

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



VOL. 8, NO. 29

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 18, 1986

Dear Ministers,

Hola from old Mexico!

As this letter is due I am in Guadalajara, Mexico. Our traveling party (Mr. and Mrs. Leon Walker, Mr. Joseph Locke, Mrs. Ellen Escat, Mrs. Esther Apperson and a television crew consisting of Mr. John Halford, Mr. Steve Bergstrom and Mr. Russ Alsobrook) arrived here midday from Monterrey, where I was able to meet and speak last night to 110 of our Mexican brethren from the Monterrey and Torren congregations, pastored by Mr. Alfredo Mercado.

Tonight I am to be with about 200 brethren from the Guadalajara and Tepic churches. I have had just a wonderful time with these joy-filled brethren! Their enthusiasm for God's Work and appreciation for their calling to His Church is infectious! Wherever I visit God's people I am further impressed with the powerful unifying force that God's Holy Spirit is! God is truly making us one! Language barriers, nationality barriers, race barriers, even distance barriers become nothing before the mighty power of God's Spirit.

We departed Pasadena Sunday, November 10, for our first stop in El Paso, Texas. There we were met by Mr. Tom Turk, office manager in Mexico City, Mr. Gilberto Marin, pastor of the Ciudad Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico, churches, and Mr. Dennis Johnson, pastor of the El Paso, Texas, and Las Cruces, New Mexico, churches. Sunday evening the brethren from El Paso and Las Cruces joined those from Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez for a combined service in the Hotel Presidente in Ciudad Juarez (just across the border from El Paso).

Monday we flew to Monterrey, and now Tuesday in Guadalajara. Tomorrow we will visit our Feast of Tabernacles site in Acapulco; then it

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Pastor General. . . .	1
From Church Administration . .	3
From the Treasurer's Office. .	8
From Editorial Services. . . .	9
From Fleet Administration. . .	10
Mail Processing Update	10
On the World Scene	12

is on to Mexico City on Thursday to visit our office there. Messrs. Walker and Turk have planned a tour of Mexico City (now the world's largest city with a population of 18 million) for us on Friday. Then, this Sabbath, I will speak to the brethren from Mexico City and surrounding areas.

Surely one of the greatest blessings God has given me as pastor general is the opportunity to visit God's people from all

walks of life all around the globe. It is becoming ever clearer how God is fulfilling Jesus' prayer in John 17:20-21: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word: that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Jesus is saying here that part of the proclamation of the Gospel itself, that is, a prerequisite, if you will, of the world believing that the Father sent Jesus, that He is the Son of God, is that those He calls become one!

In verse 23 of the same chapter Jesus continued, "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." Our growing together in God's character and mind in His love through the power of His Spirit has as much to do with the proclaiming of the Gospel, both now and after Christ's return, as anything else we do.

As Mr. Armstrong always said, "When our ways please God, He will bless us." And of course, Mr. Armstrong was referring mainly to God blessing the operations of the Work, the Work of preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. He tied those two concepts together, even as Jesus did in these verses. After all, why would God bless the Work if our ways were not pleasing to Him? Certainly God allows us to make mistakes, but He gives us help, through repentance and His Spirit, to change and grow. And the more we humble ourselves before Him, the more we submit to His rule over us, the more we put into practice His laws governing our relationships with one another, the more effectively He will be able to do His Work through us. As Jesus said in John 13:35, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another."

Friday, October 31, Messrs. Herman Hoeh, Larry Salyer, Dexter Faulkner, Leroy Neff, Greg Albrecht, Joe Locke, Michael Feazell, Joseph Tkach Jr., Michael Snyder (assistant to Mr. David Hulme) and I attended a luncheon in Los Angeles where the keynote speaker was United States Secretary of State George Shultz. Dr. Hoeh, Mr. Faulkner, Mr. Feazell and I were able to attend a private reception before the lunch where we met and shook hands with Mr. Shultz, though there was no real opportunity to talk with him.

Mr. Shultz' speech was about the effect of the Soviet Union's human rights record on Soviet-American relations. We were all impressed that the Secretary of State seemed to be a man of conviction and dignity. At one point in his speech, when speaking of his and President Reagan's personal conversations with Anatoliy Shcharanskiy and Yuri Orlov, Mr. Schultz became choked up with emotion. He said that his conversations with the two men and the thanks they gave the President and him for helping them were among the most incomparable experiences he has had as Secretary of State.

Let's not forget the Apostle Paul's instruction to pray for our national leaders. The Work God is doing in and through us is made easier or harder by those in positions of government.

Thanks for your prayers. Remember each other and all at Headquarters. Remind the brethren to remember their brothers and sisters in other parts of the world. The new column in "The Worldwide News," "From Our Scattered Brethren," can be of help in that regard.

With love, in Jesus' name,

Joseph W. Tkach

P.S. It is now Tuesday evening after the service in Guadalajara. I wanted to add that I felt tonight's sermon was the most inspired I have ever given! And it seemed the devil didn't like that, because the power went out in the meeting room during the sermon for about 10 minutes. The hotel management could not explain the power failure. It affected only our room and none of their control panels indicated any problem. But we carried on in near total darkness without the P.A. system, Mr. Pablo Dimakis, pastor of the Guadalajara and Tepic churches, translating for me. After about 10 minutes, the power returned, just as unexplained as it had left. It certainly had the reverse effect from what the devil would have wanted, though. There was an overwhelming spirit of unity among all the brethren present and, as I said, I felt the sermon was the most inspired I have ever given. But please don't forget to pray for these church visits! I'll tell you about the rest of the trip next issue.

FROM CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

MINISTERIAL 800 NUMBER; SPOKESMAN CLUB MANUALS; NOTICE; PRAYER UPDATES; RECENT ORDINATIONS; INTERNATIONAL NEWS--Spanish, Germany, Australia, New Zealand

As I write, the Church Administration staff is busily preparing for the Regional Directors' Conference which convenes in Pasadena on November 21. We are all very much looking forward to having the regional directors and various of their staff members with us at Headquarters for a few days. The schedule is packed with meetings and discussions and we expect it to be very profitable.

By the way, we received notice during the Feast of Tabernacles that both Mr. McCullough and Mr. Fahey received their visas. They will be taking up their respective assignments before the end of the year. This approval came very shortly after we requested your prayers. Thanks again.

It is also budget preparation time again and Mr. Neff and his team will have the opportunity to discuss regional budgets for 1987 with the directors and their business managers. Mr. Tkach will kick off the conference and also host the regional directors and their wives at luncheons in the Herbert W. Armstrong Memorial Hall.

Speaking of the budget, the Work has several major needs on the horizon and I'm sure Mr. Tkach would appreciate your prayers that Christ will

guide him in making the difficult decisions and setting the right priorities. Obviously, each of us sees the needs of our own department more clearly than those of others, yet there is a very encouraging spirit of cooperation among the division heads as we begin the budget process. God will work it all out for the best through Mr. Tkach's leadership as we all do our part. You need only look around you at the whiteness of the harvest to know that we will have added needs in the field this coming year. Those needs include not only ministers but more fleet cars, larger halls, another Feast site and so on. Let's pray fervently that God will pour out a real financial blessing to match this burgeoning growth.

On another subject, it has come to my attention that sometimes we tend to put down other religious groups--Protestants, Catholics, etc.--through unnecessary comparisons and references. The big problem comes if we appear to be judging their motives. While we do not agree with many of their teachings and practices, we should acknowledge that they may be entirely sincere. It is occasionally necessary to preach and teach candidly about the false doctrines espoused by various groups, especially when the truth is being attacked directly or undermined by some dissident element. But let's be careful not to ridicule or mock the practices of others, in an attempt to make ourselves look better. "Judgment is now on the house of God" (I Peter 4:17). One of the great truths God has shown us is that the rest of humanity is not being spiritually "judged" at this time. Those who are malicious in their false teaching will answer to Christ Himself in due time. Ridicule, mimicry and jokes about others are a ready crutch in the pulpit, but they can do more harm than good. We should be accentuating the marvelous truth God has revealed and reflecting His patience and love toward mankind. Let others compare the fruits and respond to God when He calls them. Beware of giving offense to the "babes" among us as well as the unconverted. God has given us the perfect product in the field of religion. Let's advertise it with enthusiasm and give it freely to all who ask.

Ministerial 800 Number 800-423-4464--This number will be changed as of December 8, 1986. The new number is 800-423-3984.

The number change is being made because of the wide distribution of the number to people other than the field ministry.

It should basically be used as a connecting device for ministers to call Pasadena and talk to various departments ON CAMPUS. Please use this number for that purpose. Do NOT use the Telephone Response number.

This service can be used from any state in the United States except Alaska and California. The field ministry in Alaska and California should use their calling cards or third-party billing to their home numbers if necessary. In this fashion, we can track costs for various areas and manage our budgets in a better manner.

This number should NOT be given out indiscriminately. Remember, this number is for ministers.

Spokesman Club Manuals (U.S. Field Ministry) Demand for Spokesman Club Manuals has greatly exceeded our expectations this year. Our current supply was exhausted soon after the Feast. The manual must have at least a few revisions prior to reprinting. This will probably require several months.

If you can get along on your current supply of manuals we would greatly appreciate it. If you really do need manuals for new members and they cannot borrow them locally, please let us know and we may make a small number of photocopies to fulfill these emergency needs. Please state the urgency of your needs when you make the request and order no more than what is absolutely necessary.

Current back orders for manuals will be dropped. You must reorder if you have an urgent need for the manuals.

Notice to All U.S. Ministers

If Mr. Jim Steiger should appear in your area, please contact Church Administration. Mr. Steiger has been known to work as an automobile polisher and travels around the country.

If Freddie Gardner should appear in your area please contact Robert Jones (804) 479-1177 or Burk McNair (214) 636-4311. Mr. Gardner is currently believed to be in the Virginia area.

(These notices are not intended to be announced in your congregations.)

Prayer Update Some of you are aware that Mr. Bob Scott, pastor of Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres in French Canada became seriously ill with pneumonia a week before the Feast. He is feeling better now but will have to rest until he comes to the Refreshing Program in late January. Bob appreciates your continued prayers and encouragement.

Recent Ordinations The following individuals were ordained as local church elders: Macario Cadatal from the Baguio City, Philippines, congregation on October 11 and Jacques Secours of the Montreal, Canada, congregation on October 23.

