

# P | G | R

## PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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Greetings, ministers and wives!

*Don't you worry about how I work with some other person—you just follow Me!*

The Apostle John recorded this statement of Jesus Christ right toward the end of the 21 chapters of his Gospel.

Jesus Christ, after enduring His punishment and execution, was resurrected and returned to show Himself to His disciples (John 21:1). After instructing Peter to “feed my lambs” and “feed my sheep,” Christ said to him, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not” (verse 18). Then verse 19 explains the significance of that statement: “This spake he, signifying by what *death* he [Peter] should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.”

Peter knew he was going to be a martyr for God. That is not an easy burden to live with. Of course, Christ endured the same trial in a spectacular way. But how difficult would it be to do God's Work when you know you're going to be KILLED in service to God?

Jesus Christ told Peter very bluntly, *Just follow me—don't worry about anything else.*

Those were pretty strong words for Peter—as well as for the other disciples who knew they would be martyred. Of course, these men had an inspiring vision that propelled them forward in God's Work, and they also had the ultimate example of Jesus Christ, who had allowed Himself to be martyred for God's cause.

Each of those 12 apostles is going to rule over one of the 12 tribes of Israel in God's Kingdom (Matthew 19:28). They will all be rewarded handsomely for what they did.

But at this moment, Peter had doubts. Peter looked at John, and thought, *Why should I have to die if he gets to live?* This really bothered Peter. So he asked Christ about it.

“Jesus saith unto him, *If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me*” (verse 22).

*What is that to you, Peter?* Christ asked him very directly and personally.

Christ asks the same question of each one of us. God gives each of us different responsibilities, but we are all *critical* to the functioning of the body of Christ, and to finishing God's Work.

After Christ's statement, Peter and the other disciples talked about it like it was big news that one of them wouldn't die (though Christ didn't say that—verse 23). But the truth is, it is appointed for all men once to die—and God says that THE DEATH OF ONE OF HIS SAINTS IS PRECIOUS! (Psalm 116:15). *PRECIOUS!*

Which one of us wouldn't trade places with Peter and the apostles today—when you consider what God is going to give them? Those men glorified God, and God is going to glorify them in a spectacular way!

THIS IS A VISION WE MUST CLING TO.

### EZEKIEL'S WIFE

My wife and I were married in God's Church on November 15, 1964. Just two months shy of our 40th wedding anniversary, on September 5, 2004, my wife died.

I believe, in one sense, my wife was a martyr. Not on the level of Peter or any such thing—but still, in a limited way, a martyr. Let me explain what I mean by that.

In 2000, God revealed a great deal of new truth to me about the book of Ezekiel. That understanding is contained in our booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*. I'll be honest with you: Some of that truth bothered my wife, as well as it did me. But we had been in God's Church quite a long time and were accustomed to just doing whatever God wanted us to do.

Here is the passage that caused my wife concern: “Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man,

behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down. Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men. So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded” (Ezekiel 24:15-18).

God revealed this book in a general way to Mr. Armstrong, but it is *specifically* for the Philadelphia Church of God. You can read what God revealed about these verses in the *Ezekiel* booklet.

Does this prophecy of Ezekiel’s wife dying apply specifically to today? It certainly appears it *could*.

This passage certainly shows that, no matter what trials we may face, God wants us to always remain busy and keep our minds focused on the Work. After all, we have a *job* to do that MUST be done.

When the people in Ezekiel’s day saw the prophet’s wife die, and then saw Ezekiel just move forward with God’s Work, his behavior seemed strange to them. But Ezekiel explained God’s reasoning behind allowing that to happen: “Then I answered them, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will profane my sanctuary [speaking of the Laodiceans], the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword” (verses 20-21). This is a very dire prophecy: Ezekiel is talking about *a sword* coming upon physical and spiritual Israel.

