

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT



TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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MAY 15, 1981

GREETINGS FROM AUSTRALIA

by

Herbert W. Armstrong

May 13, 1981

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fahey, Mrs. Armstrong and I arrived in Sydney almost a week ago, Thursday evening, May 7th. We rested from the trip Friday. Sabbath, May 9th, I spoke to some 1300 brethren in Sydney. Sunday we flew north to Brisbane where I spoke to another 1300 brethren from that area. Tuesday we flew back up to our office at Burleigh Heads.

Seeing our office facility here was an inspiring experience for me. It is our own facility, with several executive and private offices, work rooms, an assembly room for the local church services, adequate storage rooms, reception, etc. It is a larger complex than I had expected. Based on various reports, I had doubts about leaving the office there and intended to consider the advisability of moving the office back to Sydney. But on considering all factors--transportation, communication, accessibility, along with other desirable features where it is--I could make no decision except to leave it where it is. It seems to be just as accessible for operation of the Work here where it is--and we do have a very splendid building complex there--with lower living costs for all the staff. Mr. Bob Morton, in charge of the Work here and Southeastern Asia, is fully in accord with that decision, as is Bob Fahey.

Today we have the first of a two-day minister's conference, with all the ministers of this continent and their wives in attendance--here in Sydney. I spoke to them at the morning session and Messrs. Fahey and Morton this afternoon. The Ministerial Conference will continue tomorrow.

There is a new invigorating and enthusiastic spirit among the ministry in Australia. The Work has been turned here. All signs here are "GO." The Work here has sprung to new life since the first of the year. Tomorrow evening, following the afternoon ministerial conference, we will fly on to Melbourne. I will speak to our brethren from that area on the Sabbath and then Saturday evening we fly on to Auckland, New Zealand.

We will have a visit to our office there in the morning, and speak to the brethren assembled in the afternoon with audio to Wellington and Christchurch. Monday, fly to Honolulu, Pasadena Tuesday.

HWA DIARY

by

Robert Fahey

May 16, 1981

It has been a full trip so far! After an overnight stop in Honolulu, we were to fly on to Sydney, Australia on Wednesday, May 6th. At present, there is a 17-hour time difference between Los Angeles and Sydney, and a 20-hour difference between Honolulu and Sydney. Our schedule was to depart Honolulu at 11 a.m. on Wednesday the 6th, and arrive Sydney after 11 hours of travel at 6 p.m. Thursday, the 7th! The day and dates change as you cross the International Dateline!

But we had several delays.

First, after takeoff in Honolulu, we found we were losing fuel from our starboard wing fuel tank. Captain Black quickly shut down the fuel flow from that tank so there was no danger. But we had to return to Honolulu immediately. No serious problem--the fuel cap had not been locked properly by ground staff. It was easy to fix, but we lost an hour in the process.

Next, our refueling stop took longer than we had hoped. Faleolo is almost exactly half-way between Honolulu and Sydney. If you are interested, find it on the map in Western Samoa. Modern and efficient it is not. Turn-around took a half hour longer than expected.

The last delay was the worst. Headwinds. Just after Faleolo they began. At first they were not very strong. But they kept increasing. Our flight time should have been just over 5 hours. But as the headwinds increased, so our expected flight time kept being extended. While I was in the cockpit the highest INS (Inertial Navigation System) reading was 138 knots. For a time, it looked as though we might have to divert to Auckland, New Zealand. The pilots were calculating and recalculating ground speed, fuel supply, and fuel flow as they kept changing to make sure we could reach Sydney safely. They had to skirt a large thunderstorm, which was spectacular to view from 41,000 feet, but added to our fuel concern.

Finally, at 9 p.m. local time, after 14 hours of travel time, we spotted the lights of Sydney. We were permitted to fly straight in and land. We were tired! Customs and Immigration seemed to appreciate our weariness and sped us through.

Mr. Bob Morton and several other ministers were there to meet Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and the rest of our party (which is Mrs. Ruth Nestor, Evelyn and I). We went straight to our hotel which was our home base while in Australia. It was about midnight when I got into bed. That was 4 a.m. in Honolulu and 7 a.m. in Los Angeles!

The next morning I saw Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong in the breakfast room. He didn't look a bit tired! He said he had been very tired the night before after such a long day, but that he had had a very good rest and was ready to go!

We spent Friday getting settled into the hotel and working out dozens of last-minute details with the local men.

On the Sabbath, Mr. Armstrong was to speak to the combined Sydney churches. In the morning the flu and sore throat that had been troubling him for several weeks began to sap his strength again. The services were scheduled in the afternoon so he took extra time to rest in the morning.

We arrived at the Sydney Town Hall right on time. The Town Hall in Sydney is an "oldie," but a beautifully maintained "goodie." The place was just about packed with God's people. Another 440 people in Perth in the extreme West Coast of Australia listened in by phone line.

Mr. Armstrong spoke for about an hour and three quarters giving an overview of God's purpose for putting man on earth. When Adam was made a living soul, he did not have real LIFE. He had only a physio-chemical existence that was winding down and would eventually come to an end. God offered him the tree of LIFE, which led to the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit. That spirit would have given Adam access to God's MIND and God's POWER which leads to eternal LIFE!

Adam chose the way that leads to death. God told him if he chose that way he would surely die. And he did.

After he chose the wrong way, God cut him and his descendants off from access to the tree of LIFE. Man was not cut off from God. Man was cut off from LIFE! God would not give him LIFE in the selfish attitude he was in. The fruit of that attitude would be sorrow for Adam and all those he came in contact with.

God dealt with ancient Israel--but he never offered them LIFE! No one had God's offer of LIFE until Christ, the second Adam, established His Church and offered us eternal LIFE. We are the first to be offered LIFE since Adam was driven out of the garden! We are now being judged to see if we will follow the way of LIFE, the way of God's LOVE which is shed abroad in our hearts by His Spirit. Like Adam, we are being offered LIFE! We have to choose. We also have Satan's evil influence to contend with; it is not easy to qualify now. But God helps us with His Spirit, and those who demonstrate that they want to follow God's way of LIFE will be His "firstfruits," the first to have LIFE and a leadership role in God's Family forever!

It was the clearest presentation of the Gospel I have ever heard. So inspiring!

But at dinner that night, Mr. Armstrong said he wasn't completely happy with his presentation. He felt he should include that after God calls us and gives us His Spirit, we must GROW. The next day, Sunday the 10th, we were to fly to Brisbane to speak to several churches there. Before we left Sydney at 1 p.m., Mr. Armstrong reworked the entire sermon so that he concluded with the focus of the fact that each member must grow in God's way of LIFE. We must drink in God's Word (John 6:63) so we think and act more and more like God and less and less like this Satan-inspired world.

The sermon was two hours in length. Mr. Armstrong joked that it wasn't as long as Mr. Waterhouse spoke!

The revision from the day before had certainly been successful. A clear overview of God's Plan and then showing how each of us individually must grow spiritually to fulfill our calling, was both inspiring and sobering.

Monday the 11th was a "rest" day. Bob Morton and I spent several hours talking with Mr. Armstrong on points in his sermon, and various other administrative things involving the Work in this part of the world. Later Mr. Armstrong worked on a letter he is writing to all new baptized members, which includes a reminder that they have been offered LIFE.

On Tuesday we had a tour of the Australian office at Burleigh Heads. Bob Morton and his staff had prepared about ten large charts showing Mr. Armstrong and me a complete picture of every aspect of what is being done in Australia and Southeast Asia. The first few showed radio and TV in relation to population. Australia now uses 32 radio and 22 TV stations after a 3½ year break. The radio stations are only weekly at present. Mr. Armstrong told Bob that five days a week is far more effective than once a week. Bob will begin seeking daily bookings. TV will remain weekly for the present.

Newsstand distribution has also begun again. By June 1st, there will be 100,000 copies of The PLAIN TRUTH on newsstands throughout the country. A hundred and fifty thousand by the end of the year.

Mr. Armstrong was very pleased with these developments that spread Christ's Gospel in Australia.

Mr. Armstrong felt there were too many small feast sites in the country. Circumstances required this in 1981. It will be reviewed next year.

The 1981 budget for Australia puts 47% of expenditure into the Great Commission, 35% to serve the churches, 4% goes into the feast and 14% towards administration expenses.

The Aussies are able to help Southeast Asia receive the Gospel by The PLAIN TRUTH, other literature and regular visits. This will cost them \$175,000 this year. Canada is going to give additional help by paying for Radio Ceylon to air The WORLD TOMORROW daily. This station can be heard in Singapore, Malaysia, Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, parts of the Middle East and the east coast of Africa.

After the visit, Mr. Armstrong told the office staff that he was not only impressed, he was INSPIRED! He had not realized how much God had built and blessed the Work in this area. He reminded us of the very humble beginnings of the Work when he and Mrs. Armstrong were the entire worldwide staff! God began small but He has established this office in Australia and many others around the world.

More next week.

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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

Churches East of Mississippi--Buses available to S.E.P. Camp

A church member, Mr. Frank Hindman, has informed the Y.O.U. Office he is willing to coordinate buses to and from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd sessions of S.E.P. camp for those church areas east of the Mississippi. The buses are diesel road coaches with reclining seats, each safety inspected and fully insured.

They will each be chaperoned by an adult church member and driven by a team of professional drivers. Fares will be slightly lower than regularly scheduled Greyhound fares; traveling time will be much shorter.

Parents of 1st session campers interested in this service should call Mr. Hindman at 803-288-7721 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. E.S.T. before May 27th. Parents of second and third session campers may call the above number or write P.O. Box 1732, Greenville, South Carolina 29602 by June 1st. Include name of camper, address, phone number, local church area, and session attending.

****NOTE:** Several church areas have made plans for car-pooling or busing the campers from their areas to camp. This certainly has proven to be cost effective for the parents. The Y.O.U. Office advises that these groups make sure they are covered fully by liability insurance, and are able to locally handle any unexpected expenses. (Y.O.U. insurance will cover medical for the campers up to the policy limit.)

International News

Australian Report Jesus Christ certainly blessed His Work in Australia this last month! Offerings for the first and last days of Unleavened Bread showed increases of 57.2% and 72.3% respectively over the same Holy Days last year. The overall income for the Work year-to-date now stands 35.6% ahead of the first four months of 1980.

April was an exciting month for both television and radio, as the number of television stations carrying The WORLD TOMORROW telecast increased from fifteen to twenty-two, and the number of radio stations from twenty-two to thirty-two. Apart from one or two isolated areas, almost the entire population of Australia can now tune in to hear the message Christ has given His end-time apostle. Future plans include adding more television and radio stations as the year goes by.

A number of new outlets opened to us this month--including the prestigious Tullamarine Airport in Melbourne. Outlets at both of the two domestic terminals and the international terminal will be displaying The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, and we expect to distribute many thousands of copies per month through these three outlets. Responses to the newsstand programme continue to be excellent, with many new readers being added monthly to the regular subscription list in this manner.

Good News for Asia In the last few days, the long-closed doors to Radio Ceylon opened once again to Mr. Armstrong's half-hour programme. Besides covering all of Sri Lanka, this powerful station reaches into India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, the Maldives Islands, Singapore, Malaysia and other neighbouring countries. The programme is due to begin weekly on Radio Ceylon on July 4th.

French Director Travels French Director, Mr. Dibar Apartian, returned May 4th from an extended tour of churches in Europe and the Caribbean. He reported that all the French-speaking churches were growing well and were very supportive and united behind Mr. Armstrong. The church in Paris is now averaging over 200 brethren in attendance every Sabbath. While in Europe, Mr. Apartian conducted two days of meetings with all the French-speaking ministers in Europe, in our own facilities in Paris.

