



PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

September 15, 2004 • Vol. 1, No. 4

Greetings, ministers and wives!

Thank you all for the outpouring of prayers, love and sympathy you have given me because of my wife's illness and death. I deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

The memorial service was very emotional and inspiring. I asked Mr. Locher and the television crew to film it, so we can share it with our worldwide spiritual family at the Feast of Tabernacles. I was moved to hear letters from brethren all over the world who spoke of my wife's impact on their lives. I have often said that my wife was half of my ministry. This was clearly evident at this memorial.

At the Feast we will also show our new Behind the Work video, which takes a tour through the Northwest U.S. to visit the historic sites of Mr. Armstrong's early work.

During the Feast, I will be giving three sermons, sent via satellite and phone connections to Feast sites all over the world. God is deepening some exciting understanding from the Gospel of John. This profound subject will hopefully stir our brethren to have an enriching Feast.

As you are putting your holy day messages together, please remember how critical it is to give the brethren "meat in due season" (Psalm 104:27; 145:15). Often I must use the holy days to convey new understanding on a variety of subjects. I must rely on you ministers to deliver those subjects MOST PERTINENT to the meaning of the fall festivals.

In the August 15, 1980, *Pastor General's Report*, Mr. Armstrong wrote this:

"Feast Fever is mounting! ...

"Much of the time ancient Israel in Old Testament times neglected to keep it, Some elements of the Church continued to observe this Feast for some time after the first century—but it faded out and was not restored until the living Christ restored it through me in the present Philadelphia era of the Church. It was not kept by the Sardis era, nor is it to this day.

"But, when Christ comes to RULE ALL NATIONS, it will be restored WORLDWIDE! (Zech. 14.) Those who refuse will find rainfall withheld, and if they still refuse, God's PLAGUES will be sent the following year!

"But it is not just a commanded DUTY—it is a wonderful TIME OF JOY AND REJOICING! ...

"[B]e sure you who speak take it SERIOUSLY.

"Jesus said, 'Who then is a faithful and wise servant whom the Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat IN DUE SEASON? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord when he cometh shall make him ruler over all his goods' (Matt. 24:45-47).

"In some past years I have noticed that some ministers have spoken on just any subject they themselves liked to speak on—with NO RELATION to the NO MEANING of the FEAST! in this Festival we are to be enjoying a foretaste of the World Tomorrow—during the Millennium, under the Government and the KINGDOM OF GOD.

"So be sure your sermons are related to that joyous TIME. Give them meat in due season!"

Our brethren must leave the Feast of Tabernacles spiritually full of the VISION of God's wonderful World Tomorrow—the vision of how we will be king-priests

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who will help Jesus Christ transform this world. It must be made real to them.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore we ought to give the MORE EARNEST HEED to the things which we have heard, *lest at any time we should let them slip*” (Hebrews 2:1). Paul was saying, if we don’t pay more attention to those things we’ve already heard, we’ll let them slip.

Here is what the *Pastor General’s Report* admonished ministers on February 22, 1985: “We must never allow ourselves to feel that these topics have already been covered enough, or that it isn’t necessary to ‘rehash everything again this year.’

“Ask God for interesting and creative ways to present His Word for the maximum clarity, impact and understanding. ... God has ordained that we keep His feasts every year to keep us in remembrance of His plan. Never apologize for going back to the basics, especially when it comes to the festivals. ... Mr. Armstrong does not apologize for constantly reminding us of the basics of God’s purpose and plan. WE ALL NEED IT!”

Mr. Armstrong set us a wonderful example for us. How many times did we hear him review “trunk of the tree” subjects? And yet, so many FAILED TO REMEMBER what he taught. This shameful history shows that—EVEN WITH PERIODIC REVIEWS—we so easily forget! How much more, then, if we FAIL TO REVIEW?

Beloved ministers, this Work is starting to grow as never before—and that means more people will need this basic information. Many brethren will be observing the Feast for the FIRST TIME THIS YEAR. Even if you think something is simple review, they may have never in their lives heard certain aspects of this truth expounded on! Of course, ask God to give you an interesting and creative way to present this truth. And as I’ve said before, we have to strive to make each sermon and sermonette the best we can make it. Let’s give God’s people a detailed and stirring vision of God’s great master plan.

One more thing. Remember that the holy days are working days for God’s ministry. We are there to serve God’s people in any way we can. When we’re not doing regular duties like speaking, anointing and counseling, we should be fellowshiping with the brethren as much as we’re able. For many of them, the holy days provide a rare opportunity to be with God’s ministers. We want to do all we can to show them what a loving Family they are a part of. Strive to be paragons of God’s love, and helpers of the brethren’s joy (2 Corinthians 1:24). This means we need to go to God every day in prayer and ask for that love. The only way we will ever be able to sacrifice for God’s people like we need to is by praying our way through the Feast.

This is God’s Feast of Tabernacles, and we don’t have very much time left to finish this work. We cannot afford not to get everything we possibly can out of this great Feast of God!

I wish you all the most inspiring fall holy day season. I look forward to visiting with many of you personally at the three Feast sites I’ll be attending. Again, I want all of you to know that I am very grateful for your prayers, and that I pray for you. I love all of you, and I’m praying that each one of you will have the greatest Feast ever!

With love, in Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald Flurry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

Greetings ministers and wives,

Mr. Flurry has set the dates for the 2005 Ministerial Conference to be held on the Imperial College campus this winter. Instruction will take place from January 5 through 11. The format for this year's conference is much like our last conference. Instruction is scheduled from Wednesday morning through Friday afternoon. A special Sabbath and day off Sunday will provide a break before we wrap up the conference with instruction Monday morning through Tuesday afternoon.

All full-time ministers should contact Melody Thompson by fax (405-359-7231) or e-mail (melodyjt@pcog.org) as soon as possible to give her their arrival and departure dates (no phone calls please). Please note: unless previously approved by Mr. Flurry, ministers should not arrive in Edmond until January 4 and depart by January 12. Melody will make all full-time ministers' reservations at the Best Western. Unless otherwise requested, reservations will be made for a king, non-smoking room. Please let her know of any special needs or requests and she will do the best she can to accommodate you. If you are planning on staying with some of the local brethren or ministers, please confirm with your host, and then inform Mrs. Thompson as soon as possible so she won't make a hotel reservation for you.

All non-full-time ministers are welcome to attend, but are expected to pay for their own expenses, which include travel, room and all meals in transit—but we will provide three meals a day at the John Amos Field House at no cost to you. All non-full-time ministers may stay wherever they choose.

For our planning purposes, please be sure to contact Melody as soon as possible with your plans about attending the conference—even if you are not able to attend, we would greatly appreciate you letting us know. We need to get an accurate number of those attending the conference.

Following is a list of hotels in the Edmond area. We have not been able to work special rates for all of the hotels on the list except for the Ramada Plaza Hotel. All full-time ministers will be housed at the Best Western, so for convenience sake, this might be your best choice for housing during the conference.

Thank you so much for your rapid response to this letter!

Sincerely,
Dennis R. Leap

Non-full-time ministers can refer to the list below of recommended hotels and motels in the Edmond area should they decide to attend the Conference. As a reminder, non-full-time ministers will be responsible for the cost of their accommodations while here in Edmond for the Conference.

RECOMMENDED HOTELS IN EDMOND, OK

Best Western Edmond Inn & Suites

Address: 2700 E. Second Street
Phone: 405-216-0300
Rate: 1 Kg. Bed-\$77.10; 2 Qn. Beds-\$82.69 (per night, tax included)
Comments: All rooms have fridge & microwave. Complimentary expanded continental breakfast is offered. Hotel has indoor pool.

Hampton Inn

Address: 300 Meline Drive
Phone: 405-844-3037
Rate: 1 Kg. Bed or 2 Qn. Beds: 1 person-\$93.87, 2 people- \$105.05 (per night, tax included)
Comments: King room has fridge and microwave. Hotel has high speed internet and complimentary hot breakfast.

Holiday Inn Express

Address: 3840 E. 2nd Street
Phone: 405-844-3700
Rate: 1 Kg. Bed or 2 Qn. Beds: \$79.45 (per night, tax included)
Comments: Complimentary deluxe continental breakfast is offered. Hotel has indoor pool.

Motel 6

Address: 12121 N. Interstate-35 Service Road
Phone: 405-478-4030
Rate: 1 Qn. Bed or 2 Full Beds: 1 person-\$33.52, 2 people- \$40.22 (per night, tax included)
Comments: Complimentary coffee from 6:00-9:00 a.m. is offered.

Ramada Plaza Hotel

Address: 930 E. 2nd Street
Phone: 405-341-3577
Rate: 1 Kg. Bed or 2 Qn. Beds: \$65.95 (per night, tax included)
Comments: This is a discounted PCG rate. Mention that you are with the PCG. Contact name is Jan Graham. Complimentary hot breakfast buffet is offered. This hotel has a full service restaurant and an outdoor pool.

Sleep Inn

Address: 3608 S. Broadway Extension (Hwy. 77)
Phone: 405-844-3000
Rate: 1 Kg. Bed or 2 Qn. Beds: 1 person- \$75.42, 2 people- \$80.45 (per night, tax included) AAA members and Senior Citizens receive a 10% discount.
Comments: Complimentary continental breakfast is offered. Hotel has indoor pool.

Stafford Inn

Address: 1809 E. Second Street
Phone: 405-340-8197
Rate: Manager, Hasu, said to bring her a quote from any other hotel and she will give a rate that is \$2 less than what anyone else offers. She wants PCG business.
Comments: Property is newly renovated. All rooms have fridge, microwave and whirlpool tub. Complimentary continental breakfast is offered.

Stratford House Inn

Address: 3020 S. Broadway Extension
Phone: 405-340-5693
Rate: 1 Kg. Bed: \$49.45, 2 Qn. Beds: \$57.00 (per night, tax included)
Comments: Ask for Mike or Eric & mention that you are with the PCG. Sometimes they give discounts. All rooms have fridge & microwave. Complimentary coffee, juice and donuts are offered.

GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN

Here are the guidelines for conducting the ceremony for the Blessing of the Little Children at the Feast of Tabernacles.

1. Only those children five years of age and younger should be blessed. Jesus Christ set us an example in this. Please refer to Mark 9:36, 10:16. Christ took up the little children *in his arms* and then blessed them.
2. The ceremony should be introduced with a sermonette-length message (10 to 12 minutes) covering the basic scriptures showing why we bless little children.
3. After the sermonette the minister should ask all the brethren to bow their heads and ask a brief prayer thanking God for the ceremony and asking God to inspire the ceremony to insure that it is conducted decently and in order.
4. All the ministers should then be invited to the front of the auditorium to participate in the ceremony.
5. Ministers' prayers should be no longer than two minutes or overly loud so as not to distract the other ministers.
6. Only the parents, or persons bringing the little child for blessing, should be at the front of the auditorium.
7. Only church photographers should take photos during the ceremony.

Please follow these guidelines while conducting the ceremony. Festival coordinators please make appropriate announcements as necessary at each Feast site.

MEDIA SERVICES

By Andrew Locher

KCAL TIME CHANGE

Beginning immediately, the program will temporarily move to 6:30 a.m. Sunday from its normal 7:00 a.m. time due to government mandated political programming.

STUDIO 23 IN THE PHILIPPINES

Mr. Chito Cruz, a PCG member working in the Philippines office, gave the following report late last week regarding the airing of our program in relation to the other programs: “*The Key of David* might receive a boost in viewership by way of a possible spillover audience because starting October, the TV game series *Amazing Race* will be aired before the program. *Amazing Race* is quite popular in the Philippines and who knows how many of the viewers who watch *Amazing Race* may just happen to stumble into viewing *The Key of David* too?”

WCIU IN CHICAGO

We had a tremendous response to our program airing on WCIU in Chicago this past Sunday. Previously, we contracted with WFLD the Fox TV affiliate for Chicago with great success. But WFLD wanted to replace their Sunday morning religious block of programming with a local news program. Thus, we were forced to find an alternative station. Much to our pleasure, response levels actually increased the first week we aired on WCIU, our replacement station. Though we did well this week, our desire is to return to the Fox affiliate as they generally draw considerably more viewers than WCIU.

PRE-EMPTIONS

For years we have used members living in local broadcast markets to monitor our program. Their job is to ensure we air according to our contract. When we have technical difficulties, or if we are pre-empted with other programming, our monitors alert HQ so we can seek a credit for the program. So far this year, we have received close to \$39,500 for technical glitches or pre-emptions of our program. Though the stations are obligated to report problems, they often delay or even neglect to follow through with their contractual responsibilities. That is why we rely so heavily on our monitors! They save the Work of God thousands of dollars every year.

KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

The schedule below applies to all stations in the United States, Canada and our website. Stations throughout

Australasia and the Caribbean follow a schedule that is one week behind the U.S. and Canada due to shipping delays. The Philippines, South Africa and Malta all follow schedules that are a few weeks behind the U.S. and Canada for the same reason.

Program Title: Repeat *Why Marriage* (04-16)

Air Date: September 19

Literature Offered: Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?

Synopsis: Is marriage on the way out? Is adultery still wrong? Is the institution of the home, with its family life, to disappear from society? How and when did the institution of marriage originate? Does it, after all, serve any necessary purpose? This week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry sheds light on the marriage institution, the home, and family life -- and reveals a shocking truth which has been altogether overlooked by science, by religion, by education and by society!

Program Title: Repeat *The Mystery of Israel* (04-11)

Air Date: September 26

Literature Offered: Key of David, Mystery of the Ages

Synopsis: God raised up Israel to be His chosen people anciently. The Bible is primarily a book about Israel. This nation was selected for a special purpose, but that purpose remains a mystery to the world. The modern identity of the tribes of Israel also remains a mystery. This week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry unlocks the mystery of Israel.

Program Title: *The Born Again Mystery* (04-39)

Air Date: October 3

Literature Offered: Just What Do You Mean, Born Again?

Synopsis: What does it mean to be born again? Many religious people have varying ideas on this subject. But only the Word of God, the Holy Bible, can give the proper understanding of what it means to be born again. The Bible even says that being born into God's Kingdom is a great mystery. But God's Word uncovers this mystery. The truth on the subject of being born again shows mans incredible human potential, which is far greater than most have ever imagined!

EDITORIAL SERVICES

By Joel Hilliker

Happy holy days! This will be the final *Pastor General's Report* until after the Feast of Tabernacles. We have received some good feedback from some of you. If you have suggestions for how we can provide a better service, or ideas for future content, even contributions, please send them in.

We are busily trying to wrap up some projects before our festival break. We are finishing the September/October *Philadelphia News*, the November/December *Royal Vision*, the Fall *True Education* and Lesson 1 of the correspondence course. The deadline for the November *Trumpet* will fall hard on the heels of the Feast, so we aim to assemble the issue before we go.

Last week we solidified the job descriptions for our Imperial College student Editorial workers. Tim Oostendarp, one of the incoming freshmen, will assist Wik Heerma with the fledgling Subscriber Development Program, and has also been made the managing editor of the IC school newspaper *The Imperial Standard*, where he will gain experience in all aspects of editorial work: working with writers, assigning articles, editing, writing, layout, etc. Also, I have begun using Lisa Godeaux to help convert my own lecture/sermon notes into articles for the *Royal Vision* and PGR.

Last week we received the re-printed *Daniel: Unsealed at Last* booklet and the updated version of *The Little Book* from the RoArk group in Rogers, Arkansas. The latter had been out of print for some time, and we are excited to offer it again. We also sent the final approval for *The History and Prophecy of the Middle East*, which should be received at headquarters before Atonement. Recently Mr. Flurry mentioned that he plans to update *The Royal Book of Revelation*, tying it in more to his new book that we hope to hand out at the Feast, *The Last Hour*, as well as his Feast messages of this year. However since we are low on stock of this booklet, Mr. Flurry authorized a small print run to tie us over to when he will be able to devote the time to reviewing the text thoroughly.

REPS FROM TRUMPET'S PRINTER HAVE FRUITFUL VISIT TO EDMOND

By Ryan Malone

On September 10, two representatives from R.R. Donnelley and Sons came to visit headquarters. Donnelley is the printer for the *Trumpet*. As you may know, this is the same company that printed the *Plain Truth* and *Mystery of the Ages* for Mr. Armstrong.

They were meeting with us because we were looking at competitive quotes from another printer to print the *Trumpet*, and we were seeing if they could match the competition. With the help of former prepress production manager Mark Carroll, who still plays an advisory role in our more major printing decisions, we were able to get an updated quote and contract offer from Donnelley that will end up saving an estimate \$30,000 to \$45,000 a year. On top of that, Mark Jenkins has been renegotiating our international shipping rates with Donnelley, and has been able to drive the price way down. The total savings for *Trumpet* printing and distribution in 2005 could be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$70,000! That's the equivalent of printing an entire issue for absolutely NO cost!

We had an interesting interchange with them that you may be interested to read about. Both Bob (vice president of sales) and Bonita (our customer care consultant) had interest understanding the history of the Philadelphia Church of God and its connection with the Worldwide.

After a short tour of headquarters offices (and meeting Mr. Flurry and other senior ministers), Mark Jenkins, Michael Dattolo and I joined them at a local restaurant for lunch. It was obvious that these two had researched our website before coming to Edmond, so they had some good questions.

At one point, they even asked some doctrinal questions. Thankfully—and I can only think God had a hand in this—it came up early that Bonita was in the Church of Christ. This was good to know, as my wife came out of the Church of Christ almost 10 years ago, and (knowing their beliefs) this helped me talk about our doctrines in a way that would be least offensive to her.

Bob also asked us to explain about how the PCG split off from the WCG. I told the story about Mr. Flurry being fired and this Work starting with \$80. They commented how great it was to hear of someone so firm in his beliefs that he would give up everything for it.

Later—as we discussed the copyright victory and some of the vessels we now possessed from the auditorium, in addition to a large college campus—Bob said, “And to think it all started with \$80.”

“And a lot of faith,” Bonita chimed in.

Bob mentioned what a great story it was—that is was great “to hear something so positive in this mad-mad

world.” (Bob, incidentally, works out of their offices in New York City.)

After lunch, we took them to the campus to see the college; they were duly impressed. They were able to step in and see one of our largest classes just before it began, History of Western Civilization. They also toured the Mail Processing Center and *Key of David* studio.

When they left, they seemed so uplifted. As our booklet editor, Wik Heerma, commented afterward, they were probably thrilled to see a client so dedicated to its cause. It means stable business—and they also see the potential we have for growth, which surely excites them—as it does us!

NEWS BUREAU

By Ron Fraser

The News Bureau has undergone great change since its humble beginning in 1997. Without a doubt the growth and productivity of this department has matched the increasing pace of world events. Presently there are five people serving, to one degree or another, in this division of the Work. This is impressive growth for a department that began with only one and for about five years had just two personnel.

The added manpower has not come too early for the News Bureau. World events and fulfillment of Bible prophecy have intensified since the revelation on May 5, 2001, that we are in the Last Hour. In our efforts to accurately monitor world events and link them to Bible prophecy, the News Bureau, in addition to having instant access to all registered news wires, subscribes to more than 30 premier news sources, including superior sources such as *Defence Systems Daily*, *DeCourcy Intelligence Brief*, Stratfor and Interfax. We also rely on hardcopy analytical publications such as *Foreign Affairs*, *Prospect*, *Commentary*, *Wilson Quarterly* and *International Security* in our efforts to provide Mr. Flurry and the *Trumpet* staff with objective, relevant and accurate information. These high quality, in-depth news and intelligence sources are imperative to the service provided by the News Bureau.

One of our chief objectives is to dig behind the gloss, floss and bias of the commercial news services (often the only news sources accessed by our members) and open up to readers of the weekly *International News Report* the real news of greatest importance—which is so often glossed over or not reported at all in the popular press. In our efforts to correctly grasp world events and current facts, the News Bureau staff is constantly comparing reports from various sources in order to find the thread of reality within a particular current event. Comparison between a series of reports from various sources is often necessary in order to fully understand just what is going on. Perhaps in a future issue of the

PGR we can demonstrate this by choosing an example of a particular event and tracking the number of sources, showing the variations between reports and isolating the threads of consistency.

In the coming issues of the PGR we plan to isolate particular trends which are consistent with the progression of end time prophecy and also describe trends that the News Bureau is currently monitoring and explain why. We hope this might help provide some direction for ministers and members in their individual news watching. In brief, some of the latest trends that we are monitoring include; Turkey’s proposed entrance into the EU and its relations with America; German and European interest in the resources of Africa—particularly northern Africa; the struggle of nations for oil and the strategic implications this will have for Europe, the far East, the Middle East and the Anglo-Americans; the covert and not-so-covert moves by Germany and the EU to centralize, revitalize and reignite its military; and the largely unreported global arms race.

Over the past few months production and distribution of the *International News Report* has been streamlined, as we have worked to produce a snappier, more reader-friendly report. During preparation of the INR the readership is always kept in mind. Our constant goal in servicing Mr. Flurry, the ministry, staff, students and membership is to make the news more refined, focused and relevant. It has been encouraging to learn via word of mouth, e-mail and letters that our members appreciate and are excited to receive the weekly INR. Every week for the past few months we have received at least one or two e-mails from field ministry requesting that another member be added to the INR e-mail list. When you consider that the person approved to receive the INR has often been instructed to photocopy the report for other members, it is encouraging to learn that more eyes are scanning its pages every week.

One request we have is that ministers please commu-

nicate with the News Bureau to advise when one of the recipients of the INR within their pastoral area is suspended. This will signal us to remove their name from our subscription list until you advise if and when it is appropriate to reinstate them.

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

After Stephen Hill's relocation to Spain from headquarters at the end of May, Carlos Heyer joined the Spanish department as a full-time employee. This department also has the assistance of three Imperial College students, all of whom serve in various areas of the Spanish work. There are a number of projects underway that are aimed at furthering the Spanish work.

Following the success of our waiting-room projects in Chile and Mexico, we have kicked off our first waiting-room program east of the Andies in the nation of Colombia. Already we have had an overwhelming response. Since the inception of the program less than two months ago, over 1,200 new subscriptions have been registered. Mexico also continues to yield an encouraging response to the program.

We continue to closely monitor the exciting developments in this area of the Work, with a view of moving the waiting-room project to other nations within the region. Every week, the Spanish department receives updated lists of the new subscriptions. These subscriptions are speedily processed and entered into the Spanish database to ensure immediate delivery of the Spanish *Trompeta* magazine to the new subscriber.

Quite apart from this initiative, hundreds of literature requests are received by the department via phone,

fax, e-mail and letter each month.

The pastoral responsibility of the Spanish language department to the scattered brethren throughout this region has taken quite a lift since we commenced live aural translations of the Sabbath service in Edmond. Because the weekly sermons and Bible studies are translated on the spot, duplicates of the message can be made within 24 hours of the message having been delivered. CDs are mailed to the congregations peppered across Latin America at the same time CDs are mailed to U.S. congregations.

Presently Mr. Locher is currently planning to begin taping the *Key of David* program with Spanish voice over and/or subtitles after the Feast. This significant and perhaps more complex assignment will be fulfilled by Mr. Heyer. Mr. Flurry has indicated that the launching of the *Key of David* on the Spanish-language website is a definite prospect for the months following the Feast.

Other responsibilities carried out by the Spanish department include: monitoring and processing of monthly reports submitted by field ministry, deacons and contact persons throughout the Caribbean and Latin American region; assisting the field ministry with festival organization; liaison with field ministry in the waiting-room and newsstand programs; and coordination of necessary financial, legal and administrative processes in all Hispanic countries. After the Feast of Tabernacles, the department will begin to make preparations for the third annual Spanish Weekend to be held at here at headquarters. This is becoming a highlight of the social calendar for many of our Hispanic brethren from the U.S. and Mexico. *-Brad Macdonald*

MAIL PROCESSING

By Andrew Locher

CALL CENTER

We continue to experience a considerable increase in call volume during summer months that should actually represent the lowest amount of response. If we are working through our lowest response levels, you can only imagine the volume we will soon face. The graph on the next page demonstrates the increase in call volume from previous years.

August 2003 brought a 5 percent increase over traffic for the same month the previous year. This past August, call volume increased 34 percent over last August!

MAIL DEPARTMENT

The mail department shipped 30,519 pieces of mail during August 2004. As we approach mid September, we have already shipped over 16,000 pieces. Even with the volume of mail being processed, we are slowly falling behind demand before we leave for the Feast—this is a dilemma, but what an *exciting* problem to have!

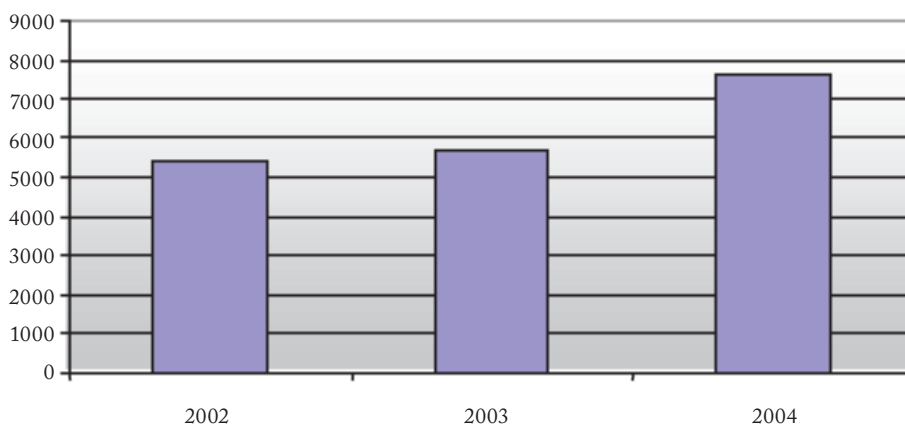
STUDENT ASSISTANCE IN MAIL PROCESSING CENTER

This fall the department picked up two new students through the IC student work program; Ken Fehr and

Crystal Ray. The students devote between 20 to 25 hours a week to the mail department. The contribution these students make to the department, like the contribution made by students in other departments, is vital as the needs of God's Work grow. What a wonderful system God inspired Mr. Armstrong to develop so that His college could help meet the needs of the growing Work! Sunday mornings are an excellent example of this contribution. Approximately 21 students report to work at 6:30 a.m. ready to take WATS calls. When not tak-

ing calls, a dozen students assist with processing mail, while several others help with entering data associated with literature requests. In a span of a *few hours*, a *few thousand* pieces of mail can be processed. This block of time has proved to be critical for the mail department! Though the increase in requests are more than we can handle at times, the students have stepped up to help shoulder the burden—treating the task with urgency and helping deliver God's message to the world.

August Call Volume



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

By Wayne Turgeon

HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

Much of this week was spent talking with contractors and working on getting various construction bids needed to enable Mr. Locher and Richard Williams to make a cost projection for the Hall of Administration. This week we received quotes for the storm sewer and sanitary sewer, interior cabinetry, glass windows and doors, and lock cylinders.

This week Roger Brandon met with Lee Stephens, the senior estimator from Statewide Painting. He was impressed with the plans for the Hall of Ad and is enthusiastic about the opportunity to bid on painting the building. Roger also met with Steve Mulligan of Kone Elevators. Steve Arend, from Otis, visited my office Thursday afternoon to discuss elevator plans. As this is a main feature of the building, we may want to improve

the finishes of this area: perhaps some mirrors or other decorative items. At the moment it is wooden wainscotings with plastic laminate on the top.

PARKING LOT

Roland Young has been in all week working on completing the parking lot gardens. Student workers assisted in moving more of the river rock into the garden beds. Roland has also had the assistance of some day laborers and with the added manpower; he should be able to complete this project in advance of the Feast.

We are hoping to get the parking lot sealed before the Feast but it may be all we can do to get the surface ready and then do the sealing after the Feast. It all depends on the contractors' availability.

MR. FLURRY'S HOME

Work on Mr. Flurry's home is progressing well. Student workers spent Monday cleaning up the construction site surrounding the house. The roof is now complete, the

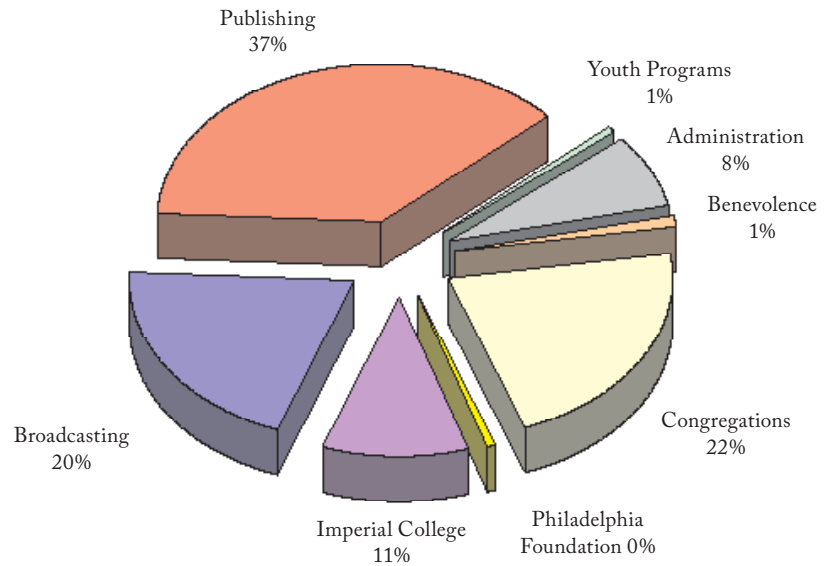
doors and windows have been installed and the fireplace is in place. Hill and Co. began work on the heating and air Conditioning on Thursday and is making steady progress.

BUSINESS OFFICE

By Andrew Locher

BUSINESS OFFICE

The last issue of the PGR demonstrated the source of income to the Philadelphia Church of God by status code. For this particular issue, we give you a chart explaining how contributions are used in the United States.



MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

POINTS TO STRESS IN AN OFFERTORY MESSAGE

From the September 14, 1984 Pastor Generals Report

Holy day offerings are a vital part of God's plan and contribute significantly to the work of God's Church. They style, content and delivery of the offertory message should reflect the offering's importance and show reverence for God's commandment. Yet, all too often the offering is preceded by a lackluster "It's time for another offering, so let's all turn to Deuteronomy 16:16 again."

God's commandments should not be taken casually or be made to appear as ritualistic chores. Giving an offering should be viewed as the opportunity and privilege that it is. An offering benefits the giver far more than it benefits God.

Certainly offerings *are* commanded by God, but this does not always need to be the main point in the offertory. There are many other aspects which can and should be emphasized. Here are a few examples:

- *How the offering relates to God's plan.* We are to become God. Since God is love, He is a cheerful giver. And since we are to be developing the character of God, we should learn to enjoy the opportunity to give freely and cheerfully.

- *The growth and needs of God's Church.* Show what tithes and offerings have done and will do in helping to spread the Gospel around the world. Stress teamwork and involvement.

- *Putting God First.* God gave His only Son so we could be reconciled to God and receive eternal life. Therefore, we should be willing to put God and His Work first in our lives, sacrificing as necessary.

- *The urgency of completing God's Work.* God's soon-coming Kingdom is the only hope for mankind. Christ will return *after* the Gospel has been preached to all the world.

- *God's blessings.* God is the greatest giver. He has given us everything we have. He is pleased with our generosity and will more than make up for it by blessing us in many ways.

Remember, we are to give meat in due season. When giving an offertory message, emphasize certain aspects of the offering according to the purpose of the holy day. On the Feast of Trumpets, for example, stress the urgency of completing God's end-time Work, showing how our commitment and sacrifice is needed more than ever as we look forward to Christ's soon return. During Pentecost, it would be fitting to explain how giving an offering helps us develop godly character in preparation for becoming members of God's Family.

Undoubtedly, you can think of many other lessons and points which would be relevant and stimulating. God's plan is exciting—it is *inspiring*. This is conveyed when the offertory is delivered with personality, feeling, purpose, joy and contagious excitement!

The speaker's goal should be to inspire and educate God's people, motivating them to do that which is for their benefit and for the good of God's Church. When delivered in a positive, uplifting and encouraging manner, the offertory helps God's people become more thoroughly involved in doing the most important work on Earth!