Ordained as a local elder was Joel Meeker from the Strasbourg, Mulhouse and St. Avold, France, congregations on October 18.

The following individuals were ordained to the rank of preaching elder: Jose Barragan from the Mexico City congregation on October 25 and John Kennedy of the Pasadena (Auditorium PM), California, congregation on October 24.

International News

From the Spanish Department On Friday, October 10, 1986, a severe earthquake rocked San Salvador, capital of the small Central American republic of El Salvador. The quake occurred at about noon and, according to preliminary reports, destroyed about 90 percent of the city.

Herbert Cisneros, minister responsible for El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, who also happens to reside in San Salvador, reports that none of our members was injured personally apart from a few bruises and scratches. However, the homes of six members were totally destroyed. It is truly miraculous that more members were not affected when the magnitude of the earthquake is considered.

All members from El Salvador were in attendance for the Feast in Antigua, Guatemala. They were in good spirits and thankful to be able to keep God's Feast in the place He had chosen. Being able to leave the turmoil in San Salvador and keeping the Feast in tranquil Guatemala gave special appreciation of the millennial meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles.

(Submitted by Leon Walker, Regional Director)

From Germany The Feast of Tabernacles in the German-speaking areas for 1986 was held in Bonndorf, West Germany, and Brno, Czechoslovakia.

The highest attendance in Bonndorf was 996, with the overseas guests comprising approximately one-third of this total. This was the 10th time the Feast was held in Bonndorf, and an anniversary celebration set the tone for the welcome evening. The mayor of Bonndorf welcomed all the guests and presented the group with a cake commemorating our 10 years in Bonndorf.

Festival Coordinator Tom Lapacka commented that the press reports overall were very favorable toward us. The press also noted that we make a big financial contribution to the area of Bonndorf.

Rainy weather was a trademark of Bonndorf but Mr. Lapacka felt that this was actually a blessing in disguise since the members spent more time together inside. Mr. Lapacka also commented that everyone worked very well together and a spirit of cooperation and unity was very evident.

Our Polish member, Viktor Przybylla, was also present in Bonndorf and informed Mr. Lapacka that he is doing well and appreciates the concern and prayers of the members. He said he is very happy about the other newly baptized member in Poland.

In Brno, Czechoslovakia, 302 people gathered in the modern Hotel Voronez for the 1986 Feast of Tabernacles. Services, meals, activities and accommodation were all in the hotel (with the exception of several excursions), which contributed to a warm, family-like atmosphere. Of the 302 in attendance, 159 were overseas guests.

One of the main highlights in Brno was the excursion to the beautiful Zidlochovice Hunting Lodge. As at every activity, all participants were treated like kings. The food was prepared by the Hotel Voronez staff and transported to the Hunting Lodge. Interesting to note is that the Director of the Hotel Voronez was at the World Fair in Vancouver during the Feast as the representative for the Czechoslovakian Restaurant Pavillion, which won first prize at the World Fair for the best food and service overall.

The highlight at each Feast site was hearing from Mr. Tkach, which enabled the brethren to become better acquainted with him and greatly helped the overall atmosphere and unity of the Feast.

We were also very happy to have Dr. David Wainwright from Pasadena as a guest speaker at both Festival locations.

I was privileged to speak at both Bonndorf and Brno. There was a definite feeling of warmth and love like that experienced in a close family. The spiritual food was of very high quality, and also from a physical viewpoint, the Fall Festival season 1986 was really the best ever.

(Submitted by Frank Schnee, Regional Director)

From Australia We continue to be most encouraged by the increasing number of viewers who are using the WATS lines to request literature offered on "The World Tomorrow" telecasts. By the end of September, the number of WATS line calls year to date totaled 10,878--an increase of 112.0 percent over the same period in 1985.

This increase in WATS line calls is not attributable to the "new season" "World Tomorrow" telecasts produced at the new TV studio set, as the first of these new programs will not be aired in Australia until October 5. We are, however, looking forward to these new season programs and anticipate that responses will continue to rise in number.

To increase our efficiency in handling the volume of calls already being received during peak periods, and in anticipation of the larger number of calls that will come from the new season program, we added two additional lines this month--making a total of six WATS lines in all.

By the end of the third quarter in 1986, a total of 256,320 letters and WATS line calls had been processed--an 8.5 percent increase over the same nine-month period in 1985. In addition, 872,833 separate pieces of mail have been mailed out since January--a 3.8 percent increase over last year.

We continue to be most grateful for the increase in the number of new people requesting contact with the ministry of God's Church. New visit requests in Australia for September were up 71.0 percent over the same month last year, bringing our year-to-date increase for visit requests to 49.0 percent.

As a direct result of the increase in visit requests, our Australian prospective member count year to date is now 26.4 percent above the 1985 figure, while baptisms year to date have increased to 31.9 percent over last year.

(Submitted by Robert Morton, Regional Director)

From New Zealand The month of September ended on a triumphant note as the Eternal gave his people here a great victory, delivering His Work from a sore financial trial!

October 1 saw the introduction of a sweeping new 10 percent Expenditure Tax on almost all goods and services sold in New Zealand. At a single blow, this threatened to cost God's Work around \$150,000 next year--an expense that we have never had to incur before, and could only be paid by large reductions in advertising, newsstands and circulation.

