

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 25, 1980

WORLD EVENTS NOW MOVE TOWARD
GREAT TRIBULATION

GOD'S WORK BOOMING WORLDWIDE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The new decade of the '80s was born in Chaos. At the same time it was born with a surge onward in God's Work.

The invasion of Russia into Afghanistan plunged the world into a situation MORE SERIOUS than preliminary events that triggered World War II. Actually the current Russian moves are reminiscent of events that led directly into World War I and also World War II.

Not only has the Soviet Union started massive military invasion into and through Afghanistan, they also have called up massive reserves, and have massed military readiness for invasion close to the Yugoslav border, and also in East Germany, threatening Western Europe.

This greatly alarms Western European nations. They have had to rely on U.S. military force to defend them from Russia--on their borders to the east. They are losing confidence in U.S. protection.

President Carter has applied sanctions, the wheat embargo, etc., and has virtually cancelled U.S. participation in the Olympics. Also he has warned that any Soviet invasion into the Persian Gulf area will be answered by military force from America. But the Russians do not employ the lightning-quick methods of blitzkrieg. Like a lumbering bear they move slowly, ponderously. Their schedule for total world domination by their atheistic Communism is a LONG-HAUL plan. They can take two or three generations for this overall objective.

The Kremlin does not want to start a HOT war with America. NOT YET! It's already a resumption of cold war. They will move slowly--but they will not retreat. They will NOT remove their forces from Afghanistan. Only a stronger military force could drive them back.

Meanwhile they continue to apply the psychological pressure on Western Europe! No U.S. military force will come into actual combat against them--for the Soviets will move right up to the point of provoking that--but not into it. They will make it a war of nerves. And the most nervous are the European nations and the Vatican. The likelihood is now great that this will hasten the resurrection of the medieval "Holy Roman Empire"--union of Church and State, with Mother Rome sitting on the European "Beast."

So, the decade was born in a new world of action! Meanwhile, GOD'S WORK is SOARING--BOOMING worldwide!

Wednesday, Messrs. McCullough, Wilson and Tkach spent an afternoon with me here in Tucson. I am making Mr. McCullough more and more a supervisor over the foreign Work, and reports from South Africa, Britain, Europe, the Caribbean and Canada, along with reports from Mr. Wilson about the Work in Australia, Southeastern Asia, India, Sri Lanka and the South Pacific are all exciting.

The invasion of the State of California against God's Church headquarters at Pasadena has had an electric effect in all these areas worldwide! Just as in the U.S., the churches and brethren have been drawn closer to CHRIST and to one another! The Church is actually growing faster SPIRITUALLY than in numbers--but as God blesses the spiritual growth, He ADDS TO our numbers! There is increase in membership and income in all areas.

And of course you all know of the strides in the U.S. in the past year!

But this spiritual and physical growth is JUST IN TIME! We are closer to the GREAT TRIBULATION than we think! OUR TIME IS NOW SHORT! Let's get ON THE BALL even more enthusiastically than ever!

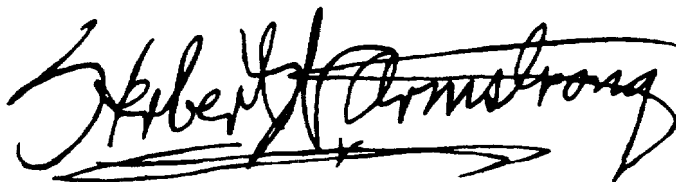
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MOONLIGHTING AND WORKING WIVES

I have been quite disturbed at reports of a limited number of our salaried ministers "moonlighting"--taking part-time, extra-paying jobs on the side, secretly. Also of some of the ministers' wives earning extra incomes--mostly by joining in a national cosmetics-pseudo-religious enterprise of selling cosmetics to women members of the Church.

Fellows and wives, I think this has been mostly stopped--I hope altogether--and I think most who were doing those things are no longer in God's ministry. Perhaps they are ALL now gone from us. I hope so. But I feel it should be put on notice, that sort of thing is NOT ALLOWABLE IN GOD'S CHURCH!

I hope no further notice on this score will be necessary. Ministers' salaries are supposed to cover whatever complete HELP a wife should give her husband in his work! To do this sort of thing secretly on the side, thinking those Jesus Christ is using in authority will not find it out, totally unfits a man to be a faithful minister of Jesus Christ in His own one and true Church!



FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICESMinisterial Transfers

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has finalized the new ministerial transfers and has approved the list for publication. Following are the new assignments:

<u>Pastors</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
Elbert Atlas	Sabbatical	Los Angeles
Jerold Aust	Wichita	Portland West
Bob Bertuzzi	Seattle/Kent	Orlando/Melbourne
Leroy Cole	Denver	San Jose
Kent Fentress	Sabbatical	Bowling Green
Lyle Greaves	Sabbatical	Abilene/San Angelo
Charles Groce	Sabbatical	Asheville, NC
Selmer Hegvold	Sabbatical	Pasadena Imperial
Bill Jacobs	Jonesboro, AR	Erie, PA
Ron Jameson	Sabbatical	Greenville, SC
Judd Kirk	San Jose	Wichita
Ron Laughland	Pasadena	Glendale, CA
Dennis Luker	Pasadena	Seattle/Kent
Sherwin McMichael	Pasadena	Washington DC
Burk McNair	Pasadena	Houston West
Dave Mills	Asheville/Greenville	Albany/Salem
Al Mischnick	Lake Charles	Bakersfield
Jim O'Brien	Nashville	Amarillo
Jack Pakozdi	Sabbatical	Cincinnati North
Richard Parker	Albany/Salem	Jonesboro, AR
Tracy Rogers	Sabbatical	Cleveland West
Larry Salyer	Washington DC	Pasadena Auditorium AM
Greg Sargent	Cleveland West	San Antonio
Bob Smith	Sabbatical	Fort Worth
Rowlen Tucker	Lexington, KY	Memphis

<u>Associate Pastors</u>	<u>New Assignment</u>
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Gene Bailey	Greensboro, NC
Jeff Booth	Chicago West
Wayne Dunlap	Dallas North
Dan Hall	Richmond/Norfolk
Greg Johnson	Eugene
Curtis May	Pasadena Imperial
Ralph Orr	New Orleans
John Robinson	Columbus
Mark Robinson	Glendale, CA
Ed Smith	Long Island/Manhattan
Tom Tullis	Wichita
Jim Turner	Phoenix
Glen White	Seattle/Kent

Update From the United Kingdom

With December seeing the end of another financial year, the British office is pleased to report an increase in mail income of 24%. With the current high rate of inflation, this is extremely encouraging and all are very grateful to the brethren for their continued support.

Since people were preoccupied with Christmas celebrations, activities dealing with the general public were slightly limited during the month. However, an offer of the Plain Truth was posed to people in the U.K. and Ireland who had responded to booklet advertisements in the national press, but had not taken up the offer to receive the magazine.

This P.T. offer was sent out in November and by the end of December a 10.24% response had been obtained, adding a further 1,223 new subscribers to the file. Returns from a similar direct mailing made a few weeks later to the Scandinavian file are just beginning to come in.

About the same time the booklets: "Coming--A New Age" and "The Plain Truth about Christmas" were advertised in a direct mailing to P.T. subscribers. The response was 18.5% for England and 13.5% for Scandinavia. This represents almost 10,000 booklets sent out.

Church attendance figures for all areas covered are very encouraging--U.K., 15.4% up; Scandinavia, 34.7% up; East/West Africa, 26.3% up.

News From Canada

1979 proved to be a very fruitful year for God's Work in Canada. The year closed with December's income 17% ahead of December 1978. Total financial growth for 1979 was 14%.

Circulation of the Plain Truth now stands at 68,714, a 10% increase on December 1978. The month brought in close to 6,000 responses, giving the best year for ads since 1974. Reply coupons from the various in-house mailings throughout the year produced 97,700 responses--a 27.4% increase over 1978.

December 31st saw the beginning of the CKO all-news radio network's airing of The World Tomorrow. Several encouraging responses have already been received from the network's listenership.

Plans for 1980 are well advanced with advertising in the early part of the year concentrated on newspaper flyers for The Plain Truth. 5.8 million inserts will be included with newspapers in all major areas in Canada, as well as every area where Church services or Bible Studies are held. A little over 1% response is coming in to these flyers and the Canadian office is looking forward to around 60,000 responses over the next three months. A real threat of a postal strike after the February 18th federal election has forced the acceleration of the program into January and February.

--Joe Tkach

FOUNDATION HONORED AT DINNER IN LONDON

(Editor's Note: The following report comes from our British office.)

Mr. Stanley R. Rader, (Executive Vice-President of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation), was honoured on the evening of Wednesday, 9th January, at a private dinner in the Travellers Club, an exclusive Gentlemen's Club in London.

The dinner was hosted by the Honourable Terence Prittie, a noted author and journalist and recognised expert on European affairs.

Mr. Rader told a group of twelve guests about the Foundation's activities around the world with special emphasis on the recent contacts in China. He also made it clear that the Foundation's many projects and activities around the world were based on the principle of "giving" rather than "getting." "We are not trying to convert anyone, but man's government is destined to fail," he declared, "and only the establishment of the Kingdom of God will solve mankind's problems." This, he stated, was the message we are taking to the world. However, we were not sitting on the sidelines rooting for the destruction of society but want to help wherever possible, by building bridges and developing mutual understanding among nations.

Much interest was shown in his comments and a lively question and answer session followed his remarks.

Quest/80 magazine was also introduced to the group, who received it with enthusiasm, especially for its positive editorial stance.

Among the guests were Lord Greenhill, a former head of the British Foreign Office, Lord Mancroft, an influential member of the House of Lords, Mr. Patrick Cosgrave, formerly personal adviser to Mrs. Thatcher, and Sir Bernard Braine, one of the most respected Members of the House of Commons, together with other noted journalists and authors. Also present was Mr. Kubayashi, First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy in London. The Foundation was also represented by Mr. Frank Brown, Regional Director and Mr. Francis Bergin, Business Manager.

Mr. Rader also mentioned in his remarks that the Foundation would be undertaking a joint project on drug abuse and alcoholism, both of which are growing problems in the United Kingdom and Europe. Sir Bernard Braine is the Chairman of the House Committee on Alcoholism and the Foundation will be working very closely with him and his staff in the preparation of educational material to help combat these increasing problems.

Due to the success of this first dinner of its kind over here in Britain, other similar meetings are currently being planned for this Spring. Mr. Rader is planning to write a fuller report of his own impressions of the dinner, which will be published in the Worldwide News at a later date.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO. AUDITORS UPDATE THE WORK'S MANAGERS

On Thursday morning, January 24, two managers of the Arthur Andersen auditing staff who have supervised the audit since last March, presented a "Chalk Talk" on their firm and its relationship to the Church.

Emphasis of the discussion was on Arthur Andersen & Co.--what their job is, how they're organized, how they help the Church, etc.--all with the intent to more properly orient the Work's department managers and assistants to the functional role that our auditors play. A question and answer session followed the introduction to the firm.

Of particular importance was a statement that no evidence was found to substantiate the California Attorney General's allegations regarding pilfering of funds and the selling off of properties below market value! (The auditors said they especially zeroed in on specific aspects of the allegations in the State's original complaint.) Had the financial irregularities claimed by the Attorney General begun to surface, their firm would have "pulled out of the audit."

The Arthur Andersen managers expressed nothing but the highest praise for the Church as an organization, and for its financial department which is managed by Mr. Jack Bicket, Assistant Treasurer of the Church, Foundation and College. "An outstanding organization," "top-notch people," and "high degree of performance" is how they characterized the Church and its financial personnel.

Mr. Jack Kessler, who has done the auditing for the Work's various entities for a number of years, was described as a "top-notch individual...a very important cog in the wheel," and whose firm, they said, has not been replaced by Arthur Andersen. Also, in checking out the legal firms representing the Church in the current litigation, Arthur Andersen's legal department found them to be among the very top in the field.

One interesting sidelight was a comment made by one of the managers about the much ballyhooed allegation that Mr. Armstrong was "senile." Last summer a small group of Arthur Andersen auditors, headed by Mr. Dennis Pope who is a partner of the firm and in charge of the Church's audit, went to Tucson to discuss the audit with Mr. Armstrong. It was stated emphatically that they found all such allegations to be totally unfounded!

The gentlemen conducting Thursday's meeting explained that in the normal process of an audit such as ours, it was absolutely necessary to become thoroughly familiar with the purposes and operations of the entire Work. A number of the auditors were even sent to various festival sites last year! The meeting clearly revealed that Arthur Andersen & Co. has acquired a high degree of respect for the Worldwide Church of God and its affiliate organizations, as well as for its leaders--obviously a direct result of the "excellence" and integrity God's Apostle, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, has been led by God to exemplify in His Work for the past 45 years.

KESSLER & PALAZZO ACCOUNTING FIRM CLEARED OF CHARGES

Although the California Attorney General's bizarre intrusion into the management of church affairs may not yet be over, the State was nevertheless dealt a significant setback this week in Los Angeles County Superior Court. In an ironic twist, the first defendants to be served with the complaint on the morning of January 3, 1979, are now the first to win a final judgment at the trial court level. The dismissal order was obtained by an ex parte motion without any representation from the Attorney General's office!

On a number of occasions over the past year Messrs. Kessler and Palazzo pointed out to the court the deficiencies in the State's complaint against their firm. And each time the court gave the Attorney General a chance to revise the lawsuit in order to make it stick. Try as he did, he could not come up with a revision of the lawsuit which had any basis in law. Therefore the judge dismissed the case against the accounting firm "with prejudice" (meaning that this decision bars future action by the Attorney General in this suit).

Here now, based on information provided by Mr. Jack Kessler, is a summary of what led up to this significant court order dismissing the accounting firm from the case. Starting with a little background, then going on into the "blow by blow" story, especially notice the irregularities in court procedure and the favoritism shown the Attorney General in this uphill

fight! (But first, for those of you who may have been confused on this point, Mr. Jack Kessler is the son of Dr. William Kessler of Ministerial Services.)

The offices of Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo, Certified Public Accountants, were first visited by Hillel Chodos on the morning of January 3 before he joined the Receiver, ex-Judge Weisman, in Pasadena. In a typical show of ignorance of the facts in this case, Chodos asked for and expected to find either Mr. Rader or Mr. Cornwall, even though they had left the firm years before. Instead, he found Mr. Kessler who is the firm's managing partner.

Both Mr. Kessler and Mr. Palazzo (the two partners of the firm) realized the enormous damage that could accrue to their accounting practice if they were not quickly vindicated. Unfortunately, the Attorney General would not listen to any offers of proof of sound accounting. So, aware that victory at trial would be years down the road, Messrs. Kessler and Palazzo decided to try and beat them at their own game in the county court. Both are attorneys as well as CPAs, and they are the founding partners of the law firm of Palazzo & Kessler.

On January 19, 1979, Palazzo & Kessler filed their first "demurrer" to the State's complaint. A demurrer is a legal pleading that states, in effect, that even if everything in your complaint were true, it contains such defects that either it does not state a legally suitable "cause of action" (i.e., your case does not belong in a court of law), there is a "misjoinder of parties" (you have named the wrong people as defendants), or the complaint is so completely unintelligible that it is impossible to answer. Many lawyers advise against ever filing a demurrer, because in the course of arguing the motion you point out to the other side each and every defect in their complaint and give them a free "lesson" in how better to plead their case. This is considered a tactical decision of some consequence.

On January 29, 1979, after an oral hearing, Chodos lost his first motion in the case and received a free lesson from Palazzo & Kessler on how not to sue an accounting firm. The court agreed that the complaint did not state a cause of action, was unintelligible and vague, and misjoined the accounting firm as defendant parties. However, the State was given 30 days "leave to amend" (an opportunity to restate their case by filing a new complaint).

Although during this period there was no complaint on file, until an order of dismissal is entered by a judge, a defendant is still a defendant, and the accounting firm could not get out of the case. Even though the firm objected strenuously, the State was favored by repeated extensions of time to amend. The First Amended Complaint was not filed until many weeks later (April 12, 1979).

Upon examining the new complaint, however, it was evident that, among other things, the Attorney General's deputies were slow learners: Their attempt at an amended complaint was unresponsive to the earlier criticisms. Because of Judge Thomas T. Johnson's vacation schedule, the earliest date that a hearing on the second demurrer filed by the accounting firm could be set was for May 30. By then five months would have passed and still no relief from this unjustified attack on the integrity of a competent accounting firm!

Court rules require opposition pleadings to be filed no later than 3 court days before a hearing. Perhaps not wishing to break precedent and actually observe a local court rule, the Attorney General's office complained at the May 30th hearing that they had misplaced their copy of the moving papers and hadn't discovered their carelessness until it was too late to file a response. Judge Johnson, after chiding them for not taking the case as seriously as they should, had pity on them and granted them an unusual extension of time in which to respond. Their response was remarkable for its unresponsiveness, and on June 15, 1979, the second demurrer was approved by the court. Again, the State was given 30 days leave to amend.

The Second Amended Complaint was finally filed (again late) on July 30, 1979. By this time the accounting firm's malpractice insurance carrier had finally decided to retain separate counsel to protect its two million dollar exposure, and the new attorneys, unfortunately, requested an extension of time in which to answer the new complaint. On September 11, 1979, after convincing the insurance company lawyers that it was the best to do so, Palazzo & Kessler filed a new demurrer and set it for argument on September 25.

When the third successive demurrer was finally accepted by the court on November 15, 1979, (again with 30 days for the Attorney General to try to restate the case against the accounting firm!) the court's order stated: "This should be final attempt by plaintiff [the State]." On December 4, 1979, rather than amending its complaint, the State submitted a written motion for December 19, wherein they attempted to persuade the court that its earlier rulings on the demurrers were wrong. The court was not impressed, denied the motion, yet surprisingly gave them yet another 30 days to file an amended complaint!!

Thus, after the Attorney General failed to meet even this extended deadline, the stage was set at last for the ex parte "motion to dismiss." Although the Attorney General's office was extended the courtesy of four hours notice, they chose not to appear. Judge Johnson refused to hear the matter (even though he now sits in the department where ex parte matters are heard). But Mr. Palazzo found a Commissioner who would hear the motion, and after considering the chronology of events, he granted it.

So what does this all mean? First, only the accounting firm (Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo) represented by Messrs. Palazzo and Kessler is out of the case. Second, even though the dismissal arose strictly from procedural grounds, it has the same force and effect as a verdict after trial. Third, the Attorney General will undoubtedly appeal the verdict. But the standard of review in this case requires that if there is any defect in the State's complaint that could have been cured by an amendment (a rewording of the suit), then the verdict will stand and there is no chance to amend. Fourth, because the accounting firm is now finally out of the case (State of California vs Worldwide Church of God), it can pursue a federal court action and not run into the "abstention doctrine"* that federal judges Firth and Waters interposed upon the Church, since there is no "concurrent state court proceeding wherein the same issues could be raised." Fifth, and perhaps most importantly, in a suit for "an accounting" it is more than a little strange that the State is unable to present a case against the accountants. If their reports have already been admitted into evidence (and they have), it seems silly for the State to keep insisting that they still need a "true accounting" of the Church's affairs so

that they can "determine what other relief might be appropriate." If the accounting they already have is false, why don't they sue the accountants?

Federal court is an ideal forum for a lawsuit against the State of California to expose the absurdity of the State's position, the reckless manner in which they have pursued their suit, and to seek damages for the harm they have caused. All of this will take time, of course, because even as this brief account of one aspect of the case demonstrates, the wheels of justice turn slowly, if at all.

*FOOTNOTE:

Abstention Doctrine: A policy adopted by the federal courts whereby the district court may decline to exercise its jurisdiction and defer to the state court the resolution of a federal constitutional question until the outcome of the state court proceeding. Sometimes this is to avoid unnecessary friction in federal/state relations.

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE

On January 14, 1980 Ambassador College began a new decade--the decade of the exciting, yet perhaps awful eighties! The students and faculty are both happy and thankful to be a part of this wonderful institution which, under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, is recapturing the true values.

The Dean of Students of Ambassador College, Mr. Greg Albrecht, and I were in Tucson on January 9th and 10th in order to go over with Mr. Armstrong plans, statistics and policies of the College--for his final decisions. Mr. Armstrong has repeatedly expressed his pleasure at seeing Ambassador College back on the track. The administration, faculty and students of Ambassador are happy to be able to stand solidly behind Mr. Armstrong as he brings the College ever closer to the type of educational institution which will please God.

Even though we believe Ambassador is now back on track--with the type of balanced instruction which God wants, with students once again happy, enthusiastic and respectful--we realize there are always ways in which we, under God's direct supervision and blessing, can make this institution of higher learning still more pleasing in His sight.

I don't know how many of you saw the recent Bob Hope TV Special which was taped here in our Auditorium for a charitable cause. Both Mr. Hope and Mrs. Bing Crosby thanked Ambassador College for the use of such a beautiful facility. It was good for a change to see the name of "Ambassador College" being mentioned before millions in a complimentary way.

The present enrollment of Ambassador stands at about 430 students. Of that number 21 are former students who have returned to finish their degrees, and 49 are new students beginning this spring semester. And, interestingly, about 22 percent of the student body is comprised of international students!

We now have one full-time faculty member for every sixteen students--a ratio of about 16 to 1. And this does not include part-time faculty members.

(Continued on page 11)

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 9 Attorneys for Defendant Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo

10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 11 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

13	THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF)	CASE NO. C267607
14	CALIFORNIA <u>ex rel.</u> ALVIN EARL)	
15	TIMMONS <u>et al.</u> ,)	NOTICE OF RULING
16)	
17	Plaintiff,)	
18)	
19	vs.)	
20)	
21	WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD, INC.,)	
22	a California corporation, <u>et al.</u> ,)	
23)	
24	Defendants.)	

21 TO PLAINTIFF AND ITS ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

22 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on January 22, 1980, COMMISSIONER ARNOLD
 23 LEVIN in Department 66 of the above-entitled Court heard the ex parte motion of
 24 Defendant Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo for an order dismissing the action
 25 herein for failure of Plaintiff to amend its complaint. The Court granted said
 26 Defendant's motion and **the within action was dismissed with prejudice** with

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28 ///

PALAZZO & KESSLER
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1 respect to said Defendant. Robert P. Palazzo of Palazzo & Kessler appeared for
 2 Defendant Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo.

3

4 DATED: January 22, 1980

PALAZZO & KESSLER

5

6

By



W. JACK KESSLER

Attorneys for Defendant

Rader, Cornwall, Kessler and Palazzo

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AMBASSADOR COLLEGE UPDATE (Continued from page 9)

On Tuesday, January 8, four Ambassador College students were honored at a special commencement exercise after completing their course requirements during the Fall semester. Of course, the main commencement exercises are scheduled for mid-May, 1980.

We who comprise the administration and faculty of Ambassador College hope that all of God's ministers scattered around the entire earth will encourage any promising young people in their church areas to apply for admission into Ambassador. We believe that now, under the firm direction of the Founder and Chancellor of Ambassador, Mr Herbert W. Armstrong, God's College truly affords the best, most balanced education to be found anywhere on earth. In fact, we believe this is the only college where God's way is truly taught in all the classes, and exemplified by the faculty.

It is going to become increasingly more difficult to be accepted into Ambassador because Mr. Armstrong wants the total enrollment kept down to about 500-550--and no more! Even so, we believe the youth of God's churches ought to be encouraged to seek admission into the Westpoint of God's Church. The intensive four-year on-campus training which a student now receives at Ambassador is invaluable! The overwhelming majority of employees of this Work, both among the ministry and otherwise, received their basic training at Ambassador.

Some may feel they can't afford to attend Ambassador. The average costs per year for a student at Ambassador College now amounts to about \$3,400. But this is still considerably less than at most privately operated colleges in America. And Ambassador provides most of the students with on-campus employment, supervisory instruction, the best speech training in the world, as well as the truth of God! And in addition to all of this, Ambassador is a most inspiring place in which to live, work, and study while completing one's education.

Also, Ambassador College assists needy and/or deserving students with various scholarships and grants. Mr. Ron Wroblewski, Financial Aids Officer for the College, will from time to time keep all of the ministry informed on this college-aid program. If you have any questions regarding student scholarships and grants, be sure to write Mr. Wroblewski.

We here at Ambassador College appreciate the many statements of support of Ambassador College and its educational programs by God's ministry world-wide. We hope to be able to continue to be used by God in the training of the Church's most valuable asset--its youth--the future leaders of this mighty Work of God.

Again, on behalf of all of us here at Ambassador, we wish to express to all of you ministers our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your prayers and loyal support of God's College.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

NEW LITERATURE INDEX

The latest Literature Index, which is included with this Pastor General's Report, is a list of all currently available booklets and reprint articles--and is for your personal use. May we please ask that you do not loan out your Index or allow it to be duplicated.

We are always happy to provide all members with any reading material they need or request. However, when long lists are sent in asking for dozens--and sometimes hundreds--of pieces of literature, our postage and processing costs increase considerably.

Thanks for your help and cooperation. Any recommendations or suggestions for improvement in the Index will be appreciated.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

MAIL COMMENTS

This week's mail comments include miscellaneous letters on a variety of topics.

--Mail Processing Center

Comments on Miscellaneous Subjects

We received your letter on the end of time and I am sure you are right. The world has never before been so near like the Lord said it would be in the last days. There is so much hate, distrust and bitterness today between nations as well as peoples in the world. So I believe the end is very near.

--Louie Lowery (Opdyke, IL)

My wife and I were very excited and "rejoiced exceedingly" upon receiving word of your invitations to Moscow and Warsaw. We've said, often jokingly, that once Mr. Armstrong is invited to the U.S.S.R., the end is near.

--Clay Thornton (Pasadena, CA)

Although I am a Catholic and have been all my life (58 years) it is enlightening to hear the truth. Keep telling it like it is.

--James Wright (Williamsville, NY)

I wanted you to know what you in this Work have done for me. I'm still a "young man in high school," but since I began requesting your literature I'm reading and understanding God's Living Word. I've been growing and learning, but I'm not baptized. This growth is rather limited. I've gone through parental scorn (still present!) but I find everything is better!

--J.D. (Monroe, LA)

I'm seventeen years old and going through a pretty rough time. The high school I go to now has many atheistic teachers and students who sometimes put you to hard tests trying to convince you that there is no God. Some say that God is just what you want to make Him in your mind and many other perverted ideas. Many of them you can't even talk to because of their ability to twist the Bible itself and other things around.

I know it's not the biblical way to argue about the subject, but I wish I could take things like this into an open-minded discussion and make some of the critics think on both sides.

--K. P. (Green River, WY)

This is our first tithe. I am coming into the Church, though my husband is not, and together we give to God's true Work. It feels like I am now completing one more law and it's wonderful.

--Mrs. C. D. Anderson (Mocksville, NC)

I'm so happy. I have been baptized and I am so glad that I can be just a small part of God's great Work. I pray for you and the Work every day.

--Diann Hull (Dover, AR)

ON THE WORLD SCENE

STRAUSS'S UPHILL BATTLE: The question is often asked: "How is Franz Josef Strauss doing in his quest for the West German chancellorship." The answer is: "Not too well at the moment. But don't count him out this early."

Things have not been rosy since the Bavarian strongman was selected on July 2 by the CDU/CSU coalition to be their chancellor candidate in the national election scheduled for late this year. He has found it difficult to build a solid base outside of his native state. He's made a number of public mistakes and misjudgments and got involved in a few very unpleasant circumstances.

For example, at political rallies last September in Essen in the Ruhr and Cologne on the Rhine, Strauss was pelted with eggs and jeered with boos by hundreds of vociferous leftist demonstrators. He had to abandon his Essen speech after 20 minutes.

In his ventures outside of Bavaria, Strauss has tried to cultivate a new image, one of self-control and statesmanlike conduct. During the Essen bombardment, however, this composure broke down. He yelled at the demonstrators, "I hope that the red terror will also be smashed here...What you are doing here today will be the beginning of the end for the Left's majority in this state and in West Germany."

Compounding his misfortune, he blamed the incident on Egon Bahr, a leading ideologue for the ruling SPD. Strauss backed down, but not far enough. Bahr filed suit which is still unresolved.

Mr. Strauss, according to one source, "has not found his track yet." His attempt to polish up his image as a serious national contender only seems to have confused people. If he acts self-controlled, people say he's lost his old fire. But whenever he reverts to his traditional form, critics lambast him for his "dangerous, uncontrolled outbreaks."

As an example of this dilemma, Strauss has attempted to appear more statesmanlike in parliamentary debates, sticking to voluminous facts in his speeches, appealing to reason rather than emotion. Yet, a "factual Strauss" bores people. Strauss's speaking forte is his unchallenged ability to speak extemporaneously. He needs the prods of challengers and hecklers to bring him out. A recent speech he gave in the Bundestag, for example, was a total disaster. The opposition SPD delegates, employing a shrewd tactic, refused to challenge him while he spoke. Restraining himself Strauss stuck to his 60-page manuscript. The speech failed miserably. Even pro CDU/CSU journalists in attendance asked, "What's happened to the Strauss we used to know?"

The above incidents were bad enough, but perhaps the biggest blow of all to the Strauss campaign to date has been the disclosure in December that Bavarian border guards have been turning back refugees from Czechoslovakia seeking political asylum in West Germany.

That such a thing could happen in defiance of all Bonn's rules precisely in Herr Strauss's solid anti-Communist domain of Bavaria, stuck countless Germans as ironic.

The "Green" Challenge

Thus Herr Strauss faces an uphill fight. But the wary Social Democrats led by Chancellor Schmidt don't count him out, by any means. They have their problems too. They are worried of losing the electoral strength of the extreme left wing of their party.

The environmental movement--the so-called "Greens"--is quite strong in West Germany. They are becoming organized as a political force. A green alliance is now represented for the first time in a state parliament, Bremen. The Greens and their friends--who feel the Socialists are not doing enough to satisfy their concerns over the issues of the environment and nuclear power--are planning to field candidates in the national election. Pollsters give them a fair chance of overcoming the 5% vote minimum barrier to gain national representation. It is certain that most of their votes--and seats, if they are successful--would come at the expense of the ruling SPD/Free Democrat parties.

Thus, ironically, the youthful far left could help shoo the CDU/CSU and arch-conservative Strauss into power. The possibility of a good showing by "the Greens," reports London's Daily Telegraph "is the nightmare haunting the Social Democrats and their Free Democratic allies."

Needs Outside Help

Looking at the political climate as it exists today, Mr. Strauss could use all the help he can get, even of the unintentional variety. Reports Patricia Clough of the Times of London, who has been covering the Strauss campaign:

"Now aged 64 and perhaps no longer at the peak of his abilities, he faces a daunting challenge. As things stand, at present, he is very unlikely to beat Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Only outside factors--if the "Green" ecological group draws votes away from the ruling coalition, a war or major world crisis that seriously affected Germany, or a big terrorist attack-- could change the picture.

"The first few months of his candidacy have been, to say the least, disappointing. He has made errors, as in Essen...Politically he has scarcely improved on the lacklustre performance of Herr Kohl. Maybe he is holding himself back for the final months of the campaign.

"Herr Strauss knows that he has nothing more to fear in the coming months than himself. If he is not to frighten away many CDU voters he must keep his temperament constantly under control, if he can. Yet if he is not allowed to be himself, his supporters worry, what is there left?"

Ambivalent Public

A German psychiatrist writing in the Hamburg weekly Die Zeit notes the contradicting attitude many West Germans have toward Herr Strauss. Many people who have serious doubts about him, he says, are also fascinated by the same things in him that shock them.

The eminent psychiatrist, Professor Horst Eberhard Richter of Gissen University, said that Strauss unleashes in West Germans the same kind of irrational and unconscious reactions that contributed to the rise of Nazism. Herr Strauss's bid for the chancellorship in next year's Bundestag elections will be the "first really pitiless test of democratic maturity we have had to face," he said.

On the collective level, Professor Richter suggested that people unconsciously wanted Herr Strauss "to wipe out that depressing national self-doubt and guilt feelings (about the past) which a certain number of Germans still only regard as penance arbitrarily demanded from abroad."

That tendency to over-compensate for inferiority complexes, Professor Richter said, "is rightly considered a typical weakness of the so-called German national character, and is feared abroad...It makes people susceptible to political trends which make up for defective personal self-esteem by enhancing national feelings."

If Germans were to learn from the mass psychology of fascism, Professor Richter adds, they must realize that this weakness plus the tendency to be easily swayed, was "the most explosive reaction potential which we have to control with the greatest care if the worst is to be prevented."

Professor Richter concluded that the success or failure of this undertaking would show whether democracy had really taken root in most of the population, or whether, as pessimists claimed, it was merely a facade of conformity that hid powerful residues of national resentment.

Times of London writer Patricia Clough, quoted earlier adds this: "By the end of this year West Germany will be ruled by, or--his enemies hope--rid of, the most controversial, irrepressible, hated and adored politician it has yet produced."

--Gene Hogberg, News Bureau