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PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

Greetings, ministers and wives!

Winston Churchill was a remarkably productive writer. He was a great writer and speaker; his speaking was made better by his writing.

Churchill wanted to be in politics, so he thought it would be educational to write about his father, Lord Randolph (in two volumes). Between 1923 and 1931, he wrote six volumes about World War I. Between 1933 and 1938 he wrote *Marlborough* in four volumes. I believe God used him to write those war volumes to prepare him for World War II—both works prepared him to lead. The wartime speeches were made into books: *While England Slept* and *Step by Step*. Between 1948 and 1953 he wrote about World War II in six volumes. And between 1956 and 1958, the history of the English-speaking peoples in four volumes.

Churchill was epic-minded in his writing. At one point he was writing two epics at one time! (*Marlborough* and the *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*). I've never heard of anyone who wrote like that. We must set double-epic goals to do great works! There is so much we can do if we have such goals.

Churchill sent the manuscripts of these epics to his own select group of editors, asking for their criticism before they were published. Their responses are published in Martin Gilbert's biography of Churchill.

We who speak before God's people and write for the Church publications can learn a number of good lessons from these critics' comments on Mr. Churchill's writings. I shared some of these in an address to our *Trumpet* writing staff recently, and here I'll share them with you.

Marlborough (John Churchill) was probably the greatest general Britain has ever produced. As is so often the case with great men, he was also the subject of a lot of criticism.

Thomas Babington Macaulay had written gossip about him that disparaged his character. The way of the world is gossip—how much history is just gossip? Macaulay took a piece of gossip and virtually destroyed John Churchill's reputation. Winston Churchill was afraid to write about his ancestor because of that—but after he dug into the facts, he realized that Macaulay's allegations were false. How evil character assassination is!

Historians always try to come along afterward and try to tear down great men. That's why God's Church has so much opposition today.

Winston Churchill made it his personal goal to set the disprove the criticisms. He laid out his case and wrote as if a jury was out there weighing the evidence. Churchill didn't go to all this effort to make money—he went into it to write an accurate history of his nation, his ancestors.

Churchill called Marlborough an "architect of British strength." Marlborough never lost a battle! He brought King Louis XIV to his knees. And he accomplished this in spite of the fact that he was *under the queen*, subject to her authority—when he wanted to do something, he had to engage in the politics and get permissions. What an accomplishment. It was because of his achievement that Blenheim Palace was built for him on one of the great

battlefields in Britain.

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RESEARCH PLUS IMAGINATION

One of Churchill's editors responded, "I have finished your *Marlborough I* sooner than I expected because of sitting up deep into the small hours nights running, and unable to break off.

“I think it to be, as it ought, *the greatest of all your works*. Your *World War*? Yes! It will live of course. But literature ancient and modern shows that FOR HUMAN INTEREST NOTHING CAN COMPETE WITH A GREAT TALE OF INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER AND DEEDS. . . .

“But you at last, with RESEARCH AND IMAGINATION together [WE NEED BOTH!], have put Macaulay on his back. Instead of his virulent caricature there is a living portrait of Marlborough and of Great Sarah too.”

Mr. Churchill did a tremendous amount of research. He filled *Marlborough* with outstanding quotations that uphold his greatness. These quotations made his book powerful and showed that he did a lot of profound research in writing it. Quotations help stimulate the imagination, but you have to work hard to get them. Just the right quotation from Mr. Armstrong can be a powerful part of your article.

But research isn't enough—we also need imagination. Churchill had a rich imagination. How great is *our imagination*? Webster defines it as “the act or power of forming a mental image of something not present to the senses or never before wholly perceived in reality. . . . [A] creation of the mind.” This is a critical need if you're going to write as Churchill did.

“One of the most misleading factors in history is the practice of historians to build a story exclusively out of the records which have come down to them. These records in many cases are a very small part of what took place, and to fill in the picture one has to visualize the daily life—the constant discussions between ministers, the friendly dinners, the many days when nothing happened worthy of record, but during which events were nevertheless proceeding.” Make sure you have the whole picture. There is a danger in not having it.