The brethren were requested to pray about this situation, and incredibly--totally contrary to the expectations of our auditors--the New Zealand Tax Department has ruled that the Church can recover around 90 percent to 95 percent of all the General Sales Tax it pays!

In September we placed 200,000 newspaper inserts in seven regional newspapers in an effort to boost our "Plain Truth" circulation to the total we had budgeted to end the year on. By the end of the month 1,300 responses had already been received, with a steady flow of coupons still coming in daily.

We're greatly excited by the tremendous increase in new visits handled by the ministry this year--up 80 percent over the first nine months of last year! Another outstanding figure to report is that "World Tomorrow" radio responses are up by 120 percent for the year so far!

(Submitted by Peter Nathan, Regional Director)

--Larry Salyer, Church Administration

FROM THE TREASURER'S OFFICE

October, 1986 You may have noticed that there was no report from this office at the end of September. The reason is that it is very difficult to make a proper comparison of September with the same month a year earlier. At the end of October, after the Holy Day season is over, we can again make more accurate comparisons.

First, let me give a brief report of the increase for all the fall Holy Day offerings in comparison with 1985. For the Feast of Trumpets, 16.0 percent; the Day of Atonement, 20.5 percent; the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles, 21.6 percent; and the Last Great Day, 8.1 percent. For the year, the Holy Day offerings were 12.9 percent greater than last year.

It has taken the two weeks since the Feast to input all the income and expense information for the month of October into the computer financial record. This record includes all financial and Holy Day offering information for Pasadena and U.S. Feast sites.

Finally, we have the necessary information. The increase in income for the year to the end of October is 7.9 percent. As a result of the efforts of the many departments involved, our expense overage has now decreased and at present is 0.8 percent above budget. This is quite an improvement over the figures at the end of August.

For the first time in several months, the cash-flow projections for the year look good. We hope they will continue to look positive for the remainder of the year.

We have now begun our budget process for 1987. This is what I think of as a "necessary evil." There are probably more appropriate words than that, as it is not "evil," but it is necessary. We must have such a financial guide or "model" for the year in order to keep proper control.

We have decided on a percentage base for income which we believe and hope will turn out to be safe and conservative. Now we must build an expense "model" for all of the many departments that will fit within this expense estimate. During the next two months much time and effort will be required to complete this new budget.

Thank you for your prayers and monetary support which have made possible this positive financial report.

--Leroy Neff, Treasurer

EDITORIAL SERVICES

**"WORLDWIDE NEWS" IN COLOR; BOOKLET UPDATE;
YOUTH 87--A NEW YEAR; POSSIBLE PLAGIARISMS**

"Worldwide News" in Color For only the second time in its history and for the first time since the tribute issue to Mr. Armstrong, "The Worldwide News" will be published with color photographs. Our November 17 Festival edition will feature color on page 1. In our constant efforts toward easier reading, the format of our Festival coverage has also changed. Instead of just listing each site and its activities, we focused on the human-interest aspects of the Feast sites this year--items we felt would be good examples for all the brethren. Thank you again for returning your questionnaires so quickly. Any information you might want to appear in our follow-up coverage in the next issue, please send in right away.

By the way, you may notice that we've replaced the "WN" "International Desk" column with "From Our Scattered Brethren." This column contains human-interest items about churches and brethren around the world. Growth and development, trials and adversities, all will be covered. If you have any such items that you would like to have included from your area, please type them up and send them to Church Administration to the attention of Dexter Faulkner, with "urgent WN material" on the envelope.

Booklet Update The next edition of the "Ten Commandments" booklet will be expanded to include a new chapter titled "The New Commandments of Jesus." This chapter, written by Dr. Roderick Meredith, is added to answer objections many denominations raise when the subject of the Ten Commandments comes up. The reprint combination "Seven Keys to Understanding the Bible" now includes "Seven Keys to Understanding the Bible," "Me...Read the Bible?," "Which Translations Are Best?" and "How to Solve Bible Difficulties."

"Youth 87"--A New Year It's difficult to believe, but with the January issue, "Youth 87" begins its seventh year. Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach leads off the new year with his article, "You're Important to Us!" Other subjects include suicide, conversation, fairness and interior design. Two articles on avoiding premarital sex are "For Girls Only" and "For Guys Only." In the new column, "I Didn't Know That Was in the Bible," Ronald Kelly covers the subject "Can Teens Make an Impact?" by examining Daniel's teen years. Mr. Kelly's practical, down-to-earth approach and the lighter graphics should also make the column appeal to the 90 percent of readers who aren't associated with the Church and who may not be too familiar with the Bible.

Possible Plagiarisms Dr. Roy McCarthy brought to my attention a pamphlet being distributed in South Africa using graphics, slightly altered, from our material. I have forwarded the material to our Legal Department. If any of you see any plagiarism or suspected plagiarism of our material, either textual or graphic, please forward it directly to our Legal Department, along with a copy of the original material that was printed in our publications. If the Legal Department feels the suspected plagiarism

warrants a "cease and desist" letter, they will send it from their office. Thank you.

--Dexter Faulkner, Editorial Services

FROM FLEET ADMINISTRATION

Safety Tip Many accidents are unnecessary and can be avoided if we make an effort to develop and use good driving habits at all times. In the U.S., "right turn on red" is permitted in 48 states, except New York City, and has created many hazards. Remember, if you use the right turn on red, no one owes you anything. You must first come to a full stop. If all is clear and safe, then proceed. Never proceed into the turn "following" a driver. You can never "read" another driver. Simply wait until the other driver has pulled out; then, after looking left and right, and checking carefully for pedestrians, proceed into the turn. A good rule to follow is look left, look right, then scan the left again before proceeding. Follow that order because traffic from your left crosses your path first. You need to be at your defensive best when driving; you're on your own. You can't depend on or trust any other driver to be safe.

--Dean May, Fleet Administration

MAIL PROCESSING UPDATE

CABLE TV: 30 PERCENT OF RESPONSE; FEWER LEAVING CHURCH;
SEMIANNUAL GOING TO 3.4 MILLION; BACKUP SYSTEMS FOR SWIFT

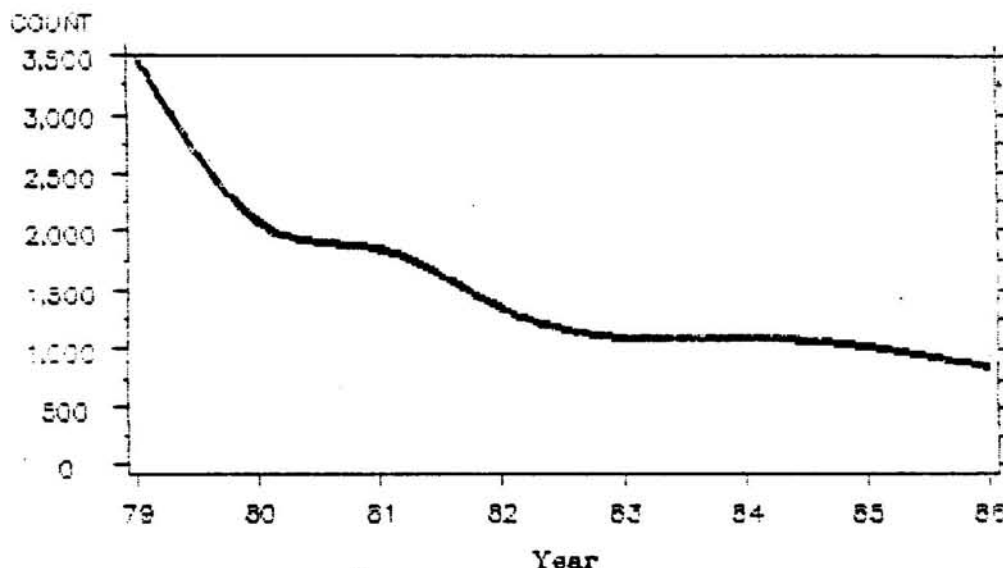
Cable TV: 30 Percent of Response Broadcasting "The World Tomorrow" on major cable stations has proven to be an effective means for reaching a broader base of people. In 1986, the average weekend call volume has been 26,721. About 8,000 of these calls come from cable airings of the program. This is 30 percent of the total weekend response.

Listed below are the major cable stations which carry the telecast, as well as the average weekend responses for each station. Please note that WOR and WTBS have both morning and evening airings:

<u>Cable Station</u>	<u>Average Response</u>
WOR (AM)	1,900
WGN	1,500
WOR (PM)	1,200
WTBS (PM)	1,200
LIF	800
WTBS (AM)	700
TEMPO	700
Total	8,000

Fewer Leaving Church We are encouraged to report that fewer and fewer people are leaving God's Church. Although it is sad that any would leave the fellowship of the Body of Christ, we are pleased to note that the number of people who have left in 1986 is 17 percent below the number who left last year. The following graph shows the same positive trend over the last seven years:

U.S. Members Who Left the Church
January-October of Each Year: 1979 - 1985



Semiannual Going to 3.4 Million Mailing of Mr. Tkach's fall semiannual letter is now under way. This letter will go to 3,377,316 subscribers in the U.S.--the largest semiannual mailing ever. To accomplish this enormous task and keep up with our regular workload, Postal employees are being asked to work overtime and on Sundays for the next 3 1/2 weeks.

Our goal is to have these letters in the mail before Thanksgiving. This will ensure that all subscribers receive their letters during the early part of December, giving them time to respond before the Christmas holiday mail rush.

An additional 1.6 million letters will be mailed in the international areas, bringing the semiannual total to five million worldwide.

Backup Systems for SWIFT The SWIFT equipment used for the In-Home Program has become a vital function of our WATS operations. Therefore, to ensure that no calls are lost in case of an equipment malfunction, we have five backup systems which can be utilized in the event of an emergency.

Some of these systems were in use prior to the development of SWIFT. All of them are currently performing other jobs from which they can be temporarily diverted to handle emergencies for the In-Home Program. They do not create any additional expense since they make use of already existing equipment.

Here is a brief description of how each one works:

- The SWIFT system is divided into two sections, each receiving half of the incoming calls. Should one section malfunction, the other could handle most of the workload.

Any remaining calls would be routed to one of the other backup systems.

- In-home calls would be diverted to the campus telephone system (Northern Telecom) and handled by our operators in Pasadena.
- All calls could be sent to Big Sandy in case we were unable to take them in Pasadena. This would be accomplished by use of equipment called the Routing Control Service (RCS).
- A computer in the Hall of Administration could be used as a backup control unit should our SWIFT control unit go down.
- Another special computer in the office of John Prohs (head of Technical Operations for the Work) is available as a secondary backup control unit.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

LATEST PAPAL TRIP; VATICAN'S CONFLICT WITH AMERICAN CATHOLICISM; BEHIND-THE-SCENES UNITY PROCESS IN EUROPE

The Pope's Latest Travels On November 18, Pope John Paul II departed on the longest and most grueling journey of his papacy, a 31,000-mile journey to Bangladesh, Singapore, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and the Seychelles. During the two-week journey, his 32nd journey outside Italy, the Pope will celebrate 15 masses and deliver more than 50 addresses. Reported the REUTER news agency on November 11:

The 66-year-old Pope is famed for his toughness and endurance...but this trip will test his endurance to the limit. Within the vast continent of Australia the Pope will travel 6,000 miles in six and one half days. On November 29, he will travel from Melbourne to Darwin in the extreme north, then to Alice Springs in the center of the continent and on to Adelaide on the south coast. During the journey temperatures are expected to reach 95 degrees....

Only about 18 percent of Australians regularly go to church and among young people indifference to Christianity is widespread. Catholics make up just over a quarter of the population of nearly 16 million with a roughly equal percentage of Anglicans.... The Church in Australia is also facing strong demands for both married and women priests, ideas repeatedly rejected by Pope John Paul.... During his two-day visit to New Zealand, immediately before Australia, the Pope will also encounter Church crises. Some 14 percent of the population are nominally Catholic but more than half of them do not practice their religion.... According to recent surveys, 70 percent of New Zealand Catholics do not follow Vatican teachings on birth control.

Disaffection with America's Catholics The Pope has two more scheduled trips--to Chile, Argentina and Uruguay in April, 1987, and to West Germany in May--before embarking on his next extensive journey, a nine-day, eight-city visit to the United States next September. While in Los Angeles on September 15 and 16, the Pope will confer with the bishops of the United States for several hours. This meeting could prove to be momentous, considering the widening rift between the Vatican and the Roman Catholic community in the United States. The conflict has been heightened by recent Vatican censuring of an American theologian at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Charles Curran, and Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, both outspoken liberal dissenters from orthodox Roman Catholic teaching, especially in the area of morality.

The U.S. bishops met this week for their annual conference in Washington, D.C., where the bishops' president, Bishop James W. Malone, admitted to "a growing and dangerous disaffection of elements of the church in the United States from the Holy See." In an unusually frank "welcoming" message, John Paul admonished the clerics: "It is precisely because you are pastors of particular churches in which there subsists the fullness of the universal church that you are, and must always be, in full communion with the successor of (Saint) Peter." But there is little doubt that the Vatican-American Catholic rift will get wider, not smaller, as the cover story in the November 17 issue of U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT explained:

"In the time of Galileo, it was physics and astronomy. Today, it's pelvic theology. But the issue is the same. The issue is power, and the issue is control."--Daniel Maguire, theologian, Marquette University...

The battle lines are clearly drawn. On one side stand the Pope and the ranks of Catholic traditionalists, who think the U.S. church is adrift, its orthodoxy on the wane and its leadership wanting. The traditionalists argue that reformers took the free spirit of Vatican II too far. In opening the church to more lay participation, for instance, some priests began to view it as something of a democracy--and, in the process, failed to insist on ecclesiastical authority in moral matters. Similarly, some bishops believed that the church's ban on divorce was too onerous in the modern world and took it upon themselves to ease the way for their flocks....

Somewhere in the middle range are the vast majority of America's 52 million Catholics. Educated in anti-authoritarian U.S. schoolrooms, exposed to myriad viewpoints, they are quite unlike the Catholics of a half-century ago, who in general gave docile obeisance to their church's paternalistic guidance. Today, the polling data show, the average Catholic believes that it is possible to disagree with the church's teaching on moral issues and still remain a good Catholic. Despite Rome's prohibition on birth control, for instance, a majority of Catholic women say they practice it. [An accompanying CBS NEWS-NEW YORK TIMES poll, published in the same issue of U.S. NEWS, revealed that 73 percent of Catholics interviewed approve remarriage for divorced people, 51 percent favor legalizing homosexual relations between consenting adults and 58 percent see nothing wrong with premarital sex.]...

This is not the first time that American Catholicism has run afoul of the Vatican. At the turn of the century, Rome was very disturbed by a phenomenon it called "Americanism," which embraced such concepts as the separation of church and state. In 1899, Pope Leo XIII condemned the trend, and his successor, Pius X, enforced the condemnation by appointing a number of conservative U.S. bishops who hewed closely to the Vatican line.... Although so far, the Vatican's crackdown has focused on moral and sexual issues, some scholars think the split between America and Rome runs far deeper. "There is a latent kind of anti-Americanism," says David O'Brien, who teaches American religious history at Holy Cross College in Massachusetts. "The Pope and a lot of European church leaders feel that we are a libertarian, hedonistic, loose kind of society. They simply don't understand this culture, and don't really want to."...

It is the most visible cases...that have stirred the most controversy. The first involves the Rev. Charles Curran, a moral theologian who has taught at the Catholic University of America since 1965. Curran has long disputed the Vatican's hard line on a number of sexual topics--from contraception and abortion to homosexuality. All, he has taught, are justifiable under certain circumstances, and the magisterium should accommodate some moral shades of gray.... Last summer, the Vatican acted, declaring him neither "suitable nor eligible" to teach theology....

What worries progressives is the possibility that the Vatican will extend the crackdown beyond that particular case.... Sister Kathleen Feeley, vice chairman of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, says Catholic campuses "are places of inquiry and intellectual strength. They're not places to indoctrinate."...

[Then there] is the case of Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen. In early September, the 65-year-old prelate revealed that the Vatican had stripped him of authority in five key areas.... A two-year apostolic visitation...criticized Hunthausen for not following traditional teaching in matters of liturgy, marriage annulment, homosexuality and contraception. ...Hunthausen...had allowed Dignity, a national organization for gay Catholics, to sponsor a mass at Seattle's St. James Cathedral....

More than 13,000 Catholics in western Washington signed petitions asking Pope John Paul to restore Hunthausen's full authority. Protest groups joined the outcry as far away as New York's Long Island. And Archbishop Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, the scholarly and highly respected former head of the worldwide Benedictine order, devoted two columns of his diocesan newspaper to criticism of the Vatican. These columns, Weakland later reported, drew a huge amount of mail: "It made me realize how vast the uneasiness is out there among priests and lay people."...

[University of Chicago] Historian [Martin E.] Marty, a Lutheran who attended the Second Vatican Council as an observer, puts it another way. "This Pope is very good at being Pope in the Third World. He's the Pope for the poor and oppressed, he's the Pope for people just getting their act together." But, Marty adds, "I don't think he likes Northwest Europe, and I don't think he likes a lot of things about America." Trained as he is in Poland, where the regime is always forcing unity upon the church, he is not really ready for the wild, free pluralism we have in America."...

Many Catholics seem to welcome the debate the Vatican crackdown has inspired as healthy--and overdue.... Besides, says the Rev. James Burtchaell, professor of theology at Notre Dame, it may be time to take a hard look at some of the notions that have crept into American Catholicism since Vatican II. Take "pluralism," for instance. While the church always has allowed for cultural differences in different countries, Hitchcock observes, "there is ultimately a unity of doctrine--we all believe the same thing." The "extreme Americanists," says Hitchcock, essentially deny that: "They'll say John Paul's views of sexuality or morality may be all right for Poland, but they aren't right for the United States." That concept, Hitchcock argues, is intolerable for the church. How far does pluralism go? He says that ordination of women, for instance, cannot be approached with a pluralistic attitude. "You can't have half the church with women priests and half without," he argues. "At some point, there has to be a decision."...

No matter what actions the Vatican takes, debate in the United States will continue long into the future. And dissent from official teaching is inevitable. By almost all accounts, the next great confrontation will come over the role of women in the church: Recent studies by the National Opinion Research Center show that 50 percent of Catholic women under 50--and two thirds of those under 30--no longer accept the church's traditional definitions of who may be priests, yet John Paul II has declared that the ordination of women is out of the question. "It's going to get worse," Curran predicts.

Europe's Unity Process: Much Hidden from Public View Several times in the last years of his life Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, especially in some of his co-worker letters, that individuals were working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring about a united Europe. Mr. Armstrong knew personally, of course, of one such individual--Otto von Habsburg, an energetic member of the European Parliament. Whether Mr. Armstrong specifically knew of others involved in the unification process I can't say. He never mentioned any other names to me. But I suspect that, convinced of what must happen prophetically, coupled with first-hand discussions with Dr. Habsburg, Mr. Armstrong had a "spiritual sixth sense" of what must surely be taking place.

Now there is demonstrable evidence that Mr. Armstrong was indeed correct in his assessment. Behind the scenes, especially inside the European Parliament, much indeed is happening, and has been occurring unknown to the general public, for the past three years. The culmination of these

efforts is the Single European Act and Final Act signed by representatives of all 12 European Community nations in February, 1986, in Luxembourg and The Hague, Netherlands. This legislation is in the process of being ratified by the national parliaments, with a deadline of Dec. 31, 1986. How will the Single European Act (if approved) speed up the till-now sluggish process of European unity? An article in the Summer, 1986, issue of the little-known JOURNAL OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES, written by George A. Kourvetaris, explains it this way:

The European Community member nations are in the process of finally relinquishing their sovereignty over large areas of economic and social activity by making future Community resolutions binding upon all member states on the basis of qualified majority decisions, rather than on the unanimous agreement by each and every member government.... The community seeks to create a large single market movement of the total populations among the member states just as citizens of a single country are free to travel, work and settle in different regions of their own country.

The intention is to create a "Europe without frontiers" by the end of 1992. Or more specifically, to reduce national frontiers within the community to the level of provincial borders. The main thrust of the Act, mentioned repeatedly throughout its many provisions (we now have a copy of the Act itself), is the intent to restrict the use of the absolute veto of each member state and replace it with the principle of "common action," that is, qualified majority voting. The national veto is still reserved in cases of "vital national interest." But it is to be greatly reduced in the areas of community-wide social and labor legislation and consumer production harmonization. A big test right now, for example, is whether West Germany's "pure beer" laws, dating back several centuries, can stand up to the EC's demands for community standardization. Other countries allow certain additives to beer and demand access to the German market. Bonn just might have to give in. A small issue? No. This is at the very core of the drive to create a "Single Europe."

The above-quoted JOURNAL OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES says further that the long range objective behind the Single European Act is

...to bring a closer convergence between the peoples of Europe... Its ratification and implementation by the member governments should replace a Europe traditionally comprising diverse peoples and nation states by a new mammoth state representing one of the world's most extensive array [sic] of populations to fall under the jurisdiction of a single governmental and legal system.... The citizens of the European union would become progressively recognized as the wards of the Union government, responsible to Union courts, instead of to their traditional national governments."

The framers of the Single European Act continually emphasize peoples over nations. By doing so they intend to break down national barriers so that any group of people can legally live and work anywhere else inside the EC boundaries. This is their method to ensure that the nations comprising the European Union will not be able to break ranks and leave it. At the conclusion of his analysis Mr. Kourvetaris emphasizes this point as follows:

Thus the crucial step is now being taken, with remarkably little media attention or public debate, for the formation of a truly centralized united Europe, with its own decision-making and legal enforcement procedures, and its own Parliament...elected by direct vote from the citizens and defined as being the legitimate voice of that citizenry. While it is theoretically possible for nation states to withdraw from the European Union, and this could happen in the event of substantial friction during the early years of the new Union's existence, the chance of any such withdrawals will progressively decline as the years go by and the various peoples of Europe migrate and settle in each other's homelands, thereby breaking the traditional geographical patterns of ethnic separation, and weakening any likelihood of a successful revolt against the emergent unitary European state...

The mobility potential of modern populations is such that movements within the new Union are likely to become so vast that the face of Europe will be almost totally transformed within the course of a single generation, leaving few national or ethnic groups with adequate influence within their own nation state to raise the political muscle which would be necessary should they wish to exercise the right to leave the Union."

Very few observers see what is really taking place in Europe. Those few who do understand and are outspoken in their criticism, are often condemned as being "anti-market" and "living in the past." When the British House of Lords recently debated legislation enabling British adoption of the Single European Act, one member, Lord Denning, expressed serious reservations about the far-reaching effects of the Act upon British independence, the sovereignty of the Queen and of the British Parliament. European Community law would appear, he said, to have pre-eminence over that of the member states. In the long run, he said, the Parliament in Westminster would be nothing more than a subordinate body.

Lord Bruce of Donington added that the 1972 Act under which Britain joined the EC was passed only on the basis that British interests would be protected by the veto. Now the use of the veto is to be pared back. Lord Edmund Davies charged that it was "high time" the public was alerted to the "tremendous importance" of the bill. Its modest size, he said, bore no relation to the awesome impact it would have on British sovereignty. Yet, despite the reservations expressed by these individuals, the House of Lords approved, by a 124-vote majority, the enabling bill implementing the provisions of the Single European Act.

Even without proceeding to this higher level of integration, the European Community is a formidable entity, having a worldwide impact. The EC already maintains diplomatic relations with over 100 countries and trade agreements with over 120 nations. It already represents the initial stages of a globe-girdling economic Babylon foretold in the 18th chapter of Revelation. And by 1993, according to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the EC hopes to be "one big, united market...the strongest and biggest market in the world."

Formed of "iron and ceramic clay" (Dan. 2:43), it will not be a perfect union. The total homogenization of the various European peoples, so desired by these policy-makers, will meet considerable resistance. Yet the same verse in Daniel indicates there will be considerable mixing of populations--"they will mingle with the seed of man." Nevertheless, there will still remain 10 leaders who will relinquish their respective national authorities to a single individual (Rev. 17:12).

There should be no doubt now that a European super-state is on the rise and that it will have a great--albeit short--impact on the world scene in the years immediately ahead of us.

Perhaps it is more than coincidence that at the very time the Babylonish system is being revived, an attempt is underway to restore the ancient city of Babylon as an archeological monument. In Hong Kong recently I noticed the following REUTERS dispatch in the October 7 SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, headlined "Babylon Rising From Ruins to Inspire Iraq."

Iraqi archaeologists and foreign labourers toil in scorching heat to restore Babylon's crumbling ruins to their lost splendour.... For Iraqi leader Mr. Saddam Hussein, reconstructing King Nebuchadnezzar's once-mighty capital is more than a project to attract tourists--the aim is also to inspire his people in the costly and grueling war with Iran.... "The President has signed an open cheque to reconstruct the ancient city and revive the marvellous shape it had before the Persian aggression which destroyed it more than 20 centuries ago," Babylon Governor Mr. Arif Gita Suheil said. He...said the Government had spent an initial 8.5 million dinars [about \$27 million] in the last year on a huge "tourist city" rising near the site, 90 km south of Baghdad. Mr. Suheil said hotels, restaurants, recreation centres, playgrounds, theatres and cinemas--many designed to echo ancient Babylonian architecture--would cluster in "the biggest tourist city in the Middle East." The rebuilding of Babylon is based on ancient Sumerian and Babylonian inscriptions and drawings....

Notice that there is no attempt to restore Babylon to be inhabited. Tourist facilities are to be built nearby. Of course, if this archaeological revival attempt is not to be, the Gulf War could stop all progress.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau