

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Ministerial Expense Allotment Year-end Review

Now is the time to review your expense 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 sent you, you will end up having to pay the tax on it.

The allotment check is only to be used for Church business expenses. If you have received more expense money than you actually spent, you should return the excess to the Church. We will need to receive the check no later than the middle of December in order to credit the amount to your W-2 statement. If we don't have it by then we can't be sure the necessary processing will get done. In that case, your W-2 statement would not reflect the returned money, and you would have to pay income tax on that amount. You will need to estimate your expense needs for the rest of the year to know how much to return.

If you find that your allotment has exceeded your expense by a large amount, you may want to consider reducing the allotment. If you want to do this, please include a note to that effect with the check when you send it.

You should also review your festival expenses and return any unused festival allotment at this time. Please make separate checks for second tithe funds being returned and for your regular allotment.

Reporting D & R Cases

We still have many D & R cases coming in without the information necessary to process them. It is imperative that each pastor send a complete report with all necessary facts for each D & R case. Please carefully follow the instructions given in the January 9, 1982 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

Reminder Regarding Graduate Spokesman Clubs

Reprinted below are the guidelines for Graduate Spokesman Clubs from the February 5, 1982 PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT.

No special or unusual formats for Graduate Clubs should be implemented. Until you have enough graduates for a separate Graduate Club, it is best to mix graduates in with non-graduates in a regular club format. After their icebreakers, the graduates can go on to select any speech in the manual rather than following the numbered format if they wish. (However, they should limit themselves to only one "heart to heart" and one "attack" each

year.) The pastor could also plan several special speech assignments for the graduates to enhance the #7 speech. These could include an Oral Reading speech, a Unique Experience speech, a Historic speech, an Outstanding Personality speech, a Visual Techniques speech, or others.

This should give the graduates the opportunity to set a right example for the non-graduates and to add spark and enthusiasm to the meetings. These men can also be used as officers from time to time if they are qualified.

Graduate Clubs should follow the same format as regular Spokesman Clubs as outlined in the manual. However, each meeting should be given a particular theme as listed below. Then, the speeches and topics should be based upon this theme. The director should cover this topic in his overall evaluation. The speaking session may be limited to four speeches so that he will have more time for the lecture period. Special assignments for the #7 speech, as mentioned above, can also be used in connection with the theme for the evening. Pastors may also allow up to ten minutes for speeches, and invite productive comments from the floor about speeches in addition to the assigned evaluations.

Suggestions for themes: Any basic doctrine or booklet, child-rearing, teaching your children about God, family relations, building a strong marriage, leadership, controlling the tongue, correction, friendship, etc.

The above guidelines will allow a good deal of leeway for the needs of individual congregations, but will give us a basic unity of approach around the world.

This theme-based format for Graduate Club should replace the Leadership Training Class. Any additional work with leading men should be done on a personal, non-club, non-class basis.

Y.O.U. Volleyball Medals

We have recently found that by switching vendors we can reduce our awards costs for the volleyball medals by two-thirds! However, because we have just learned this, our order will be delayed by perhaps as much as two months. Please be patient with us during this time of transition. When the new medals arrive we will ship them out immediately.

Appreciation for the Second Ministerial Refreshing Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife, Maggie, and I would like to thank you very much for the Ministerial Refreshing Program. We came in for Session number nine and found it even more valuable than we had anticipated. The team spirit and dedication of the men administering the program was most impressive and an example to follow. Enthusiastic support was given throughout the session to you and to the Work you are carrying out for Jesus Christ. I feel

privileged to have an opportunity to also support this exciting and most important Work.

Having now returned home to England, we both wish to show our appreciation to you and to encourage you with your heavy responsibilities.

Graham and Maggie Mitchell

Dear Mr. Tkach:

My wife and I recently completed Refreshing Program #10. Prior to coming to Pasadena, we had heard and read of the changed approach in Pasadena. Being on the Refresher allowed us to see that everything we had heard was true.

My wife and I were both truly refreshed by the quality of the program, as well as the zeal, unity and loyalty towards Mr. Armstrong that was displayed by all those men teaching the classes. To us this indicates that God's Church is truly on track, and when the head is on course the rest of the body can't be far behind. Thank you again for the privilege to attend the program.

Gary and Liz Smith

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Just over two months ago, I returned to my pastorate in Scotland after attending Ministerial Refreshing Programme number eight. Since that time, I have been experiencing the most unprecedented period of activity in any of the church areas in which I have served over the years. Never have I felt more in the need of God's help than at this time, and never before have I drawn so intensively upon the basic practical material presented by yourself and by those who assist you in this programme.

Mr. LaRavia encouraged us in his lecture not to lose perspective due to the problems we face daily in the ministry and he reminded us that, at times, we all feel inadequate to the task and persecuted. You yourself exhorted us never to forget the One whose Church this is and to train the people to respond to "the voice of the Shepherd."

My lecture notes have been read and reread; the sermons and the Bible studies have been gone over time and again. These are the guidelines which we ministers sorely need in our daily counseling and visiting. Believe me, they are highly prized!

Please convey my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Armstrong for the uplifting two-hour talk he gave to us shortly after his return from the Middle East. He told us: "You men need dynamic energy and faith!" We surely have no more forthright example of these words than God's Apostle himself.

It was thrilling once again to be able to be at Headquarters--to meet so many old friends and to make new ones.

Colin Wilkins

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend session nine of the second Ministerial Refreshing Program. We found the lectures inspiring and profitable, though I was on the verge of getting writer's cramp near the end of the course (from all the note-taking).

To us personally it seemed that, whereas the first Ministerial Refreshing Program was designed to get us back on the track where needed, this second course focused more on practical information for us in teaching, encouraging and working with the Churches. Mr. Armstrong's admonition to take a sense of urgency back to the Churches was greatly appreciated. I also appreciated the question session at the end being handled by all the available evangelists collectively.

In my notes I still have information for a number of sermons that I intend to give after the Feast of Tabernacles. So thank you once again for the opportunity to have attended this course, and please convey our gratitude to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Frank and Kathy Nelte

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

NORFOLK, VA--EDWARD D. FAULK: Let Mr. Armstrong know that he is shaking up the "Bible Belt" with the TV programs. Many of the PM's who have been listening for five to seven years are now responding. About every third call is from someone who has heard the program. I have never experienced anything like this! These people are well read, having read most of our material. Some were even visited years ago, but did not make the change until now.

MT. VERNON, IL--HAROLD SMITH: PM activity is really beginning to pick up. These are solid PM's, not the casually interested like we've had in the past. The explanation is the excellent TV coverage we now have on the Harrisburg, Illinois station.

MIAMI, FL--AL KERSHA: Prospective member activity continues to get stronger in both quantity and quality than in past months and years. More people are showing up for Bible studies and seem to be fellowshiping more.

FAYETTEVILLE, AR--JOHN R. ELLIOTT: The tapes and articles, news of the Work, and member letters are real "shots in the arm" to everyone. We are all thankful for the shaking up and correction Mr. Armstrong gives from time to time. Being in the world working week after week and in school, etc., the brethren's drive and zeal tends to wane. We need continuing admonition as a Church.

BINGHAMTON, NY--BRITTON M. TAYLOR: Many comments have been made that Mr. Armstrong's last two sermon tapes were exceptionally powerful and inspiring.

ROANOKE, VA--ROBERT PERSKY: The whole Church responds wholeheartedly to all requests locally and from Headquarters. All here are supporting the Work of God as God leads Mr. Armstrong and his staff. Little by little the brethren are finding new and better jobs. God is delivering them as they apply the seven laws of success.

ORLANDO, FL--ROBERT F. BERTUZZI: Much excitement about world events. More members are getting more involved in the Church. They are showing more faith in God's power in areas such as healing and solving problems.

CLEVELAND (EAST), OH--GUY L. ENGELBART: Cleveland continues to be one of the hardest hit cities economically in the U.S. The picture does not look any better in the near future, with more people being laid off recently in the steel and auto industries. In spite of this, we are maintaining a steady attendance, with God adding new people when longtime members have to move.

CADILLAC, MI--GERALD WESTON: Some of the members have had to fight hard against depression because of the economy. There are not very many members in this area that hope things will last another thirty years.

COLUMBIA, SC--JOHN RITENBAUGH: People are very "up" and, except for the normal problems of overcoming, things are sailing along smoothly. PM activity is still low, but that's because the program has been on the air here just four months. PT circulation is increasing at a nice rate due to both TV and newsstand distribution.

--Joe Tkach, Ministerial Services

UPDATE ON YOUTH 82 AND THE GOOD NEWS

The Editorial Services staff and I wish to express our appreciation again to all of you in the field who go that extra mile to produce articles for the Work's publications. If at times we have to return your articles for rewrite or to do some revision on them, don't let that discourage you. We continually need your input.

Let me tell you the major reason material may not be accepted. In most cases a wrong approach is used for the audience of a particular magazine. For instance, because of the response to Mr. Armstrong's offer of YOUTH 82 in his semiannual letter and on television, about 75 percent of the readership (now totaling about 90,000 subscribers) are young people not associated with the Church. This year we had to add a Festival supplement to the magazine for our own teenagers. The magazine truly has become, as Mr. Armstrong first envisioned, a junior PLAIN TRUTH.

Writers for YOUTH 82, therefore, must assume that most of their readers do not understand terminology peculiar to the Church such as the Feast, YOU, SEP, Holy Days. They are also not a captive audience. Let me quote from Mr. Armstrong's PLAIN TRUTH Editorial Policy:

The PLAIN TRUTH was founded to teach GOD'S WAY OF LIFE! But the APPROACH--the headlines and opening paragraphs of articles must

be that of the HUMAN viewpoint--of HUMAN interest--that will capture the interest of the reader and, arousing interest in the subject matter, create enough suspense to HOLD his interest....It must be made PLAIN in the language of the readers.

These guidelines especially hold true for the readers of YOUTH 82. We must become familiar with the interests and needs of these young people and then give them the answers from God's point of view.

The GOOD NEWS magazine as well has grown to 160,000 subscribers, 70 percent of them co-workers, nonmembers. Mr. Armstrong offered the GOOD NEWS to Correspondence Course students and 40,000 were added to our mailing list. Again, in the biblically-oriented, Christian living articles of the GOOD NEWS, care must be taken with the approach used. We must not talk down to readers or assume they understand more than they do. Also we have our international audience to consider.

We are adding more basic doctrinal articles to the GOOD NEWS this next year, clearly spelling out the beliefs of God's Church. Let us hear from you--ideas, suggestions, articles. Contributing to the Work's publications automatically increases your audience from hundreds to multiple thousands! Thank you for your support.

--Dexter H. Faulkner, Editorial Services

MAIL PROCESSING CENTER UPDATE

Summary of Visits to International Offices

We thought it might be interesting and helpful to give you an update on the visits made thus far to the international offices of God's Work.

As mentioned in The WORLDWIDE NEWS some months ago, Mr. Armstrong requested that visits to the international offices be made for the purpose of standardizing mail processing procedures worldwide, opening channels of communication, and helping to build greater unity. Since that time, Ron Urwiller from the International Mail Section of Mail Processing, has accompanied me on visits to our offices in Canada, the Caribbean, Australia and New Zealand, Europe and South Africa. Sam Lennon from Data Processing also has gone on a few of these trips.

We have been very impressed with the quality of operations and attitudes of the staff in all of the offices visited. The regional directors and their employees are doing a superb job and meeting high standards of performance in their service to those who respond to God's Message.

On each visit, a presentation of overall policies and guidelines regarding mail processing was made, accompanied by mutual give-and-take discussions. A copy of the Mail Processing Policy-Procedural Manual used in Pasadena was given to each office. The employees have expressed genuine appreciation for the visits and are sincerely trying to follow the lead of Pasadena and fine tune any areas where they might give improved service.

Much information has been exchanged as lines of communication have been opened. We in Pasadena are learning many things from the experience and expertise of the international offices. In addition, numerous ways have been found to lend them a helping hand and serve more effectively.

It's been encouraging to see the attitudes of warmth, cooperation and loyalty which have prevailed throughout these trips. The increased unity and togetherness experienced are of inestimable value. As a result, the daily mailing operations of the Work of God around the world are becoming more unified.

Malachi 3:8-10 Being Fulfilled Today

Because of the recent articles on tithing in the October/November issue of The GOOD NEWS, we thought it would be appropriate to include some up-to-date letters from readers on how tithing has affected their lives. As the following comments show, Malachi 3:8-10 is fulfilled in miraculous ways when the laws of God are either obeyed or disobeyed.

Tithing--Only Way to Make Ends Meet

Right now times are hard for everyone. Money is scarce and very precious to me as my husband is one of the nine million out of work in this country. Yet God always seems to provide for our family and has rescued us out of several trying situations lately. Every time, shortly after I send you a tithe, I receive money out of the blue from various people or places. I always get my tithe back ten times and then some. It is the only way we can make ends meet right now.

Mrs. J.N. (Detroit, MI)

Blessings and Opportunities in Third Tithe Year

This is our first third tithe year. The past years had been a struggle with losing job after job for keeping God's Holy Days. But we kept going. Then soon after our third tithe year began, the job hoped for came along. This job has great security with a growing industry, no discrimination, plus advancement opportunities. Also shortly after this, an escrow check from our savings and loan arrived.

There have been many things like this, just when we needed them, and we thank God everyday for what we have learned and the many blessings we have received. Many thanks for your continued instruction in God's ways which can only lead to blessings.

L. & D.W. (Hartselle, AL)

Desires Fulfilled in Third Tithe Year

There is something I just have to tell you. God sure does work miracles. We have wanted a second baby for about five years now and two years ago I was anointed. Now I am expecting in January. The amazing thing is that it is our third tithe year.

Also, my husband started building a house long before we were married and never finished it because we decided to live closer to his job. He had been trying to sell it for a long time. About a month ago it sold. We got a small down payment and will be getting a certain sum each month. Again, these monthly payments are coming right in our third tithe year.

We feel so undeserving of these blessings. But we're especially thankful for the baby we've wanted so much. My little six-year-old girl had also been praying for a baby. Now she is just thrilled. We feel like shouting to the whole world over this fantastic miracle God has worked.

One more thing, I nearly miscarried and was anointed. How wonderful God is. We can't thank Him enough.

Mr. & Mrs. R.B. (Lebanon, TN)

Despite "Extra" Money, Nontither Runs into Problems

Please accept my tithe and offering (the first in a few months). I allowed myself to be swayed into refraining from tithing by mounting costs and personal debts. However, since I stopped tithing my financial situation became even more strangling, despite the "extra" money I was giving myself. It's been a hard lesson to learn. However, God has brought me to the realization that His laws do work and that He will keep His promises of blessings and the removal of those blessings. I thank God for opening my eyes at last, and I hope this money will be profitable for the carrying on of the Work, especially now as we near the end of this age.

D.E. (Louisville, KY)

Careless Tither Repents

I have just gotten up from a very heartrending prayer during which I'd received some hard but much needed correction. I'd mismanaged my tithes over the years, and the penalty has culminated on me this year. I am unemployed, have very little second tithe (not enough to attend the Feast), find myself in debt--with several collection agencies hounding me--and owe God some first tithe.

I have always had some "justifiable" excuse for my neglect. I have winked at my own sins--and have not been blessed! All essential needs have been taken care of--but no real blessings. Instead, curses. I am changing my attitude toward these things now, tonight. I realize I'll probably miss the Feast due to my own foolishness, but it is a small price to pay to get "back on the track!"

B.M. (Carmel Valley, CA)

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

PUBLISHING SERVICES UPDATE

Special Recognition of Promotion Pieces

The Direct Mail Marketing Association (DMMA) has selected two of the Work's promotional pieces for special recognition in its 1982 Echo Awards competition.

The "Season Ticket Sales" brochure for the Ambassador Auditorium 1981 Concert Season was awarded a "Direct Marketing Leader Plaque" which,

according to DMMA, "places your campaign in the top 10% of all entries" among the world's leading direct response advertising agencies and companies. The brochure was designed by Mike Miles and written by Samuel Lurie of the concert staff.

The "Out-of-Stock" PLAIN TRUTH newsstand display card, designed by Mike Riley and written by Terry Warren, was also awarded a "Certificate of Excellence." Both projects were developed and produced by Publishing's Design Graphics group under the supervision of Terry Warren.

Letters From Members Assisting in Newsstand Program

The newsstand PLAIN TRUTH with the cover photo of the nuclear explosion is going phenomenally. I now distribute in a day what I used to distribute in a week.

N.P. (Buffalo, NY)

Since we have been distributing The PLAIN TRUTH, the demand has greatly increased. I cannot keep the PT display rack supplied fast enough. The covers and articles are terrific!

W.V. (Oak Lawn, IL)

It is greatly encouraging to hear of the increases in response to our printed and broadcasted word. Some of us have just a few magazines to put out, and sometimes we find a few cast to the side, but we know that if even one is read, how important that one copy is!

R.R. (Lakeland, FL)

Letters from Newsstand PT Readers

I happened to pick up a copy of your magazine this past winter while waiting in a doctor's office. I was intrigued by it, especially because of a Bible study I was going to at which we were studying the Old Testament prophecies. I asked if I could take the copy and wrote for a subscription. I have really enjoyed the magazine. To me it is sort of like God's "NEWSWEEK" magazine.

Mrs. J.L. (Missoula, MT)

I've been reading your magazine for a couple of years. Many times it brought me so much comfort to know what the Bible has in store for us Christians.

Mrs. D.A. (Apollo, PA)

While doing laundry in town, I saw a copy of your wonderful magazine. The PLAIN TRUTH is by far one of the best Christian magazines I've ever read. I would like to subscribe to your free magazine.

M.G. (Adel, IA)

I'm writing about a magazine of yours I read. July 27, my husband and I were in Keil and I saw your magazine on a stand with a sign

that said "TAKE ONE--FREE." I walked away, and then came back and took one. When I got to my car I read the front cover, and immediately became interested when I saw "THE PLAIN TRUTH, a magazine of understanding."

D.C. (Mishicot, WI)

I first learned of The PLAIN TRUTH through copies I picked up from a newsstand located in the office building where I was working. After reading several issues, my girlfriend and I both subscribed and have been reading and enjoying them since.

P.C. (Cocoa Beach, FL)

Some time ago I picked up my first copy of The PLAIN TRUTH. At first I thought it was just another one of those fly-by-night magazines. Since then I have found out differently. It is just what it says, "The PLAIN TRUTH."

R.L. (Corpus Christi, TX)

Enclosed please find a small gift. This is only a token of thanks for the privilege of receiving The PLAIN TRUTH. I thank you for having these magazines in local stores where I picked up my first one.

D.A. (Lexington Park, MD)

I obtained a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine from the grocery store the other week. I saw Soviet President Brezhnev on the cover and it piqued my curiosity. I was really surprised! I was expecting just another religious-type magazine, and what I found were articles about everyday and worldwide problems that I really related to.

S.B. (Bristol, VA)

--Ray Wright, Publishing Services