

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 24

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 19, 1986

Dear Ministers,

Since I last wrote, we have returned to Pasadena from the recent trip to Britain and Kenya. I mentioned last time our tour of the office in Borehamwood, and the Annual General Meeting and Board Meeting of the Church on Friday, August 1. After lunch with the staff in the office's conference room, we were driven a short distance to Radlett to tour the Ambassador Press, Ltd. Ambassador Press was sold by the Church to the Passmore printing family in 1981. We have maintained an excellent working relationship with them since then. All our European language editions of "The Plain Truth," as well as other publications for distribution in Europe, are printed by Ambassador Press. Passmore International is the entire printing and mailing firm owned by the Passmore family.

Next we were driven to Bricket Wood, probably less than one mile away, to tour the site of our former Ambassador College campus there. Many of you ministers who graduated from or attended college in Bricket Wood will appreciate the strange feeling it can give one to walk around the grounds and in the buildings that look so much like Ambassador College, yet no longer contain the spirit or atmosphere that was once there. It was beautiful, still rather well maintained, yet seemed so empty. The campus is now a staff college and conference center for the Central Electricity Generating Board. It is easy to see why they refer to it as the "jewel of their crown."

On the Sabbath, August 2, more than 2,000 brethren from 24 congregations in England and Wales gathered for services in the Wembly Conference Centre in London. After my sermon, Mr. Frank Brown presented me with a beautiful clock on behalf of the British brethren. He told me that every time I look at the clock I will know what time it is--time to come back to England!

I enjoyed meeting individually with the brethren for about two hours. Then it was time for a meeting that Mr. Brown had arranged for all the full-time ministers in a private room right in the building. I was able to speak to them for another hour before we all adjourned to attend a reception with the local church elders. There I had the opportunity to spend a good deal of time meeting and talking to them as well as getting better acquainted with the full-time men.

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Sunday morning we departed Luton airport for Glasgow, Scotland, and our summer camp at nearby Loch Lomond. Loch Lomond's activities are varied and unique.

They include mountaineering, leather carving, scuba diving, fencing, windsurfing, sailing and trampolining, among others. The camp at Loch Lomond is unique in that its facilities are entirely portable and must be completely assembled before camp begins and completely removed and stored after it ends. Most of this work, as well as staffing, is done by volunteers from local British congregations and Ambassador College students. There is a special thrill of teamwork and cooperation in the whole SEP effort in Scotland. On one hand, I'd like to find a way to provide permanent facilities for the Scottish camp. But on the other, there is a great benefit to the truly "camp-like" environment that the tents and portable facilities provide. I appreciate the fine job being done by Mr. Paul Suckling, who directs the camp. We also were able to bring Dr. Kermit Nelson with us to Scotland for his first visit to the camp there.

Sunday evening we were able to meet with all the local ministers and wives. Then on Monday morning, accompanied by Frank Brown, we departed for Nairobi, Kenya. I felt that this trip to Britain was a good time to begin visiting some of our African congregations. And talk about a pleasure! I was able to meet with both our Kenyan congregations--Nairobi on Tuesday evening, and Kibirichia on Wednesday morning. What joyful, enthusiastic groups of God's people! Again I was struck with how mighty is God's Spirit that makes all His people of one mind. In Kibirichia, one can feel he is at the end of the world. We flew in on a light plane and landed on a tiny airstrip in the midst of a real wilderness. But as soon as we arrived at the Church's meeting hall, we were home! The joy, smiles, interest in the Work and many little children were just what you'd expect in any congregation of God's people in the world. It was a marvelous experience!

We returned to London on Thursday (the flight from Nairobi to London is 9½ hours). On Sabbath, August 9, we flew to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to visit the Irish brethren. I told the brethren in Belfast that on Friday I had toured the World War II cruiser Belfast anchored in the Thames River, and the next day I was visiting the city of Belfast. But in sharp contrast to both, we had people from all over Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland meeting together in peace!

All the Irish brethren--from the Dublin and Galway churches and Cork Bible study in the south, and the Belfast, Ballymena and Craigavon churches in the north, about 500 total--set an example of true peace, brought about by God's Holy Spirit. Again I was able to meet with the brethren individually after services and have dinner with the ministry. Belfast is also like another world--sometimes similar to an armed camp. Barbed wire, checkpoints, airport frisking--all a part of daily life. There were riots, looting and burning in parts of Belfast the very night we were there. Only the return of Christ will end the problems there. But in the meantime, 500 lights will be shining in that darkness.

We returned to Pasadena on Sunday and I've been playing catch-up since. But I took time out on Thursday, August 14, to return to Orr to visit virtually the entire Mexican YOU attending their two-week SEP at our camp facilities in Minnesota this year. Dr. Nelson had selected some 30 high-school workers from the previous U.S. session to stay over along with several Ambassador students to provide staffing. In addition, a number of volunteer brethren from the Duluth and Grand Rapids, Minnesota, congregations offered their services.

Only six of the 84 Mexican YOU members weren't able to be in Orr due to school commitments. Four youngsters from Guatemala also attended, for a total of 82 campers. The Mexican SEP had previously been held in Big Sandy in 1982 and 1985. This was their first year in Orr. Reg Killingley flew with us and provided a simultaneous translation while I spoke. But the language barrier didn't stop me from spending quite some time meeting each of the campers personally. Because of the smaller size of the group, I was also able to spend a little extra time viewing the activities. These young people seemed to appreciate deeply the opportunities provided them at Orr. Messrs. Gilberto Marin and Salvador Barrigan, two of our Mexican ministers, helped supervise the activities.

I'll close for now. Thank you for your prayers about this recent overseas trip. I feel God greatly blessed it and gave us many valuable and inspiring meetings. I pray for you daily.

Sincerely, in Jesus' name,



FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

FEAST PLANNING; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Canada

Feast Planning By now most of our brethren are looking forward to the Feast of Tabernacles, only nine weeks away. As pastors and elders we need to make use of their natural excitement by showing them the necessary steps to a wonderful Feast. This will certainly be "meat in due season."

Remember that many of God's people are not experienced travelers and planning their Feast trip and activities is a major undertaking. You can serve them immeasurably by giving them certain reminders and instruction in advance through announcements, Bible studies, sermonettes and sermons. Make yourself a checklist of subjects to address and stir the members to action on them. What you sow now will produce a rich harvest for both them and you during the Feast. The following is a "must-do" list to which you may add as you see the need.

1) Planning Ahead Thought and planning should go into the Feast trip so that potential problems can be avoided. Vehicles should be checked out and made ready before the trip to help prevent problems from occurring at the Feast, where parts and repair work may be far more expensive and difficult to find. A budget should be prepared so that funds are regulated throughout the Feast, with no surprises in the middle. All articles and suggestions pertaining to Feast planning and preparation that appear in "The Worldwide News" and other publications should be read well ahead of time so that all bases are covered.

2) Driving When Tired We have been repeatedly admonished to avoid driving all night or late into the night. We should plan to begin our travels early enough to allow reasonable driving distances each day, and even make motel reservations in advance to avoid being forced to drive

further than we should. A common-sense rule of the road is to pull off and rest or sleep anytime one feels drowsy. This is not only a matter of safety for one's own family or passengers, but also for other drivers on the road. This is a specific application of God's law of love--of outgoing concern and consideration for others.

The same principle of showing love applies to driving within the speed limit. Not only are we as Christians to be considerate of the safety and welfare of others, God also instructs us to obey the laws of the land. Highway laws, as all laws that do not prevent us from obeying God, should be carefully observed by God's people. The use of seat belts and proper safety restraining systems for little children should definitely be stressed.

3) Plan to Have a Healthy Feast There is a cause for every effect. Colds and flu can dampen the Feast for oneself and others. We should strive to avoid illness by getting enough exercise and sleep both before and during the Feast. We should also avoid overeating as well as eating too many rich or sugary foods. The better we feel, the better Feast we can have.

4) Plan Ahead to Serve Others There is no surer way to have a miserable Feast than to go with the primary goal of having a good time for oneself. Deuteronomy 16:14 shows that our rejoicing is to include far more than just ourselves. In fact, unless we do have the attitude of helping others have a wonderful Feast, we simply will not be able to properly and truly rejoice as God intends. The Feast points us to the time when true happiness, based on God's law of love, will prevail. That is the attitude we must carry to the Feast if we hope to fully observe it.

A sermonette on ways to serve at the Feast would be helpful to many. This would be especially good for singles and teenagers. By involving themselves in Church activities and seeking ways to serve others, their Feast can be much more meaningful than if their minds are focused only on "singles activities" or "youth activities." Being a part of the whole Church through service and active participation, instead of becoming part of separate special-interest groups, should be of paramount importance to our singles and older teenagers.

5) Conduct at the Feast Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." We have a responsibility before God to set a right Christian example at all times. At the Feast, we are under even closer scrutiny than at any other time of the year. Another area that has been a problem, sad to say, is conduct on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is not the time for pool parties, loud playing and shouting by children, playing video games, sports, etc. Let's show respect for God by keeping the Sabbath HOLY AS HE MADE IT. The same admonition certainly applies to God's annual Sabbaths as well.

6) Plan to Have a Spiritual Feast The Feast of Tabernacles is not time to let down in prayer and Bible study. How can we expect God to be with us and bless us during the Feast if we shut off communication with Him? How can we expect to fully understand the spiritual meat given to us at the Feast if we are not spiritually renewing ourselves daily, as God instructs us to do through Paul (II Cor. 4:16)? We should definitely plan to set aside time each day for these spiritual priorities at the Feast.

Spending time with God's people in wholesome fellowship and activities is another important facet that will contribute to having a spiritual Feast, and is something that should not be neglected.

Proper emphasis must be placed on attending services. Attendance at every service ought to be a priority! THIS INCLUDES THE OPENING-NIGHT MESSAGE! We should not miss any service for some activity, trip or any other reason except illness or emergency. We must not let the purpose of the Feast escape us by putting too much emphasis on fun and activities.

Another area to be mindful of is excessive talking and walking around during services. (Sometimes it seems that offenders in this include ushers, deacons and ministers. These are the people who ought to be setting a right example.) Only such talking as is absolutely necessary should take place during services. Storytelling, laughing, general discussion and all other unnecessary conversation simply display a lack of respect for services, the speaker and for God.

Point seven concerning families, children and teenagers will be reserved for next time. Meanwhile, let's plan ahead ourselves to inspire the brethren to really look forward to this Feast of Tabernacles as a type of the soon-coming Kingdom of God. God intends the Feast to be a time of great rejoicing. With careful preparation physically and spiritually, following the principles outlined above, we can all have a superb Feast this year!

International News

From Canada The 7th annual National YOU Track and Field Meet was held in the nation's capital, Ottawa, July 6. Despite a very humid atmosphere the participants performed well and sportsmanlike conduct was high. Athletes came from almost every province in Canada and a whole range of activities was held following the meet. Tours of places of interest were held the next day. This will be the last National for a while and plans are under way to upgrade the Regional Meets for 1987.

Most of the ministerial moves took place this month and the new pastors are now settled in their new areas. They have reported receiving a very warm reception from their new congregations.

In spite of the repeat telecasts, the programs brought in healthy WATS responses. July was 100.3 percent over last year, bringing our year-to-date figure to 186.2 percent. Outgoing mail was down by 9.1 percent this year due to the earlier mailing of the semi-annual letter. In spite of this our year-to-date total is 27.6 percent over the same period a year ago.

At the beginning of the month we knew we were going to have a difficult time matching last July's income, which was unusually large. After seeing minus figures for most of the month we scraped into the plus side by the last day and finished at 0.5 percent increase. This brought our year-to-date mail income to 9.4 percent.

(Submitted by Colin Adair, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Director of Church Administration

EDITORIAL SERVICES

WHO OUR READERS ARE; NEW BOOKLET ON DATING; YES ENROLLMENT

Who Our Readers Are Although this was mentioned several times in the last Ministerial Refreshing Program, we thought it might be time for an update on our readership of the publications. Although you realize our 8,000,000 circulation in "The Plain Truth" around the world is to a predominantly secular audience, you might be surprised to learn that more than 90 percent of "Good News" readers are not members of God's Church.

The percentage is the same with "Youth 86" readers--more than 90 percent are not associated with the Church. This means that we can't refer to YOU or other Church programs without thoroughly explaining them. Also we can't assume our readers understand the doctrines and terminology we are so familiar with in the Church. We don't shy away from educating our readers about the Church, but we have to be very basic in our approach, not assuming they will automatically understand what we are talking about.

With our readership the way it is, the publications can't be expected to furnish members a complete spiritual diet in themselves. Because "The Worldwide News" goes only to members, Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach and others can write more plainly and exhort the Church in a direct way. "Iron Sharpens Iron" is a column designed to encourage Church members, allowing subjects to be addressed in a way that we couldn't in the other publications.

But these columns in "The Worldwide News" are not enough to fill in every gap of spiritual information that Church members need to receive. That is where you come in. We expect and look to you ministers in the field to fill in those gaps. I know there has been some misunderstanding in the past about why we use the approach we do, especially in "The Good News," so I hope being reminded who the audience is will be helpful.

New Booklet on Dating As you are no doubt aware, a new booklet on dating has been much needed. We've had our first planning session on the booklet now, and this is what we envision. The new booklet will go beyond explaining how to date. It will address male and female roles, knowing and evaluating one's self (personality, health, background), marriage preparation, the effect of today's media, questions and answers about dating and male-female relationships and other general aspects of life as single persons.

This is quite an ambitious project, but we have the information, and a large segment of society, young and old, in the Church and not, need it. We plan to run each chapter as an article in "The Good News" first and then produce the booklet after the series is completed. This is the way we also handled the child-rearing booklet in "The Plain Truth."

The long-used reprint "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" is being replaced by one that should be more meaningful to today's audience. Few people today think in terms of "days of salvation." The title of the new article is "Is God Trying to Save the Whole World Now?" It has not appeared in print before.

YES Enrollment You might want to remind parents that a new YES academic year has begun, and those children who will be age 5 by December and who are not enrolled should be enrolling now. Lesson 1 is in the mail. If parents have already filled out a Youth Information card with all their children's names and ages, the 5-year-olds will be automatically added to the mailing list. But if they have not filled out the card, and they have a 5-year-old, they should fill out the cards and the cards should be sent in as soon as possible.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

**WATS SUMMER RECORDS; SPECIFY DONATIONS CLEARLY;
YOUTH SEEKING HELP; CO-WORKER NUMBER PASSES 70,000**

WATS Summer Records The "World Tomorrow" program has drawn more than 269,000 calls since the beginning of summer. This is a 62 percent increase over our call volume for the same period in 1985.

Surprisingly, eight of the summer telecasts this year have pulled more than 20,000 calls. In all of 1985, only five programs exceeded the 20,000 mark.

Response to summer telecast reruns is averaging 75 percent of their original airing. In the case of Dr. Albert's program, "The Secret of the Human Mind," the number of calls which came in from the second airing exceeded the first by 688. (The rerun drew 19,044 calls.)

The year-to-date TV response continues to be 100 percent above 1985.

Specify Donations Clearly We are continuing to receive from members a number of donations that are not clearly marked for the intended fund.

Would you please ask members to specify how they wish their checks and money orders to be broken down? Remember there are a number of funds to which members may donate.

Brethren should be especially careful that in their third tithe year they note how much of their contribution is for that fund. This information should be included each time they send in their tithes and offerings. Members can assist us greatly by giving a clear breakdown of categories on their checks or on a separate piece of paper.

Youth Seeking Help Since the Work began placing greater emphasis on family and youth in our publications, more and more young people in the world are turning to us for guidance. To give an idea of what problems are troubling today's youth, we are listing a number of areas in which they are asking us for help. They want to know how to

- Combat peer pressure to engage in premarital sex, use drugs, participate in vandalism and generally compromise their morals.
- Cope with life in a broken family or unhappy family atmosphere.
- Know what to do about steady or interracial dating.

- Keep the Sabbath when faced with demands to be involved in school activities such as sports.
- Understand what kind of entertainment (music, movies, etc.) is godly and uplifting.

In addition to answering their questions with personal letters, we also recommend that these young people subscribe to "Youth 86" if they have not already done so. In some cases, they write back to tell us how much our publications mean to them and how their lives are being turned around. Following is a sample letter:

I am writing to express my deep appreciation of all that you have done for me. I am 18 years old, and was deeply mired in Satan's deceitfulness. Then I discovered you, God's true Church, and you taught me His wonderful truth and plan for man. I constantly read your magazines and booklets which you so generously send me, continuing to grow in His grace and truth. I am enclosing my first donation, and you can expect many more on a regular basis. I want to take an active part in helping to proclaim God's good news to the world. I know you and God will never forsake me.

Maine

Co-Worker Number Passes 70,000 We now have the largest number of active co-workers on file (71,701) since August, 1971. The number of co-workers added each month is continuing at a steady pace. An average of 2,500 donors are upgraded to co-worker status monthly.

When these new co-workers are informed they have been added to our inner family of supporters, many write to tell us how excited they are about the new opportunity. Below are some of their comments:

I am so grateful to be called a fellow worker with Christ. It brought tears to my eyes. I am praying for the Church and all the co-workers to continue the worldwide Work of God. Your letter encouraged me to read and study more of God's Word. I stand 100 percent with the Church of God. I support and pray for this Work and God's true ministers, without whom Satan would still be deceiving me.

(Texas)

I am proud my name is being placed on your list as a co-worker. I think I am the proudest person alive. I will be glad to receive your letters each month. Now I can do something in this life and feel I've done something.

(California)

I have just received my first co-worker letter from you, and believe me, I was so happy I almost cried. If you asked me to give every penny I make I would, because God's Work and Church are all that mean anything in this world to me.

(Texas)

I am very thrilled that you have accepted me as a co-worker with the Church. I want more than anything in this world to take part in God's Work. I have never felt such joy as in giving to God's Church, and I feel God's calling very strongly in this. I will be very honored to receive your letters every month.

(Florida)

Words cannot express my true feelings, knowing I am a member of God's team. My heart surely is in the Work of God, and I know that I have been called by Him to have a part with Christ in this Work. How grateful I am to know I have the privilege to be called a fellow worker with Jesus Christ.

(Pennsylvania)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

MORE ON THE SANCTIONS ISSUE; SPECIAL REPORT:
THE MEXICAN BORDER "WAR"; AMERICA'S LIBERAL CHURCHES

Sanctions Row Continues The uncertainty over political events in southern Africa and the future availability of key minerals is being reflected by nervous traders. The prices of both gold and platinum are rising with the platinum especially volatile--up \$100 an ounce in less than a week. Meanwhile a slowdown by South Africa of vital trade across its territory into and out of some of its neighboring states calling for sanctions appears to be having an effect. President Kenneth Kaunda of landlocked Zambia, whose nation depends upon South African ports to handle 60 percent of its imports, has sounded a note of caution on the sanctions issue. However, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe continues to warn his countrymen to expect the worst. "Our nation will be called upon to endure hardship," he proclaimed. "Let each and every one make noble sacrifice."

In Britain, some of the more conservative popular newspapers such as the DAILY MAIL and the DAILY EXPRESS are running articles and editorial commentary questioning the value to Britain of the current-day Commonwealth. ("Who the H___ Needs the Commonwealth?" blared one EXPRESS headline.) Articles such as these usually examine the political realities in the countries of the Commonwealth most active in calling for sanctions. In the United States, President Reagan came out strongly in his August 13 news conference in support of a suggestion by South African President Pieter Botha that the United States and other Western nations engage in limited talks about the economic and security realities of the troubled region. The President's views don't sit well with many congressional members, however, who are engaged in a "moral stampede," according to Raymond Price, writing in the July 31 LOS ANGELES TIMES:

"Constructive engagement" is dead as a term if not yet as a policy. Instead, America is thundering forward on one of those great moral stampedes so beloved by the political left and by distressingly many in the news media. The target this time is South Africa, and the stampede is one of destructive

engagement. One trouble with stampedes is that they don't stop when they reach the cliff.

The real struggle in South Africa today is not about race but about power. It is not a simple question of black vs. white. It is not about whether apartheid will continue. It is about who will run the country when apartheid ends, and how much, if any, freedom there will be for black and white alike.... The uncertainty over the...communist ties [to the African National Congress] is not over whether they exist but over how pervasive they are. The ANC openly proclaims its solidarity with the South African Communist Party.... There is no shortage of historical evidence of what happens when an armed revolutionary movement that is substantially, but not completely, led by communist clients of the Soviet Union seizes power.... So far, the destructive-engagement stampede has had the effect of rewarding and glorifying black radicalism in South Africa and thereby strengthening the ANC at the expense of the country's 30 or so other black political organizations. The stampede may be good short-term politics in the United States. But if it does carry us over the cliff, the all-but-certain future for South Africa is descent through catastrophic bloodshed into tragedy and totalitarianism.

And in South Africa itself, President Botha, in a major address to his own party (but intended as much for the outside world), warned of the disastrous nature of revolutionary movements that promise liberation. "The international campaign against South Africa, especially from the ranks of certain leftist Western leaders and countries, is one of the most extreme forms of political fraud of the 20th century," Botha told the special party convention. "We are probably no better, but certainly no worse than the rest of the world.

"Our policy is one of orderly, evolutionary change in contrast to the so-called liberation of violent revolutionaries," Botha said. "In Africa, we have repeatedly seen the consequences of premature liberation without proper preparation and planning." He further warned that "the freedom of one person so easily becomes the oppression of another [and]...a freedom struggle, especially if accompanied by violence, so often ends in tyranny." He added that his nation was confronted with the combined weight of the contemporary views of many Third World nations coupled with the "historical guilt complex of the First World."

The Strange Border War, and More (expanded version of August 11 "Worldwide News" "Worldwatch" column) Sunday evening, July 27, my son, Neal, and two "Plain Truth" photographers, Hal Finch and G.A. Belluche Jr., had an incredible experience. We were invited by Harold (Hal) Ezell, the Western states regional commissioner for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, to view what Mr. Ezell calls "the invasion"--the nightly penetration of America's southern border by swarms of illegal immigrants. The location was the "square mile of hell," straddling the border checkpoint with Mexico at San Ysidro, California. (San Ysidro is a community within the city of San Diego.)

First we attended a briefing given by Mr. Ezell and the Chief Patrol Agent for the San Diego sector, Alan F. Eliason. Also being briefed were Dean Dana, one of the five supervisors of Los Angeles County, and a lady serving on the staff of Senator Jake Garn of Utah. Commissioner Ezell regularly invites public officials and newspeople down to the border in order to make them, and through them the public at large, aware of the appalling magnitude of the problem. The statistics presented were frightening. In 1965 only 6,558 illegal aliens were apprehended in the San Diego sector. Twenty years later, the number had skyrocketed to more than 427,000. This year the expected number is about 600,000. Total illegal alien apprehensions last year amounted to 1.2 million; this year it could top 1.8 million--three times the expected legal immigration figure.

After the briefing we viewed first-hand the most notorious illegal entry points in the San Diego sector. In the fading light of the afternoon, we looked down from the Otay Mesa into a valley known as the "soccer field," a spot where children once played. There, hundreds of illegal aliens were milling around on U.S. territory, just inside of the unfenced border. They were preparing for their nocturnal rush up onto the Mesa, hoping to get through and across its thicketed ravines. Many would make contact with "coyotes," waiting to smuggle them in automobiles and trucks farther north, into the safety of the Mexican-American barrio of East Los Angeles. Los Angeles County, observed Mr. Ezell, is "the illegal alien capital of the country."

At another location, crowds were clustered along the concrete-lined banks of the Tijuana River, where it veers north of the border, ready for the dash across the river bottom, much like those who cross the Rio Grande at El Paso, Texas. After nightfall we watched their movements through the lenses of an infra-red nightscope--Vietnam War technology brought to bear on the border. The operator radioed locations to INS "ground pounders" in four-wheel-drive wagons or to helicopters hovering overhead with searchlights. Later, in a van with an agent, we drove back and forth through the streets of San Ysidro, watching border-hoppers running to and fro, darting from one shadowy corner to the next. Because of their furtive actions, they refer to themselves as "pollos" or chickens.

An estimated 2,300 are apprehended every night at San Ysidro, representing 40 to 50% of those who made the attempt. But since most of those who are caught try and try again, the INS admits it ultimately keeps out only from 10 to 15%. Usually the aliens present no struggle when caught, since to do so would only delay their release and their next attempt. It's a very strange war, indeed.

We were taken to the barracks to view the nightly "roundup." While the vast majority of those caught are Mexican nationals, the most startling increase so far this year, up 65%, is among those classified as "OTM"--other than Mexican. OTMs have been caught this year coming through Mexico from 66 different countries! While the majority of these arrive from El Salvador and Guatemala, and secondarily from the rest of the hemisphere, more than 200 came last year from India, 163 from mainland China and nearly a hundred from Yugoslavia. "Almost a United Nations of illegal aliens are penetrating this border," said Chief Eliason.

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We were taken to the barracks to view the nightly "roundup." While the vast majority of those caught are Mexican nationals, the most startling increase so far this year, up 65%, is among those classified as "OTM"--other than Mexican. OTMs have been caught this year coming through Mexico from 66 different countries! While the majority of these arrive from El Salvador and Guatemala, and secondarily from the rest of the hemisphere, more than 200 came last year from India, 163 from mainland China and nearly a hundred from Yugoslavia. "Almost a United Nations of illegal aliens are penetrating this border," said Chief Eliason.

"Although we remain an open harbor beckoning people over shores," Mr. Nelson continued, "they must come in under the light of legal immigration, rather than under the darkness of illegality.... Our parents and grandparents"--referring to the millions who came in through Ellis Island and other established points of entry--"did not begin life in this country by evading the law."

Commissioner Ezell continually voices outspoken concern over what America's democratic society will look like 10 to 20 years down the road. Already there are predictions that California could, shortly after the turn of the century, be America's first "Third World" state. The demand upon local and state resources is soaring. The annual net cost of providing services to illegal aliens in Los Angeles County is estimated to be \$300,000,000. Schools and public services are strained. From three-fourths to 80% of all births at the five County hospitals are to illegal-alien mothers. Immediately after each birth, we were told, the babies and the mothers are signed up for food stamps and other services. Since a child born in the U.S. to illegal parents is a U.S. citizen, there is a tremendous desire to have such children born here. Expectant mothers are coming across the border eight-and-a-half months pregnant. Judicial decisions compound the crisis. Recently a federal judge ruled that illegal aliens living in New York State could not be denied access to Medicaid (funds intended for those who are ill and financially needy). The suit, incidentally, was brought by nine "nonlegal permanent resident aliens."

This burgeoning crisis is too significant not to be mentioned in Bible prophecy. The book of Lamentations predicted it--and why it would happen. National calamity was foretold to occur to the end-time descendants of Israel because (chapter 1:8) they had "sinned grievously...[and have] become vile." Just look at the collapse of family life, the alarming increase in drug abuse, the condoning of homosexuality and the consequential explosive spread of AIDS. In the throes of national calamity, the people will cry out to God: "Look and behold our reproach. Our inheritance has been turned over to aliens, and our houses to foreigners!" (Lam. 5:1-2). This is already happening. Two-thirds of Los Angeles city subsidized housing units are occupied by illegals. In New York City, 40% of such housing is similarly occupied. (The Roman Catholic archdiocese in Los Angeles, whose members are 80% Hispanic, and perhaps one-third illegal, has announced its determination to fight the federal government's attempt to evict illegal aliens from federally subsidized housing.)

On top of all this, there is the increased legal immigration of people from Asia and Latin America, which we have covered elsewhere. Since 1965 there has been almost a complete reversal of migration inflow, with only 13% now coming from traditional countries in Europe. The influx of Asians into Southern California has been dramatic, especially Koreans and Chinese from Taiwan and Hong Kong. Wealthy Chinese are buying heavily into suburbs surrounding Pasadena, including the expensive estates of San Marino. In New York City investment by Japanese businesses in the real estate market totals more than two billion dollars. So much Japanese money is pouring into the securities markets that, to better control this flow, Japanese firms are steadily buying into brokerage houses.

The Asian shift is not limited to the United States. In 1985, for the first time in history, the largest part of Australia's immigration was from Asian, rather than European, countries. (Until recent times Australia had a "populate or perish" policy limited to European and other Caucasian immigrants.) Also in Australia, the trendy "Aboriginal rights" movement remains strong, despite the fact that many Aboriginals fear that they are being forced to go backwards, to live once again under tribal laws, including harsh taboos regarding marriage and sexual practices. In New Zealand, a similar push is on for Maori rights, despite the fact that this is leading to divisiveness in society.

In South Africa, the poor economy is producing a revival of a "poor white class" reminiscent of the 1930s. TV reports have shown unemployed whites digging ditches for \$2 a day while black laborers, advanced under legislative reforms, operate mechanical equipment at full pay. Such scenes, of course, add fuel to the extreme right Afrikaner Resistance Movement. (It's not to say in all these cases that there was not cause for changes favoring minority interests, but the scope and acceleration of change has been dramatic.)

Reading the book of Lamentations, one has the distinct impression that God is saying to sinning Americans, Australians and other descendants of the House of Israel that if they despise their birthright He will open the floodgates--"He has caused the rampart and wall to lament" (Lam. 2:8)--to other peoples, some who might better appreciate the blessings of the land.

Churches and Trendy Politics Mainline churches today are becoming increasingly involved in political activism, generally focused, in the United States, against policies of the current administration (such as in the case of the sanctuary movement). Stephen Chapman wrote the following in the June 30 NEW REPUBLIC:

Sooner or later every churchgoer has to get used to the politicization of worship.... I have heard Presbyterian calls for a nuclear arms freeze [and] Lutheran denunciations of American policy in Central America.... After the U.S. attack on Libya, a statement of condemnation was issued jointly by the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Church of the Brethren, and the Mennonite Central Committee. It is presumably a tribute to the power of the Holy Spirit that churches which cannot agree among themselves on the most basic theological doctrines are led to identical revelations on any question involving American foreign policy....

The pacifism is selective.... If the church has condemned the Sandinistas for answering violence with violence, this Presbyterian missed it.... Now a committee of the United Methodist Church has decided that the hymnal must also be brought into ideological conformity. Hymns containing militaristic or sexist imagery should be discarded or rewritten. Among those relegated to the memory hole were "Onward, Christian Soldiers," which depicts the faithful

"marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before," and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."... For now the hymnal is safe, since the recommendation has yet to be adopted....

If you want to know where the churches went wrong, it's worth looking at the seminaries. A glimpse of one was provided recently by the NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, in a profile of a 23-year-old divinity student at Princeton's Union Theological Seminary, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious. Jeffrey Vamos, the son of a Presbyterian minister, subscribes to the idea that the important work of the church is political. His motive for attending seminary: "I was interested in U.S.-Soviet relations, and North America-South America issues. Ministry seemed a way of bridging the problems between nations."... These habits of mind may be expected, given his environment, in which, says the TIMES, "much of the discussion both inside and outside classes focuses on questions of race and class, America's relationship to the Third World, and liberation theology...." One of his professors is James Hal Cone, whose contributions to theology included the proposition that "the kingdom of God is a black happening. It is black people saying No to Whitey."...

The negative impact of many of these issues is not fully explained in the standard news media, very likely because the newspeople, overwhelmingly liberal themselves, generally sympathize with the way things are going.

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau