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PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Greetings, ministers and wives!

In last week's *Pastor General's Report*, I wrote about how hard-headed the Jewish leaders were during Christ's day. Christ corrected them for being unable to discern "the signs of the times" (Matthew 16:1-3). Even though they studied the Old Testament to the point of practically worshipping it, they couldn't recognize the Son of God, whose coming was prophesied repeatedly in the Scriptures. I'd like to continue that subject this week.

Let's notice the dramatic contrast between how those Jewish leaders responded to Christ, and how the men who became Christ's disciples responded to Him.

"The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, *We have found him*, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:43-45). Look at the difference! *We found the Messiah!* these men said. *We found the one Moses and the prophets talked about! He's alive, right here, right now!* They were thrilled! They were ecstatic to be able to be a part of that.

NOTHING SO GREAT HAD EVER HAPPENED IN HUMAN HISTORY! But it didn't impress the Jews. The Old Testament is full of prophecies about that event, but the Jews didn't know what it was about. You see, it really gets back to *how well we know our Bibles*. You'd better know, and if you don't, you can't make excuses to Christ when He returns, because He won't accept them. If we don't know where we are in this end time of man, we are of all people most pathetic. We've been given everything.

Look how excited these men were, and ask yourself if you are that excited today!

"Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel" (verse 49). Here was the Son of God who came down from heaven to be the Lamb and to be sacrificed for the sin of the world. No wonder Nathaniel was excited! He said, *You're the Son of God! You came down from God! You're the King of Israel!*

The *International Critical Commentary* explains, "On this first day of His teaching, Christ is recognized by those who have been already prepared to receive Him. The disciples of John [the Baptist] are shown in their true position toward Him and His successor."

When you are tuned in to the times, you are aware of everything that's happening AS IT HAPPENS! That is a truly wonderful thing.

THE VOICE

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (verse 18). Jesus Christ came to declare God the Father. Of course, the Jews didn't know that. Christianity today doesn't know that. Nobody but this Church knows that, so they don't discern the signs of the times.

"And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?" (verse 19). This almost gets comical after a while: To everyone God sent, these leaders asked, *Well, who are you? Give us a sign and show us who you are*. They were amazingly good at forecasting the weather, but they couldn't discern the signs of the times. They didn't know who this man was that Christ prophesied He would send to prepare the way for His coming!

These were the spiritual giants of Judah, and they were asking all of these

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stupid questions! You didn't see the disciples asking those questions: They were *telling* Christ and John WHO THEY WERE—with all the excitement they could possibly muster!

John responded to their questions: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet [Isaiah]" (verse 23). He told them directly that he was fulfilling the prophecy in Isaiah 40:3. He was a type of Elijah.

"And they which were sent were of the Pharisees. And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor [Elijah], neither that prophet?" (John 1:24-25). These leaders didn't know why John was there, who he was, why he was baptizing. They were looking for an end-time Christ and they knew that the Elijah and a prophet came just before that.

What is interesting is that they were talking about three personalities in verses 24-25, and there are also three personalities in Isaiah 40: John the Baptist, Mr. Armstrong, and this work in the end time, which says to the cities of Judah and to the world, "Behold your God!" The Jews were discussing John the Baptist, Elijah and that prophet—and if you go to Isaiah 40 you see the same three personalities.

This is exciting and marvelous truth because it is discussing our Work right now, just before the Second Coming of the Messiah. We are tied into the first-century John and the end-time John. We are doing the Elijah work. We are preparing for the return of Jesus Christ as we teach what Mr. Armstrong taught us. John is specifically, even in this context, TALKING ABOUT YOU, because there wouldn't be a prophet getting that message out if there weren't some dedicated people behind that message, helping to disseminate it! He's talking about God's little group of people who are dedicated to this Work. That's the only way to spread the message. That's the only way anybody would know about the signs of the times, because we're the only ones who know, and it's our job to make the world know.

What an honor to be a part of this Work that is talked about here and to discern just what is happening in this world! Your offerings do everything to fulfill these prophecies. We are getting a message out there. The people in this world are in total darkness regarding the times they live in. But Christ keeps trying to teach them, to show them about the mystery and remove the mystery from the Bible. He wants people to know that He's about to return and that they will be resurrected and given a chance to know God and have the mystery solved.

The Word who was with God came down to Earth, to all humanity. The Messiah was standing there talking to the Jews and said, "Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern THIS TIME?" (Luke 12:56). That was the big question. And here we are in the last hour. Do we really discern it? You can't fake this. We're going to discern these times, or we're going to be left behind. The Jews were left behind, and just look at history to see the horrific things that happened to them. This world has never seen such atrocities since then—and won't until probably the coming decade.

Christ was saying, *Can't you see from the writings of Moses and the prophets? Can't you see that this is the time of the Messiah's first coming, and I am the one?* You can sense Christ's frustration with these hardheaded people. They wanted more miracles, while the miracles were all around them! Miracles never will mean anything to the carnal mind.

PHYSICAL SIGNS DON'T ENABLE YOU TO DISCERN THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES! LETTING GOD'S WORD ABIDE IN YOU—THAT WILL CAUSE YOU TO DISCERN THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The Jews went around preaching all the time about the manna they received in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ came in John 6 and said, *I AM THE MANNA! ISRAEL IS DEAD! I AM THE MANNA THAT WILL GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE!* Still, they didn't get it. They ought to have been electrified!

What a sad, sad chapter in their history. Yet so many people today are making the same mistakes.

THE LAST CHANCE

Something about Matthew 16:4 was puzzling to me, but I believe Christ showed me exactly what He was talking about. "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet [Jonah]. And he left them, and departed."

I believe what Christ was saying is, *I'm going to be resurrected out of the belly of the Earth, and that's the only sign you're going to get.* In other words, *It's too late for you physically—you're not going to get what I'm talking about here. But one day—if you're in that resurrection to physical life—you'll understand about me being resurrected and realize that you have to come to me to be saved! This time, you don't even understand as much as Sodom and Gomorrah, or the Queen of the South!*

Fifty percent of God's people in this end time cannot discern the signs of the times and won't repent of that, and they have to die forever! As Christ said, you may think you have eternal life, but you'd better examine that closely.

You'd better discern exactly what's happening in this Church today. He says the same to most of our people. I would imagine it must be getting close to too late for most of the Laodiceans—and for half of them, eternally.

Notice the last sentence in Matthew 16:4: "And he left them, and departed." *Lange's Commentary* says that "this abrupt termination indicates that he JUDICIOUSLY GAVE THEM UP." *I can't do anything for you people. You're not listening to me; you're not repenting.*

Lange's also says, "He departed, but they are still standing and waiting for the sign from heaven." Christ refused to give them a sign—it wouldn't have done them any good anyhow. He left them for the resurrection, hoping that they would get it at that time.

We are held accountable for what we receive. We must be able to discern the times. YOU, INDIVIDUALLY, will have to understand.

THE END-TIME ELIJAH

I want to bring this down to recent times.

One of our ministers, before coming into the Philadelphia Church of God, had a leading Worldwide Church of God evangelist over to his home. They were talking about the changes in the Church after Mr. Armstrong's death. The subject of Elijah came up, and our minister said he believed Mr. Armstrong was the end-time Elijah.

Shockingly, the WCG evangelist disagreed.

What is that really saying? Mr. Armstrong restored ALL THINGS, and this man is acting like one of the Jews before Christ—yet, in some ways, FAR WORSE. He doesn't believe Mr. Armstrong fulfilled that prophetic office, and yet anybody with elementary common sense—spiritually—can prove he restored ALL THINGS! That is like asking someone who just came out of a movie theater, "How did you like the movie?" and having them respond, "What movie?"

That evangelist missed everything! He did not understand the signs of the times. He didn't know what Christ was doing! That's drastically tragic—blindness of the highest order. You have to ask, *Well, what were you doing in God's Church? What was the point?*

Look at the work Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did through Mr. Armstrong! Look at how Mr. Armstrong prepared for the return of Jesus Christ! (Zechariah 4:8, 10; Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Matthew 17:10-11; 24:14; Revelation 3:7-8). Yet this man says, *I don't believe he was the man.* He didn't comprehend the signs of the times. IT'S LIKE HE MISSED THE SIXTH ERA OF GOD'S CHURCH! How could he miss the sixth era and possibly understand anything about the seventh?

This evangelist wrote in January 1979 about how Garner Ted Armstrong and other evangelists forbade him to talk to Mr. Armstrong and reveal their plans for changing the doctrines of the Church. He said that they threatened his job if he went around them. He was privy to a MASSIVE BETRAYAL IN THE CHURCH!

What did he do about it? He didn't do anything at all. He congratulated himself for not going along with them. But is that the Bible's approach? If people are putting Mr. Armstrong down, is it right to sit there and take it? Just watch such a monstrous betrayal happen before your eyes? The fact that he didn't respond much more radically was an indication that something bad was going to happen in his life. If he had discerned the signs of the times he wouldn't have put up with that. There was only ONE MAN ON THE PLANET who could have stopped that nightmare, and nobody consulted him!

EACH ONE OF US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT GOES ON IN THE CHURCH. You can't just sit there and watch the Church collapse and say, *Well, I didn't go along with it.* That's not really doing anything! Of course we have to be very careful how we approach anything like this, but you can't just let the Church fall apart! That's really FAILING TO DISCERN THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES! THAT'S FAILING TO REALIZE THAT ETERNAL LIVES ARE AT STAKE!

Can you discern the signs of the times—especially "THIS TIME," as Christ said? THIS TIME, just before His Second Coming? The prophecies are being fulfilled before our eyes! In the same context of the prophecy of the gospel being preached around the world, the Bible talks about EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD BEING WIPED OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH! Do you discern the signs of the times? Do you know that we're living in those times? THIS TIME, NOW? It's about to explode in our faces! Do you believe that? That's what discerning the signs of the times means.

LABOR IN STUDY

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life

through his name” (John 20:30-31). God wants us to have REAL LIFE! He wants us to be able to discern when He’s doing a work. He wants us to BELIEVE IT and KNOW IT and SUPPORT IT with everything we possibly can. That’s how we get the job done! But we have to believe in these scriptures.

John said this is written that we might BELIEVE—not just read it and say, *Well, I’ve got my Bible study in.* That’s a real trap we can get into. Even in song services on the Sabbath, sometimes I’ll catch myself just singing the songs without thinking about the words. So I’ll concentrate on what I’m singing, and I get so much more out of it. We can do the same thing with our Bible study. *I’ve got my Bible study time in.* Okay—but WHAT DID YOU GET OUT OF IT? Did you really get it? Because THIS IS ALL WRITTEN THAT WE MIGHT REALLY BELIEVE!

Mr. Armstrong discerned the signs of all the times. When he was first called to the truth, he labored for six months in intensive Bible study. We do need to LABOR to learn the truth. It’s hard work! But you need to work to get it into your mind so you can discern the signs of the times.

Mr. Armstrong read in the Bible where Christ said He would build His Church. He began to look around for the Church. He found some people with the truth, but it was the Sardis era and the Church was dead! They knew their government was wrong and it wasn’t working, so they were trying to reorganize the government. Here’s what happened at that meeting.

Lesson 53 of the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course* commented, “Prior to the meeting, a call for prayer had been sent to God’s people around the world, ‘that God would again choose men to lead His Church, as in the former time.’ God *answered* that prayer! But NOT in the way they expected!

“As the hands of the clock neared high noon on that fateful Sabbath day, the drawing of names for the ‘70 elders’ reached number 40. The 40th name was ‘Elder Herbert Armstrong of Oregon’ (*Bible Advocate*, Nov. 6, 1933).

“No one knew it then, least of all Mr. Armstrong, who was not present at the meeting, but *Jesus Christ had made His choice*—with the number 40—of a man to REVIVE His Work in the end time. Forty signifies the completion of testing. Now the time of trial and test for the Sardis Church had run out. And as with ancient Belshazzar, the Sardis era of God’s Church had been ‘weighed in the balance and found wanting’ (Daniel 5:27).”

Then the correspondence course quoted Revelation 3:3: “Remember therefore how thou [the Sardis Church] hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”

God sent Mr. Armstrong to warn the Sardis people and prepare them so they would repent, but they couldn’t understand the signs of the times. They didn’t believe Mr. Armstrong could be the man God would be working with. *Well, God wouldn’t work with a guy like that! He’d work with somebody here at the very top of the Church structure,* they must have reasoned.

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (verses 5-6). Hear what the Spirit says—in other words, read the signs of the times.

Are you discerning the signs of the times? Are you really LABORING to watch? That is where Sardis broke down! It didn’t know anything about Christ’s Second Coming! As Christ would ask, *Couldn’t you discern at this time what’s happening?*

In A.D. 69, when it stopped preaching the gospel to the world, God’s Church went to sleep. It slumbered and slept for hundreds and hundreds of years—until a voice went out over radio in 1934. Using a man, Jesus Christ was getting prepared for His Second Coming!

We are entering into a new, dark age—darker than any age this world has ever known. The worst suffering ever is just ahead of us. We must LABOR in our study of the Bible; we must STRIVE AND STRAIN in our spiritual lives and GET TO KNOW EVERYTHING WE CAN ABOUT THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES! We ought to know all about the Church split and what it means. We need to understand what we mean when we talk about the end, and then the last end, and the last hour. We must be tuned in to these developments step by step by step, like we’re following the ticking of the clock!

If we understand the signs of the times, we know that Jesus Christ is about to return! And we’re going to share His throne forever!

With love, in Christ’s service,



CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Question: Are children still “holy” if the parent(s) leave the Church?

Answer: 1 Corinthians 7:14 states, “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.” This verse indicates that the children are holy *as long as they live with a converted parent*. “Else were your children unclean” implies *they would not be holy* if the believing spouse was allowed to leave the family. The word *now* means “at the present time”; which could mean, “under the present circumstances.” That is, children are “holy” as long as they are living with the converted mate.

The word *sanctified* is the same Greek word as that translated *sanctified* in Jude 1, which says that God sanctifies and Christ preserves *before* God calls someone. Romans 11:29 says God doesn’t revoke someone’s *calling*; but if the word *holy* in 1 Corinthians 7:14 is used in the same sense as the word *sanctified* (which is derived from the word *holy*) in Jude 1, then it would appear that the status of children is *revocable*. For example, if the unconverted, sanctified mate chooses to leave the converted mate, the departing spouse is obviously not sanctified any longer; the only reason the unconverted is sanctified is because of the converted mate. It appears

children would be in the same category—no longer sanctified—if the converted parent leaves the Church.

Mr. Flurry has said that for parents who were once Philadelphian and now Laodicean, they *and their children* will have to go through the Tribulation. A parent’s actions affect the children. If parents leave the Church, the children are now vulnerable and no longer “holy” (unless, of course, they are old enough to understand and disagree with their parents).

Finally, note this statement from Mr. Armstrong in his May 14, 1974, co-worker letter, which addressed the Church’s reversal on divorce and remarriage. “But what of the CHILDREN? I give you here, since God has not revealed this in this scripture, what I take the prerogative to say to God’s Church—and I think I have the mind of Christ in this. Since the marriage in question was a LEGAL, not a holy one, the human courts would have to decide the custody of the children. *IF* the children stay with the converted partner, they are sanctified through the converted one. If they go with the unconverted mate, they are NOT ‘holy’ (or under God’s special blessing or protection)—though of course they are legitimate.”

The *principle* of these statements suggests that children are no longer holy if neither of the parents is in the Church any longer.

MEDIA SERVICES

All operations of the Work of God indicate amazing growth as we begin the calendar year for the Church. We have experienced incredible growth in response to our media efforts, mail processed and donation income. Each category reinforces data from other categories that major growth is already at work in the Church as we begin 2005!

THE KEY OF DAVID PROGRAM MONTHLY RESPONSE

Key of David-generated response remained quite strong during the first month of 2005. Although we ran a series of three repeat programs (because we could not tape during the conference), we still had great response. Another consideration that makes our increase even more dramatic lies in the fact we did not have a

program airing in Los Angeles, Calif. throughout January. We will return to the air in L.A. beginning this coming Sunday—which will only add to our growing response.

We had a 103 percent increase in viewer response if you compare January 2004 to January 2005! That is amazing, considering we aired repeats three out of five weekends in January.

On average, the repeat programs drew 35 percent more response each the second time they aired when compared to their first broadcast!

We are now getting into a series of new episodes which will undoubtedly have great response based on the content of the messages. We are expecting extremely high response this February. More information will be forthcoming.

KEY OF DAVID—GREENVILLE, S.C.

We are happy to announce our return to Greenville, S. C. on WASV Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. This station is a UPN affiliate which we have used with success in the past. The program begins broadcasting this coming Sunday morning.

KEY OF DAVID—NATIONWIDE IN CANADA

Again, due to a network change in programming, we have moved to an afternoon slot for our program airing on Vision TV Network throughout Canada. We have moved to 4:30 p.m. ET Sunday beginning this weekend. This change will present a different audience for us. We have done relatively well with this station, but are working on adding more “local” stations to better reach the people of Canada.

KEY OF DAVID—NATIONWIDE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

We are finally able to announce that we will commence broadcasting the *Key of David* program throughout the United Kingdom beginning late this month on the Reality Channel. Our program has passed certification tests for content, which has now cleared the way for us to take the program to Britain once again. We will air Sundays at 6 a.m. on the popular cable station Reality Channel.

While we have already experienced minor content issues with the compliance review board of Zone Vision Group (Reality Channel’s owner), we have been cleared to air the program and offer our literature at the end of the show—just like every other nation on Earth.

While the Reality Channel doesn’t reach into every

home in the UK, we are pleased to have a start and hope to expand our coverage not only through broadcast television, but also through a renewed print-media advertising campaign, the newsstand program and intense promotion of our websites.

We hope to have many more exciting developments with respect to warning the people of the UK and ultimately Europe as we progress into 2005. Many initiatives are either underway or in the planning stage. Please continually remind the brethren of their need to pray for success in this area that has historically been quite challenging for God’s Work.

KEY OF DAVID—LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

We lost our time on KCAL (7 a.m. Sunday morning) due to programming changes at the station. We have since replaced that time with KDOC (9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings) which is set to begin airing our program this coming Sunday. While KDOC is not as widely watched as KCAL, the later time of day should more than make up the difference.

KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

Program Title: “God’s Space Program”

Airdate: February 13

Literature Offered: *Isaiah’s End-Time Vision*

Synopsis: NASA wants to send a team of people to Mars. But ironically, man has yet to solve his problems here on Earth. God does want man to go to all the universe, but only after we learn how to live on this earth. This week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry discusses God’s space plan.

MAIL PROCESSING

BOOKLETS

Editorial continues to replenish our supply of out-of-stock books and booklets from the printers. As previously mentioned, the quantities of literature we are sending out have in many ways overwhelmed us. We have been able to fulfill thousands of back orders now that we have the booklets in-house.

We are still out of stock of *The Incredible Human Potential*, which should arrive shortly. Thousands of back orders will then be fulfilled for those books.

A more concerted effort is being put forth to better communicate inventory status, print status and future advertising campaigns to ensure we keep our warehouse filled with the literature we offer.

OUTGOING MAIL

Since the Feast of Tabernacles, we have shipped 125,443 orders for literature! We will be shipping Lesson 2 to correspondence course enrollees in addition to Lesson 1 to new subscribers.

EXPANDING FULFILLMENT AREA’S CAPABILITIES

We are busily working on installing carpet in a portion of the Mail Processing Center’s mail fulfillment area. Chick Birch built another two mail packaging stations for us recently, and those will be assembled in the southwest corner of the fulfillment area on top of our new carpet. We are also expanding our data-entry area and call center

terminals in the newly carpeted area. We will add about 16 more stations to the existing 24 already in place.

Lastly, we anticipate the delivery and installation of our new automated mail-stuffing equipment by the end of February. This machine will give us the capacity to stuff thousands of orders per hour—thus reducing man-power requirements substantially for our like-item orders.

With all of the above-mentioned enhancements, we are already at capacity with no room for further growth in the existing fulfillment area. While this expansion is anticipated to meet our needs for the next 18 to 24 months, there is no telling! The work done in the new MPC continues to grow in volume. What a blessing to have this wonderful facility that enables us to keep up with the growing demand for God’s truth in print!

CALL CENTER

We finished 2004 with a bang—and have already seen 2005 get off to an even more impressive start than 2004!

Call volume was at the second highest level ever in our call center this past January. It was second only to the month of November 2004. During the month of

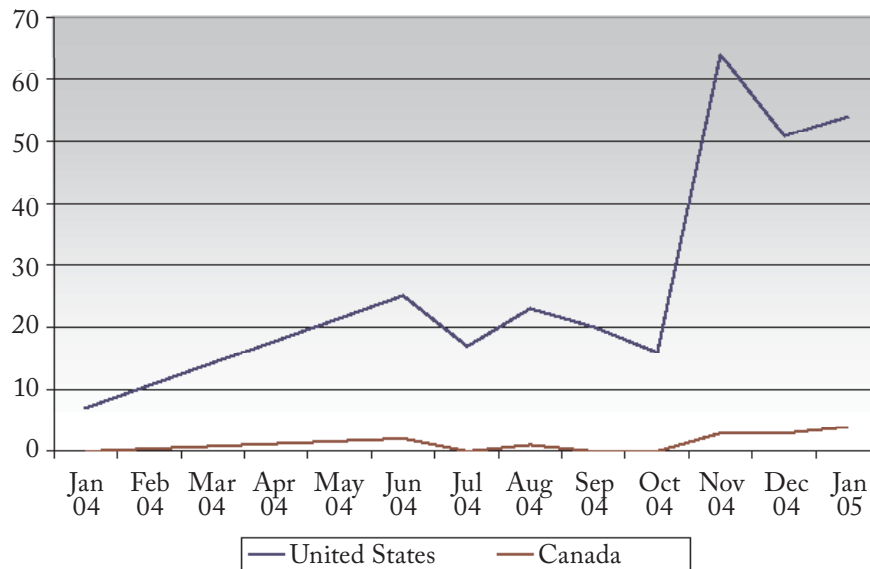
January 2005, we answered a total of 9,325 telephone calls on our toll-free numbers. We had a 62 percent increase in the amount of calls answered comparing January 2004 to January 2005!

VISIT REQUESTS

The number of individuals requesting a visit from a PCG minister so they may attend services has dramatically increased since the Feast of Tabernacles this past year. Please note the graph below! In January 2004, only seven people requested a visit from a minister so they could attend services with the PCG. This year, we had 58 make the same request!

Those figures only include individuals whose request was passed on to the ministry in the field to conduct a visit. We received an additional 49 requests from individuals who would like to attend services, but who have not read very much material as of yet. We respond to their request with a letter encouraging them to continue studying, and we recommend several books for them to read. I feel like we are sowing seeds for future visit requests with these individuals who seem eager to attend, but just need a little more education first.

Ministerial Visit Requests



BUSINESS OFFICE

Another amazing proof that the Work is rapidly advancing—especially during the month of January—came in the area of income in the United States. Donation income for the month of January 2005 compared to January 2004 rose in several categories: Tithes and offerings rose by 31 percent; building fund offerings were up 151 percent, and third tithe offerings rose by 12 percent. We

also received a sizeable estate donation of \$178,000 in January; in the same month of last year, we did not book any bequest contributions. All categories of donation income considered, we had a whopping 69 percent increase in donation income for January 2005 compared to January 2004! What an amazing start to what appears to be a most exciting and dynamic year for God’s great Work!



REGIONAL REPORTS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The region of the Caribbean and Latin America comprises a substantial geographic area bounded by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans to the east and west and the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea to the north, the Antarctic to the south. This region embraces the mainland countries south of the Rio Grande, incorporating Mexico, the seven nations of the Central American isthmus, and the 11 Latino nations and three European protectorates within the greater South American continent. To the north and east lie the 22 island countries formerly under a mixture of Spanish, French, British and Dutch colonial rule. Thus this region, comprising 44 nations, has a rich and varied cultural heritage. The *Philadelphia Trumpet* is distributed to subscribers in most of these countries either in the English, Spanish or French language.

Currently our membership of over 300 brethren in this region is roughly split 50/50 between English and Spanish speaking. The brethren are scattered across 17 of the nations within the region, the greatest national concentrations being in English-speaking Trinidad and Spanish-speaking Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and Mexico. Three resident ministers attend to the pastoral needs of these widely scattered folk. In addition, Gary Rethford assists me at headquarters with Spanish PCO and prospective member counseling, Carlos Heyer being our main translator. Preaching Elder Sam Seebran runs our Caribbean office, and deacon/Imperial student Frank Borg assists me with the management of our Latin American regional office here at headquarters. Imperial College students Angelica Luna and Marcela Luna also supply valuable support to the operation of this region.

Recently we have consolidated our six Feast sites within the region to four main sites based in Trinidad, Colombia, Peru and Guatemala. The sites open to internationals are Cartagena, Colombia, and Tobago in the West Indies.

With a thriving Spokesman Club in Colombia (the PCG's only foreign-language club), we are about to revive the Spokesman Club in Trinidad this March.

The Spanish division of the Work and that in the Caribbean are self-supporting financially. In fact, recent analysis reveals that the Spanish income has risen

by an aggregate of 30 percent per annum over the past seven years.

Our growth center at present is Mexico, where we have gained nine brethren over the past few months and are presently dealing with four solid prospective members.

We presently plan to build on a successful waiting room program in this region with a newsstand program slated to start by Passover in selected countries where we have brethren to service the stands.

The feeling is that we are geared for growth in the vibrant and varied region of the Caribbean and Latin America.

Ron Fraser

SOUTHERN AFRICA

During the past few years the Work of God in this area has developed and been refined with a Headquarters focus. The congregations are stable and united. The ministry and deacons have been trained in God's leadership roles. This was done effectively by Regional Director Alex Harrison who has devoted much time to achieve these results. He has also established Spokesman Clubs in Harare and Johannesburg, where enthusiasm runs high in eager anticipation of each meeting.

Because of regular visits to both Johannesburg and Harare, additional direction and help has been given to local church elder John Rudolph and deacon Raymond Munengwa in Zimbabwe. Two deacons, Eric Trietsch in Johannesburg, and Bernard Wakelin in Cape Town, have been of tremendous assistance.

Since the Feast of Tabernacles 2004, newly acquired transport has made it possible for Mr. Rudolph to visit several rural areas for Bible Studies and fellowship. Zimbabwe is a poor country where rural brethren are only able to fellowship at the Feast each year. He keeps a united flock in Harare, the largest congregation in the region. Sabbath Services are held in the Rudolph home. We continue to counsel prospective members towards baptism. English is the official language in Zimbabwe which makes for easy communication.

In South Africa we have a number of faithful co-workers who have supported God's Work for many years. A few of these have been baptized into the Body of Christ. We anticipate that the *Key of David* broadcasts and the Bible Correspondence Course will bring in more co-workers and members as interest in God's Work increases.

Gerry Meaker