One book reviewer wrote of *Marlborough*: “For the scholar there is research, wide, minute, critical: for the general reader, a spacious and brilliant *historical panorama*.” A PANORAMA is an unrolling of a beautiful picture—it gives a complete view in every direction, a comprehensive presentation of a subject. Churchill's imagination produced that.

One called *Marlborough* “a pageant of history, beautifully written and strengthened by IMMENSE RESEARCH and ACUTE INSIGHT.” If you get the rich material before you, then you can have the acute insight—and a beautiful piece of work.

LIVING LANGUAGE

Another critic said, “The current throughout is swift and strong.” Churchill knew how to tell a story and give a narrative. That indicated a lot of research, imagination and a lot of hard work.

“The tide of your matchless narrative powers swept me along [A]ll come to life under your touch. . . . THERE IS NOT ONE DEAD WORD OR SENTENCE IN THE WHOLE BOOK” That's phenomenal—not a *word* that's superfluous or unnecessary! It takes that kind of care in writing to bring something to life! “. . . LIFE is surely the one quality that matters in writing.”

This man also wrote of *Marlborough*, “It is a remarkable performance. YOU MAKE THE MAN LIVE—and the period.” Here we are just before Christ returns—*can we make this history live*? That's what we should be striving to do!

One critic said Churchill had “a rare command of the English language.” Mr. Armstrong also had such a command of the language. We ought to be working toward that command, and use the language in a way that people understand, using powerful words that most people know. We're writing for the greatest magazine on Earth, just before the greatest event ever in the universe. This should be a given for *Trumpet* writers!

According to another critic, Mr. Churchill “never failed to convince himself. The result of such conviction is passionate sincerity. And it is this quality more than any other that gives life, and may give everlasting life, to Mr. Churchill's . . . history of times other than his own.” He may have failed to convince others, but *he was convicted himself*. What a power—his books still live and empower us! That's the wonder of powerful writing.

Who knows what kind of research people are going to be doing in the World Tomorrow into our *Trumpet* articles to find out what was happening on Earth just before Christ returns? What are people going to want to know about this history?

Mr. Churchill asked of one critic, “Let me know if there are any obscure points.” He wanted his writing to be absolutely clear—so clear a child could understand it. His goal was to MAKE PEOPLE SEE. To do that, this man mastered the English language. Every time I read anything by a great writer, they are always clear. That tends to be a top priority among great men. They knew that they couldn't be effective if they weren't clear.

In *Marlborough*, Mr. Churchill had 67 maps—to help people to see. He had the money to get some help; a formidable team was assembled to collect information all over Europe.

MAKE HISTORY LIVE

Churchill said that “nothing is more vital and necessary than that we should explore the history of our country; there is nothing more inspiring than to look back and return with the knowledge of all we owe to those who have gone before us.” Do you really know about the history of this Church? Who was Herbert W. Armstrong? What made him a great apostle of God? It takes a lot of work to know this. We need to ponder Mr. Armstrong and what he accomplished even more. We’re here because of his dedication and work.

Churchill wrote: “I venture to hope that any work which we may do ... in making English history known to the new generation, in helping them to realize that they are heirs to a great tradition, will not only be of use to them but will have a definite and practical influence upon the future of our country.”

The same is true in God’s Church: You must know the history. That will get you stirred up to do something for the Church.

Another critic said of Churchill’s writing: “[S]urely no one has *ever* written with such force of words, and such beauty? [O]r has history ever been made to be relived with such vigor and glamour? This shows what you can do with the pen and hard-working ability: make history live.”

One editor said that Macaulay failed to consider the “real evidence upon which the cornerstones of history rest.” We can be absolutely condemning to this world in the *Trumpet*—the evidence is there! We can be maddening to people who hate this message, because they know they can’t disprove it.

Churchill felt he was “living in the wars of Marlborough,” and said he could really see how “modern” Marlborough’s campaigns were. In World War II he used much of the same strategy that his ancestor had used.

Marlborough had the genius, but didn’t always have the authority to carry it out. As an “amphibious strategist,” according to Churchill, he understood the importance of the Mediterranean power. “I think it is reasonable to claim that British control of the Mediterranean which still endures, is the outcome of Marlborough’s mind.” Churchill had the evidence to prove that.

SEEKING CRITICISM

Churchill really sought out criticism, and he was a better writer for it.

Notice this astute comment from one critic—surely Churchill benefitted from this response to his manuscript: “There is no one alive engaged on history work with your experience of politics, government and war. PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO WRITE HISTORY AS OTHER HISTORIANS DO, BUT DO IT YOUR OWN WAY. Tell us more how various transactions strike you, and what associations they evoke in your mind. ...[M]any comparisons must have occurred to you, which you seem to have suppressed. Too much history is written by don-bred dons with no knowledge or understanding of the practical problems of statecraft. ... I do hope you will let your own experiences bear stronger and more visibly on your account of past transactions” (emphasis mine). *You understand this as few men on Earth!* he was saying. *What strikes you about it?* Writers must use imagination to communicate in a new and original way.

A lot of times Macaulay was writing history more like *fantasy*. If you’re writing about something that’s not real, it won’t be human. We need to write about REAL PEOPLE—in this age or some other age.

George Bernard Shaw told Churchill, “Though Mac [Macaulay] was acquainted with talents and achievements, he did not reckon with genius. I won’t say he didn’t understand it: nobody understands it; but some writers recognize it.” Small minds can’t comprehend genius; writers with imagination can.

Do you recognize genius when you see it? Most historians don’t. John Churchill was a genius. Do you really see how outstanding Mr. Armstrong was? Nobody can disprove that. He did the greatest Work ever in terms of people reached. Who else had TV and radio to reach the Earth? Even we don’t have the same facilities he had—not yet.

Churchill was told, “You build up pictures paragraph at a time.”

One critic said, “I think your prose suffers because you have not examined the technique of old music, with its canons and fugues, its themes and movements, recapitulations and developments.” Classical music is often put together in a masterful way. There’s a lot to learn from “old music.” Those composers were great communicators.

World events are cascading to a violent close. We need the best writers in the world for the best magazine in the world. And we are being offered the greatest opportunity in the world—here and now, in this little band of writers.

Churchill took full advantage of his writing and speaking opportunities; let’s take advantage of ours.

With love, in Christ’s service,



BUSINESS OFFICE

FEAST PLANNER

The 2005 Feast Planner was sent to the printer on Tuesday. There have been substantial changes made to the format of the Planner this year. Ministers should stress to the members the need to read carefully and follow all instructions in the Planner to avoid excess work for the headquarters staff. Members should receive the Planner by the end of March. Deadline for all transfer applications from ordained members is April 13 and May 20 for all non-ordained members. Members should do everything possible to meet those deadlines.

FIRST DAY TO MAKE FEAST HOTEL RESERVATIONS

No hotel reservations can be made for the Feast this year until Monday, May 2 at 1 p.m. Feast site time. Please remind the members of this. In the past, we have had a few who have tried to make early reservations. This should not be allowed.

ORGANIZATION CHARTS

Feast organization charts have been prepared and input has been received from all Regional Directors. After Mr. Flurry gives his final approval, the Organization Charts will be mailed out to all those whose names are on the charts. Please help the members understand that we really need them to attend the sites to which they are assigned a job, if at all possible. Also, please remind the members that in most cases, they need to plan to attend their assigned site three out of four years and transfer one of the four years. It is critical that we have adequate manpower to properly and efficiently staff all Feast sites in the key positions. We are dependent on the ministry, deacons, deaconesses and other leading members to fill those key positions. Of course, if someone desires to attend a site other than the one to which they are assigned, they can always request a transfer. Those desir-

ing to attend a site other than the one to which they are assigned should contact Melody Thompson in the festival department at headquarters immediately. They should also complete a Transfer Application and submit it to the festival department. We will do our best to accommodate all requests as long as the staffing needs can be met with others who also want to change sites. If someone on the organization chart is requesting a transfer and has been allowed a transfer in the past two years, they will receive a lower priority than someone who has not transferred during the same time frame.

SAN DIEGO FEAST SITE

Mr. Flurry would like to encourage all members who are geographically assigned to attend the Feast in San Diego to attend that site if at all possible. His comment after the 2004 Feast was, "Why would anyone want to attend any other Feast site than San Diego?" The Town & Country Resort is a very peaceful setting in which to observe God's Feast of Tabernacles. The property has 40 acres of beautifully manicured rose gardens and walkways. The resort has four outdoor pools, six restaurants offering anything from walk-up deli service to fine dining, within walking distance to a large shopping mall and other restaurants. The resort is also within walking distance to the Trolley which, for a very nominal fee, will transport you from the hotel to Tijuana, Mexico, the Downtown Harbor area or other parts of town. The site offers many opportunities for Feast fellowship and really getting to know the brethren after services. Last year, there was always a group of people around the pool with the children in the pool and the adults talking and eating around the tables. Ministers should encourage those brethren assigned to attend in San Diego to do so unless health or finances require them to attend in Edmond. The Edmond site will not be able to accommodate many transfers this year as it was at capacity last year.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

There has been beautiful weather this week on God's land. Incredible progress has been made on many projects. Excitement is in the air as everyone finally gets to see the Hall of Administration come out of the ground.

HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

The steel erection on the Hall of Administration is moving along very nicely. All of the columns are set in place. The beams comprising the second floor have all been installed and the majority of the roof beams are

up too. They still have to tie into the front columns but that will have to wait until they relocate the crane. The decking and bar joists arrived on Wednesday, March 2, right on schedule. They started putting the decking on the second floor that afternoon. About half of the steel perimeter angle that goes around the perimeter of the second floor has been installed too. One of the four sets of stairs has also been installed.

So far the steel fabricator has been able to keep up with the steel erectors. Since the erectors arrived a little earlier than originally planned, it has made it harder for the steel fabricator to keep up the pace. After a few phone calls, the steel fabricators should be working over the weekend to stay ahead. If they aren't able to keep up with the erectors, they may have to pull off for a couple of days. This may not be such a bad thing as it might allow us to pour the second floor concrete. We will have to wait and see what Monday brings before we can make firmer plans.

The roadway leading from the south road, north and east toward the Hall of Administration, is slowly taking

shape. While the steel erectors are around the building, the concrete crew has been making steady progress on the curb and gutter along the road. They will also work on the approach that connects the two roadways. We may try to put one layer of asphalt down for now just to keep it neater. Once the whole parking lot and roadway is all ready, we will put one final layer of asphalt down. This probably won't happen until close to the end of the project.

NEW TWO STORY DORMITORY

We started to move some of the dirt that we have been stock-piling in the area where the new dorm is going to go. Most of the dirt that is in that location is not really good compacting dirt. We have plenty of compactible dirt that still has to be moved from the Hall of Administration site. We are planning on moving it only once so the timing should work out pretty well. We have had the plans in the Fire Marshall's office for about 5 ½ weeks. They said that it would take about 10 to 12 weeks before we would have our approval. We should be ready for them when they give us the go-ahead.



REGIONAL REPORTS

CANADA: ONTARIO, QUEBEC

Though we have members scattered throughout Canada, the greatest concentration is in Ontario and Quebec. Within these two provinces a combined membership of 176 members meet in 5 congregations, apart from a small number of scattered brethren—accounting for 40 percent of the total Canadian membership, which is currently 449. Milton is by far the largest in the nation with 20 percent of Canadian membership attending there. In addition, the 3 other Ontario congregations and 1 in Montreal Quebec are also serviced from the regional office and account approximately for another 20 percent of total membership. (Even as we speak, however, we are looking to ease the load on David Fraser's shoulders by transferring two congregations, Ottawa and Montreal, onto Ron Hanson. Mr. Hanson will also handle much if not all Canadian correspondence and Mr. Fraser's prospective members up to the point of inviting them to services. This need is long overdue and we greatly appreciate Mr. Fraser and his family's sacrifice over the past 6 years in eastern Canada.)

Developments in the work for the provinces of Ontario and Quebec over the past year reveals a profoundly encouraging picture.

During the second quarter of 2004 it became apparent that there was a pressing need to relocate Canada's Ontario based regional office to alternative premises in the same general area. After an exhaustive and challenging search, God provided a fabulous new location in the tiny neighboring township of Campbellville. This enabled the office to relocate just 10 minutes away from the street-front premises in Milton to second floor premises in this quaint little community. Known for its colonial style buildings and the abundance of antique stores that line the main street, Campbellville provides a quieter, much more suitable office location. The building is only two years old and our office, though smaller—has a much more functional layout. So what we have lost in floor space is more than made up by the more effective use of the entire area. A welcome bonus is the dramatic improvement in surrounding environment as well as the overall standard and upkeep of the premises and internal decor—all much more in keeping with the headquarters standard. Since the PCG of-

office was established in Milton in 2000, the general area has come alive with dynamic growth and development. As a result, office space is relatively scarce and goes for a premium price. Our new facilities were rented via a series of miraculous events that left no doubt God placed his name in this location for His Canadian office. The new office layout includes a reception area, one lockable office and a large open workspace that doubles as a medium size meeting room with sufficient space for spokesman club, teen and singles bible studies. Yet still so close to Milton, we will continue to do the banking and maintain the current P.O. Box so no change of postal address is necessary for the Canadian *Key of David* listing or for the membership.

Deaconess Elaine Armstrong is the multi-skilled full-time administrative assistant who fulfills reception duties in addition to processing all incoming and outgoing mail, financial contributions, banking, CD duplication and distribution, literature fulfillment in English and in French—and whatever other office functions are necessary for the clerical administration and record keeping in the Canadian office. Retired local deacon, Dan DeGennaro, works from the office 1 day per week voluntarily fulfilling various special projects, office and equipment maintenance and other support functions in assistance to David Fraser. Dan was primarily responsible for sourcing the new facilities and coordinating the army of volunteers from the local Milton congregation in the daunting task of moving everything to the new second floor location.

Though immensely successful, for several months the office move was quite disruptive to the continuing operation of the regional office. Nevertheless, 6,314 pieces of incoming mail were processed last year. Mail received increased each month during 2004 over same month 2003 with the exception of April which was only 10 pieces less than April 2003. In response to that, 3,328 pieces of outgoing mail, both in English and French, were dispatched. This number hides the fact that multiple pieces of literature are most often dispatched in the same package. It is also interesting to note that this office dispatches French literature all over the world. Even so, outgoing mail throughout 2004 demonstrated a significantly more dramatic upward trend than incoming mail, with huge increases every month except September and December. The 25 percent increase in contribution income during the course of last year was also most encouraging.

Finally, your regular prayers for the French language translation of messages and literature would be much appreciated. For those of us that have ready access to Mr. Flurry's member/co-worker letters, the weekly headquarters messages and the booklets in English, it can be easy to forget our foreign language brethren who are unable to receive any of this unless tireless volunteers provide a constant stream of translation. Most of the volume of literature that is regularly dispatched from headquarters is inaccessible to our French speaking brethren in Canada and abroad. Volunteer translators are doing their best to keep up with just the key pieces of literature and yet even critical revelation such as the *Who Is That Prophet* book is not presently available in French.

In service to our French speaking membership, one critical function that we are able to coordinate from the regional office is the translation, duplication and dispatch of Headquarters sermons and Bible studies in the French language. In Canada's capital city, Ottawa, just across the river from the current Hull Feast site, we have a bilingual congregation. Though the sermons and Bible studies and most fellowship is in English—the messages are simultaneously translated into French each week at Sabbath services. This is a highly demanding and exhausting task compounded by the fact that we currently only have one French translator approved for this function. This translation is mailed weekly to the regional office for duplication before being dispatched to French speaking congregations/members in Canada. It is also sent to the European region for copy and distribution to the French speaking members on that continent. Translation assistance is also vital to enable ministerial counsel with French speaking members. Though a lot of work, done primarily by volunteers—it is an essential spiritual lifeline for our French speaking brethren around the world who have no other way of receiving the weekly headquarters messages.

Looking forward for Ontario and Quebec as the year progresses, we expect increased ministerial contact requests in 2005 as the new Buffalo station reaches into Southern Ontario generating an expanded viewing audience. We are currently working with 22 new contacts—five speak French only, so ongoing translation assistance will continue to prove invaluable. With 1 birth expected in the Milton congregation within the next couple of weeks and another one in several months, one way or the other the growth continues. *Wayne Turgeon*