He conducted public Bible lectures in three cities with fine results. In the Swiss cities of Geneva and Lausanne, 40 and 63 new people respectively attended the lecture. In Paris another 100 new people attended to hear the truth of God. Follow-up Bible studies will be held to accommodate those with a deeper interest.

Mr. Apartian then flew to the French West Indies and conducted public Bible lectures in Guadeloupe and Martinique. On the island of Guadeloupe, 35 new people came to his lecture. Mr. Apartian also was interviewed on radio Caraibes in Martinique for half an hour. This station has a very wide audience, being one of only three stations on the island and the one which carries the French edition of The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast five times a week. While in Guadeloupe, Mr. Apartian raised Erick Dubois to Preaching elder. He is the Pastor of the Basse-Terre and Point-a-Pitre Churches.

In Martinique, the public Bible lecture was attended by 167 new people. In fact, the Church there is the largest single French-speaking Church. Attendance is over 270 each week.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We are settled in now in the local area after having returned from the ninth Ministerial Refresher Program. Pastoring a church is so much more clearly defined now after all of the confusion, watering down and liberalism of the previous decade.

Thank you very much for providing the program. The classes were heavily scriptural and well balanced, reflecting the teachings and the way of life which you yourself have taught and lived by.

It was a joy to say hello to happy, smiling Ambassador College students again. Mr. McNair, Mr. Albrecht and the other faculty members are certainly doing a great job in having the College the way you yourself would want it.

David and Cathy Sheridan

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

We wish to thank you for allowing the Local Elders to attend the Refresher Program. It was our first time to see Ambassador College, and to be able to receive the education we did was a fantastic opportunity.

It was very inspiring and helpful to listen to and be taught by dedicated men. Because of their many years of experience in supporting you and serving God's people, they had much to give. The Refresher Program certainly shortens the distance and enhances the communication between the field and headquarters. Those three weeks were like two Feasts of Tabernacles! Our minds feel like a computer--they must be fed true facts in order to give out right answers. Our computers were certainly given a vast amount of true knowledge.

Another blessing was the international flavor of the ninth Refresher Program. It made the Work seem more worldwide to us as we shared experiences with those from other countries.

Mr. Armstrong, we are behind you all the way, and appreciate the tremendous amount of work that you do each day. Thank you again for the true knowledge that you have given us, and may we better assist you in the Work of the Living God.

Harlan Spieker, Willow Lake, S.D.

Dear Mr. Tkach:

There is very little to say about the Refresher Program that has not already been said many times. So, like everyone else, Susan and I would like to express our appreciation for the tremendous opportunity of attending the refresher.

The lectures were filled with practical information we have already had numerous occasions to apply. Needless to say, we also found the lectures to be inspiring and personally helpful.

We were both very encouraged to see the fine example of service, humility, unity and dedication by the headquarters team. We were equally inspired by the friendship and unity that we experienced among the group attending with us. It was great to see so many men from so many parts of the world all together and all speaking the same thing.

We're both looking forward with great anticipation to next time!

Mike and Susan Booze

Comments From Monthly Church Reports

CLEVELAND (EAST), OH--GUY L. ENGLEBART: We had a very inspiring and profitable Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Many commented that this has been the most meaningful Passover for them since they have been in God's Church. The brethren were tremendously thrilled to see and hear Mr. Armstrong on film. They marvelled as to how powerful and inspired Mr. Armstrong was in his sermon. The offering on the first Holy Day was a 23.5% increase over last year and the offering on the last Holy Day was a whopping 32% increase over 1980!

AUSTIN, TX--HAROLD J. RHODES: Forty-five percent increase in Holy Day offerings on the first Day of Unleavened Bread over 2 years ago! People in Austin/Waco really have their hearts in God's Work. Film of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong proved to people how alive and powerful Mr. Armstrong really is!

MIAMI, FL--AL KERSHA: Mr. Herbert Armstrong's sermon (delivered via the movie screen) was as strong and motivating as I have ever heard him in the 15 years I have been in the Church. The message was clear, earnest and powerful. Certainly an excellent message in preparation for the Passover and days of Unleavened Bread. In physical appearance Mr. Armstrong looked about 70; in spirit and power he sounded like a 35-40 year old man. The spirit and power that was in Elijah is obviously moving him.

COLUMBUS (AM & PM), OH--ROBERT DICK: I have enjoyed a more intimate look into Mr. Armstrong's personal feelings, attitudes and struggles from his comments in the Bible Study tapes than in any other form of communication to the Church. Those insights build a stronger bond.

We have had a tremendous number of teens apply for S.E.P. this year. I have not been able to assess exactly why, but it is double or triple the usual number. It is great to see the teens express a desire to be a part of any facet of the Church.

PORTLAND (SOUTH), OR--DEAN R. WILSON: This was an exciting and good month for the Church. The month started off great with Mr. Armstrong's much appreciated visit to this area and finished with a very fine Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread.

COLORADO SPRINGS-PUEBLO, CO--CLINT ZIMMERMAN: Recent Bible study in Pueblo set a record; also a record Passover. Individual offering on last day of Unleavened Bread largest yet. Enthusiasm is running higher. Mr. Armstrong's visit to the area was a real shot in the arm. Marked increase in per capita offering indicates congregation is solidly behind the Work.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK--ARNOLD CLAUSON: I personally continue to appreciate the INCREDIBLE involvement Mr. Armstrong has shown with the stepped-up broadcasts, telecasts, and personal appearances he is making. I hope and pray that God will continue to encourage and strengthen him as he takes on this fantastic load!!

GLENDORA, CA--CARN CATHERWOOD: One of the most exciting things that is now occurring is the return to full fellowship of so many members who had left the Church over the past decade. One lady, in fact, had left 13 years ago and is now reinstated and growing very well. Several who had left with Ted are now back, as well as others who go back to the 1974 problems. They all seem to have come to a point of renewed commitment to God and the Work, and the impact of these "returnees" is powerful in the local church.

MIDDLESBORO-SOMERSET-LONDON, KY--MEL DAHLGREN: In Middlesboro we are beginning to see more fruits of Mr. Armstrong's emphasis on the family! The young people are really appreciative of the blessings afforded in God's Church. Some who have not gone to S.E.P. will be going for the first time and are very excited.

The smaller Y.O.U. districts are much more appropriate for the Somerset area. It's cutting our driving time down by over 5 hours! Everyone is eagerly anticipating the Bible study lessons tailored for the children. YOUTH 81 is devoured each month and used in class now!

There seems to be more zeal among the leadership in the London Church, undoubtedly following the example of Mr. Armstrong. Every deacon is taking his job seriously and others are following their example. It's exciting to see!

BOSTON, MA--JIM FRANKS: Last month broke all records attendance-wise in the Boston Church. Not since 1972, when there was only one Church for the whole area, has there been attendance like this.

CHICAGO (SOUTHEAST), IL--ROGER ABELS: People are encouraged by the addition of WGN-TV. It has been some years since we have had a truly effective time slot for the entire Chicago area. This station should pull well.

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, MO--JAMES E. KISSEE: The past few months have seen a great leap forward in the serving attitude. This is reflected in the care and concern we have seen when others are sick and afflicted or otherwise in need. The brethren are helping in whatever way they can, be it in prayers, food or physical service.

BELLEVILLE, IL--HAROLD SMITH: Many are hurting due to the U.M.W. strike, since we have a number of men employed in the coal mining industry and related jobs. The auto industry slow-down has hurt too. It seems attitudes have changed greatly. For years it has been hard to get a fair turnout for a church dance, but we had a smashing attendance and great fellowship at our spring dance this month.

Weekly Letter Comments

The first few letters this week show how much our brethren truly appreciate Mr. Armstrong's efforts, and that they are supporting him with renewed dedication and determination in the homestretch of God's Work. Then several of our readers comment on how our booklets are helping them find answers to problems in their lives. Finally, as listeners come in contact with the radio program, they become excited about the messages and begin seeking more understanding. (As always, the comments every week are representative of numerous enthusiastic letters received every week.)

Brethren Highly Esteem God's Apostle

I wanted to write a note to thank you for your great effort and dedication in finishing the Great Commission God has given you. You are setting a sterling example that I want to follow. I realize God is the One we should praise for the accomplishment of an effort, but I want to thank you very deeply for your part in it.

It's really exciting to hear about the tremendous growth in the Work. So encouraging to see God blessing this Work and His people again. The love He is pouring out is contagious. It is strengthening and unifying us all to do our part in finishing God's Work so that His Kingdom can come.

Frieda Townsend (Laurel, MS)

Thank you for all of your truly inspiring letters and articles. We know Jesus Christ is using you as never before.

We are putting our top priorities first and pray every day with zeal that is even better than when we first came into God's Church. Our prayer and Bible study has taken on new meaning. What a blessing! God's Kingdom is so close, and it seems like nothing else matters but working toward that number one goal in our lives. It is so easy to get wrapped up in Satan's world and be influenced by it. Now is when we need to cry out to God and ask Him for His Holy Spirit as never before. This is our last opportunity to draw close to God and we pray that everyone in God's Church feels this way. May God help us all!

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald G. Ware (Springdale, AR)

Thank you, Mr. Armstrong, for your wonderful Bible studies!

Thank you for your constant encouragement.

Thank you for your most excellent example in how we should grow--and get ready!

Thank you for your superb writings--articles that are absolutely brimful!

Thank you for your constant selfless sacrifices on our behalf.

We love you very much!

Virginia Smith (Medford, OR)

Readers Are grateful for Literature

I am extending my thanks and gratitude for your booklet THE SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS. I read and meditated on it. Before I wrote to you I was so deep in problems that I almost killed myself. However, knowing that only God can take life, I stopped and went to a person who could help me get out from my dark way of life. Your reading matter is helping me become a real person and a good Christian. What I learn from you I can share with others.

T.M. (The Philippines)

Because of your radio programs and booklets, especially the one called ENDING YOUR FINANCIAL WORRIES, I finally have intelligent, practical, logical, clear and precise answers to questions that have caused me intense frustration and agony for many, many years. As our Lord stated in His Word, the truth really does set us free!

M.W. Brannon (Marietta, GA)

I was very happy to receive the literature about America and Britain in prophecy. I found it most inspiring and easy to understand. It took apart the subject quite easily for me. I don't profess to be a Christian, but I believe in God and His Holy Work.

In regards to the Work that you are doing--it is a very big help to thousands of Bahamians.

James Forbes (Eight Mile Rock, Bahamas)

New Listeners Hunger After Truth

I have just listened to your program on the radio this morning. What a joy it was. I know that sometimes you wonder if you are reaching people or not and if they will listen. Let me tell you, if they are as hungry for the truth as I am, you have no worries. I thank God always for you and all the others who are teaching us in the right way.

Mrs. Harriet Williamson (Marion, OH)

Last week I was listening to The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast over our radio station here in Coffeyville and heard some messages you gave on the Kingdom of God. Let me tell you that the programs I heard got me excited. I'm so stirred up and so hungry to understand this message of the Kingdom I could scream. Those messages you gave were powerful and I just want to encourage you and ask God's blessing to be upon you to continue to preach this Kingdom message.

Margie Thompson (Coffeyville, KS)

I have been listening to your show here in Ottawa for the last few nights and am interested in learning more about the things you have been talking about. I have heard you offer free literature on your program and would be very interested in receiving anything you could send me, especially your booklets THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY, WHAT IS FAITH? and ALL ABOUT WATER BAPTISM.

Mrs. Valerie Crosby (Ottawa, Canada)

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

INCREASES IN MAIL AND TELEVISION RESPONSE CONTINUE

Again this week we are pleased to report continued increases in response to God's Work in the United States:

Daily Mail Up 24% Over Last Year

At the end of April, the average daily mail count in Mail Receiving was just over 7,000 letters per day. This was 24% higher than last year's daily average of 5,700 letters for the same period. The two main reasons for this increase were PT renewals and PT cards.

Excellent Television Response

Response to The WORLD TOMORROW telecast has been rapidly increasing since February 1981. April was a record-setting month for the telecast since 1978. The following breakdown illustrates a most encouraging trend for the first four months of this year:

January response..... 2,160 calls

February response..... 4,227 calls (up 96% over January)

March response..... 10,883 calls (up 157% over February)

April response..... 13,572 calls (up 25% over March)

Important reasons for these sudden increases include:

1. The new telecasts are tailored for T.V. audiences and are therefore attention grabbing.
2. Mr. Armstrong's personal endorsement of literature and his giving both the toll-free and California phone numbers.
3. The addition of several new powerful T.V. stations including Chicago's WGN, Kansas City's KCMO and Denver's KOA.

--Richard Rice, Mail Processing Center

ON THE WORLD SCENE

FRANCE TURNS LEFT, GERMANY LOOKS RIGHT Two momentous elections were held in Western Europe on Sunday, May 10.

By a surprisingly large margin--52% to 48%--French voters turned out incumbent President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, after his initial seven-year term of office. In his place they selected Socialist Party candidate Francois Mitterrand. It was a milestone for the French left, marking the first time that a socialist head of state with full executive powers has ever been elected.

Mitterrand, 64, is an old political warhorse. He had run for the presidency unsuccessfully twice before, and held 11 cabinet posts in previous governments predating the de Gaulle period which began in 1958.

French voters hardly gave a ringing endorsement to socialism as an ideology. Rather, they seemed to mainly want a change from 23 years of center-right government under de Gaulle, Pompidou and Giscard. They were impressed by Mitterrand's level-headed campaigning as much as they were turned off by what they perceived as Giscard's aloof "monarchical" manner.

As far as an issue was concerned, the major one was the domestic economy. The voters ironically overlooked the fact that, under Giscard's leadership, the French economy grew at a rate even faster than West Germany's. Giscard instead was pinned with the blame for France's rising unemployment, now standing at 1.7 million, or 7% of the work force.

Even Mitterrand's promises to expand the federal beauracracy and to reduce the work week from 40 to 35 hours--obviously inflationary proposals--sounded better to fickle voters than further rises in joblessness.

Giscard also helped seal his own doom by lowering the voting age from 21 to 18. The young voters, many of them affected by unemployment, were predominantly pro-Mitterrand.

Wedge for Communists?

The new president-elect is expected to call for parliamentary elections in late June to try to capture a majority of seats for socialist and other leftist parties to push through his programs. The center-right parties control parliament now. Mitterrand undoubtedly will need help from the Communist Party, which has declined in relative power in recent years, but still is formidable. The disciplined Communist Party structure, in fact, secured Mitterrand's victory by delivering four million voters into his camp. It remains to be seen whether communist support in Parliament will come with a price--a demand for a portfolio or two in Mitterrand's cabinet.

The Mitterrand economic program contains the standard litany of the left, including demands for further nationalization of nine large industrial groups, including banks and insurance companies. The mere threat of nationalization was enough to send the Paris stock exchange into a frenzy, producing a day-after "Black Monday" for investors. The French franc plummetted in value.

In foreign policy, Mitterrand might even take a harder line toward the Soviets than his predecessor. The Kremlin leaders, in fact, preferred Giscard, with whom they felt they could work. Though Mitterrand is a confirmed "Atlanticist," his party might make it rough for the United States in some areas of foreign policy. With a more pronounced Third World tilt, the socialists are expected to condemn U.S. aid to "Latin American

dictatorships." They might not continue to support London and Washington with U.N. veto power in explosive issues affecting southern Africa.

Yet, Mitterrand is known to be more of a friend of Israel (and a supporter of the Camp David accords) than Giscard. Prime Minister Begin was almost overjoyed at Mitterrand's victory.

The big question mark is how reliable France would be as a Western Alliance partner with Communist Party members in the cabinet, should that occur. The United States has shared considerable information with Paris on sensitive nuclear weapons strategy. Could this continue?

One area of the socialists' "110 propositions for France," if approved however, could be of great significance for God's Work. The socialists, in what on the surface appears to be very unsocialistic practice, propose to free radio and television from direct government control. Private radio stations, now illegal, would be allowed as in other countries. Thus Christ's Gospel message to the modern-day descendants of Reuben could be enhanced!

Through various other measures (not all of them good, such as easier abortion laws) a socialist France will be even more of a secular society, less tied to Roman Catholic influence.

Schmidt's Twin Blows

On the same Sunday, West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt suffered two defeats. The first loss was the demise of his political ally, Giscard. The two leaders enjoyed a particularly close partnership. Together they had set the political tone for much of Western Europe. It is unlikely that Schmidt will have anywhere near this type of working relationship with Mitterrand.

Secondly, Schmidt's Social Democratic Party was dealt a stinging electoral defeat in municipal elections in West Berlin. For decades Berlin had been an SPD stronghold, at one time propelling mayor Willy Brandt into the Chancellor's office.

In the May 10 elections, all this changed. The SPD tumbled by four percentage points to less than 39% of the vote. The conservative Christian Democrats Union (CDU) won nearly 48%.

The final outcome of the election is still uncertain. The CDU needs coalition help in order to govern. It certainly won't find help from the radical left "Alternative List"--a curious mixed bag of Marxists, Maoists, down-with-everything anarchists and environmentalists--which showed surprising strength (nine seats and 7.2% of the vote.)

The CDU will instead make overtures to the liberal Free Democratic Party (FDP) in an attempt to pry them away from their previous alliance with the SPD. Such a prospect has nationwide implications. If the Free Democrats should now swing to the side of the Christian Democrats in Berlin, the move could encourage some disgruntled Free Democrats who have been wanting to split from the SPD and link up with the CDU at the federal level. Many FDP members are increasingly dissatisfied with the growing strength of radical leftists within the SPD.

Some observers feel the current SPD-FDP coalition in Bonn won't be able to survive until the next elections in 1984. That's why West Berlin is a test of the federal coalition's staying power.

"Historically," noted the Christian Science Monitor on May 12, "West Germany's legislative majorities have changed only with a change in coalition preference of the swing-vote FDP--and any national FDP shift so far has been scouted first by a shift of a regional FDP."

"Law and Order" and Strauss

There is little doubt that much of the increased strength for the CDU in West Berlin came from voters demanding that authorities clamp down on spreading leftist/anarchist unrest in the city.

Radical leftists in Berlin and elsewhere have capitalized on Germany's nationwide housing shortage to justify occupying abandoned buildings. "Squatter demonstrations" are now the biggest protest phenomenon in the country, along with anti-nuclear power demonstrations.

On one recent weekend, bands of angry young men and women ran riot in a score of West German towns. In Nuremberg, 141 youths were rounded up--the biggest mass arrests in Germany, according to one report, since Nazi times. The arrests were not ordered by Nuremberg's SPD-ruled city government, but by state authorities under orders of Bavaria's Interior Ministry.

Bavaria's Minister-President (governor) Franz-Josef Strauss has no time for squatters. Strauss's tough line on demonstrators contrasts sharply with pleas by West Berlin's SPD rulers urging city police to "show restraint." Says Strauss, "As long as I am in office, I will oppose squatter demonstrations with all the force at my disposal."

If the present coalition in Bonn collapses, Strauss may yet have a chance to inject a bit of "law and order" from the federal level. A writer for the New Zealand newspaper, The Dominion, reported from Germany in an article headlined, "Is Strauss On Way Back in Germany?": "In the federal elections six months ago, Strauss, at the head of the Christian Democrats, was defeated in his bid for the Chancellorship. On May 10, Berlin will show whether the tide is turning in his favor."

Many Germans, viewing social unrest in their country and the leftist victory in France, will no doubt opt for a tougher line in the future.

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau