

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

BEST FEAST EVER; TAX REVIEW; INTERNATIONAL FEAST REPORT;
THANKS; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--CARIBBEAN

Best Feast Ever Preliminary reports indicate that we again had "the best Feast ever" in all 92 sites worldwide! I suppose some would say we are foolish for feeling every Feast is the best ever, but the truth is there would be something wrong if each weren't.

Each year we should have learned more of God's precious truth, increased in personal spiritual growth and acquired a deeper understanding of the meaning and value of God's annual Holy Days. So each Feast should naturally carry a greater impact in impressing on our minds the reality of the soon return of Jesus Christ to restore the government of God to the dying earth. And this year is certainly no exception! A major highlight, of course, was the distribution of Mr. Armstrong's new book, "Mystery of the Ages." Brethren from all over have already been expressing their appreciation for the book's clear and meaty presentation of the truth God has revealed to His Church for the last half century through Mr. Armstrong.

We were all disappointed that Mr. Armstrong was not able to speak live on the microwave transmission this year. But many comments were made here in Pasadena during the Feast about how powerful and current Mr. Armstrong's 1984 message was this year. God's truth indeed is timeless!

Many brethren and ministers noticed that the 1984 message contained the foundational aspects of the book "Mystery of the Ages." God's people around the world have expressed their concern for Mr. Armstrong's illness. I know he appreciates all your diligent prayers for his renewed health and strength.

Tax Review As the Feast has now concluded, the end of the year rapidly approaches. It is time for you ministers in the U.S. to begin putting your tax records in order for the tax return you will need to file early next year. Below are three items you need to consider in preparing your 1985 return.

Housing Allowance Be sure to review your housing allowance to be certain that what you have set aside is the appropriate amount. Any amount that has been set aside and not spent during the year must be declared as income. On the other hand, any amount spent but not previously set aside cannot now be deducted. If you find yourself in this situation, you may want to consider filing an updated Ministerial Housing Allowance form.

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Monthly Expense Allotment Regarding the monthly allotment, when your allotment check is mailed, it is sent in advance of projected expenses. At the end of the year, the total of all allotment checks will be added to your W-2 form as income. Unless you can sufficiently justify to the IRS the business expenses that match the expense allotments you received, you will need to pay tax on the allotments.

The allotment check is to be used only for Church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by a large amount, you may need to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with your reimbursement check.

Second Tithe Allotment Any unused allotment should be returned. Please make separate checks for second tithe funds and for the monthly allotment.

We need to receive any reimbursement checks by December 16 in order to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If checks are not received by December 16, your W-2 statement will not reflect the returned money, and you will have to pay on that amount. (You will need to estimate your expense needs for the rest of the year to know how much to return.)

International Feast Report With this issue we will begin including one report per week from U.S. guest speakers who were assigned to international Feast sites. This week's report (following) is from Mr. Leroy Neff, who served as guest speaker at two Canadian sites, Penticton and Victoria.

"Since Penticton became a Feast site back in the 1960s with its 'Big Tent' for services, I had heard of its beauty and wanted to attend a Feast there. This was the first opportunity for my wife and me to see the area and meet with the brethren for the Festival. This small city is located in a long narrow valley, with lakes on both north and south sides, which produces much natural beauty. The autumn weather was cool but invigorating.

"Services have long since been moved indoors to more comfortable quarters, but must be viewed by several hundred people over closed circuit TV. About 2,500 people from far and near attended.

"At Victoria, where we attended for the last part of the Feast, we were reminded of a visit during the summer of 1976. At that time we were impressed by the beautiful and world-famous Butchart Gardens, and the riot of colorful flowers in evidence. For the fall season we expected little color, but were surprised by as much color from the myriads of flowers that were blooming this late in the year. The frequent rains make all foliage green and lush for this area of Canada.

"The downtown waterfront would make one think he were in England. The large Empress Hotel, built during the first decade of this century, and the Provincial Government buildings are stately edifices of English rather than American architecture. All this and much more is located across from the beautiful harbor.

"Services were held in the elegant Royal Theatre, which is one of only two 'Royal' theatres in Canada, I was told. About 1,500 brethren attended this Festival. Because of the size of the meeting hall, about 800 requests for transfer had to be denied for this popular site in 1985.

"From our perspective, the Feast operated smoothly, without any serious problem. In Victoria, services were interrupted briefly by a woman from some other church who apparently wanted to tell us how wrong we were. Her Bible apparently did not contain I Corinthians 14:34-35. The commotion did not hinder the service, but instead seemed to liven things up a bit, and ended somewhat amusingly.

"We were impressed more than ever before with the love and respect that was shown to us as two representatives from Pasadena. Everyone was greatly disappointed that Mr. Armstrong was ill and not able to speak live on the first Holy Day. They continually asked us how he was doing and I was pleased to be able to give almost daily progress reports. The sermons seemed outstanding and spiritually edifying. The love, friendliness and unity evident was most gratifying."

Thanks Thanks to all of you for your part in making this Feast so successful. Your yieldedness to God makes it possible for His Spirit to work in you to do His good pleasure. Keep up the good work!

International News

From Mr. Stan Bass August was a busy month for the Caribbean Regional Office.

August 14 through 22 found Mr. Stan Bass and Business Manager Bryan Weeks in England for talks with Messrs. David Gunn, Jerry van de Wende and Tony Lodge about the printing and mailing of the Caribbean edition of "The Plain Truth."

On the way back to San Juan, Messrs. Bass and Weeks stopped in Barbados. While there, Mr. Bass was able to meet with and obtain the permission of the Barbados Postmaster General for local mailing of "The Plain Truth." In addition to that, we are now able to secure a mailing permit. This means that the magazines will not have to be franked. They can be picked up at Customs and taken directly to the Post Office for mailing. Mr. Simpson has received assurances from the Central Bank that there will be no problem in paying for the magazines as long as the documentation is in order.

Good news from Bermuda, where we are already mailing about 7,000 magazines to parts of the Caribbean and to Central and South America. We now have permission to use a mailing permit, eliminating the need to lug the magazines up to the office for franking.

For some time now, we had been wondering whether Mr. Paul Brown would get an extension of his H-3 Work Permit. We are happy to report that he has been given an eight-month extension. This means that he can stay until April, 1986.

On the first Sunday in September the World Tomorrow began to be seen on both channels of the Trinidad and Tobago Television System. When Channel 2/13 broadcast the World Tomorrow, we received 56 responses, more than twice the number received on the other channel 9/14. On the second Sunday, there were 114 responses from the new channel!

We were recently notified by WSJU, which is the television station in San Juan over which we air the program, that we would have to accept a change of time for the broadcast. We went from 8:00 a.m. Sunday to 7:00 a.m. the same morning. This earlier time seems to be far less popular. Instead of the 70 calls or so which we usually receive each month, this month we received only 31. We are hoping to improve our time when we can. One benefit, which is perhaps somewhat hidden, is that we may now be reaching a completely different audience.

Overall, television in the Caribbean has been successful. There are several small markets which are not responding as we would hope, but we have had very good responses considering the minuscule size of the markets. So far we have received 5,833 responses from our nine television stations.

--Joseph Tkach, Church Administration

FROM EDITORIAL SERVICES

WN FEAST WRAP-UP; FEBRUARY PT; BOOKLETS; COMING IN THE PT;
YOUTH 85 STATS; SURVEY; YES MAILING POLICY

WN Feast Wrap-up From the Feast reports streaming into "The Worldwide News" we can already tell, again, 1985's Feast was "the best Feast ever." Our staff is working feverishly to process the stacks of copy and thousands of photographs sent to us from around the world. Festival reports and photographs will be featured in the Nov. 4 issue.

February PT Copy is also coming in for the February "Plain Truth." We will run chapter 3, "Mystery of Civilization," of Mr. Armstrong's new book "Mystery of the Ages." We will also run part 2 of Mr. Armstrong's booklet "The Bible--Superstition or Authority?...and Can You Prove It?" That will conclude that booklet, which is good because Mr. Armstrong's new booklet "Are We in the Last Days?" is scheduled for March.

Booklets All of Mr. Armstrong's new and revised booklets will be sent automatically to Church members. Please be sure to encourage the brethren to read this new material. Even though the title may be the same, if the text is significantly revised a new copy will be sent out.

Coming in the PT In our planning session for the February issue, we discussed several other articles that will run in the first few months of 1986. Mr. Ronald Kelly toured some steel plants in the Pittsburgh, Pa., area just before the Feast, taking photographs and gathering information for an article on the smokestack industries. Mr. John Ross Schroeder is doing research in Britain for Mr. Kelly's article.

Also discussed was an article on Britain's Queen Mother. It will be 50 years next year since the abdication crisis in Britain.

Youth 85 Stats In the "Youth" magazine, we are gearing up for our sixth year. Those who were 13 years old when they received their first issue of "Youth 81" will be about 18 when January's "Youth 86" reaches them. Added to those first subscribers are more than 200,000 other subscribers, including more than 60,000 libraries.

Survey A "most admired person" or "hero" survey in the August issue generated more than 500 responses from teens around the world. So far the most admired by "Youth 85" readers are God, Jesus Christ, their parents and Mr. Armstrong.

We thought you might enjoy several comments from our readers in response to the survey:

"I chose Mr. Armstrong as my No. 1 hero because of all he has done for me. I belong to YOU and, besides all the guidance and fun activities provided there, the ministers Mr. Armstrong trained in Ambassador College are teaching my family and me how to live the way God says to. This causes so many blessings that I can't even begin to list them. What I am trying to say is that he is a great hero of mine."

15-year-old
British Columbia

"The three people I look up to the most--the people I admire, my 'heroes'--are very simple:

"First, my father. I would like to become more like my father because he is understanding, he is brave and because he is a very hard worker.

"Second, my mother. Why? Because she is so easy to love, to talk to, she listens to everything I have to say, to all my ideas.

"Third, is Mr. Armstrong himself. He is so full of energy in spite of his age. He is outgoing and interested in everything and everyone. He's unique!!

"If somehow I could combine my 'heroes' into my own character I think I would be a pleasant person to know simply because my 'heroes' are very pleasant people to know!"

15-year-old
Texas

YES Mailing Policy Because of the high cost of mailing sets of Youth Bible Lessons to international church pastors, we are making a change in our mailing policy.

Pastors' sets will be inserted into envelopes and labeled, but will not be metered at Postal Services. They will be included in the regular bulk shipment of students' lessons to international areas.

We are asking the Regional Offices to distribute these sets to pastors in their respective areas. This will ensure a more timely arrival of lessons to the pastors and children and save a considerable amount in postage costs overall.

This new procedure will be in effect with the mailing of Lesson 2.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

YOU UPDATE

Letter Jackets Greetings from the YOU Office in Pasadena! We are now ready to begin processing the YOU Letter Jacket order forms that were obtained at the Feast sites. Please encourage all those in your church area who desire a jacket to submit their completed order forms to you as soon as possible. When all forms have been completed, please mail them to the address below, where they will be processed and the jackets bulk-shipped to you for distribution:

YOU Jacket
Worldwide Church of God
P.O. Box 385
Pasadena, CA 91102

(Please be sure to retain the goldenrod copy for the purchaser and the pink copy for your records.) Future orders may be submitted to you on an individual basis and will be processed accordingly.

--Kevin Dean, YOU

UPDATE FROM MAIL PROCESSING

ANNOUNCEMENT; MPC GEARS UP; WATS CALLBACKS; OUTSTANDING LETTERS

Announcement As you may be aware, there were not enough copies of "Mystery of the Ages" for every member at some U.S. Feast sites. Therefore, any member head of household who did not receive a copy at the Feast should immediately call or write to Pasadena, explaining that he did not receive his copy at the Feast. As a reminder, only one hardbound copy of the book is to be given per family or household.

MPC Gears Up After a tremendously rewarding and refreshing Feast of Tabernacles, MPC is geared up to complete this record year for incoming responses. Mail remained fairly heavy during the Feast and phone calls continued at a near-record pace. All personnel are pitching in to clear away the backlog. We have about 500,000 pieces of mail and WATS cards to process.

There may be some delays in routine literature mailings. However, visit requests and other key items are being given top priority and processed as soon as possible.

WATS Callbacks Every week, dozens of subscribers phone in on the WATS lines with simple Bible questions, health or personal problems and prayer requests. They leave their phone numbers and ask to be contacted by a minister.

The ministers who return these calls are well-trained and work under the supervision of the Personal Correspondence Department to ensure that everyone speaks with one voice. These men make short calls to individuals pointing them to further literature and, when appropriate, to the minister in their area. Most people are very grateful to receive a call from Pasadena. They appreciate the care and concern shown to them. Many exclaim: "You mean you are calling all the way from California? That's very thoughtful of you!"

Calling the person is often more effective than writing a letter. Moreover, it even costs the Work less in time and money. Over the past four years, about 5,000 callbacks have been made. Currently, we average about 50 such calls per week.

Outstanding Letters Here are a few outstanding letters received recently that will be of particular interest to the ministry.

Skeptic Convinced After 20 Years

I am a skeptic--a real skeptic. I have been receiving "the Plain Truth" and "Good News" magazines plus many books and booklets, also the "Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course" ever since May 1965. That is over 20 years and it has always been "free" to me.

When I first read that my subscription had been paid for--I did not believe that. I expected any time to be pressured into sending a donation to "the Plain Truth" magazine--but that request for money from me NEVER did come--not even at this date. So I am finally convinced, the literature from the Worldwide Church of God is absolutely free! My subscription has been paid for.

So now I want to pay for someone else's subscription. This I am doing of my own free will. It is still hard to believe but it is true. The Word of God, presented by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, is FREE.

San Francisco, California

Young Ambassadors vs. Rock Music

Quite often in my life, I listen to popular music. The voices are so powerful and the music seems like pure magic. I've heard about the teaching of Satan being behind this type of music. I never thought it to be true. But the sun will set today, and I will have a different mind completely.

I was listening to one of the nation's top musical groups of today [Van Halen] this afternoon. This group's music has been for so long a great part of my life. It gave me a feeling that the world was ugly, worthless and nothing, and I didn't have to care about anybody. As I listened to the album full blast, I spotted my parents' "Festival of Music" cassettes on top of our stereo.

I took Van Halen out, put the Young Ambassadors in. Suddenly, I heard a powerful, high-quality sound, equal to the power of the other kind of music. The only difference was, I felt good inside, almost as if something had touched me from the outside and came into my heart. I suddenly felt things did matter. I thought, If I don't care, who will? Today, I felt the beauty of God's way, and in the past felt so different with the other music. God was not behind that music. Mr. Armstrong, you were right all along. Thank you, Young Ambassadors, for the beauty I've seen for the first time. I wish your music could touch all the hearts of the young people in America.

Supply, North Carolina

Correspondence Course Helps Keep Family Together

I am writing this letter to again give my blessings to all involved in the great works of the "Correspondence Course!" I have recently gone through many trying and difficult moments in my life just as many others do, also. Without your giving through the grace of God, it is very hard to say where my family would be standing today.

My husband and I have had an uneasy marriage ever since the day we said our vows to one another. I thought that my husband would not be at all interested [in God's truth] because of his own beliefs he has had for so many years. Therefore, I was going to do it on my own, without my family. I still continued to pray for us all, but yet had my mind set on leaving. When the time came for me to leave, my husband was devastated. He sought answers to the reasons for our confusion.

On his own initiative through God, he turned to the Holy Bible and also one of your booklets, "The Ten Commandments." He began reading to me from I Corinthians 7 about marriage. We are now trying our hardest to keep our family together. I have introduced my husband to the "Correspondence Course," and he is very dedicated to this day! I give all my blessings to you and to our Father in heaven for what has happened.

Boise, Idaho

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center