial entitled "The Media's War," the WALL STREET JOURNAL last month charged that what it called "journalistic romanticizing of revolutionaries" was giving Americans a distorted picture of the conflict in El Salvador....Many American journalists in El Salvador frankly admit...that their coverage tends to favor the left at the expense of the government and the extreme right....

In an article in the WASHINGTON JOURNALISM REVIEW author Shirley Christian analyzed over 500 news stories and broadcasts about the 1978-79 Nicaraguan revolution by the NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST and CBS News. The press, said Christian, viewed the Marxist Sandinistas through a "romantic haze," much as journalists sided with communist-backed forces during the 1936-39 Spanish Civil War. "Probably not since Spain has there been a more open love affair," she observed. The media, she said, went on a "guilt trip." They were delighted in the fall of dictator Anastacio Somoza and the fact that the U.S. which had backed Somoza for years, had once again been proved wrong. They could not, on the other hand, see the radical character of top Sandinista leaders.

Skepticism in what the U.S. government claims is occurring in Central America typifies the attitude of the press. Not a few newsmen seemed disturbed a few days ago to have to publish the facts (via aerial photographs) of a heavy Soviet-supplied military buildup in Nicaragua. Others smirked in print over the embarrassment caused the U.S. State Department over the recently captured Nicaraguan who changed his story in a televised interview.

The policy of the press now is to "balance" a statement from the government with what Salvadoran rebel leaders have to say on the subject. Peter Boyer writes in the March 25, 1982 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

The fact that there are two sides in the television view of the El Salvador conflict underscores the profound effect of Vietnam upon American journalism, according to William Adams, associate professor of public administration at George Washington University [who says]: "It's interesting that journalism thinks of the United States government and leftist guerrillas as being 'both sides.'"

"The fact that these guerrillas are given equal credibility with the U.S. Secretary of State is a remarkable thing. Can you imagine 20 years ago, in the Berlin crisis, American journalists saying, 'All right, that's what the President has to say, now let's get the view from the other side of the wall?'"

Syndicated columnist Patrick J. Buchanan recently wrote about the media's attitude toward the Vietnam conflict and its similar approach to today's wars in Central America. In his February 7, 1982 column (appearing in the SAN DIEGO UNION and elsewhere) Buchanan comments on a recent report in the British magazine ENCOUNTER written by Robert Elegant, the highly distinguished foreign correspondent who formerly worked for the LOS ANGELES TIMES. Here are excerpts of Buchanan's column, in which he, in turn, selectively quotes Elegant:

Stated bluntly, the charge [by Elegant] is that the American media in this country were "instinctively 'agin the government'-- and at least reflexively, for Saigon's enemies."

"Never before Vietnam," writes the accuser, "had the collective policy of the media--no less stringent term will serve--sought by graphic and unremitting distortion the victory of the enemies of the correspondent's own side."

Perhaps it is time to stop mincing words. What Elegant is saying is that, if Vietnam had been a declared war, many of his colleagues could have been classified as traitors. His article in the August, 1981 issue of the British magazine ENCOUNTER describes the years 1967-1975:

"During the latter half of the 15-year American involvement in Vietnam, the media became the primary battlefield. Illusory events reported by the press as well as real events within the press corps were more decisive than the clash of arms or the contention of ideologies. For the first time in modern history, the

outcome of the war was determined not on the battlefield but on the printed page and, above all, on the television screen.

"Looking back coolly, I believe it can be said that South Vietnamese and American forces actually won the limited military struggle. They virtually crushed the Viet Cong in the south... and thereafter they threw back the invasion by regular North Vietnamese divisions.

"Nonetheless, the war was finally lost to the invaders after the U.S. disengagement because the political pressures built up by the media had made it quite impossible for Washington to maintain even the minimal material and moral support that would have enabled the Saigon regime to continue effective resistance...."

Why did the press side with the enemy? Some, because they believed the communists would build a better society, most because it was "fashionable" peer pressure....

Not unexpectedly, the media refuses to acknowledge responsibility "for the enormity of having helped...to bring tens of millions under grinding totalitarian rule--and having tilted the global balance of power....It is easier to absolve one's self by blaming, exclusively, Johnson, Nixon and Kissinger."

The issue is not academic. "As long as the 'Vietnam Syndrome' affects the media, it seems to me it will be virtually impossible for the West to conduct an effective foreign policy."

When one adds the Western media's pro-revolutionary "Vietnam Syndrome" to the enormous volume of "dis-information" dispensed by the Communist propaganda machine, there is little chance of ultimate U.S. success in Central America. In a major opinion piece in the March 4, 1982 WALL STREET JOURNAL, entitled "U.S. Is Losing Salvadoran War of Words," noted French author Jean-Francois Revel writes:

In El Salvador, the Duarte junta seems to be losing the political war and the army will probably lose the military war, but one thing is certain: The United States has already lost the propaganda war.

All the usual ingredients of the disaster are there. Mr. Duarte is depicted as a sort of fascist, in spite of the fact that he is a Christian-Democrat like those who are democratically ruling Venezuela....The pro-Soviet, pro-Cuban side is labeled "democratic" and the other side, supported by the U.S., as "reactionary."

Everybody knows that in Cuba there exists what we might call a "negative double-F system": no Freedom and no Food....Everybody knows now that Cambodia's corrupt, American-supported Lon Nol was, after all, less bad than the Khmer Rouge who subsequently murdered millions. In spite of these tragedies...the [Communist] "strategy of tension," which is the art of triggering on purpose the right-wing, death-squad backlashes [as have occurred recently in El Salvador] still draw(s) the sympathy of the civilized world.

The intensification of the El Salvador civil war and, therefore, of the "American" repression there, has proved to be, for the Soviet Union, the best way to neutralize the bad effects on world opinion of the crackdown in Poland. Afghanistan is completely forgotten; the U.S.S.R. has only 100,000 soldiers there, a modest figure compared with the much talked about 50 American advisers in El Salvador. So, once more, the U.S. has been cornered in such a position that it can only either be labeled as fascism's accomplice or yield to Communist expansionism. It seems to be a hopeless game.

(One gets the feeling that the El Salvador story is about to be replayed in Guatemala. In a coup March 23, younger, more moderate military men took over the government, unseating a military regime further to the right. This is roughly what occurred in El Salvador in 1979. The new leaders hope that with reforms Guatemala can once again receive U.S. weapons to fight leftist guerrillas. But it will be just as difficult to create a "middle ground" in Guatemala as in El Salvador.)

Overwhelmingly Liberal on Social Issues

The "media elite" in the United States reflect not only a definite anti-American bias in foreign affairs (which President Reagan criticized in the March 20, 1982 TV GUIDE) but an overwhelmingly liberal, secular approach on social issues. Syndicated columnist Phyllis Schlafly notes this in her February 12, 1982 column (in the SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRIBUNE and elsewhere):

A study of the presidential voting record of the media elite proves [their liberal bias]. The media elite voted 94 percent for Lyndon Johnson to 6 percent for Barry Goldwater in 1964; 87 percent for Hubert Humphrey to 13 percent for Richard Nixon in 1968; 81 percent for George McGovern to 19 percent for Richard Nixon in 1972; and 81 percent for Jimmy Carter to 19 percent for Gerald Ford in 1976. (The 1980 election was not included in the survey.)

These figures are from an extraordinary in-depth study of the national media elite made by S. Robert Lichter and Stanley Rothman and recently published in the magazine PUBLIC OPINION. Their findings were based on hour-long interviews with 240 journalists and broadcasters at the most influential media outlets, such as the NEW YORK TIMES, the WASHINGTON POST, the WALL STREET JOURNAL, TIME, NEWSWEEK, CBS, NBC, ABC, and PBS.

The Lichter-Rothman survey took a searching look at the social and personal backgrounds of the media elite. What comes through loud and clear is that they are a socially privileged class from upper-middle-income homes. Not only are they well-educated, well-paid and well-to-do, their parents were also well-educated and well-to-do....

The most striking and predominant characteristic of the media elite is what Lichter and Rothman called their "secular outlook." Another way of expressing that observation would be to call it an anti-religious outlook. It's no wonder they oppose prayer in the schools; most of the media don't even believe in prayer in church or synagogue.

Exactly 50 percent say that they have no religious affiliation whatsoever, and 86 percent admit that they seldom or never attend religious services. Only 8 percent go to church or synagogue weekly. Almost one in four was raised in a Jewish household; only one in eight identifies himself as a Catholic.

The survey shows that the media elite are strong supporters of sexual permissiveness, 90 percent agree that abortion should be legal, 54 percent believe that adultery is not wrong, 76 percent believe that homosexuality is not wrong; 85 percent believe that homosexuals should be permitted to teach in private schools.

The media take their power seriously. When asked to rate the major groups according to their current influence over American life, the media elite ranked them as follows: business, media, unions, consumer groups, intellectuals, blacks and feminists. But when asked WHICH groups SHOULD rule America, the media elite chooses itself as No. 1. After that, in descending order, the media would list consumer groups, intellectuals, blacks, business, feminists and unions.

The media elite are not always successful in telling Americans what to think, but they are stunningly successful in telling them what to think about.

It's little wonder, considering the power and prestige of the media today and the orientation of most of its members, why America is in the mess it is. The media is in a leadership role, and the blind are leading the blind.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau