



# The Worldwide News

OF THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

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## Regional director visits Estonia; staff goes on the air in Russia

By Frankie Weinberger

BONN, Germany—John Karlson, regional director for German-speaking areas, and his wife, Kristina, visited Leo Kaagjaerv, the lone member in Estonia, and a group of prospective members there, as well as the three members working in St. Petersburg, Russia, Nov. 29 to Dec. 4.

The Karlsons flew to Tallinn, capital of Estonia, and drove a rented car to Tartu to meet with the brethren.

Tallinn has only one car rental agency with one Western-made car: a small, economy-sized Renault. The Karlsons had requested an extra can of gasoline since Estonia is experiencing a severe gas shortage. Moreover, foreign cars are only allowed to use a few gas stations.

Upon arriving at the car rental agency, they discovered that neither a Renault nor a gas can was available. Instead they were given a roomy Volvo with a large gas tank, enabling them to make the five-hour round-trip on a single tank of gas.

Sabbath morning, Nov. 30, Mr. Karlson conducted a Bible study for Mr. Kaagjaerv and eight prospective members in a hotel. After eating lunch together, several of them showed Mr. and Mrs. Karlson around the old part of Tartu. With sunset at about 2:30 p.m., the tour got off to an early start.

The next day most of the Estonians again met in the hotel, where Mr. Karlson gave a Bible study based on their questions. The people have little Church literature, and mail from the West takes at least two months.

Most of them can understand at

least some English or German but have limited experience with these languages. All of them are fluent in Estonian and Russian.

Monday morning the Karlsons flew to St. Petersburg, where they visited Cliff and Simone Worthing and Debbie Armstrong.

These volunteers are working at Radio-Television St. Petersburg. Mr. and Mrs. Worthing have been



JOHN AND KRISTINA KARLSON

doing a commentary on a Russian television program about Western business and capitalism.

Beginning in January the project will be under the auspices of the German Regional Office. "This will allow close communication with our staff in St. Petersburg, and facilitate arrangements with translators, with guidance from headquarters," said evangelist Larry Salyer, director of Church Administration International. "We are putting together a plan for literature production in the Russian language."

The Karlsons and the volunteers were invited to the home of an employee of the radio and television station. The Russian hosts showed their guests some

old, heavy furniture.

They explained that the only reason it and other such pieces had not been chopped up for firewood in World War II during the siege of Leningrad was that the starving population was too weak to chop solid wood furniture.

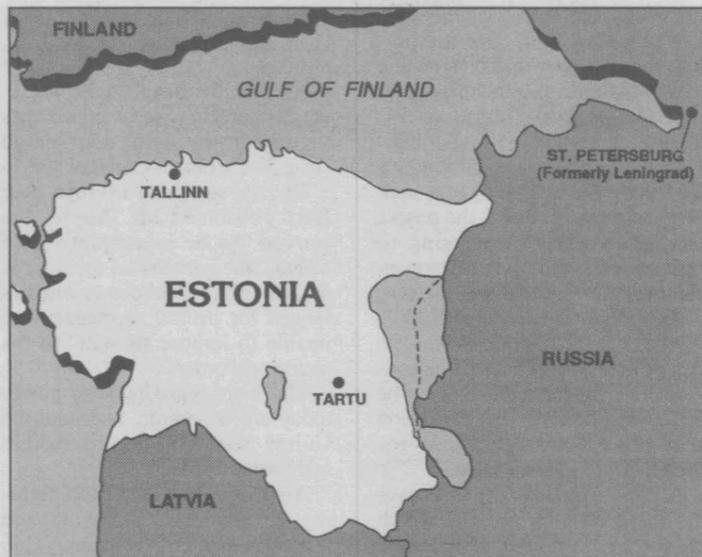
The hosts added that present conditions remind them of the beginning of the Leningrad siege.

Even though now finally free to travel, Russians aren't interested. Their main concern is getting enough food to eat.

Monthly ration coupons provide basics like 10 eggs and a pound of butter. Food is fairly abundant at the marketplace, but prices are unaffordable for most citizens.

The average monthly wage of 300 to 400 rubles a month makes 250 rubles for a chicken unthinkable.

Mr. and Mrs. Karlson agreed



ESTONIA TRIP—John Karlson and his wife, Kristina, drove from Tallinn to Tartu, where they met Estonian member Leo Kaagjaerv and a group of prospective members. [Map by Ron Grove]

that the situation "is much worse" than last summer and has "deteriorated noticeably."

Mr. Karlson remarked: "The trip was very useful to gain insight into what's ahead of us. It

is especially encouraging to see the light and example which a few individual members of God's Church can be in areas that otherwise have no contact with God's Work."

## Why change computer systems? Work now uses commercial software

By David Holladay

PASADENA—By August 1992 employees in most departments will have switched to using applications and programs on the new AS/400 computer instead of the older IBM 370 mainframe unit.

David Holladay is AS/400 assistant projects manager.

The IBM 370 mainframe computer has been the primary computer running the Work's key applications for two decades.

One example of a key application is our address file system,

which keeps track of multiple millions of names and addresses.

"The system we have been using for the past 20 years has served us extremely well and has been a good return on our investment," said James Peoples, director of Computer Information Systems (CIS).

"I'm not sure most people in the Work realize the effort put into the original system as well as the conversion to the AS/400," Mr. Peoples added. "It is a tremendous tribute to the staff's dedication, hard work and enthusiasm over the years."

### Why change computers?

Many factors forced CIS to look at changing computers. One reason was that the IBM 370 mainframe is nearing the end of its useful life.

Another reason was the time it takes to write custom applications (software).

By the end of the 1980s the Work's in-house software required intensive support from CIS programmers. They were having to continually upgrade the programs

because of computers' growing sophistication and users' greater needs.

"Generally, software has a life span of four to five years, but some of ours are approaching 20 years," said Mr. Peoples.

"In years past, there were no off-the-shelf applications that met the Work's needs in certain areas, and some programs were more economical for CIS to write in-house. At the time, the in-house applications were state of the art, but it has been almost impossible to keep them up to date," he said.

At the same time, CIS was receiving more requests for new applications from the Work's departments. But CIS did not have enough resources to handle the new projects, and users could not afford to wait months or years for a new custom program.

With the switch to the new computer, the Work will convert from in-house written software to commercial software.

The advantage of commercial (See COMPUTER, page 6)

## PERSONAL FROM

Joseph W. Teach

Dear Brethren,

In my recent "Personals" I have been explaining and emphasizing what the true gospel is. This time, let's take a look at something the gospel is *not*.

Learning what the gospel is *not* can be an important part of learning what the gospel is. By seeing what it is

not, you can sweep your mind clean of harmful misunderstandings that you may have assumed were correct, but which, in this case, subtly lead you away from the truth of the gospel.

I am talking about the commonly held belief that if you accept the Christian way of life you will always prosper physically. This misunderstanding about the gospel has been labeled the "health-wealth gospel" or the "prosperity gospel."

In fact, it is not the gospel at all. It is merely the use of religious-sounding language to describe the so-called "American Dream." It is a way of attracting people to religion by promising them a successful and prosperous life if they will join a church.

Regrettably, even some in the Church of God have accepted this fallacious gospel. For exam-

ple, when a minister has said, "If you please God, he will bless you," some have taken that to mean that status or income is some sort of thermometer of a person's spiritual state. (Sometimes, even the Church's income has been viewed as a sort of thermometer of the Church's spiritual state.)

This concept is not biblical. In fact, Jesus promised those who follow him persecution, trial, suffering and hardship (Acts 9:16, Romans 8:17, Philippians 1:29, II Timothy 2:12, Matthew 5:11 and John 5:16 are only a few examples). He did not promise an easy life, financial rewards, prestige and respect, or even deliverance from every physical trial.

Now, if you please God, he will, of course, bless you. But, it must be asked, in what way will God bless you?

### Trials strengthen faith

God's values are not the same as our values. We like to see blessings in terms of possessions, advancement, prestige or power. But the true and greatest blessing, the one that God (See PERSONAL, page 3)

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COMPUTER TEAM—Computer Information Systems staff working on the conversion to the AS/400 system. "It is a tremendous tribute to the staff's dedication, hard work and enthusiasm over the years," said James Peoples, CIS director. [Photo by Charles Feldbush]

# Will U.S.A. follow U.S.S.R. into history?

PASADENA—The year begins with the unprecedented demise of one superpower and deepening difficulties for the other.

Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation Dec. 25 in an address televised live to much of the world. The last president of the Soviet Union said, "We are now living in a new world." Ironically it was his reform-minded policies that contributed much to his own—and his nation's—undoing.

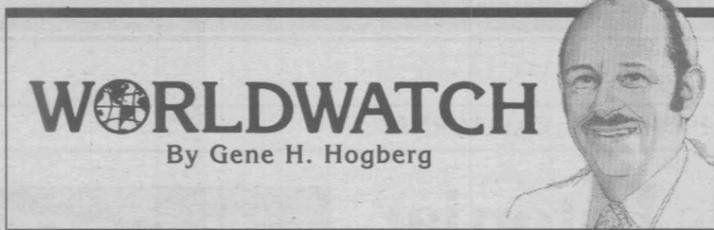
In his address, Mr. Gorbachev said that one of his biggest concerns was "the fact that the people in this country are ceasing to become citizens of a great power, and the consequences may be very difficult for all of us to deal with."

The next day, making complete the switch to the new Commonwealth of Independent States, the Soviet legislature voted the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) out of existence.

Analysts are dumbfounded over the speed and totality with which the Soviet Union has disappeared from the political map. "Never before has the end come so quickly," wrote Oswald Johnston, in the Dec. 30 Los Angeles Times. "Historically, empires tend to linger for decades, sometimes centuries, past their prime."

And what of the other superpower of the 20th century, the United States?

"For the United States," wrote R.W. Apple in the Dec. 29 New York Times, "1991 began with



## WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

victory in the brief, vivid war in the Persian Gulf, and it ended with victory in the long, convoluted struggle to contain Communism."

But the smashing triumph over Iraq, continued Mr. Apple, has proved "to be incomplete." He added, "the paradox of the hour is an American superpower unchallenged for overall supremacy but unable to impose its will" in the new world order.

The main ingredients of power today are economic, and here the United States is slipping further and further behind.

America now finds itself fighting for economic survival—and not too certain of the outcome. One of the most ironic one-liners of the day goes: The Cold War is over, Japan and Germany have won!

President George Bush's trip to Asia changed, under mounting political pressures at home, from an initial goodwill tour to, as Michael Wines of the New York Times phrased it, "a blunt sales pitch for American exports and jobs."

The fact that Mr. Bush took along with him some of the

nation's top business executives, including captains of the hard-pressed automotive industry, aggravated tensions between the United States and Japan.

What a change from the state of affairs less than an average lifetime ago, when the United States was still on the ascendancy of world power, as opposed to being on the economic down-slide.

I came across a fascinating article in an old issue of *Harper's Magazine*, dated March 1926. Titled "America, England, and World Affairs," it was written by historian Arnold Toynbee.

Mr. Toynbee attempted to explain the secrets of "the unparalleled standard of living which prevails in America today." He said it was partly because of "the American national character, with its energy, ingenuity, and initiative," but also because of "the immense latent natural resources which a virgin continent has poured out of her cornucopia into the American people's lap."

Another reason, he said, was that "the vast and wealthy continental domain has been acquired

by the American people with comparative ease ... [such as] the amazing windfall of the Louisiana Purchase.... Never, perhaps, has so great a territory, so richly endowed with natural resources, been acquired by one nation with so little opposition or competition on the part of others."

Because of the energy it took to develop such riches, Americans, he continued, involved themselves little in world affairs until the Great War of 1914-1918. But now (this was written in 1926) Americans began to pour their industrial expertise and investment capital abroad. "The United States has become a great lending country instead of a great borrower," he said.

Mr. Toynbee proved a good predictor of future problems. He foresaw that one of America's greatest challenges would involve Japan. Already, relations between the two Pacific powers were worsening, eventually to lead to a hot war.

The American government, he

said, was only making matters worse by passing the 1924 Oriental Exclusion clause in immigration legislation, cutting off immigrants from Japan, among other places. This legislation, he added, was being done in a "reckless manner."

America is now the greatest borrower, or debtor nation, in history. Its legislators are attempting once again to restrict the Japanese—not its people this time, but its products. As Mr. Toynbee might have put it, it is being done in a reckless and dangerous manner.

For example, one draconian trade protection bill being considered would try to force an end to Japan's trade surplus with the United States in five years.

Meanwhile, the Japanese argue (and no side is without fault) that America's economic problems are essentially its own, from its own appallingly low savings rate to manifold social ills such as drug abuse and crumbling education.

One wonders how long it will be before the United States joins the Soviet Union as a footnote to history.

## European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



## Do you lack compassion?

BOREHAMWOOD, England—Minutes after released ex-hostage Terry Waite landed on British soil, he gave a courageous speech to those waiting to welcome him. He had endured 1,763 days chained in a small room in Lebanon.

He thanked people who had worked for his release. He thanked his family for their courage throughout the whole affair. But he also had a word of thanks for one anonymous person who had given him hope.

"I was kept in complete isolation for four years," said Mr. Waite. "I saw no one and spoke to no one apart from a cursory word with my guards when they brought me food. And one day out of the blue a guard came with a postcard. It was a postcard showing a stained glass window from Bedford showing John Bunyan [author of *Pilgrim's Progress*] in jail...."

"I turned the card over and there was a message from someone I didn't know simply saying: 'We remember, we shall not forget. We shall continue to pray for you and to work for all people who are detained around the world.'"

The prophet Ezekiel says God takes special note of people who look beyond their own little world and feel real compassion for suffering humanity (Ezekiel 9:4). Such people demonstrate an attitude of concerned awareness that God himself feels. The Father and Christ also look in horror on the suffering of this world.

Unfortunately, such feelings about the pain of others are rare. In this self-centered society the love of many will grow cold, said Jesus (Matthew 24:12). We may see problems, but not respond.

Besides, we can't do anything about the tens of thousands suffering in a war, or from famine, or those under political oppression, we reason, so we almost unconsciously teach ourselves not to feel. And because we no longer feel anything for those who suffer, we even forget to take their plight before the throne of God in prayer.

### Dreadful war in Balkans

The Balkans is one area that demands our concern and prayers.

There a dreadful war is taking place. Thousands are losing their lives and many, many others are being made homeless.

Some have called the Yugoslavian conflict "the forgotten war." Brian Cathcart wrote in *The Independent on Sunday*: "Because the fear of apocalyptic escalation has gone, this war has less immediacy for British people.... If [our] homes and hearths are not threatened by fighting in Yugoslavia, should [we] care at all?"

That is a good question for those who follow Jesus Christ. Is it our urgent request to God that he look down on our oftentimes ugly world and act to change it? Do we pray, "Thy kingdom come?"

What about those lying wounded in hospital beds, what about civilians caught between the bullets and the bombs of warring factions? Do such men and women, made in the image of God, get a mention in our prayers?

### Do you lack compassion?

But what if you honestly feel you lack compassion for others? James tells us that if any lacks wisdom, let him ask God for it. Can it be any different when it comes to compassion?

Christ did not walk blindly by, unmoved by the state of the world, unconcerned about the suffering of people around him. He cared deeply. In Matthew 23:37, Christ sighed over the tragic situation of Jerusalem.

When we hear news reports about violence, we should not let them go in one ear and out of the other. We are called to love our fellow men and women.

James wrote that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (5:16). We should not despise the effect of our small actions, heartfelt prayers offered in concern—the seemingly small contribution we make to God's worldwide Work. They all add up.

In the words of Terry Waite: "I would say, never despise those simple actions. Something, somewhere will get through to the people you are concerned about as it got through to me and my fellows eventually."



## Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

## The meaning of freedom

Terry Anderson, the last American hostage in Lebanon, was set free Dec. 4 to be reunited with loved ones, friends and his young daughter Salome (whom he had never seen).

He is now making the enormous transition from the darkness of hostage life to the light of liberty.

Of course, when hostages are released they do not immediately start living normally. Most go to air force bases where they are given thorough medical checkups by doctors and spend quiet time with their families.

There are many counseling sessions. Years of captivity are not without a toll. Freedom is something an ex-prisoner has to get used to.

Some hostages had spent years alone, chained to a wall in miserable captivity.

### Captives liberated

Newly liberated hostages have special meaning for us. At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1: "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to bring good tidings unto the humble; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the eyes to them that are bound" (The Holy Scriptures According to the Masoretic Text).

Throughout the Bible, God's people have faced imprisonment—Joseph, Jeremiah, Peter, Paul. The book of Acts in particular tells of several instances when the apostles were captured, imprisoned, then released.

One story is especially encouraging because it tells how God

used the experience to work with both captives and captor.

Paul and Silas were in Philippi, where they had been arrested after commanding a spirit to leave a demon-possessed girl. Yet look how they responded to their captivity. "At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them" (Acts 16:25).

In jail Paul and Silas encouraged one another to focus on their relationship with God that even thick prison walls couldn't sepa-

**Paul and Silas were physically free to go, but true freedom also entails responsibility. For a Christian, being loosed from our own chains doesn't mean we can disregard the situation of others.**

rate. Moreover, their attitude was so different it made the other prisoners pay attention.

Then "suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed."

God heard the prayers of his servants. Paul and Silas still had an important job to do. It was impossible for mere imprisonment to hold them back.

### Responsibilities of freedom

Perhaps the most remarkable part of the story is what follows. The keeper of the prison woke up and saw the open prison doors. He was horrified. If the prisoners had

escaped, he could face a horrible death for allowing it to happen. He drew his sword and was about to take his own life.

Paul, however, called out to him: "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."

Paul and Silas were physically free to go, but true freedom also entails responsibility. For a Christian, being loosed from our own chains doesn't mean we can disregard the situation of others.

Paul and Silas' response affected the jailer deeply. Their concern was the most effective sermon they could have preached. Later the jailer and his family were baptized.

Paul understood that liberty is given for a purpose. "Do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another," he wrote (Galatians 5:13). Peter also taught that we should use our liberty "as servants of God" (I Peter 2:16).

At the end of his life, the apostle Paul again found himself in

prison. He had been held under house arrest and was eventually transferred to Rome, where his captivity was used to spread the gospel.

He wrote to the church in Philippi—the same city in which he and Silas had been held in the dungeons: "I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ" (Philippians 1:12-13).

We have been given liberty. Whether inside a prison or not, God's people can identify with the captives who have been freed.

# Pastor general visits Tucson, Ariz.



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Pastor General Joseph W. Tkach spoke to 945 brethren Dec. 21 from the Tucson, Sierra Vista and Phoenix North, South and East, Ariz., churches.

Host ministers and wives were Steve and Terri Buchanan, Tucson and Sierra Vista; Leroy and Jean Cole, Phoenix East; Cecil and Karen Maranville, Phoenix North; and Chuck and Joy Zimmerman, Phoenix West.

Dec. 22 Mr. Tkach and his traveling party stopped at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson, which has more than 150 aircraft on display. Tom Swanton, deputy director of operations, who led the tour, said: "I was impressed with Mr. Tkach's knowledge of World War II aces. He just rattled off their names. I think he knows more of them than I do and I was with the Strategic Air Command for 27 years."



PHOTOS BY ELDON HAYS AND JOHN JACOBS



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## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

offers, is that of reconciliation with him. In other words, how much we have, how "important" we are, what position we hold and how few trials we experience are *not* what the gospel is all about.

God does not offer us salvation so we can escape the trials of this life. It is precisely through the trials of this life that our faith is strengthened and sharpened. It is through suffering that we learn to rely on God and to realize how much we need him. It is through hardship that our love for God may grow stronger and that our hope may grow brighter.

Peter wrote: "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (I Peter 1:6-7, New International Version throughout).

Some live as though the main reason God has called his people is to save them from a coming war. But God's great purpose far transcends any momentary war, epidemic, depression or hard times. God has called us to salvation and eternal glory.

Paul wrote, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us"

(Romans 8:18). True Christians suffer. God never promised they wouldn't, despite what those who proclaim a "prosperity gospel" might say.

### Reconciliation with God

God's transcendent purpose is to reconcile humanity to himself, to purify the whole world from sin through the blood of his Son and to grant eternal life to all who come to him. God has not called us merely to save us from the physical problems, trials and hardships we face in this life.

God certainly looks after his people and answers their prayers, but the true goal of our calling is reconciliation with him, to know him, to draw close to him in spiritual fellowship, to abide in his love, to become one with him.

Peter continued, "Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (I Peter 1:8-9).

God has made us his own children for the purpose of abiding with us in love and unity for eternity.

Paul wrote: "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious free-

dom of the children of God" (Romans 8:19-21).

In his wisdom, God does not always deliver us *from* our trials, but he always sees us *through* our trials. God never leaves us alone in our suffering. He is always with us, helping us grow in unity with him.

Paul added: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered' " (verses 35-36).

We need to understand that being delivered from war or tribulation does not have nearly the significance or importance of being delivered from sin and eternal death.

God promises that he will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). That promise is our strength in time of need. Through his Spirit, God abides with us, encouraging us when we are tempted to give up, empowering us when we are tempted to sin, stirring us to faithfulness and obedience.

He sees us through hard times, providing the wherewithal to endure. Again, God does not promise to remove all our trials. He promises to see us through them.

Some tend to look down on those who are not as prosperous, or who are suffering from a disease or who have experienced a tragedy. They assume that these people are not faithful to God, since he is apparently not "bless-

ing" them, as evidenced by their circumstances. How far from the truth!

Make no mistake, we do often suffer as a result of our own faults. But the mere presence of suffering or hardship in a person's life is not proof that the person is a greater sinner than people who are not likewise suffering.

We should all realize that the Bible gives many examples of the prosperity of the wicked. The plain fact is that neither prosperity nor health are thermometers of righteousness.

Let's never forget that we are called to devote our lives to Jesus Christ, to follow him wherever he goes. If we are to share in his glory, we must also share in his sufferings (Romans 8:17).

The "health-wealth gospel" is a false gospel. The true gospel calls us to reconciliation with our God and to eternal salvation in his kingdom, after we "have suffered a little while" (I Peter 5:10).

Let us heed Peter's advice: "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (verses 6-7).

God is our "refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). He will see us through all trials and bring us to his eternal glory in Christ (I Peter 5:10).

Let's endure hardship as good soldiers of Jesus Christ and not allow the things of this world to divert us from the truth of the gospel to which we've been called.

# Lone Hungarian member tells of life as quantum physicist

By Jeff E. Zhorne

BONNDORF, Germany—"I read an interesting booklet about Christmas, published by the Worldwide Church of God, and I recommend you read it too. I especially recommend this booklet because it is free."

So read an excerpt from a 1986 magazine article that gave the address of the British Office, where readers could write for the Church's booklet.

And thus began Ference Jeszensky's relationship with the Church. Ference (as he prefers to be called) wrote for the booklet, found it interesting and sent in a response card.

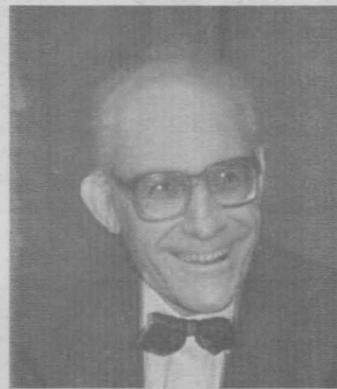
After completing some Bible correspondence course lessons, Ference was baptized two years later in Vienna, Austria, by Robert Berendt, pastor of the Vienna and Salzburg, Austria, and Nuremberg and Munich, Germany, churches.

As Vienna is about 175 miles from his native Budapest, Hungary's capital, and travel is so expensive, Ference can attend services only once or twice a year in Vienna, plus the Passover. He attended the Feast last year in

Bonndorf, accompanied by his wife, Elisabeth (not a member).

## Science can 'eat you up'

Now 59, Ference has been a physicist since 1955 after studying at the University of Budapest. He described his profession as "seek-



FERENCE JESZENSZKY

ing to find general principles from which, with mathematics, one can deduce all principles such as the laws of second and third generation hierarchical laws of science."

Whew! Little wonder Mr. Berendt called him "an intelligent man you need to write about."

Ference's specialty is quantum mechanics, just like Albert Einstein, who died in 1955.

"Einstein was, of course, a great man with original ideas," Ference recalled. "But he was interesting only until he was about 45 years old. After that, developments came and he refused to learn new things or accept ideas of others. But we can appreciate his peak achievements."

Of his own achievements, Ference said he is not in the "first row" like Einstein. "I'm probably in the third row," he said, referring to levels of expertise.

He said science is a "dangerous profession" because when you make a big achievement "it can eat you up." Ference said scientists can have "deformed lives filled with science and nothing else."

"Many scientists know nothing about politics or human relations. I experienced this danger and perhaps could have been in the first row or second row, but I didn't want my whole life to be science."

## Interests: languages and reading

Ference supplements science by studying theology and languages. Besides Hungarian, he knows German and English. He can read Italian, French and Dutch by analyzing the context and referring to a dictionary.

He finds Canadian and U.S. Southern accents difficult to understand.

For Ference, foreign languages are most important to understand literature and professional material. He corresponds with colleagues in the scientific community worldwide.

Ference greatly enjoys reading. "She knows it!" he said, gesturing toward his wife. "I sit with my books, there are always new books. My favorite book is always the last from which I learned something interesting."

He reads books three times: first, quickly, to see the essence; second, in detail, to understand everything; third, to make notes, rereading the parts that brought the newest understanding.

He prefers nonfiction to fiction, which "reflects only the ideas of one person, often with a big fantasy," he said.

Together, Ference and Elisabeth enjoy music and often attend concerts. Ference's favorite music is baroque, Bach his favorite composer.

## Political changes unnoticed

Politically, Hungary has seen big changes, "but they have not been hectic because so many small steps have been taken over such a long time that we almost didn't notice it."

Yet Hungary has come a long way from the days of hard-line communist regimes. Until 1988 the government blocked the entry of books and booklets—not just those published by the Church but nearly all religious materials, said Ference.

But the country has become much freer in the past three years. "We don't need to be so cautious now," said Ference, who still cherishes freedoms of religion and travel.

Economically, however, Hungary has suffered. "Communism left the country totally ruined. Even the communist leader left a sinking ship, so to speak," Ference recounted. "It's been a difficult situation. Houses are very old, reconstruction is slow."

He added: "People are morally disorganized too, with much moral corruption. We know what human nature is. People in formal positions can serve their own interests."

But George Orwell's description of society in his book *1984* is not accurate, Ference says. "The communists would have liked to construct such a system, but they cannot organize as well as the book. Everything is half made."

People are concerned about the political climate affecting all of Eastern Europe, said Elisabeth, who attended her second Feast in 1991. She noticed people were more pressed and disturbed, more irritable and sensitive.

## Alone, but never alone

Ference said he was interested in the Church because it seemed "aligned with the Bible more than any other." He was born into the Lutheran denomination, which in Hungary is a liberal organization, he said.

Of course he would like to meet with other members in a congregation in Budapest, but until one is established Ference stays in phone contact with Mr. Berendt and Helmut Kaserer, a local church elder who lives in Molln, Austria. He also receives sermon tapes from the German Office.

Ference is not really alone, however. "Already so many write to me that I cannot possibly answer everyone."

Ference met Gene Hogberg, *Plain Truth* world news editor, who traveled through the area last summer. "I have heartfelt greetings for Mr. Hogberg," said Ference, who waits until next Passover to meet again with brethren of like mind.



**FINAL RITES**—Evangelist Herman Hoeh speaks at graveside services for evangelist Harold Jackson, who was interred at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Calif., Dec. 20. More than 650 attended a memorial service earlier in the day in the Ambassador Auditorium, where Dr. Hoeh urged those in the audience to "follow the example of Harold Jackson, who made the best of opportunities, who made all of us his friends." [Photo by Hal Finch]

## Texas: Teaching jobs available

By Larry Walker

EL PASO, Tex.—El Paso is an attractive area for qualified members seeking employment as public school teachers.

Larry Walker pastors the El Paso, Tex., and Las Cruces, N.M., churches.

Are you a qualified public schoolteacher and looking for a job or a change of job? El Paso is a place that might interest you for the following reasons.

(1) The Church is a known commodity here because several members are teachers (including a local elder, two deacons and an Ambassador College graduate).

Legal precedent of taking off for the Feast has been established, so the door is open for others to follow. A member won an Amarillo, Tex., court case involving the Feast several years ago.

(2) The Socorro and El Paso school districts are two of the fastest growing school districts in the state. Several new schools are being planned or built in El Paso, which means many more teachers will be needed.

(3) State certification tests (usually administered on Saturday, except in a few large cities) can be taken in El Paso on a day other than Saturday. Local officials have made special arrangements for this.

(4) The Socorro school district uses a year-round school year (90 days of school, 30 days of vacation at a time). Since the dates of these periods vary with the different schools in the district, member teachers can trade time off with other teachers in the district, and substitute teachers may not have to be hired during the Feast.

(5) The ratio of pay scale to cost of living is quite good. Housing and utilities in El Paso are reasonably priced.

This is a popular retirement area because of the mild winters and lots of sunshine. Summer heat is moderated by the high elevation and low humidity.

(6) Teachers with seniority may be able to transfer their seniority to El Paso, allowing higher pay

and earlier retirement.

(7) Those who have a bachelor's degree but do not have teaching credentials or a degree in education may be hired under an alternative certification program that allows the person to begin teaching if he or she takes night and summer classes for certification.

The Ambassador graduate got a job in this manner. He works in special education, which has an especially great need for teachers. Bilingual (English and Spanish)

instructors are also in great demand.

If you are interested please send me a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope and I will send you more specific information. My address is 6936 La Cadena, El Paso, Tex., 79912.

Write first and call me only if, after reading the information, you need additional information. My number is 1-915-581-1026.

The El Paso congregation is a small, friendly church with lots of opportunities for service.

## "Into all the world..."

Your involvement in the Work produces fruit. In this column prospective members, co-workers, subscribers to the Work's publications and viewers of the *World Tomorrow* telecast express their views and opinions.

Thank you so much for your *Plain Truth* magazine. I can hardly wait to receive the next issue, and when I finally receive a magazine I devour it. I can't think of any other religious magazine which contains so much within 29 pages.

A.A.  
Grants Pass, Ore.

I enjoy your wonderful magazine very much so that I cannot wait for the next copy to arrive. I want to thank you for it. In your latest copy of November-December 1991 appeared your article "Pray With a Purpose." I confess that I learned much from it because I was not sure about my prayers, but reading this article got me straight and gave me great confidence again.

J. J.  
San Jose, Calif.

I am enclosing my card for another year of *The Plain Truth*. I have been receiving it every month faithfully and I find it very, very interesting. It has a little of everything in it.

I belong to a Bible class, and when I get through reading them I pass them along to the others. They find them very interesting and educational.

I. L.  
Hartford, Conn.

Yes, please renew our subscription—we do enjoy getting another view of today's problems and look forward to

receiving *The Plain Truth*. We are enclosing a contribution and know there are lots of expenses involved.

K.L.  
Independence, Mo.

I look forward to receiving the *Plain Truth* magazine. I have learned so much more from the *Plain Truth* magazine about the Bible than from all the years attending church.

M.P.  
Gulf Breeze, Fla.

I am 12 years old and it's been two years since I accepted Christ and I thought I had all the answers. Well, I was wrong. Your magazine has really helped me answer many questions that I thought had no answers.

J. M.  
Uniontown, Ohio

## ANNUAL RECEIPTS

PASADENA—The Mail Processing Center will mail 1991 annual receipts to members in the United States in mid-January. They will be mailed first class and should arrive at most homes by the end of January.

All U.S. donations postmarked by Dec. 31 were eligible for a 1991 receipt. Contributions mailed after that time will be posted on 1992 records.

Anyone in the United States who has not received his or her receipt by the first week in February should telephone Mail Processing. The toll-free number is 1-800-423-4444. Ask for Donation File. This information cannot be given over the phone, but Mail Processing will send you another copy of your receipt.

# French Office

Pasadena

## 34 years of growth yield new shape for French area

By Olivier Carion

PASADENA—The French phase of the Work started in 1957, when Dibar Apartian, then a French instructor at Ambassador College, translated the Church's first few English booklets into French.

*Olivier Carion is manager of the French Office.*

Since then, most booklets have been available in French at one time or another, along with the correspondence course.

The French *World Tomorrow* broadcast (*Le Monde a Venir*) has been on the air continually since it began in Montreal, Que., in October 1960. To date, Mr. Apartian has recorded 2,746 15-minute programs.

In April 1961 the first 15-minute program aired on Radio Luxembourg, reaching France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Morocco and Tunisia in North Africa. Radio Europe 1 soon began transmitting the program.

The program was first heard in the West Indies from Martinique in August 1961.

In June 1963 the first issue of the French *Plain Truth* (*La Pure Verite*) was sent to 4,258 people. The circulation grew rapidly to 65,000 in the 1960s, 120,000 in the '70s and 200,000 in the '80s.

### Early offices, congregations

Through these vital tools God began to call people, and in July 1963 an office was opened in

Geneva, Switzerland. The first French-speaking church was established in Geneva in May 1965. The Paris, France, church was inaugurated in November 1966.

The first members attended the Feast in England, where translations were provided until the first Feast was organized in Praz-Sur-Arly, France, in 1967.

Other congregations were later established: Fort-de-France, Martinique, in April 1967; Brussels, Belgium, July 1969; Montreal, January 1971; and Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe, April 1976.

In April 1980 the Paris Office opened, and in June 1982 *The World Tomorrow* aired on Radio Television Luxembourg (RTL) with French subtitles. This prompted a significant increase in *Plain Truth* subscriptions and led to increased attendance at



**FRENCH OFFICE**—French Office employees are (from left) Marcia Lucas, Martine Vezina, Dibar Apartian, Marsha Sabin, Linda Hongerlout, Gary Foster, Olivier Carion, Bernard Hongerlout, Claire Yourassoff, Francois Metayer, Joelle Vasquez and Kurt Hoyer. [Photo by Barry Stahl]

public Bible lectures and subsequently at Sabbath services.

*The World Tomorrow* also aired on Tele-Monte-Carlo in southeast

France as well as in Quebec. In February 1986 the *World Tomorrow's* subtitles changed to a voice-over format done by Bernard Hongerlout, a minister in the French Department.

Along with these media efforts, newsstands and direct mail spurred even greater growth.

Today nine ministers and four local church elders serve 14 churches in French-speaking Europe, where 1,270 people attend services.

Three full-time ministers and one elder manage five churches in Martinique, Guadeloupe and Haiti, with 610 people attending services.

In French Africa about 450 people attend services at five churches, with no ministers except two full-time ministers in Europe who visit several times a year.

### Taking a new shape

French-speaking nations cover an area 73 percent larger than the United States, and are spread over the four corners of the earth.

For many years, God's Work in these regions was administered by the French Office in Pasadena, which served 40 major French-speaking countries and (See FRENCH, page 6)

## INTERNATIONAL DESK

FROM OUR FRENCH OFFICE

## New school laws affect members and children

By Tony Gallagher

LYON, France—In 1989 a minor incident made headlines and led to a change in French law restricting Church schoolchildren from freely observing the Sabbath.

*Tony Gallagher pastors the Lyon, France, church.*

The incident arose when some Muslim girls refused to remove their veils in public schools and refused to attend classes where wearing veils was not permitted.

The media publicized the issue, and the Ministry of Education reviewed its laws.

Unfortunately, emphasis was put on students' obligation to attend all classes, some of which take place on Saturday mornings as well as on annual Holy Days.

### Members' requests refused

This ruling caused difficulties for some Church families in the 1990-91 school year. School directors have not wanted to give permission for Saturday absences and have referred the cases to regional academic inspectors. Requests for absences have often been refused.

One family received a letter threatening to suspend family benefits, assess fines and send them to prison. As the inspectors received reports of continued absence, they took measures to have the family's government benefit suspended.

This has gone on for months with the family's appeals being rejected. Once, their 12-year-old daughter was interrogated about the Church by a social worker for more than an hour.

The 18-year-old son of another family just starting to attend services was beginning his last year of high school but was scheduled to have Saturday classes. Every Monday when his absence was reported, he was called into the principal's office for a lecture.

He was questioned about the Bible and the Sabbath, and had to listen to criticism about the Church.

The high schooler called it a maturing experience. "I didn't always have all the answers to the questions they asked, so it motivated me to find out," he said.

After six weeks of these sessions, the principal asked him to resign from the school. He continued to attend classes but did not report his absences on Saturdays. He was no longer called in, although letters were sent to his home asking about his absences.

After a few weeks the letters stopped, and he finished the year without further incident. He not only earned his baccalaureate but was selected to do higher studies in electronics at the same institution.

### Most situations resolved

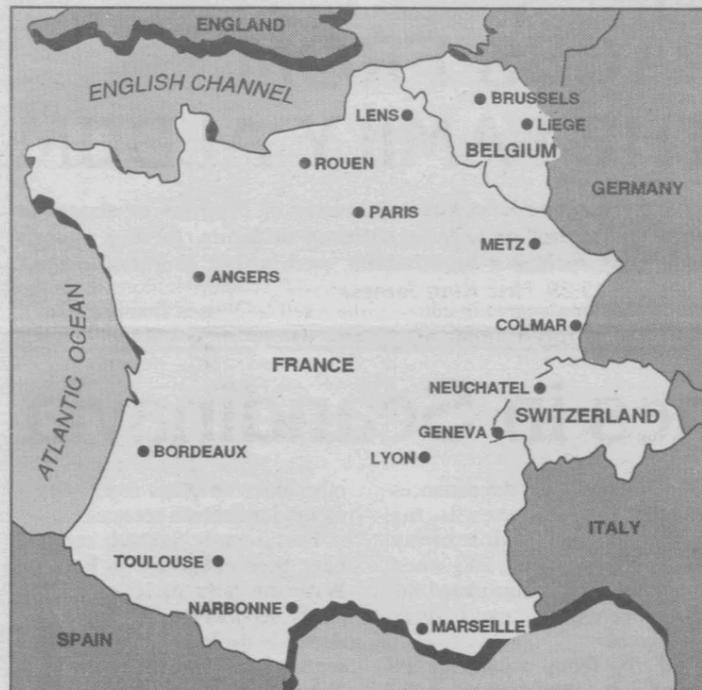
Most situations involving Church children have been resolved with time and patience. One family was even refunded their government benefit that had been withheld.

Others, however, have not obtained such positive results. One young man studying to become a sales representative was failed at year's end, because he was a borderline student and had taken time off for the Feast.

The department head told him he would have no future in sales if he stayed with the Church.

This academic year portends more trials. Even before it began, one family with primary school children was denied excused absences for the Feast and Saturday, although the same inspector gave them permission last year.

Families here would much appreciate the prayers of their brethren around the world so that these restraints to our religious liberty in France might be lifted.



## How minitel helps the Work

By Sam Kneller

PARIS—In France what do groceries, theater tickets, airline schedules and *The Plain Truth* have in common? They are among 14,000 services available from a telephone equipped with a minitel.

*Sam Kneller pastors the Paris, Angers, Lens and Rouen, France, churches.*

From your phone you can order fresh foods, reserve train tickets and read about the *Plain Truth* magazine before you subscribe.

Minitel is a tiny computer with a 40-by-25-line screen and a pull-down keyboard that connects to any phone line. The equipment costs \$12 a month to rent and is free in some sectors.

As soon as a telephone directory is printed it is out of date. In fact, 40,000 updates are made daily as telephone numbers change. Hence the need for an electronic directory, constantly updated and accessible from any minitel around the country.

Twenty percent of all homes and 80 percent of businesses are equipped with minitel.

### How minitel helps the Work

The value of minitel to the

Work is that callers can view information about content and subscription policies before they subscribe. Potential subscribers' awareness of the magazine's aims and goals should be increased, thereby improving the quality of the subscription list.

Instead of expensive advertising to explain who we are, we use small advertisements to direct people to the minitel service.

We also offer literature mentioned on *Le Monde a Venir*, the French *World Tomorrow* broadcast. Subscribers can also request other booklets, change their address or renew subscriptions.

### Simple process

All they have to do is type their name, address and subscription number on the minitel keyboard. This information is received by our service host-computer.

From there we retrieve the information into our computer, print labels and mail literature or update the file. We can mail the literature the same day we receive the request.

Since the project began we have received about 50,000 calls. Twenty percent of the response to the broadcast is received by mini-

tel. In October we baptized a woman who came into contact with the Church this way.

We hope to make the service more educational regarding Bible knowledge.

Advertisements asking "Does God Exist?" and "The Bible, Legend or Truth?" will direct people to the minitel service, where they will find the answers by reading information on several screens.

They then can request the corresponding booklets for more in-depth knowledge, as well as a magazine subscription.

Other possibilities are a section with answers to basic Bible and Christian living questions, and Bible quizzes to promote familiarity with God's Word.

Interactive private letter-answering or a "dialogue" using minitel's anonymity as an intermediary is also a possibility. This is important in a country where religion is a personal affair and not often talked about openly.

Using the minitel will help people build confidence that we're not "out to get them." Our service already gives callers the opportunity to give us their opinion, and they do. They are positive and have expressed the need for help.

## Computer

(Continued from page 1)

software for the Work is that the manufacturer is responsible for program changes and maintenance, leaving the CIS staff free to meet users' more specific needs—sometimes needs that purchased software cannot meet.

### Money saver

For CIS to continue improving the present mainframe system would require "a new, larger mainframe computer and numerous pieces of supportive software," said Mr. Peoples.

"When we looked at the cost of a new mainframe computer the hardware [physical machinery] costs were considerably more than AS/400 hardware," he continued.

"Also, a mainframe would require us to employ several more people, and the cost of software was much higher than the cost of AS/400 software."

In addition, the AS/400 computer takes up less floor space than the mainframe, is more automated and comes with better integrated programs designed to perform specific tasks or functions needed by the Church.

Before purchasing the AS/400, CIS reviewed computer systems from a variety of vendors.

"But for us the AS/400 was the most practical, the most effective and most reliable system," said Mr. Peoples. "Now we can redirect CIS. Instead of maintaining old software, we can support the users and tackle new projects."

### Role of the PC

Because of advances in the personal computer (PC), some applications will be moved directly from the mainframe to PCs.

For example, a PC can handle a scripture search just as effectively as the mainframe. But a PC cannot adequately handle an extremely large database such as the Church's address file.

The PC is the preferred way to connect to the AS/400. In fact, the AS/400 was designed to make better use of existing PCs and Local Area Networks (LANs), which connect PCs to one another.

The Work's investment in PCs will reap even greater benefits when the new machine is installed, according to Mr. Peoples.

### Adjustment

With the AS/400 comes a com-

pletely different environment. "The Work's employees are going through a lot of adjustments in the way they use computers," said Dave Smith, AS/400 projects manager.

"You don't work with the AS/400 in quite the same way you work on the mainframe computer," Mr. Smith said.

"And when you ask people to make the change, you are asking them to replace years of training and experience with new skills. Making a change is never easy, but our computer users are tackling the demands placed upon them."

Said Roger Lippross, assistant director of CIS: "It has taken a lot of work on the part of CIS management and staff to make the change, and I've nothing but respect and admiration for the way the transition has been made."

"I feel this is a credit to everybody involved, including other departments like the Mail Processing Center and Accounting."

### On target

The conversion of mainframe applications and computer-based systems is on target, said Mr. Peoples.

"Originally we planned to

migrate all mainframe applications—the financial and circulation systems—by the end of 1994. But now we plan to complete the initial conversion to the AS/400 before the end of 1992."

In its financial systems, CIS is approaching 60 percent conversion and plans to complete all the major accounting applications for U.S. Church operations early this year.

## French

(Continued from page 5)

territories (258 million people) in Europe, the Caribbean, South America, North Africa, Western and Central Africa, the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific.

But administering the diverse French regions is an increasingly complex task. Even though 40 countries and dependencies have the French language in common, they have a variety of cultures, economies and legal structures.

So in November 1990 evangelist Larry Salyer, director of Church Administration International, announced changes in the French phase of the Work as part of the Church's long-term international plan to organize regions according to geographic boundaries, not primarily according to languages.

French-speaking churches in Canada became part of the Canadian region, supervised by the Vancouver, B.C., Office.

The churches in French-speaking West Africa are now under the British Office, which administers English-speaking West Africa. The Caribbean Office supervises Guadeloupe and Haiti.

For reasons of proximity, the New Zealand Office administers the French-speaking islands in the Pacific, and the South African Office handles the French-speaking islands in the Indian Ocean.

The remaining French-speaking areas include France, Belgium, Switzerland and Martinique. The French Department continues to serve them from Pasadena.

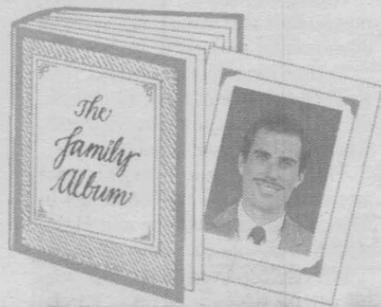
### Much remains to be done

Much has been accomplished in the French region, providing a strong foundation for growth. Yet much still remains to be done.

God has blessed the French phase with solid, steady growth. He continues working through an enthusiastic and loyal team of members, employees and ministers dedicated to serving him and his family.

## PAGES FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit everlasting life." (Matthew 19:29, New King James)



## The churches in Scandinavia

By Becky Sweat

For the 160 brethren living in the Scandinavian nations of Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, maintaining close ties with one another is not easy.

The members are scattered over a land area of about 420,000 square miles, about the same area as California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington combined.

The five churches in Scandinavia are Oslo and Stavanger, Norway; Stockholm, Sweden; and Copenhagen and Aarhus, Denmark. Each ranges in size from 20 to 40 people.

"Many of the members live far apart from each other, especially in Finland," said John Andrews, pastor of the churches in Scandinavia. "For some of the Finnish brethren, the nearest church member is 200 to 400 kilometers away [125 to 250 miles], which makes fellowship difficult."

Some members live too far from Sabbath services to attend on a regular basis. Torstein Wiik lives in Tromsø, Norway, and is the most northern member living in Scandinavia. He attends church services just twice a year—in Oslo for the Spring Holy Days and the Scandinavian Festival site.

Paeivi Keraenen lives in central Finland, and because of the distance she lives from the nearest church she is only able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles.

"She was not able to attend the Feast in 1990 because she had a baby," Mr. Andrews said. "She was able to attend the 1991 Feast in Denmark. She told me how wonderful it was to go to services and be able to fellowship with other members."

Mr. Andrews said the distances between the churches is his biggest challenge. "Most of my traveling is by plane, and when the visiting load is considered the logistics behind that can be very complicated."

"To fly from my home in Copenhagen to the farthest member in Norway is about the same distance as flying from Los Angeles to Seattle [Wash.]. If I wanted

other three churches meet twice a month for Sabbath services.

Traditionally Sabbath services have been conducted in English. With the help of local church elders, services are more often conducted in the local language. There are two local church elders living in Norway and one in Denmark. No ministers live in the area with fluent Swedish or Finnish speakers.

The majority of the Scandinavian brethren know enough English to carry on a conversation, but many do not speak English fluently.

"I have to keep the language in my sermons simple, because listening to an hour and a half sermon in English is hard work for the people," Mr. Andrews said.

"Not only do some struggle to comprehend spiritual truth, they are having to learn it in a language that is not their own. There's a big difference between knowing enough English to carry on a conversation and knowing enough English to comprehend and follow what's said in a sermon."

Mr. Andrews, a native English-speaker, has enrolled in a Danish language course to better serve brethren in Denmark and Norway. Danish and Norwegian are closely related languages, and the brethren in Norway understand a sermon in Danish relatively well.

Many Swedish members are able to understand a sermon in English, but there are others for whom Norwegian is the easier

to fly from my home to visit the farthest member in Finland, it would be like going from Los Angeles to Denver [Colo.]."

### Sabbath services in English

Only the Oslo and Copenhagen churches meet for Sabbath services every week. About half the time they hear a live sermon from a minister, and the rest of the time they listen to cassette tapes. The



**COFFEE AND DANISH**—Despite economic concerns and great distances between brethren, Danish members occasionally get together. From left, Lars Kobbero Andersen, Inger Hasbo, Janelle Larsen and Fleming Larsen.

language to listen to.

"But if you're talking about the Swedes living in southern Sweden, they would rather listen to Danish than Norwegian because it's more closely related to the type of Swedish they speak."

Finland is a different story altogether. Mr. Andrews explains: "The Finnish language is completely unrelated to the other Scandinavian languages. The Finns, unless they are Swedish-descendants or Swedish-speaking, would rather hear a sermon in Finnish or English. Of course, hearing one in Finnish would be a real treat."

### High living costs and taxes

Other concerns for the Scandinavian brethren are a high cost of living, unemployment, high taxation and other economic problems.

Unemployment, previously little known in the area, has become a problem during the recession. In Norway, more than 60 percent of the country's registered architects are unemployed, including two Church members.

Although taxes are high (the minimum tax rate is more than 50 percent), the Scandinavian governments provide exceptional benefits for most of their citizens,

including free education at the university level and nationalized health insurance.

Mr. Andrews feels that geography is the main benefit of Scandinavian living.

"Because the population levels are low and the people are not crowded together, God's creation is not as spoiled here as it is in other parts of the world," he said.

"We have fresh air, land and water, and that is a definite blessing. There are rich natural resources and we enjoy beautiful natural scenery." Although temperatures are on the cool side, the Gulf Stream makes the climate temperate.

Mr. Andrews said that what he most enjoys about Scandinavia is the "challenge of living in an area of tremendous geographical diversity, yet growing as a Church family and learning what that's about."

### SCANDINAVIA

Attendance	160
Local church elders	3
Deacons	3
Deaconesses	0
Teens	14
Children under 12	39
Singles	37
Over 60s	30
Spokesman clubs	0
Graduate clubs	0

## WE ARE ONE FAMILY

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BIRTHS

**BAILEY,** Roy and Robyn (Gartin) of Elkhart, Ind., boy, Tyler Gene, Nov. 7, 7:04 a.m., 8 pounds 15 ounces, first child.

**BAKER,** Brent and Ruth (DiGeronimo) of Bowling Green, Ky., boy, Alan Scott, Oct. 25, 6:22 a.m., 7 pounds 1/2 ounce, first child.

**BALL,** Louis and Joan (McDonough) of Pittsburgh, Pa., girl, Jodie Christine, Nov. 20, 9:19 a.m., 6 pounds 9 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**BATES,** Dan and Debbie (Broach) of Bakersfield, Calif., girl, Amy Brianna, Dec. 1, 5:15 a.m., 8 pounds, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

**BENITEZ,** Michael and Susan (Johnson) of Santa Ana, Calif., girl, Laurel Marie, Nov. 8, 4:46 p.m., 5 pounds 9 ounces, first child.

**CALDWELL,** Bruce and Erica (Von Arx) of Brampton, Ont., girl, Katrina Patricia, Nov. 20, 7:16 a.m., 8 pounds 15 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

**CAMPAU,** John Daniel and Jenna (MacLeansberry) of Allegan, Mich., girl, Cyan Marie, Dec. 17, 11:07 a.m., 8 pounds 4 ounces, first child.

**CARROLL,** Thomas and Mitzi (Waddle) of Louisville, Ky., boy, Ethan Michael, Nov. 23, 10:23 a.m., 6 pounds 10 1/2 ounces, now 3 boys.

**CHIRWA,** Tielmans and Royce (Phiri) of Blantyre, Malawi, girl, Nedis, July 11, 12:05 a.m., 2.7 kilograms, now 2 boys, 3 girls.

**DEMERS,** Douglas and Patricia (Tubman) of Barrie, Ont., girl, Chelsea Kailey Brittney, Aug. 2, 8:22 p.m., 9 pounds, now 3 girls.

**DENNISON,** Blaine and Gloria (Scurr) of Pasadena, boy, Ryan Blaine, Oct. 12, 1:38 a.m., 7 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

**ENGLAND,** William and Sarah (Dacey) of Salem, N.H., girl, Dorothy Rose, Nov. 14, 1 p.m., 8 pounds 5 1/4 ounces, first child.

**EWIN,** David and Terri (Moore) of Sydney, N.S.W., boy, Todd Brenton, July 5, 2:43 p.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, first child.

**GANTER,** Greg and Kathy (Greentree) of Auckland, New Zealand, girl, Chloe Kathryn, Aug. 27, 8:50 p.m., 7 pounds, now 2 boys, 1 girl.

**GHAN,** Brent and Wyenda (Hawkins) of Springfield, Mo., girl, Jessica Lea, Aug. 7, 6:50 p.m., 8 pounds 2 ounces, now 2 girls.

**GRIFFITH,** Dwayne and Patsy (Klein) of Huntington, W.Va., girl, Tamara Erin, Nov. 4, 12:53 p.m., 8 pounds 8 1/2 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

**HANOPOLO,** Franco and Wendy (Horton) of Montreal, Que., boy, Julian, July 29, 11:25 p.m., 6 pounds 11 ounces, now 2 boys.

**HARDWICK,** Scott and Sherry (Fields) of Modesto, Calif., girl, Alyssa Kerin, Aug. 15, 6:57 a.m., 6 pounds 10 ounces, now 2 girls.

**HOWERTON,** John and Marlena of Tyler, Tex., girl, Alyssa Brooke, Aug. 31, 6 pounds 8 ounces.

**KITTLAUS,** Edward and Kathy of Escondido, Calif., boy, Eric Andrew, Nov. 24, 1:22 a.m., 6 pounds 5 ounces, now 2 boys.

**KLOSTER,** Vincent and Dee (Mays) of Denver, Colo., girl, Shannon Louise, Nov. 4, 8:21 p.m., 5 pounds 13 ounces, now 2 boys.

**LAMB,** Dale and Sheila (McNeill) of Milford, Ohio, girl, Kristen Elizabeth, Nov. 14, 8:47 a.m., 7 pounds 4 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**MERNICKLE,** Rick and Dorothy Ann (Leyden) of Quesnel, B.C., girl, Tiffany Miranda Sapphire, Oct. 8, 8:24 a.m., 8 pounds, now 2 girls.

**NELSON,** David and Ardis (Van Laecken) of Big Sandy, boy, Trevor Wade, Sept. 25, 11:10 a.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, first child.

**NUDING,** Doug and Teresa (Henson) of Lubbock, Tex., boy, Landon Chas, Nov. 21, 4:39 p.m., 8 pounds 10 ounces, now 1 boy, 2 girls.

**NUNEZ,** Rafael and Charmagne (Gregor) of Harrisburg, Pa., boy, Daniel Rafael, Sept. 24, 9:33 a.m., 9 pounds 9 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**PLUMLEE,** Ronald and Deborah (Solima) of South Pasadena, Calif., girl, Chloe Michelle, Nov. 4, 1:50 a.m., 6 pounds 7 ounces, now 1 boy, 1 girl.

**RESLER,** Gregory and Christine (Hoffman) of Jefferson, Wis., boy, Colton Gregory, Nov. 11, 10:26 a.m., 8 pounds 6 ounces, first child.

**RIVERS,** William and Diana (Rose) of Charleston, S.C., girl, Brenda Joanne, Sept. 20, 8:46 a.m., 8 pounds 8 ounces, now 4 girls.

**THORN,** Gregg and Sue (Marshall) of Perth, W.A., girl, Teayl Marie Louise, June 23, 8 a.m., 7 pounds 5 ounces, first child.

**VICKERS,** Jimmy and Natalie (Crabtree) of Greensboro, N.C., boy, Jacob Matthew, Nov. 16, 2:01 a.m., 8 pounds 12 ounces, now 2 boys.

**WAGONER,** Michael and Laura (Yates) of Atlanta, Ga., girl, Brittany Ann, Sept. 10, 1:35 p.m., 8 pounds 7 1/2 ounces, first child.

**WELCH,** James and Mary (Jurkowski) of Waukesha, Wis., girl, Sarah Mae, Nov. 17, 10:54 a.m., 8 pounds 3 ounces, now 1 boy, 4 girls.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Wheeler of Novato, Calif., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Heather Ann to Russell Scott Jose, son of Dar-

lene Jose of Lodi, Calif. A July wedding is planned.

Diane Batey and Paul Hailey of Portland, Ore., are pleased to announce their engagement. A February wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dittmar of Aurora, Colo., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Kimberly to Steven Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wright of Broomfield, Colo. An Aug. 2 wedding is planned.

## WEDDINGS



**MR. & MRS. MICHAEL BARNES**

Rita Mary Kosior, daughter of John and Olive Kosior of Edmonton, Alta., and Michael Samuel Barnes, son of Gerald and Rosalie Barnes of St. Louis, Mo., were united in marriage Aug. 18. The ceremony was performed by Vern Searls, a minister in the Alton, Ill., church. Maria Sinkler, Paula Myers and Holly Thoele were bridesmaids, and Aaron Thoele and Marcus Adkins were groomsmen. The couple live in Amherst, Mass.



**MR. & MRS. PHILLIP MCCOLLUM**

Elaine Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Smith of Nashville, Tenn., and Phillip McCollum, son of Mr. and Mrs. Berchie McCollum of Stuttgart, Ark., were united in marriage May 25. The ceremony was performed by Stan Martin, a minister in the Nashville church. Melinda Bergmann, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and John McCollum, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Nashville.



**MR. & MRS. NORMAN CARL**

Shirley Stechcon and Norman Carl were united in marriage Sept. 8. The ceremony was performed by Steve Sheppherd, Elkhart, Ind., pastor. The couple live in Elkhart.



**MR. & MRS. RYAN DUTE**

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Beckman of Winnipeg, Man., would like to announce the marriage of their daughter Lisa Ruth to Ryan Mark Dute, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dute of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The ceremony was performed Sept. 19 by Darryl Larson, a minister in the Grand Forks, N.D., church. Linda Beckman, Silvia Suderman and Shirley Ricard were bridesmaids, and Jon Meal, Steve Beckman and Ray Ricard were groomsmen. The couple live in Fort Lauderdale.



**MR. & MRS. DAVID LA RAVIA**

Mr. and Mrs. John Orchard of Sauk Rapids, Minn., are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Tara Marie to Matthew David La Ravia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis La Ravia of Wanakee, Wis. The ceremony was performed Sept. 15 by the groom's father, a minister in the Janesville, Wis., church, and Leonard Schreiber, a minister in the Big Sandy P.M. church. Susan Antion was maid of honor, and Jefferson La Ravia, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in Irving, Tex.



**MR. & MRS. CHRIS HOBAN**

Mr. and Mrs. John Halford of Pasadena are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Judith Alana to Chris Hoban, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hoban of Cumberland, Md. The ceremony was performed Sept. 15 by the bride's father, a Plain Truth senior writer. Becki Parnell, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, and Paul Hoban, brother of the groom, was best man. The couple live in South Pasadena, Calif.



**MR. & MRS. ANDREW WISDOM**

Cheryl A. Campbell and Andrew P. Wisdom were united in marriage July 21. The ceremony was performed by Robert Morton, Brampton, Ont., pastor. Dawnette Grant was maid of honor, and Lenworth Wisdom was best man. The couple live in Brampton.



**MR. & MRS. GUY CASTAGNE**

Brigitte Leduc, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilles Leduc of Hammond, Ont., and Guy Castagne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castagne of Orleans, Ont., were united in marriage Sept. 1. The ceremony was performed by John Borax, Ottawa, Ont., pastor. The couple live in Ottawa.



**MR. & MRS. BRIAN VARNEY**

Wendy Joy Lyons of Melbourne, Vic., and Brian Varney of Dunstable, England, were united in marriage April 21. The ceremony was performed by Harry Sullivan, Dunstable and Cambridge, England, pastor. Ciaran Prunty was best man. The couple live in Dunstable.



**MR. & MRS. NEVIN NOLDER III**

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Hutchison are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Brenda Jean to Nevin David Nolder III. The ceremony was performed June 23 by the groom's father, Nevin Nolder II, a minister in the Minneapolis, Minn., North church. Colleen Hutchison was maid of honor, and Don Westfall was best man. The couple live in Chaska, Minn.



**MR. & MRS. IAN CASSELLS**

Andora Forde and Ian Cassells were united in marriage June 23. The ceremony was performed by Carlos Perkins, Brooklyn, N.Y., North pastor. Marian Catlyn was maid of honor, and McMillian Gerald was best man. The couple live in Brooklyn.



**MR. & MRS. JULIO GONZALEZ**

Julio and June Gonzalez of Seattle,

Wash., celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Oct. 7. The Gonzalezes have two sons, Andrew and Timothy; two daughters, Celia Bradley and Lisa Lane; two sons-in-law, Hank Bradley and Bret Lane; and two grandchildren, Derek Bradley and Januelle Lane.



**MR. & MRS. MARCEL MORREEL**

Marcel and Dallas Morreel, of Tauranga, New Zealand, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Oct. 19. Tauranga brethren honored them with cake and flowers. The Morreels have five children and 12 grandchildren.

Ray and Ardyce Makinson of Eugene, Ore., celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 16. The Makinsons have six children and 13 grandchildren. Mr. Makinson is a deacon in the Eugene church.

Mr. and Mrs. Irby Toups of Raceland, La., celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Dec. 21.

Raymond and Mattie Beverley of Coaburn, Va., celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary Oct. 6. They have one son, Woodrow; and one daughter-in-law, Cheryl.

Evelyn and Daniel McKinney of Big Stone Gap, Va., celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Oct. 13. They have four daughters, two grandsons and one granddaughter.



**MR. & MRS. NOAH BUTT**

Noah and Rita Butt of Rockledge, Fla., celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 18. The Butts have three children and three grandchildren.



**MR. & MRS. FRANCESCO COSCO**

Francesco and Ethel Cosco of San Carlos, Calif., celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Aug. 25. The Coscos have three daughters, Elizabeth Courtenay, Rhonda McDowell and Caroline Opichka; three sons-in-law, Marc Courtenay, Brad McDowell and Ward Opichka; and three grandchildren, Marisa, Michael and Laura Elizabeth.



**MR. & MRS. DAVID LAURY**

David and Mable Laury of Union, N.J., celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Nov. 26. They have three sons and four daughters.



**MR. & MRS. DON HOOSER**

Don and Elsie Hooser of Dallas, Tex., celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary June 5. The Hoosers have two sons, Randy and Danny; and one daughter, Amy. Mr. Hooser is pastor of the Dallas South church.



**MR. & MRS. ALEX ANDRETTA**

Alex and Mary Andretta of Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 8. The Andrettas have four sons, one daughter, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Andretta is a deacon in the Brooklyn South church.



**MR. & MRS. RALPH SAGE**

Ralph and Gertrude Sage of San Diego,

## BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

We'd like to let the readers of *The Worldwide News* know about your new baby as soon as it arrives. Just fill out this coupon and send it to the address given as soon as possible after the baby is born.



Our coupon baby this issue is Kevin John Rimando, son of Larry and Kenneth Rimando of Sacramento, Calif.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT THE WORLDWIDE NEWS BOX 111 PASADENA, CALIF., 91129, U.S.A.**

Please write your *Worldwide News* subscription number here:

Last name		Father's first name	
Mother's first name		Mother's maiden name	
Church area or city of residence/state/country		Baby's sex <input type="checkbox"/> Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl	
Baby's first and middle names		Date of birth Month:      Date:	
Time of day <input type="checkbox"/> A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M.	Weight	Number of children you have* Boys:      Girls:	

\*Including newborn 1-92

Calif., celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Dec. 31. The Sages have two sons, John and Mark; two daughters, Debbie Brower and Ramona Cooper; two sons-in-law, Keith Brower and Vic Cooper; one daughter-in-law, Holly; and six grandchildren, Ricky, Kevin, Sage, Carson, Bryce and Nikki.

Ron and Lorraine Sarfert of Philadelphia, Pa., celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary Dec. 29. The Sarferts have four daughters, Sheryl Lucka, Sharon Ledy, Kathy Johnson and Renee Hughes; four sons-in-law, Curt Lucka, Jeff Ledy, Ben Johnson and Scott Hughes; and six grandchildren, Breanne, Daniel, Erin, Eric, Elyse and Megan.

## ANNIVERSARIES MADE OF GOLD



**MR. & MRS. BURTON SMITH**

Burton and Claire Smith of Mansfield, Pa., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 4. The Smiths have two sons, Douglas and Chip; and three daughters, Linda Merrill, Janet Kiselewsky and Helen Dietrick.



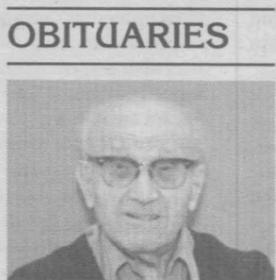
**MR. & MRS. VALDEN WHITE**

Valden and Stella White of Spokane, Wash., celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Nov. 9. Bellevue, Wash., brethren honored them with a reception.



**MR. & MRS. ALEX ANDRETTA**

Alex and Mary Andretta of Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 8. The Andrettas have four sons, one daughter, 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mr. Andretta is a deacon in the Brooklyn South church.



**MR. & MRS. DON HOOSER**

Wilson and Martha Magruder of Washington, D.C., celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary Nov. 5. Washington brethren honored them with a surprise reception Nov. 9. The Magruder have one son, David; and one daughter, Karen.

DEGRAY, Viola, 69, of Woodstock, Ill., died Nov. 16. She is survived by four sons, two brothers, two sisters, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dayton.

MELLOR, James Arthur, 68, of Stoke, England, died Nov. 16 of a heart attack. He is survived by one brother, two sons and three grandchildren.

DALLISON, Noble, 91, of Winnsboro, Tex., died Nov. 16. He is survived by one daughter, Joann Martin; and one son, Noble II.

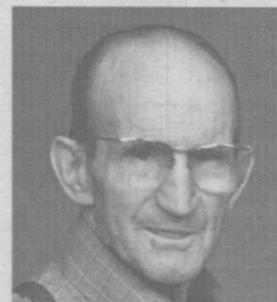


**TONY MARTINELLI**

MARTINELLI, Tony, 70, of Dunkirk, N.Y., died Sept. 23. He is survived by two brothers and four sisters.

MOODY, Frank, 90, of Ashtabula, Ohio, died Dec. 6. He is survived by five children, 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

DANIELS, Monte Rian, 1 day old, of Big Sandy, died Oct. 23. He is survived by his parents, Roger and Linda Daniels; his grandparents, Linda Mae Daniels and Arthur and Rilla Morris; and his great-grandfather, Marcus Maxwell.



**MAURICE ODELL SANNER**

SANNER, Maurice Odell, 80, of Salem, Ore., died Oct. 9. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Ena; two sons, Lonnie and Jack; two daughters, Barbara Wirst and Becky Kotek; 16 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

HORNE, Dora, 81, of Big Sandy, died Nov. 11. She is survived by one son, Mel; one daughter, Della Landwehr; one son-in-law, Charles Landwehr; one daughter-in-law, Guyna; and four grandchildren, Joshua, Darren, Nikki and Ty.

BYERS, Hilda, 83, of Evans City, Pa., died Oct. 29. She is survived by her husband, Guy; one daughter; and several grandchildren.



**GRACE ECKER**

ECKER, Grace, 70, of Riverside, Calif., died Nov. 28 of a massive stroke. She is survived by one daughter, Marian Sargent; two sons, Don and Tom; and five grandchildren.

## NEWS OF PEOPLE, PLACES & EVENTS IN THE WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

# UPDATE

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—One hundred sixty-five ministers and wives met here Dec. 17 to 19 for the south-central regional conference.

Speakers were evangelist **Joseph Tkach Jr.**, director of Church Administration U.S.; **Victor Kubik**, assistant director of Church Administration U.S.; **Randal Dick**, assistant director of Church Administration International; and **Michael Rice**, assistant to Mr. Tkach Jr.

☆☆☆

AKRON, Ohio—The first of a new series of public Bible lectures took place here Nov. 16 and 17.

*World Tomorrow* presenter **Richard Ames** was the featured speaker on the first night. His lecture, "Is a Better World Coming?", coincided with the telecast that weekend about Armageddon. The second night's lecture,



**LECTURE**—Evangelist Richard Ames answers questions after speaking in Akron, Ohio, Nov. 16.

"Where Is the Church Jesus Built?", was conducted by **Dave Pack**, pastor of the Akron church.

Nineteen people were invited to begin attending Sabbath services.

*Plain Truth* subscribers who have been reading the magazine for a year or more were invited to the lectures to learn more about the Church.

Similar lectures will be conducted in other cities across the United States, most of the time with *World Tomorrow* presenters as guest lecturers.

☆☆☆

PASADENA—The per-piece cost of producing *The Plain Truth* is 38 percent less than it was in 1985 (after adjusting for inflation and the different size of the magazine at the time).

Evangelist **Bernard Schnippert**, Media Operations director, attributes the cost savings to a more efficient binding method, less costly printing technology like rotogravure, less costly paper and petroleum-based inks, and taking advantage of favorable currency exchange rates.

"I believe God has blessed our efforts to use his resources wisely in proclaiming the gospel," said Mr. Schnippert. "The quality of our publications has increased, and in financial terms we reduced the per-piece cost of our literature substantially."

☆☆☆

DETROIT, Mich.—The U.S. Department of Commerce awarded **Dwight Dean**, a local church elder in the Detroit East church, a silver medal Oct. 16 for his management skills in the 1990 census.

Mr. Dean is a regional director in the Census Bureau for Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia, and manages a staff of 300 permanent personnel.

During the peak of the 1990

census, the regional staff expanded to more than 36,000 temporary employees across the three-state region.

The silver medal is the department's second highest award for



DWIGHT DEAN

outstanding performance. This year the department granted 47 medals nationwide.

**Robert A. Mosbacher**, then-U.S. Secretary of Commerce, presented the awards in a formal ceremony in Washington, D.C., and greeted each recipient.

☆☆☆

MACON, Ga.—The church here celebrated its 25th anniversary Nov. 23 with 392 brethren in attendance.

Guest speakers at Sabbath services were **Otto Lochner**, pas-

tor of the Huntsville and Florence, Ala., churches, and **Bruce Gore**, pastor of the New Orleans and Raceland, La., churches.

Activities that evening were dinner, recognition of charter members, comments by pastors, an anniversary videotape, a slide presentation and a dance.

☆☆☆

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The St. Louis North and South churches celebrated their 40th anniversary Nov. 30.

Guest speakers at Sabbath services were evangelist **Dean Blackwell** and **Robert Spence**, pastor of the Evansville, Ind., and Madisonville, Ky., churches.

After a luncheon for 830 brethren, evangelist **Gerald Waterhouse** was guest speaker at the "Program of Remembrance."

☆☆☆

BONN, Germany—Nearly 300 brethren attended the 25th anniversary of the Bonn-Duesseldorf church Nov. 23.

Sabbath messages were given by **John Karlson**, regional director for the Work in German-speaking areas, and **Winfried Fritz**, Bonn-Duesseldorf, Darmstadt and Zwickau, Germany, pastor.

Greetings were read from previous pastors of the Bonn church, **Paul Kieffer**, Philippine regional director, and **Grant Spong**, Wodonga and Temora-Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., pastor.

A taped greeting from **Frank Schnee**, Pasadena West P.M. associate pastor and former German regional director, was played in



**GERMANS CELEBRATE**—Charter members celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Bonn-Duesseldorf, Germany, churches Nov. 23. From left, Iepke Klarenberg, Wim Wilms, Mark Schnee, Meike Helleman, Kirsten Meuser, Gisela Scheibe, Eckhard Scheibe, Herta Bastek, Joerg Scheibe, Helge Pietralla and Siegfried Pietralla.

services. Mr. Schnee gave a brief history of the church.

Activities that evening included a dance with a band.

☆☆☆

OMAHA, Neb.—Member **Carol Hillerson** received Creighton University's St. Ignatius Award Sept. 11.

Mrs. Hillerson is the administrative support secretary in the Student Health Department at Creighton, a private university of about 6,000 students. She is the first recipient of what is to become an annual award.

The award states in part: "This award is presented in recognition of her expression of her Christian belief and service to the students of Creighton University, to her family and her neighbors."

"Her work is marked by unas-

suming compassion and quiet generosity. She is kind and considerate to others. She does work far beyond the requirements of her position."



CAROL HILLERSON



### FROM OUR SCATTERED BRETHREN

"That also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad." (John 11:52)

#### Samoans sort through damage after cyclone

APIA, Western Samoa—Although cyclone Val devastated parts of the South Pacific islands of Western Samoa and American Samoa in December, members and prospective members there are safe.

Eveli Kanaimawi, pastor of the Suva, Nadi and Savu Savu, Fiji, churches, traveled to the two Samoas to see how the brethren are doing.

"What was very inspiring about this visit was the clear evidence of the members' faith and reliance on God to protect them and their property during times of disaster," he said.

"They want to extend to all the members their grateful thanks for the prayers and concern shown to them in their time of trial."

The homes of two members in Apia (the Iosias and the Moses families) were undamaged despite severe damage to properties in their immediate neighborhoods.

Co-worker Mila Vila's property was also undamaged. "He had just fenced his home and in his prayer he asked that God would protect his new fence, which God did," Mr. Kanaimawi said.

"A coconut tree by his home posed a threat, but in the height of the cyclone it snapped three meters up its trunk and the top blew over his fence without causing any damage to his home or his newly constructed fence."

Porotesano Sano Jr., a prospective member in Pago Pago, American Samoa, also feels he was pro-

tected. He is building a two-story extension on his wooden home.

Because the extension is only half complete, most of the home is open to weather conditions and vulnerable to strong winds.

Although cyclone Val blew down many buildings on the island of Tutuila, Mr. Sano's home was undamaged. The township of Fangatongo, where he and his family live, was almost untouched.

According to news reports, the island of Savai'i was hardest hit. Some villages did not have any houses standing after the cyclone. No brethren live on this island.

Many of the buildings on the island of Upolu were damaged including prominent buildings in Apia, the capital. A few had their roofs blown off.

In certain places coconut, breadfruit, cocoa and banana trees were destroyed by high winds. Vegetables should recover, however, since four to five months of growing season are left before winter starts.

#### Jamaica: Facing tough times and violent crime

KINGSTON, Jamaica—With deteriorating economic conditions in Jamaica, brethren here are facing difficult times. The Jamaican dollar, valued at about nine Jamaican dollars to one U.S. dollar a year ago, fell to just more than 20.

"This makes the cost of imported goods especially high in the local market," said evangelist Colin Adair, Caribbean regional director.

"With oil having to be paid for in U.S. dollars, the local power company has increased its rates by 100 percent.

"All goods and commodities have risen sharply in recent months, many of which are beyond the purchasing power of the average Jamaican," said Mr. Adair.

In such hard times, crime has increased dramatically. One member was held up in broad daylight and stripped of his valuables.

A thief snatched a watch from the arm of another member's daughter and tried to rip her earrings off.

A gang of robbers who broke into one family's home tied up the family and made them lie face-down on the floor. The robbers threatened to rape one of the women, but did not do so.

They carted off electrical appliances, locked the home after them and took the keys. The members escaped through a window shortly after the robbers left.

"Thankfully, no one has been hurt in these latest incidents," Mr. Adair said. "The prayers of everyone for our Jamaican brethren are greatly appreciated, not only that God would provide their needs, but that he would protect them from robbers."

#### Farm project in Guyana streamlines operations

GEORGETOWN, Guyana—Ambassador Farms Enterprises Ltd. here is refocusing its direction to better serve area brethren.

The project consists of a three-acre farm plot in Linden to grow produce to sell to Church members at reduced prices. Excess fruits and vegetables have been sold at Stabroek Market in Georgetown.

"After an operational review at the close of the project's first year, analysis showed that transportation costs from the farm to Georgetown, a distance of about 65 miles, raised the price of the project's produce to the same lev-

els as that of produce found in local markets, offering no benefits to the brethren," said evangelist Colin Adair, Caribbean regional director.

"Based upon the results of the year-end review, Ambassador Farms Enterprises has streamlined its operations and concentrated its efforts on the marketing aspect of the project. Farm-owned land in Linden will be leased to members for personal farm production."

The marketing arm of the project, which was profitable the first year, will now be the sole focus. Project goals are to obtain land closer to Georgetown, where members can grow their own produce.



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