

# P | G | R

## PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

### IN THIS ISSUE

Mail Processing.....	2
Editorial Services.....	3
Business Office.....	3
Regional Reports.....	4

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Greetings, ministers and wives!

The spring holy days are approaching quickly. We ministers need to use this time to personally prepare ourselves and to prepare God's people to take the Passover in a worthy manner. We should be providing "meat in due season" in our messages and counseling, and studying hard to make sure our Passover messages and Days of Unleavened Bread sermons will reflect the depth of God's mind on those critical festivals.

Jesus Christ "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). No time during the year focuses on that mind-splitting truth like the spring holy days. Do we grasp how deep that is?

I am now working on the first of a series of articles on the Gospel of John, based on my sermons from the Feast of Tabernacles in 2004. It is built around this truth, stated in John 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ...."

The Word was made flesh. Why? How wonderful and exciting this is!

Look at it from God's view, and it will just about make you faint. Imagine the God of Revelation 1, whose face is like the sun in its full strength, DECIDING TO BECOME DUST! And why? So God could have a Family, and give people the RIGHT AND THE PRIVILEGE TO BE A SON OF GOD! (verse 12). And so His Family could extend His Work out into the universe, which many people say is still expanding.

How do you describe a love like that? It should cause us to squeal with delight! This is THE LOVE OF GOD: There is nothing like it in this world, nothing to even *compare* it to. Look at the world and see what happens without God's love—nothing but rebellion and chaos.

When John the Baptist saw Jesus Christ coming, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (verse 29). To strengthen the point, John repeats this in verse 36: "Behold the Lamb of God!"

What lamb could take away the sin of the world? Could a goat do that? Could an angel, or just any man? No—this was THE LAMB OF GOD! A Lamb who WAS GOD and IS GOD! It couldn't happen any other way.

Christ was a Lamb—He truly was a martyr. All the Old Testament sacrifices pointed to that Lamb. John 1:29 connects the Old Testament and the New Testament through that Lamb.

The fact that the Jews wouldn't believe Christ unless He gave them a sign is almost a joke! ALL THE PROPHECIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT pointed to that man who was the Lamb! How can you explain those people's ignorance?

But these few disciples were really excited, saying "We have found the Messiah!" (verse 40). *We have found the God who was prophesied to come to this Earth! Moses and all these great men of God prophesied about the Messiah and HE'S HERE!* (verse 45).

There had never been a bigger event in history to that time. This was *the first coming of Jesus Christ!* These men had every reason to be excited—and they didn't even have God's Spirit yet. John gives us all the names of the people who received this news with such gladness, and none of the other Gospel writers do. John is trying to bring all this to life: Here were men, just like us, running around with each other and bursting with excitement over this epic event!

God's true Church today has the Messiah leading us, revealing truth to us, giving us guidance, helping, providing us everything we need. WE HAVE THE MESSIAH! So we need to be running around with some excitement! The Messiah is here! The Messiah is directing this Work! The one prophesied to come and take away the sin of the world and open up the God Family to ALL MANKIND!

If we don't get excited about that, I believe we have to acknowledge that we have some Laodicean traits we need to overcome. There is nothing more exciting than this.

God works with real men and women. I'm sure people called them nobodies—but they recognized the event of the ages!

Let people scoff if they want to, but the truth is that we recognize something the world doesn't recognize. We know that the Word is directing this Work, and that this is the only hope of mankind. We know the Messiah is here! We KNOW this is all leading to the return of Jesus Christ. All these other events have been fulfilled to the letter, and so shall the Second Coming be!

“And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see” (verse 46).

Can anything good really come out of Edmond, Oklahoma? Only if the Messiah's there! If the Word who became flesh is there, GREAT THINGS will come out of that city! It doesn't have anything to do with the city—it has to do with knowing God and understanding what He is doing on Earth.

With love, in Christ's service,



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## MAIL PROCESSING

### WATS PROGRAM

Since this past Feast we've had a spike in interest for the WATS program—we've had 54 members volunteer for the program. Of those 54, we have been able to train and graduate 20 to become operators. Overall, since the Feast we have managed to add in the neighborhood of 35 to 40 more operators.

Currently, we have 139 in-home operators and 18 students working for the WATS program. Each Sunday we are staffing right around 100 operators for our largest ring-ins. Even with these figures we are still just keeping pace with response.

The process a volunteer must go through to become an operator does take some time. Here is how the process occurs. A member volunteers and if approved by the regional director they are sent a WATS training manual on computer CD. The volunteer then studies this material on their own time. As you may have noticed, some volunteers take quite a while to actually get this personal training accomplished. During this time period they are receiving the weekly emails telling them what is going on in the WATS program. When they are ready for us to do a training and testing session they send us an email. These sessions occur each Sunday at 9 a.m., Edmond time. The student trainers here at headquarters typically spend about 30 to 40 minutes reviewing the manual and our data entry website with the operator in training. We then have them log into

our call center system and take mock *Key of David* calls. When we end each call, we coach them and instruct them. While we train we are also evaluating their performance and competency. When the session finishes we discuss how everyone did and decide who is ready and who needs another session.

We are very thankful for those who have volunteered. To this point we have put the volunteers in charge of their own schedules. They schedule themselves for the times when they can assist, and we let them know if we feel the staffing will not be adequate, in which case some rework their personal schedules to provide us with more assistance.

This method is working well, but the fact is, we are always in need of more volunteers. At this point, we have no reserve capacity. Every good army has a reserve from which to draw. We need to work toward building up a pool of operators from which we can schedule and draw extra assistance. If you are in the United States or Canada and know of any of the members in good standing that wish to join the WATS program please ask them to email me at [supervisor@pcog.org](mailto:supervisor@pcog.org) or call headquarters and ask to speak to me. We are always looking for more help as it takes quite some time to bring many of them from the point of volunteering to actually taking calls.

*Andrew Hessong*

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# EDITORIAL SERVICES

## ROYAL VISION SPRING HOLY DAY ISSUE

The editorial department must regretfully report that it appears most brethren will not receive the March-April issue of the *Royal Vision* in time to study it in preparation for the spring holy days, depending on the mail service. Investigating the situation, we discovered several factors that contributed to this problem. We are taking steps to limit those factors in order to ensure that this does not happen again, particularly since two and sometimes three of the six annual *Royal Vision* issues center around holy days. Please pray that God would stay Satan's hand in further disrupting the de-

livery of these vital messages. Our new schedule should be in place in time for the fall holy day issue to reach even our international brethren well before the Feast of Trumpets.

Also, in the meantime, please encourage Church members to review the March-April 2005 *Royal Vision* for articles about Christ's suffering and death, Christ's gospel message, physical sin and self-examination that should aid them in their personal preparations for the spring holy days.

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# BUSINESS OFFICE

## FORMER HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX SOLD

The PCG sold its former headquarters offices at 1019 Waterwood Parkway just after the first of the year, after only 2½ weeks on the market. The sale, scheduled to close June 1, has two immediate benefits for the Church, according to chief operations officer Andrew Locher: The lump sum derived from the sale will help pay for the newly constructed administration building. Funds no longer needed for the upkeep of the Waterwood complex will be directed toward the 170-acre campus.

The value of the property appreciated 43 percent overall since the first unit was purchased in 1990, Mr. Locher said. The appreciated value, if the contract closes as expected, does not factor in renovations inside the units, which cost "very little," and the installation and upkeep of substantial landscaping additions, which Mr. Locher also said "undoubtedly added greatly to the value of the headquarters complex and surrounding units."

Mr. Locher said the Church began purchasing units at the complex "as they became available and as we had need"; the fourth and final unit was purchased in 1997. In December 1995, the PCG bought a vacant piece of land east of the complex "in an effort to protect the working environment around the headquarters property so it would not be overdeveloped."

That vacant piece of land turned out to be the property's biggest selling point. Potential buyers were most interested in purchasing and developing the empty lot.

In the final days before the sale, three interested parties were asked to submit their highest bids. "The offers were made on Friday [Dec. 30, 2005], and by Tuesday afternoon, we had settled on the negotiated price for the land and buildings all in one transaction," Mr. Locher said. The sale profited the buyer as well, since the new owner benefits from the undeveloped land in close proximity to successful commercial development sites and will be able to generate revenue by leasing the existing units.

According to the Church's realtor, the timing of the property sale was ideal because of Edmond's active commercial property market. The speed and price of the sale surprised her, especially since the Church received an offer on the upper end of its asking price range. Mr. Locher said that the Church "asked a good price for the land and buildings because we felt they were of good quality and located in an area that is rapidly developing."

Besides the extra funds available to pay for the Hall of Administration, Mr. Locher says the second immediate benefit of the sale will be efficiency related. For one, the Church will no longer pay utility, security and maintenance costs for the unused buildings, which would have accumulated if the selling process had been slower. Also, the Church's custodial and landscaping crews will now work solely on the developing 170-acre property.

*Lisa Godeaux and Robert Morley*

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# REGIONAL REPORTS

## NEW AUSTRALASIAN REGIONAL OFFICE

Herbert W. Armstrong said six days before he died, “The greatest work lies yet ahead.” We are doing that greatest work now. Pastor General Gerald Flurry wrote in *The Last Hour*: “There is only ONE last hour—this little sliver of time Christ has given us to finish His warning to the world.” What a great responsibility and privilege we have to do that “while it is still day.”

The Australasian regional office has recently relocated and upgraded to help fulfill this commission. On January 10 this year, just a week prior to the headquarters move to the Hall of Administration, the operations of the PCG regional office in Brisbane moved to new premises, marking the first time the office has been located in a commercial/business environment specifically designed to serve the needs of such an operation.

The office had been in Alex and Glenys Harrison’s home, and then, when they were transferred to England in 2001, it was relocated just around the corner to a new residential block, which served the Work’s needs at that time.

The income and workload grew steadily but there was limited room for expansion. With mail processing expanding, we were “bursting at the seams.” Another drawback of this location was that our stock of publications was kept in storage units away from the office, making operations less efficient and more difficult. In addition, being located in a residential complex had its disadvantages. Latterly, we came under pressure from the premises’ management to move out as the neighbors did not want “non-residential activity” there. It became obvious that God wanted us to not only relocate but find a building that allowed for expansion and development.

For over a year, business manager Rodney Lorenz and I were on the lookout for a suitable location to move to. Then, just prior to the Feast last year, God led Mr. Lorenz to a block of new commercial properties at 29/256 Musgrave Road, Coopers Plains—just 7 kilometers from the previous office at Upper Mount Gravatt. Only two of these newly completed units were still available. We selected the most suitable one and Mr. Flurry soon approved the signing of a three-year lease. We negotiated a deal with the owner of the building for the lease to roll over three times. This means we are committed for three years but have the option to re-lease for another three years, three times—i.e., up to 12 years.

The unit was built with office space at the front

and a large storage area to the rear and side. We are using this existing office section as the mail processing department, where Tania Harrison (data entry/mail processing) and Sheryle Pfothenauer (receptionist and CD/tape copying) work, with the assistance of volunteer Anne Hudson and others from time to time.

In addition, we have built and partitioned three administration offices on top of the mail processing department. Rodney Lorenz and Donna Grieves (who works for the headquarters editorial department) occupy two private offices and Kirsten Davison (office secretary) works in a larger open-plan office. Provision has been made for any future increase in staff with the appropriate electrical, telephone and data stations installed. Also, extra office space could be built into the storage area should the need arise in the future. (Mr. Harrison and I currently work from offices in our homes.)

Steel racking has been installed in the warehouse and a “walk behind” forklift purchased. On February 12 the move to the new building was completed when a group of volunteers from the local congregation helped move all items from the old storage to the new premises. Now all literature inventory, and also Philadelphia Youth Camp equipment and other Church-owned items, are onsite under one roof, doing away with the need for the leasing of extra storage space.

Now we can much more effectively administer the dispensing of the mystery and absorb the greater workload coming on God’s Philadelphia remnant to finish the Work before God cuts it short in righteousness. There is only one *last hour*. *Russell Williams*

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

God’s people have been positive and encouraging toward one another. Visits are made by the ministry on a regular basis to brethren and prospective members.

Satan’s power of hatred is very evident in southern Africa. Effects of this are even experienced within God’s Church. Brethren are going through financial (especially in Zimbabwe) and work-related trials as well as health problems. But God’s people meet challenges head-on with the Eternal as our helper.

A few baptisms have taken place recently within local congregations and some are in the process of baptism counseling. Upon invitation, one family of prospectives traveled four hours one way to attend Sabbath services in Johannesburg. Such enthusiasm is seldom seen in South Africa, but more evident in poorer Zimbabwe,

where brethren will travel great distances to appear before the Eternal for the Sabbath service in Harare.

Since Mr. Flurry's directive in the regional announcements on the Sabbath of Nov. 12, 2005, visits to PCG members who were baptized in the WCG since 1990 have been made and so far only one is counseling for re-baptism. However, we are experiencing several requests from ex-WCG members in rural areas desiring PCG membership in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Most of these will have to be re-baptised.

Ministerial visits are made every three weeks to both the Johannesburg and Harare congregations. Between these visits the Pietersburg and Durban congregations are visited, though less frequently.

Local Church Elder John Rudolph is planning a

trip for us north of Harare near the Zambian border for a Bible study and baptismal counseling visit to a rural area only accessible by 4x4. A PCG member will drive us up. One prospective travels for more than three hours to Harare for Sabbath services and counseling every month. He buses back on Sunday afternoon to his hometown in the east of Zimbabwe, bordering Mozambique. God's people are truly scattered.

Brethren are excited about the developments on God's land and in His worldwide Work. Revelation (Ephesians 3:5), sermons, Bible studies, announcements and God's literature from headquarters is what keeps brethren on a high. We look forward to the next visit by our regional director, Mr. Alex Harrison.

*Gerry Meaker*