“And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men” (verse 22). God is saying, *Look, I don’t want you to live like those who don’t understand the truth. You need to keep your mind on my Work—on the urgent job that needs to be done!*

I think you can understand why this prophecy would bother my wife. If you consider that, or the statement Jesus Christ made to Peter, sometimes there is truth of God we would rather not hear. Jesus Christ *Himself*, before He was crucified, was so emotionally distressed that He asked the Father to take the cup away from Him. Of course, none of us would be here if God had honored that request! But God does sometimes try us and test us—though usually not on the level He did *these men*.

My wife knew about Ezekiel’s prophecy. It is in this sense that I believe she was a martyr. Despite this burden weighing on her, she glorified God and kept doing the Work.

I wrote in the *Ezekiel* booklet, “This job is a test of how much we love the people of the world. Are we willing to put our lives on the line for them? Do you love them enough to give yourself as a sacrifice to the great God of Ezekiel 1? To give Him your all, with no restrictions, nothing holding you back from Him, not even the death of a loved one? We must examine ourselves for areas where we may be holding back God’s Work.”

The truth is that in just a few years, my wife will be back, doing the Work of God for all eternity. That is the goal we are all striving to attain. She has it made.

Now—God talks about something else in this passage that we need to focus on.

## THE SWORD

The “sword” prophesied about in Ezekiel 24:21 is a sword like there never has been on Earth! In other verses, Ezekiel talks about CITIES WITHOUT INHABITANT. We live in an age where THAT NIGHTMARE COULD BECOME REALITY AT ANY TIME!

This is the age of *weapons* of MASS DESTRUCTION!

That was not the case when Peter and the other apostles walked this Earth. But Jesus Christ prophesied it would *become* this way—and SO IT HAS! These prophecies of thousands of years ago are now COMING TO PASS!

God spoke to Ezekiel about this terrifyingly destructive SWORD—and He did it within the same context as *a prophet’s wife dying*.

I believe we need to consider this very seriously.

“And your tires shall be upon your heads, and your shoes upon your feet [in other words, get out and do the Work]: ye shall not mourn nor weep; but ye shall pine away for your iniquities [the sins of Israel] and mourn one toward another. *Thus Ezekiel is unto you a sign: according to all that he hath done shall ye do: and when this cometh, ye shall know that I am the Lord God*” (verses 23-24).

This is an AMAZING scripture! Though the near future is filled with blackness, it all leads to spiritual and physical Israel—and indeed, the WHOLE WORLD who will become Israel—*getting to KNOW God!* That truly is good news! It takes all the bad news to wake man up to the fact that he simply cannot save himself. He needs a Savior.

We must remain focused in these urgent times. The sword is about to fall on Israel. This is not a time to pity ourselves or to mourn over our trials and difficulties—it is a time to warn the world of the evils that are fast approaching. **IT IS A TIME TO DO THE WORK!**

When Ezekiel's wife died, *I believe it was a signal to Ezekiel that the sword was coming*—that there would be a deadly turn for the worse. **AND IT MAY WELL BE A SIGN TO US TODAY, SPECIFICALLY DATING A TURN FOR THE WORSE IN THIS LAST HOUR.**

I believe we are about to see events that will begin to scare everybody! We must consider this, because it is reality! These are not normal times! We live in a time when **ALL FLESH WOULD BE DESTROYED** if Jesus Christ didn't return!

We must heed God's warning! God's prophecies tell us that we need to be alert now more than ever before!

With love, in Christ's service,



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## CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

All regional directors should do an immediate review (and continually monitor the spiritual condition) of the men that receive and/or play our tapes and CDs. We must ensure that these men are deeply loyal and will

not pass our tapes/CDs onto outsiders. It could be evident that some of our tapes are being passed onto the Laodicean groups at this time.

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## MEDIA SERVICES

### FEBRUARY RESPONSE BREAKS ANOTHER RECORD

The call center answered a total of 11,737 calls which represents a 17 percent increase over February 2005. Year-to-date, we are running a 36 percent increase over the same time frame from 2005. We just passed the one-year benchmark with the Paxson network. Broadcasting the program on PAX has brought in over 11,500 calls. We do like our broadcast time of 6 a.m. ET/PT Friday mornings because it reaches a different audience than our standard Sunday morning time, and it also serves as a good indicator of the amount of response we can expect for the weekend ring-ins.

### KEY OF DAVID WEEKLY SCHEDULE

**Program Title:** "What Christ Is Doing Today"

**Airdate:** March 12, 2006

**Literature Offered:** *The Royal Book of Revelation* and *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?*

**Synopsis:** Did you ever wonder what Jesus Christ is doing today? Are God and Satan battling over the souls of men? Where is God's Church and Work today? Next week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry discusses what Christ is doing today.

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# BUSINESS OFFICE

## BUSINESS OFFICE UPDATE

First tithe and general offering income through February 28, 2006 is up 9.7 percent compared to the same time last year. Building fund contributions have also increased 23.3 percent above last year's total for the same period. Bequest income is down significantly compared to last year because we had a sizeable donation in January 2005. Excluding bequests, donation income in the United States is up 10.3 percent compared to the same time last year!

## MINISTERIAL TRAVEL

As a reminder, the policy regarding reimbursable ministerial travel expenses only covers the minister and not his wife on most every trip throughout the year. Ministers should not make a regular practice of bringing their wives along (and expensing the additional cost to the Church) unless pre-approved by Mr. Flurry.

With the approaching spring holy days, Mr. Flurry wanted to remind all ministers that they should only file an expense report for costs incurred to cover their travel expenses only.

## WATCH YOUR COSTS

The new Hall of Administration and other construction costs of developing the campus has had a sizeable impact on the Church's budget. We all need to make sure that we are watching our expenses as much as possible. By way of reminder, here are a few tips to help you cut your reimbursable expenses:

- Use rental cars rather than expensing mileage on your personal car for "short" trips. This would include visits to areas where you will only be gone through the weekend. Rental car rates are reasonable, and the cost of reimbursing for gas purchased for the rental cars, are often much less expensive than using your own car and expensing the mileage (using the mileage rate of \$.445 / mile).
- Investigate whether or not it is less expensive to fly for a congregational visit than to drive.
- Stay with the brethren whenever possible. Not only does this save the hotel expenses, but you will build a closer connection with those whom you serve. Remember we don't want to burden the brethren, but in situations where they can provide housing, please accept to help the Church reduce our overall expenses.

I am sure there are a number of other areas you can personally think of that would save the Work money. Please do your part to help stretch the income God does provide for us to use to finish the Work. If we all contribute to the Work in this manner, every little bit helps.

## FEAST MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

We are still working on ministerial assignments for the Feast of Tabernacles this year. As soon as we have more information about your assigned site, we will immediately notify you.

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# REGIONAL REPORTS

## THE PHILIPPINES

Served by five loyal local church elders and myself, these are the different congregations in the Philippines and their sizes, as of December 2005:

### Luzon Island

Tuguegarao	15
Isabela	31
Baguio City	18
Angeles City	35
Los Banos	26
Sorsogon	2
La Union (north)	13

La Union (south)	26
Pangasinan	13
Quezon City	110
Albay	23

### Visayas

Cebu City	22
Iloilo City	13
Negros Occidental	15
Negros Oriental	4
Bohol	13
Roxas City, Capiz	10
Tacloban City	12

**Mindanao**

Cagayan de Oro	18
Davao City	13
Surigao City	12
General Santos City	33
Pagadian City	19
Zambaonga City	9

That's a grand total of 523, out of which 312 are from Luzon, 89 from the Visayan islands and 104 from Mindanao. Aside from these, 14 are scattered, while 4

are shut-ins due to age and health.

Since the Feast, we've had seven baptisms; one former Worldwide Church of God member is now attending services, another one is interested in attending and is reading the required literature. Seven prospective members have been allowed to attend and another 15 are counseling or have expressed desire to be counseled for baptism and are now studying the baptismal packet.

One member was sealed earlier this year, too.

*Pedrito Cara*