

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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REVIEW OF 1982 RADIO AND TV COVERAGE

United States

This year has seen some tremendous growth in radio and TV coverage! Notable is the latest opportunity to begin broadcasting on WTBS Atlanta, the largest superstation in the U.S. Serving 24 million homes and anticipating 30 million by the end of 1983, the station will carry "The World Tomorrow" beginning January 2 at 7 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time). While the time is early, only one hour on Sunday morning is given to religious broadcasting by owner Ted Turner. The list of cities covered is too long to be included here, but suffice it to say that "The World Tomorrow" will now be available to many areas not presently receiving the program. Please check local TV guides for more information.

In 1982, 62 new TV stations have been added and 22 stations have upgraded our time slot. In January a total of 184 TV stations will be carrying the program in the U.S. alone.

Radio time buying has proved more difficult than that for television. We currently hold contracts for 80 radio stations, 27 of which are new this year and 10 of which have improved times in 1982. However, with the multiplication of radio formats ranging from "middle of the road" to "adult contemporary" to "news/information," radio listenership has become fragmented. Sadly, the general interest stations of earlier years have been replaced by musically-formated stations whose planners refuse to allow any dissimilar programming. Fifty-eight percent of radios are now tuned to FM stations broadcasting mostly music in stereo. Our best opportunities and responses come from all-news/information stations. We will continue to press for better times and openings in this area in 1983, budget permitting.

International

In Canada the year has been one of upgrading coverage. Thirty-four TV stations and 159 radio stations carry "The World Tomorrow." Canada also benefits from receiving bonus TV coverage from northern U.S. stations by cable. Approximately 50% of all Canadian homes receive the three U.S. network stations. Canada is literally blanketed with the program and no other country comes close.

Significantly, the Work in Canada is able to contribute substantial subsidies to other international areas, as does the Work in the United States. One of those areas is the Philippines where the radio and TV broadcasts began in January, 1982, during Mr. Armstrong's last visit. RTV in Manila delivers the TV program by satellite to the whole nation each Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. following the news. This has proved to be a very successful time of day with good audience levels after the news program. Another area subsidized by Canada is Hong Kong. There the radio program can now be heard twice on the weekend on Hong Kong's only commercial radio station.

In Europe, the French subtitled World Tomorrow program was placed on TV Luxembourg reaching Belgium by cable (70%), parts of northern France and Luxembourg itself. Again response has been very gratifying. In November TV opened up in Monte Carlo with the potential of reaching a large area of southern France, including the major port city of Marseilles.

Meanwhile in New Zealand, four radio stations accepted "The World Tomorrow" for the first time since 1979. TV availabilities may come in 1983 as controls on programming are lifted. The South Pacific, served from New Zealand, began receiving the radio broadcast from the island of Tonga this year.

In the Caribbean an important breakthrough occurred after several months of negotiations with the Bahamas TV Authority. They had banned all religious programs because a well-known TV evangelist apparently made a political statement. Several months went by and finally a couple of weeks ago we were telephoned and asked which time on Sunday we would like to take--first option! The program began again in December. Last but not least, Jamaica will receive "The World Tomorrow" on the only TV station in the country beginning January--again the result of favor after lengthy negotiation.

The impact of God's Work on this age by radio and TV is now through a total of 274 TV and 270 radio stations worldwide. It has been very apparent during this past year that God's hand is blessing His Work as we actively seek the opportunities to complete His Work at this time. The key is that when God's people please God and back up His servant carrying His Message, the door swings wide open.

Thank you for your continued prayers for additional income and broadcast opportunities.

--David Hulme, Media Liaison

FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

SEP 1983 Camper and Employment Applications

Plans for the 1983 Summer Educational Program in Orr, Minnesota are now well under way. Packets containing applications are now being mailed to all U.S. Church pastors. Applications for prospective campers and high school workers are included in the packets.

Please announce to each of your congregations that you have the necessary applications. Each applicant should complete his or her form and then return it to you. All employment applications must be postmarked by February 14, 1983, and all camper applications must be postmarked no later than March 14, 1983.

Please also announce that due to the budgetary cutbacks, SEP Big Sandy has been canceled for 1983. We are very sorry to have to do this, but we plan to serve as many as possible at the Orr, Minnesota facility. Consequently, please disregard anything pertaining to the Big Sandy camp on the applications.

Your evaluation of each applicant is very important. Please be as specific as possible. Achievements of the individual, any problems he or she has had or is currently having, parental status (solid church family; divorced parents; unconverted, antagonistic, disfellowshipped parent, etc.) and any

other information you can provide us, will greatly assist in making dorm assignments and in our counseling and other dealings with the individual.

If you need more forms, please call the Y.O.U. Office in Pasadena at (213)577-5720 and more will be sent to you immediately.

Note to Canadian Pastors: A large quantity of applications is being shipped directly to the Vancouver office. All Canadian ministers should please direct any interested youth to write or call directly to the office in Vancouver for their applications.

Thanks for Special Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I have just had the honor and privilege of being able to attend a special "weekend version" of the Ministerial Refreshing Program, held on six Sundays after the Feast. Local Church Elders from Southern California gathered for the specially condensed program.

Last year, we attended a special session also, but at that time all lectures and presentations were on videotape. We had assumed it would be the same this year; however, on the first day, Mr. Tkach informed us that we would have "live" lecturers. What a difference that has made! The opportunity to ask questions and talk further with the lecturer made a world of difference!

Thank you so much for making this valuable material available to us in this special way. I certainly couldn't afford to take even one week off from my job to attend a "conventional" session during the week. But this way, those of us serving at the local church level can receive this priceless information without having to sacrifice our jobs or income. Thanks be to God and to you for your strong, loving leadership.

Larry Dietrich

Member Moved by Sermon Tape

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I was tremendously moved and stirred up last Sabbath when I heard your taped message. It must be the most important and sobering sermon we have ever had. I want to thank you with all my heart for the very great effort you gave to your subject and for getting across to us the gravity of the state of the world, and our need to work harder, pray more fervently and fast more often so that we would be worthy of our calling.

I do want you to know that we love you and support you; that we pray for you and do our best to take in all you say to us. You give us incentive and encouragement. I would like to be able to reciprocate this encouragement and obvious care that you radiate on the TV program here in Brisbane each week. You are indeed a miracle for which we thank the Eternal always.

Member, Queensland, Australia

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATEIncreased Numbers Turn to God's Work for Help With Personal Problems

Over the years many people have written to the Work for specific advice and answers regarding their personal problems. In the past two years, and especially of recent date, the number of such requests has increased dramatically. This upsurge reflects the revitalization and extended coverage of "The World Tomorrow" program, the GOOD NEWS, the CORRESPONDENCE COURSE and stronger PLAIN TRUTH articles.

Readers and listeners are impressed with the sincerity and conviction that Mr. Armstrong conveys on the program, and the clarity of the Gospel as expounded in the Work's publications. Many seem to recognize this as being the very Work of God. As a result, they reach out with trust and confidence, seeking help with lifelong questions and problems. These include marital conflicts, financial woes and a host of other related difficulties. Many people plagued with illness or disease request our prayers. Either a personal reply or appropriate literature is sent to help comfort and encourage those who look to this Work.

Surely God's Work is having an impact on this nation and the world. The Gospel message of the Kingdom of God is being proclaimed in greater power than ever before!

November Co-worker/Member Letter Has Powerful Impact

The response to Mr. Armstrong's November 22 co-worker/member letter has been well above average. His warning message about events now shaping up in Europe stirred many members and co-workers to take stock of themselves. Following are excerpts from some of the letters received.

Your last letter dated November 22 was indeed sobering. So are the newspaper articles and radio and TV news concerning world events. Because of your organization, these happenings have much more meaning to me, and I'm grateful for the insight you provide. I pray that God will continue to bless your efforts.

B.B. (High Point, NC)

Here is a special offering in response to your latest co-worker letter. I have been hearing about the rise of the beast power since 1962, and can see it developing in such an obvious way. Your letter should be enough to "fire me up" into complete subjection to God's way.

W.H. (Santa Monica, CA)

We recently received your letter concerning recent developments in Europe and found it very sobering. This world is fast approaching the close of an age and we hope and pray we can have a part in ushering in God's wonderful world tomorrow. We continue to support you and will pray for you concerning your personal trials, and we thank you for your prayers for us, too!

J.&.S.L. (Canton, MI)

I received your co-worker letter yesterday, and am convinced that we must be prepared for the end of this age very soon, especially

as world events are moving faster. Thank you for your help and encouragement. My prayers are with you.

S.M. (Greensboro, NC)

Your letter dated November 22 arrived today. It is sobering, yet exciting, to realize that what we have been working and praying for is just around the corner!

J.F. (Gardena, CA)

Though we shouldn't be, we are shocked to see prophecies coming to pass so rapidly! May God strengthen you, Mr. Armstrong, as never before. We are striving to pray more than ever and be better students of God's Word so that we can be teachers in God's government.

Mr. & Mrs. S.G. (Glendora, CA)

My husband and I were truly overwhelmed by the last letter from Mr. Armstrong. Over the past year we have really felt the blessings of being involved in God's Work, but we are equally aware of the growing problems in the world around us. We deeply felt the need Mr. Armstrong expressed for support, so we want to send this extra check above and beyond our tithe.

J.C.R. (Philippi, WV)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

1983: NOT A HAPPY NEW YEAR, AT LEAST FOR THE WORLD'S BANKERS

As the world careens around the corner into 1983, few observers view the upcoming new year with any degree of optimism. Certainly the worldwide economic outlook appears bleak. Country after country in the Third World is lining up at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for emergency bailouts, simply to get infusions of money to pay the interest on maturing loans, avoiding default and chaos in the interwoven global economic structure. Positive action by the IMF often opens the door to additional help by consortiums of private banks.

Significantly, IMF loans almost hurt as much as they help; as a condition for receiving assistance, creditor countries have to pare back government spending, especially subsidies for food, housing, etc. This, in turn, slows the creditor country's economic growth, increases unemployment (adding strain to unemployment assistance), limits the ability of the country to buy foreign goods, thereby weakening the economies of the developed nations. Bitter medicine, all around, it would seem. Yet there are precious few options for a world living way beyonds its means.

Here is the way FORTUNE magazine, in its January 10, 1983 issue assessed the burgeoning problem of global indebtedness:

Again and yet again, Latin American countries are testing the nerves and tapping the resources of the international banking system. Brazil, with a \$1.2-billion loan from the U.S. and a \$1.5-billion agreement with the Bank for International Settlements freshly in hand, last week finished negotiating an accord with the International Monetary Fund for a \$4.9-billion loan. If

Brazil gets the additional \$1-billion loan it needs to cover a shortfall of commodity exports, the total package will be the largest ever awarded by the IMF. Brazil already owes foreign bankers \$89 billion, having thus recovered from Mexico the dubious distinction of being the world's most indebted nation.

Meanwhile, last week the telex machines in Mexico's Finance Ministry were clacking once more, dispatching urgent cables to the 1,400 foreign banks that hold Mexico's \$80-billion debt. The message: Mexico was declaring a moratorium on \$20 billion in principal payments due through the end of 1984 and requesting an additional \$5 billion in loans. Mexico needs the new money in order to persuade the IMF to lend it another \$3.9 billion.

Bankers rallied quickly, and IMF Managing Director Jacques De Larostiere was expected to convey the Fund's approval of the agreement. The loan...will be a sign of confidence in the newly installed administration of President Miguel de la Madrid. Said one top international banker: "The new cabinet is consistent, competent, and conservative."

In office only three weeks, de la Madrid has set out on a tough economic program that includes higher taxes, reduced government subsidies on food, lower budget deficits, and removal of most foreign exchange controls.

Despite their success in putting together the huge loan packages for Brazil and Mexico, banking and finance ministry officials remain worried about the stability of the international money system. Financial wags are complaining about hastily arranged billion-dollar loans to the "newly submerging countries." Private bankers are concerned that as Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, and others queue for IMF cash, the fund will be drained. U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan frets about the global effects of belt-tightening measures carried by IMF loans. Says he: "Countries that go to the IMF for help are all told to export more and import less. But that creates a puzzle. The industrialized nations are trying to export more and import less. How can every nation do this simultaneously and still maintain an international trading system?" Bankers around the world face a sobering new year.

That phrase "newly submerging countries" is quite descriptive. Two or three decades ago, nations in what is often called "the Third World" were simply labeled "backward," perhaps with an air of superiority on the part of the industrialized world. The United Nations, gradually reflecting Third World numerical superiority, began using other terminology, attempting to connote a mood of progress. Out went "backward," and just as quickly "undeveloped." "Underdeveloped" was employed for a while, then "developing," finally "newly emerging nations." Now, some of the latter, as far as the bankers are concerned, have passed the terminological crest to become "newly submerging countries."

Much of the world's economic mess is traceable to the quantum leap in oil prices following the 1974 Arab oil embargo, coupled with another sharp increase in 1979. This crippled the Third World in two ways. First, the

poorest countries simply could not sell enough goods to make up for increased oil costs. They had to go to the financial markets to cover yearly balance-of-payments shortfalls. Secondly, the enormous revenues generated by the oil producers such as Saudi Arabia, had to go someplace. Most of the surplus revenue went into Western banks, which simply became awash with money. The banks had to invest this money somewhere in order to pay the interest on the Arab deposits. Nations not originally thought to be the best credit risks were aggressively sought. "We'll give you money to finance your development schemes," etc.

Mexico was considered a hot prospect because of its newly discovered assets of petroleum. This worked for a while--until the price of petroleum dropped and Mexico couldn't repay its debts. Some banks were left exposed because they had violated their own principles of not lending more than 10% of lendable capital to the same country. (Some banks were 30% exposed to Mexico--10% to the Mexican government directly, another 10%, say, to Pemex, the nationalized oil company, and a third 10% to some other governmental agency.)

The whole cycle is now endangered by another development. The soft oil market, coupled with lower oil prices, means that the oil producers are earning less and thus placing less money in Western banks. The banks, in turn, are finding it difficult to cover their outstanding loans to Third World debtor nations.

The NEW YORK TIMES in its December 6, 1982 edition paints this gloomy picture of the world's economy:

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 3--The recession in the industrialized nations has translated into increased economic hardship and new political tensions across much of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Last year, for example, the economies of the developing world grew by an average of just six-tenths of one percent and, with population growth racing ahead, per capita income fell for the first time in 20 years.

"Zero growth in a country like Sweden is hardly a disaster," one United Nations development economist said, "but in the third world it means condemnation to perpetual poverty."

While the economic destiny of the third world will unavoidably be determined by events far beyond their borders, many experts believe that these countries will also shape the fate of the industrial powers. "In contrast to the Depression of the 1930s," a United Nations economist said, "today there is genuine worldwide economic interdependence....The recessions are feeding on each other....The collapse of the third world will hurt the first world's recovery."

The sharp increase in oil prices in 1979 pointed to serious trouble for developing nations that are not oil producers. The total current-account payment deficit for all third world countries surged to \$115 billion in 1981.

For a while, however, the surplus revenue of Arab oil exporters, efficiently recycled through Western financial markets, provided a credit cushion for countries with payments difficulties....

More than ever, Western banks also turned their attention to the third world, competing fiercely in a borrower's market to dispose of their excess liquidity, frequently at low interest rates with small profit margins. Last year foreign banks poured more than \$19 billion of new money into Mexico alone, while the third world's total foreign debt rose to \$517 billion. [Note: an increase of \$402 billion in only two years!]

By mid-1981, however, the Reagan Administration's tight money policies were squeezing the entire world economy....This slowdown, in turn, softened oil prices and further weakened demand for other raw materials. Within months, even the dollar surplus from the Arab oil countries had dropped sharply. As a result, acute financial crises have erupted like brush fires across the developing world this year.

Yet it was only recently, when the larger countries of Latin America began lining up outside the International Monetary Fund, that their individual problems took on the dimensions of a global monetary crisis. For example, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina owe a total of \$200 billion abroad, which they cannot repay.

The immediate fear among bankers in New York and London was that these countries might organize a "debtors' cartel" and unilaterally declare a moratorium on all their debt servicing. [Cuba, incidentally, has called for the wiping out of all Third World debts. Havana is in debt to the tune of \$3 billion.] Such a move would decimate the West's financial system, so bankers have tried to show flexibility, ignoring defaults on interest payments and even providing new credits in exchange for austerity programs worked out with the IMF. "We helped them get into this pickle," one foreign banker said, referring to Mexico's problems, "and we've got no choice but to help them get out if we ever want to be repaid."

Indicative of the further developed countries' bleak economic picture is the "Christmas gift" that France just received, as reported in the December 27, 1982 WALL STREET JOURNAL. It is a gift with definite political strings attached regarding the Middle East. Reports staff reporter Felix Kessler:

In the seasonal spirit, Saudi Arabia has bestowed a welcome Christmas envelope containing something like \$4 billion upon the French government. And ever since, many of the French have been ungraciously speculating whether any strings are attached.

The \$4 billion is the apparent amount of a loan that the oil kingdom agreed to extend to France, according to Mideast and European sources. But mystery and controversy surround the accord....

Finance Minister Jacques Delors refused all comment on either the amount or the terms of the arrangement he signed last week in Riyadh. Some French officials say their lips are sealed at the request of the Saudis, who want to avoid other requests from hard-pressed neighbors.

The French, hardly forthcoming about their financial policies at the best of times, may be reluctant to go into details partly because the French newspapers have unflatteringly described the aid as a Saudi rescue operation for the battered franc. "The Magi Saudi King comes to Paris's support in defense of the franc," read a headline in the daily financial newspaper, LES ECHOS. In discussing the "Franco-Saudi entente cordiale," the paper then posed the most troublesome question: "What is the exact price?..."

The French bleakly view the loans as "proof of the growing weakness of the franc and our growing dependency on Arab money," says Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute of International Relations, a nongovernment organization. The question posed by France's new financial link to Saudi Arabia is whether it foreshadows a major change in France's Mideast policy. The French economy is increasingly in deficit, observes Mr. Moisi, and Saudi Arabia is still France's largest oil supplier. "Can France have an independent policy in the Middle East when it's dependent on Arab money?" he asks.

Overall, the world is heading into what a famous sports announcer in Los Angeles would call "nervous time." John G. Heimann, formerly a top banking regulator as U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, said the world may be "on the lip of a whirlpool" where a decline in international trade "is sucking down the world system." Heimann believes that policymakers in Western countries will be compelled to stimulate world growth, preferring renewed inflation to the prospect of a worldwide vortex.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau