

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

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Dear fellow ministers of Jesus Christ,

The Work of God marches on!

Each of us must now, more than ever before, focus upon the fact that of our own selves we can do nothing. This is God's Work. Unless we are in harmony with God we won't be in harmony with His Work. And only if we are in harmony with God can we be one body, unified together in God our Father and Jesus Christ (John 17:20-21).

Herman L. Hoeh delivered an outstanding and fitting message to more than 4,000 people gathered for Mr. Armstrong's funeral last Sunday. He discussed the origins and history of God's Church, clearly illustrating to all just what God has used Mr. Armstrong to do and to have a part in. It was an excellent witness to any who had ears to hear. (Be sure to read Mr. Omasta's comments in this issue regarding the video cassette of the funeral service, which is being sent out to be played in all churches.)

I have just reviewed the special telecast in honor of Mr. Armstrong that will be aired on January 26, before most of you will receive this issue of the "Pastor General's Report." It is a moving and powerful program--an appropriate tribute to Mr. Armstrong's life and work. We expect a record response to the offer of the softbound "Mystery of the Ages." This will be the first time the book has been offered on the telecast, and it will actually be introduced by Mr. Armstrong himself.

In the most recent co-worker letter, which most of you will have received by the time you read this, I announced that for now we will be using Messrs. David Hulme, Richard Ames and David Albert to begin immediately recording new programs for "The World Tomorrow." Mr. David Hulme will host the first three or four programs, after which the other men will begin alternating in. I know you realize how much these men are depending on God's help and power through His Spirit to make these telecasts. Let's all collectively ask God to inspire them and bless them. And let's also remember in prayer those serving in the Television Department, who will need God's help on a continuing basis to

assist the speakers with all the technical backup necessary to produce effective and high-quality programs.

In addition to my other responsibilities, I will continue personally to direct Church Administration for the immediate future. You ministers can continue to call in as you always have. I

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may not return your calls as soon as I previously have, but I will return them.

To update you on the publications, a special tribute to Mr. Armstrong will be presented in the May "Plain Truth," the May "Good News" and in the April "Youth 86" magazines. The February 10 issue of "The Worldwide News" will be a special full-color edition devoted entirely to honoring Mr. Armstrong's life and work. Mr. Faulkner has more on that later.

I want to thank all of you for your support and prayers. The many letters, notes, cards and calls from you men all around the world have been most inspiring and encouraging to me.

My faith and confidence are in Jesus Christ's sure and infallible promise, built into the very commission He gave His Church: "...Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). Let's remember that promise!

Joseph W. Tkach

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

YOU UPDATE; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--CANADA, AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, ENGLAND

YOU Update Mr. Kevin Dean has resigned from all his responsibilities with the Church.

In a meeting with Messrs. Dibar Apartian, Dean Blackwell, Herman Hoeh, David Hulme, Leroy Neff, Larry Salyer and myself, it was decided that direction of all aspects of Youth Opportunities United worldwide will now fall under the Church Administration Department.

Mr. Kermit Nelson, faculty member in Big Sandy, will begin immediately serving on the Church Administration staff to coordinate the activities of YOU.

The principals of Imperial School will report directly to me.

International News

From Colin Adair We ended the year on a high note. Mail income for December was up 26.4%, bringing the year-to-date figure to 10%. When added to other income sources, 1985 closed with a 12.5% increase.

We feel certain we will set a new response record with Mr. Armstrong's book "Mystery of the Ages." The softbound version of the book has arrived and the first 30,000 were mailed in December. We printed the cardboard mailing boxes locally and gave YOU members the opportunity to help insert and mail the books. This saved the Work expense while allowing YOU to earn funds toward future projects.

In 1986 we are looking forward to maintaining our present mailing list size by initiating two direct-mail campaigns.

From Robert Morton We have been delighted with the exceptionally high interest shown in Mr. Armstrong's book "Mystery of the Ages." The softcover version was offered to 11,864 "Good News" subscribers in Australia and, by the end of December, 6,653 requests for the book were received. This is a 56% response, and we know of no similar promotion in Australia where the response has been higher.

The response to Mr. Armstrong's November 11 semiannual letter in which he offered his new book to "Plain Truth" readers is also pulling strongly. By the end of the month 14,257 requests were received, a 20.1% response, and requests are still coming in.

If we add members and co-workers (who receive the hardcover version) to the requests so far received, more than 30% of the Australian "Plain Truth" mailing list will have received the new book. In this country no other book or booklet has generated such a high degree of interest so quickly. Requests for "Mystery of the Ages" have broken all previous records.

Because of the interest shown in Mr. Armstrong's book, our incoming mail count for December was the highest for any one month in the history of God's Work in Australia and Asia. We received and processed 40,276 letters--a 62.7% increase over the same month last year.

Throughout 1985 we were encouraged by the number of new visit requests from Australia and Asian countries. By the end of the year 565 new people had requested personal contact with the ministry--a 61% increase over 1984.

From Frank Brown "Plain Truth" circulation as of the February issue stands at 158,000 in the United Kingdom, an increase of 1.1% over the February, 1985, issue.

The most notable growth in 1985 occurred in the "Good News" file. When "The Good News" was offered to people who had been reading "The Plain Truth" for two years, a staggering 44% accepted. This has increased the file by 140%.

December mail income was the best ever for one month in the history of the Work in the United Kingdom and Eire. Income for the month was up 37% over December, 1984, which brought the income for all of 1985 up to a 15.7% increase. This was slightly more than budgeted for, which helped cover unexpected expenses and the cost of the increased "Good News" circulation.

In Scandinavia, combined English and Norwegian "Plain Truth" circulation stands at 56,477 as of the February issue, up 62.8% over February, 1985.

Demand for "The Plain Truth" continues to be very high in the Middle East and on the Continent. The "Good News" list has increased dramatically in the past year, up 140% in the Middle East and up 120% in Europe.

The Church in Africa is continuing to grow steadily. There are now 435 members, an increase of 9.3% over 1984, and the co-worker list has increased by 31.3%.

The Church's farming program in Ghana, started at a time of drought and famine, is doing extremely well. The land is very workable and productive. The farm produces pineapples, paw paw, peanuts, beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, tomatoes, corn, avocados, plantain (a type of green banana), yams and palm nuts. Chickens and goats are raised. The project is a tremendous blessing to our members, enabling them to supplement their meager incomes with food and revenue from their efforts on the land.

--Joseph W. Tkach, Director of Church Administration

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

STAFF BOX CHANGES; "WORLDWIDE NEWS" TRIBUTE; "PLAIN TRUTH" UPDATE; "GOOD NEWS" TRIBUTE; "YOUTH 86" TRIBUTE

Staff Box Changes With the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach has approved the following staff box changes in the publications: Mr. Armstrong's name will continue to appear at the top of the staff boxes as Founder of the publications. Mr. Tkach is now Publisher of all the publications of God's Church. His name will appear directly under Mr. Armstrong's.

Herman L. Hoeh continues as editor of "The Plain Truth," and Mr. Tkach has designated me as editor of "The Good News," "Youth 86" and "The Worldwide News." Those men who are now assistant managing editors will become the managing editors of those three publications. The Correspondence Course is to be under the editorship of Mr. Richard Sedliacik.

"Worldwide News" Tribute Mr. Armstrong's funeral will be covered in the January 27 edition of "The Worldwide News." We will also run a feature about Mr. Tkach as Mr. Armstrong's chosen successor. In that issue will also be the year-end regional reports from the Church's regional offices and some Pasadena departments. A 12-page tribute to Mr. Armstrong is being prepared by the "Worldwide News" staff. This special full-color issue, featuring articles written by Mr. Tkach and evangelists and long-time associates of Mr. Armstrong, will be published February 10.

"Plain Truth" Update Because we are so far along in production, staff box changes will first appear in the April edition of "The Plain Truth." A brief announcement of the death of Mr. Armstrong will also preface his "Personal." Mr. Tkach's first "Personal" will appear in the May "Plain Truth." A special article by Mr. Dibar Apartian about Mr. Armstrong will appear in that issue as well.

"Good News" Tribute In "The Good News" for May we plan a tribute edition to Mr. Armstrong. A photograph of Mr. Armstrong will appear on the cover. Mr. Tkach's first "Personal" will appear as well. Photos of Mr. Armstrong's visits with world leaders, along with tributes from them at his death, will be included. We also plan to run one of Mr. Armstrong's most inspiring articles, "This Is the Life! Real Abundant Living." Many other photographs showing Mr. Armstrong bringing the Gospel message to the world will be featured.

"Youth 86" Tribute A tribute to Mr. Armstrong will be printed in the April issue of "Youth 86." This five-page section will focus on Mr. Armstrong's special relationship with young people. Photos of Mr.

Armstrong with young people, letters from teens to Mr. Armstrong and quotes from him pertaining to young people will be featured. A special cover portrait of Mr. Armstrong will be printed on that edition.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

MEDIA SERVICES

Mr. Tkach has asked the Television Department to send out a video cassette which will contain Mr. Armstrong's funeral service and Mr. Tkach's sermon given in the Auditorium on January 18, 1986.

Mr. Tkach has instructed that this should be presented to the local congregations for the Sabbath service on February 1.

If you do not have access to inexpensive video projection equipment, you will then need to utilize a VCR tape player and several monitors or television sets. (We are not planning to ship our Feast V-STAR or BARCOVISION projectors.) Technical instructions for the setup of VCR tape players and monitors are included with this week's "Pastor General's Report" as a separate insert.

In the United States, we will be sending all pastors a VHS videotape. If you need a format other than VHS, i.e. BETA or 3/4", or if you need more than one copy, please contact Mrs. Linda Scobee at Television as soon as possible. We are planning to distribute the tapes Monday, January 27th.

We will be contacting all Regional Directors for setting up tape distribution in their areas. So, ministers outside the United States, please contact your Regional Director with your tape requests.

These tapes may be retained in your local church library.

Thank you for your cooperation.

--Larry Omasta, Media Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

BIG SANDY WATS MOVE; SEMIANNUAL LETTER; RECORD MAIL RECEIVED;
CONTACT WITH WORK RENEWED

Big Sandy WATS Move Plans to transfer the Big Sandy WATS operation to Pasadena are well under way. The 95 lines that are now being used will be converted to in-home operator lines. The lines will be transferred in stages--20 at a time. We expect to complete the entire move by the end of May. In the meantime, student operators in Big Sandy will continue to take a scaled-down number of calls and help with a variety of other tasks. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parsons and a few other full-time Texas WATS employees will then be moved to Pasadena to assist with the growing in-home program.

This move will now open up new opportunities for local church members around the nation to participate in the in-home program. We're pleased to announce that training programs were recently completed in the Tampa and St. Petersburg, FL, church areas, and are also planned for churches in Dallas and Fort Worth, TX. Nearly 300 members will serve from these areas. We hope to continue expanding this program into many other U.S. cities as the need arises.

Semiannual Letter More than 570,000 U.S. subscribers have responded to Mr. Armstrong's last semiannual letter--a 19.6 percent return. This is the best response to the semiannual letter in the 1980s. The main reason for this fine response is subscribers' strong interest in Mr. Armstrong's generous offer of "Mystery of the Ages." The semiannual letter has been an important vehicle for increasing the numbers of co-workers and donors.

Record Mail Received The year-end reports from our regional offices are now in. It is encouraging to note that worldwide, 9.9 million pieces of mail were received in 1985. This was a 28.5 percent increase over the count for 1984 (7.7 million). About 70 percent of our worldwide mail comes into the Pasadena office. Again, these figures illustrate how much God has blessed His Work in the past year.

Contact With Work Renewed We occasionally receive letters from people who listened to Mr. Armstrong on the radio when they were children, but who lost contact with him during their ensuing years. Many have had their excitement renewed upon discovering Mr. Armstrong's TV program years later. We thought you'd be interested in some of their comments:

I first heard you on the radio a little over 30 years or so ago when I was 9 or 10. About two or three years ago I saw you on television for the first time. I could not believe I was seeing the same Herbert W. Armstrong that I heard on the radio over 30 years ago. I've listened to your lectures with great interest ever since.

Brownsville, Texas

While on a business trip to the U.S.A. recently, I happened to watch one of your TV broadcasts that took me back over 30 years. While in my middle teens, and still living at home with my parents, I used to listen to your broadcasts transmitted to Britain from Radio Luxemburg.

Although I have never been a subscriber to your "Plain Truth" magazine, I have recently become very interested in biblical prophecy. The recent TV broadcast on this subject was so interesting that I would like to receive a copy of the book "The United States and Britain in Prophecy."

Berkshire, United Kingdom

My parents did me a great favor when I was very young in that they made me sit down and listen to Mr. Armstrong's radio broadcast...after 30 years of sinning...I again find myself listening to what I feel are the real truths of the Holy Bible.

Santa Cruz, California

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center