

1984: year of 'record growth,' report Church media officials

By Michael A. Snyder

PASADENA — "Nineteen eighty-four was a year in which God's Church experienced record media growth," said David Hulme, director of media purchasing, in a Jan. 14 interview with *The Worldwide News*.

Mr. Hulme, who has handled Church media purchasing since 1981, said, "1984 was a year in which we saw the *World Tomorrow* program become one of the fastest-growing religious television programs in the United States."

Media Purchasing added 75 new television stations in the United States for *The World Tomorrow*, bringing to 264 the number of U.S. stations airing the program featuring Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Hulme said that 354 television stations, including cable and sister stations, air *The World Tomorrow* worldwide. Forty-seven radio stations air *The World Tomorrow* outside the United States.

"We made major breakthroughs

in cable television in the United States, adding the Lifetime and SPN [Satellite Program Network] cable networks," Mr. Hulme said.

The Lifetime network reaches 21.5 million households, and the SPN network reaches 11.5 million households in the United States. The Lifetime network, which airs Saturday nights at 10:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, (7:30 p.m. Pacific Standard Time), "puts us in prime time across the U.S.," said Mr. Hulme.

Evangelist Richard Rice, director of the Mail Processing Center (MPC), reported that response from the Lifetime Cable Network "has steadily increased." Two hundred fourteen calls were received in the telephone response area Dec. 15 when the program first aired.

He said that 850 people called Jan. 5 in response to the program, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, making Lifetime the third-highest source for responses.

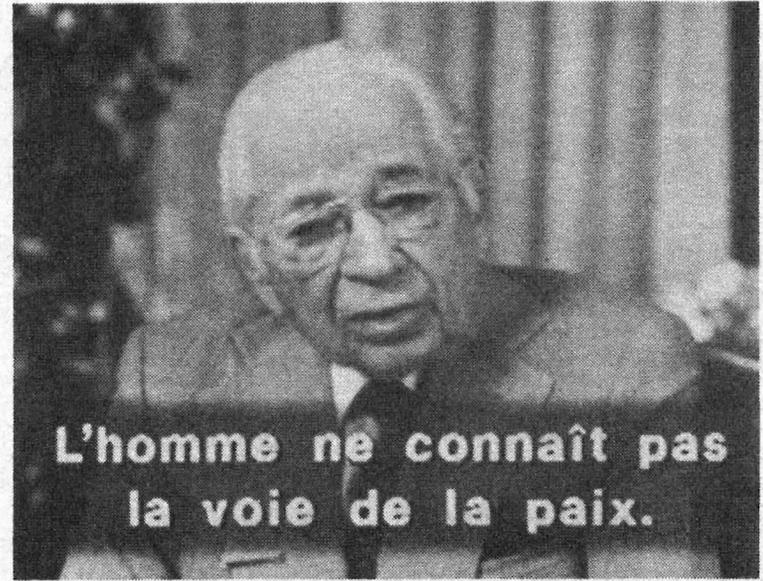
'Reader's Digest' response

The Church continued its two-

year-old *Plain Truth* advertising campaign in *Reader's Digest*, drawing 177,730 new *PT* subscribers in ads printed in 20 countries and one British colony.

Advertisements appeared in *Reader's Digest* editions distributed in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United States.

(See GROWTH, page 3)



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM — The French subtitled *World Tomorrow* is aired on Radio-Television Luxembourg (RTL) and Tele-Monte-Carlo (TMC) in Monaco, according to David Hulme, director of media purchasing.

Church expands in Spanish area

PASADENA — God's Church in Spanish-speaking areas experienced "solid, steady growth" during 1984, said evangelist Leon Walker, regional director.

Mr. Walker, who is in his fifth year as regional director, said that worldwide *Pura Verdad* (Spanish

Plain Truth) circulation topped the 220,000 mark in 1984.

According to Keith Speaks, promotion and circulation director for *La Pura Verdad*, the magazine goes to 104 countries, including the Soviet Union, China, Iran and other non-Spanish countries.

Improved circulation

"While we want *PV* circulation to remain around 225,000, we were able to meet our goals of increasing circulation in certain countries like Argentina, where the population is quite literate," Mr. Walker said.

Mr. Speaks said that a continuing advertising campaign in Spanish editions of *Reader's Digest* brought 28,448 new subscribers during 1983 and 1984.

David Hulme, director of media purchasing and coordinator of the worldwide *Reader's Digest* campaign, said: "We are very pleased with the ability of the *Reader's Digest* ads to continue to attract new readers in Spanish-speaking areas. I think that both the Spanish Department and media purchasing share an appreciation for the effectiveness of this ongoing campaign."

The Spanish Department oversees the work of God's Church in more than 20 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. Mr. Walker and his wife, Reba, spent 135 days visiting ministers and brethren throughout Latin America in 1984.

Bible lectures

Mr. Walker said that "probably the most exciting development during 1984 was the continued remarkable success of the *Pura Verdad* Bible lectures."

The Church conducted 16 Bible lectures in 1983 and 10 in 1984. The 1984 lectures were conducted in Argentina, Chile, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Puerto Rico and drew 2,555 new people, according to Mr. Speaks.

"These lectures provide a spark and shot in the arm for the work in Latin America," Mr. Walker said. "Letters inviting *Pura Verdad* readers are usually sent from Pasadena inviting them to attend a free Bible lecture."

"Based on past experiences, we will have already estimated total attendance and rented an appropriate hall by the time we send out the invitations," he explained, adding that only subscribers who have

renewed their *PV* subscription at least once are invited.

"The Bible lectures are conducted in a series of two, three or four," he continued. "At the first lecture, the minister explains the background of the Church, the mission of Mr. Herbert Armstrong, what the *Plain Truth* magazine is and the work of the Ambassador Foundation. This is to clear up any



LEON WALKER

misconceptions people may have about the Church and Mr. Armstrong.

"In the second and third lectures, the minister is generally free to choose a topic he feels is relevant to the area. For example, one minister might explain the hope of the Kingdom of God to the people in El Salvador, where violence is common. In Argentina, the minister might explain more about what the Bible has to say about economic matters, because that's what's on people's minds in that country."

After the Bible lecture the minister may conduct follow-up Bible studies, depending on the response. The minister reports the results to the Spanish Department in Pasadena. "Suggestions, ideas, personal experiences, outlines of topics and lecture notes are then shared with all ministers presenting Bible lectures," Mr. Walker said. "This makes the whole program more effective."

Mr. Speaks said that nine *Pura Verdad* Bible lectures are scheduled for 1985. "We hope to add a few more before the year is over," he said.

1985 goals

"In 1985 we would like to (See SPANISH, page 3)

Treasurer reviews fiscal year

By Leroy Neff

PASADENA — In the United States, 1984 ended with a 14.5 percent increase over 1983, a good increase compared to recent years.

Evangelist Leroy Neff is treasurer of the Worldwide Church of God.

In 1982 the Church had an increase of 11.2 percent, and in 1983 an increase of 12 percent. Other organizations would probably consider our increase exceptional.

We should all be thankful to God who supplies these funds depending on the real need, and according to how our ways please Him.

Even though the year's increase was good, December dropped off con-

siderably over what was expected. The increase compared to the previous December was 1.3 percent. The monthly trend was down, but January, 1985, started off with an excellent increase over last January.

On the expense side of the ledger, the Church finished the year with considerably less than 1 percent over budget. This was quite an accomplishment when considering that the departments collectively were about \$3.5 million over budget about three months earlier. The department managers really went all out to correct this overage with concern and real team effort.

Reserves are improved appreciably over a year ago, though too low in my opinion. We are trying to correct this condition by allocating more of the budget to reserves in 1985.

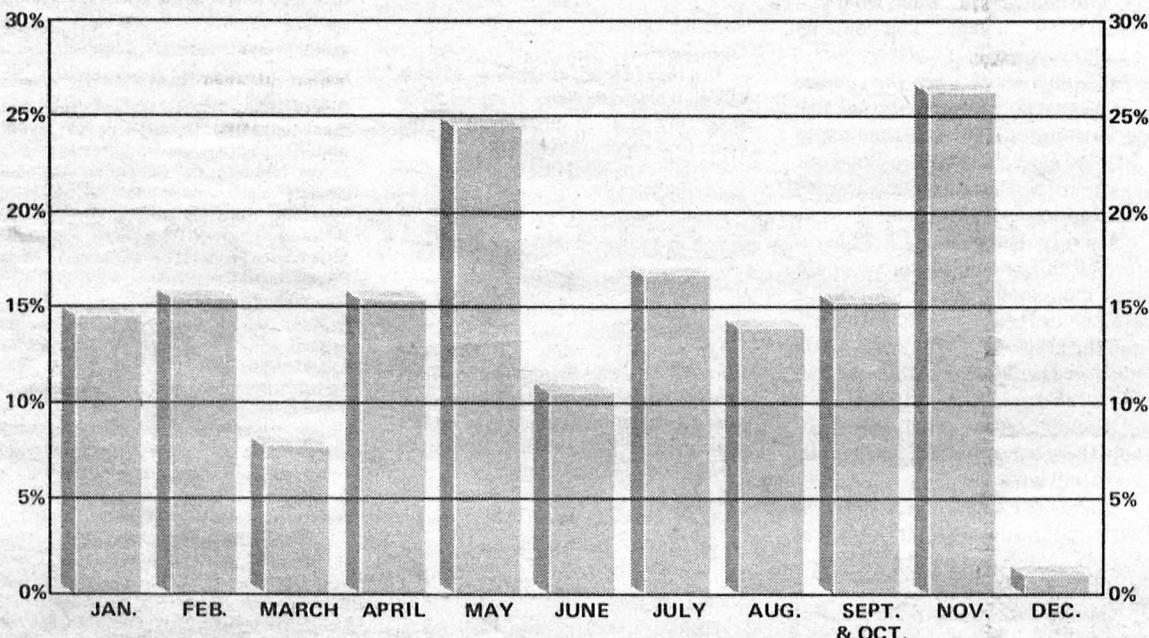
The departments are also being asked to delay any discretionary expenses until after the spring or even the fall festivals to improve our cash flow condition.

The 1985 budget is set, except for a few minor areas, and will now serve as a guide for the new year. It provides little increase for most departments except for Publishing and Media Services.

There are still urgent needs in some departments, particularly Ministerial Services and the Mail Processing Center, which cannot be met at this time.

We hope and pray that income for 1985 will be far enough above budget to allocate additional funds to these departments later in the year. Your concern and prayers for this are appreciated.

Worldwide 1984 Income Increase



FINANCIAL REPORT — The above chart compares month-by-month income in the Church's 1983 and 1984 fiscal years with the bars indicating the monthly percent increase over 1983. Because the fall Holy Days fall in different months in the two years, the income for September and October is combined. [Graph by Ronald Grove]

UNESCO pullout: America's withdrawal

PASADENA — A crisis is building inside the intricate web of international organizations constructed since the end of World War II. Some experts predict the beginning of the end of the United Nations system.

On the last day of 1984, the United States took leave of its membership in UNESCO — the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. With its departure, Washington also withdrew its 25 percent budget appropriation.

Great Britain, a short while earlier, began its own termination process, giving the mandatory one-year notice of withdrawal, effective the end of 1985. And in a rather sudden announcement, issued Dec. 28, the prosperous Southeast Asian island-nation of Singapore said it too would withdraw at the end of 1985, citing the escalating cost of membership.

Several other Western nations are sympathetic to moves by the United States and Great Britain, and may or may not follow suit. Twenty-four nations have demanded reforms inside UNESCO. Their leverage should be considerable since only eight nations pay 72 percent of the agency's annual \$375 million budget.

UNESCO is the largest of 17 UN-specialized agencies. It began in 1946 with 28 nations (and a \$7 million budget) to share the Western industrial states' ideas and know-how with the developing nations. Reducing world illiteracy was a major objective. Another task was the preservation of endangered cultural landmarks.

Over the years, however, UNESCO, like the United Nations itself, has changed, especially as it has added new members in the decolonized Third World. It numbers 161 (two more than the United Nations itself) and has become, say critics, more involved in political controversies than in education and culture.

UNESCO has initiated measures such as the "New International Economic Order," which, if enacted, would amount to the forceable transfer of wealth from the industrialized capitalist countries to the developing world.

UNESCO is also pushing the "New World Information and Communication Order," under which journalists would be licensed by the government they wish to report from, easily leading, say critics, to widespread censorship of news reporting.

It is significant that the liberal Western news media generally ignored or excused UNESCO's policies — until it came to the proposed curbs on journalists.

In his Dec. 17 column, George F. Will commented wryly that UNESCO's programs "went on without hindrance, indeed with democra-

operations also maintain that the organization's Paris headquarters bureaucracy has become top heavy with highly paid personnel. A decade ago, most of UNESCO's employees were in the field working to reduce illiteracy and save ancient treasures. Now, six employees work in the Paris headquarters for every one in a devel-

come of the UNESCO affair is that, by leaving the Paris-based agency, the United States could be laying a philosophical foundation for one day leaving the United Nations itself — which would mean, of course, that the United Nations, headquartered in New York City, would have to leave the United States.

Mr. Will, quoted earlier, is in the forefront of U.S. journalists urging consideration of such a move. Shortly after the United States announced its intention, in late 1983, to leave UNESCO, he wrote:

"Leaving UNESCO . . . would help Americans get used to the idea of leaving the United Nations . . . In 1985, the United Nations will be 40 years old, its nature fully formed and well-known. If in 1983 the United States decides, regarding UNESCO, that enough is too much already, 1984 can be the year for weighing the costs — financial, political, moral — of continued participation in the United Nations."

The United States threatened to leave in 1982 after Israel was condemned in a UN resolution as a "non-peace-loving state" after its military incursion into Lebanon.

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), object of the Israeli push, was not condemned. The PLO, incidentally, while not a government or a nation, is nevertheless accorded "official observer" status along with the Marxist Southwest Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) of (See UNESCO, page 10)



WORLDWATCH

By Gene H. Hogberg

cies feeling obliged to foot the bill, until it committed the tactical blunder of suggesting a 'new world information and communication order.' It had in mind the regulation of journalists . . . It was one thing to revile the United States, but to be disrespectful of journalists . . . well, I mean, the nerve."

Top-heavy bureaucracy

Nations critical of UNESCO's

oping nation, and three of every four budget dollars go to staff operations.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Government Accounting Office asked UNESCO officials for an accounting of expenditures. Shortly after the request was made, several fires erupted on one day in UNESCO's archives.

For a more thorough analysis of this agency, readers may want to read the article "Why UNESCO Spells Trouble" in the October, 1984, *Reader's Digest*, U.S. edition. It was written by Owen Harries, formerly Australia's ambassador to UNESCO.

Perhaps the most significant out-

(3) For any problem that comes up, encourage your children to brainstorm at least three possible solutions. The teens who can think of three effective solutions to simple problems of everyday life are developing skills to solve the bigger problems that will arise.

Regardless of our efforts to be peacemakers, contentions will develop. Here are some guidelines that should help resolve those conflicts, if we will apply them.

- *Stick to the subject.* Before discussing any emotionally charged issue define the problem and then, don't be sidetracked onto other problems.

- *Be honest, but don't descend.* Our manner, tone of voice and facial expressions communicate more than the words we say. Be honest about your feelings, but don't be threatening or outraged in the way you say them.

- *Listen, really listen.* Try seeing it from your teen's viewpoint. Understand that you may not agree with your teenager's solution, or vice versa, but at least listen to it and consider it.

- *Avoid sarcasm when talking to young people.* A biting quip that might be funny among adult friends can frustrate a teen, who lacks maturity to respond.

- *Don't assume anything.* Make sure you understand each other. If there's doubt, ask them to repeat what they're saying, or say it in a different way. To avoid misunderstandings, be specific when setting guidelines. Don't tell teenagers "Come home early" when what you mean is "We'll expect you home by 11 unless you call."

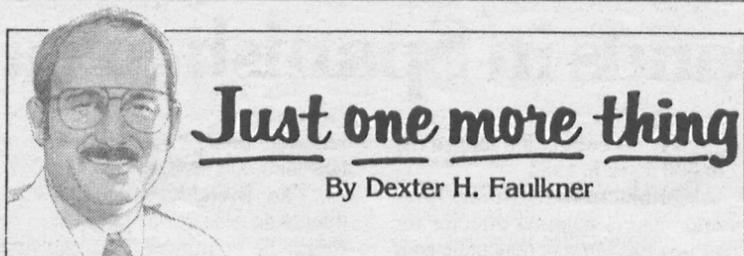
- *Take a break when the conversation gets hot.* Resume the talk five to 10 minutes later. Use the time to ask God for help in controlling your emotions and for direction toward the solution to the conflict.

- *Apply Matthew 7:12.* "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." We should speak to our teens like we like to be spoken to.

Remember, our example is probably the most important teacher our teens will have.

The next time your teen runs in with important news, sit down and talk about it. If you put it off because you're busy, you've lost it.

Communication can be painful and stressful, but both parties have necessary roles to play if their teens are to successfully mature and become responsible, independent adults God can call and use in the future.



Just one more thing

By Dexter H. Faulkner

'Let's talk about it'

If conversation is a lost art, nowhere is the loss more keenly felt than in the family. Up against the tyrannies of tight schedules, pervasive television and video watching and all the other stresses of modern life, some families only go through the motions of communicating.

Daily, teens write to *Youth 85* with problems they face. Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong instructed us to answer these letters. We write to encourage these teens, many of whom are teens in God's Church, and always we suggest that they have a heart-to-heart talk with their parents about their problems.

Many times the response is, "No way!" They react that way because they don't know how to talk to their parents frankly about anything and are nervous at the very thought.

Teens are told to communicate by parents, teachers and counselors, but they are not taught how to do it. By their parents' example they learn proper communication. How are you doing as a communicator? Let's ask ourselves some questions.

Why is there friction between teenagers and their parents? What can we as parents do about it? As God's people, we MUST do something! God says through the prophet Malachi, "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse [utter destruction]" (Malachi 4:6).

When conflict arises, parents usually want specific answers to their specific problems then and there! But peacemaking is more than that — it's an attitude toward life. Christ said, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matthew 5:9). Making and keeping peace with our teens is well worth the reward!

Let's talk about how we as parents can be peacemakers. The foundation of our efforts to be at peace with our teens must be love. We need to make sure our teens know that we love them always, no matter what, and they can always come to us even if they have done something

that is really wrong.

If our forgiveness is needed, God commands us to forgive, for if we can't forgive our children for their mistakes, how can we expect God to forgive us for ours?

Another way to be a peacemaker is to praise your teens more and criticize them less. Criticism makes adults uptight, and children react the same way. You'll do better by rewarding their appropriate behavior than by constantly criticizing their mistakes.

For example, "I'm really happy with the way you dealt with that school-bully problem," or "I'm pleased with the way you've raised your grades in this class."

Also, we can make a bigger effort to have fun with our teens. There should be plenty of positive experiences to outweigh some of the negative experiences in the teenage years. Take the teens and their friends to a park and play softball, or throw a Frisbee with them. Ask them to cook the hot dogs, or set the picnic table while you cook. This type of fun experience will always be remembered and will help smooth over the rough spots.

The example we set is important as well. We must keep our word or else we're teaching our children to lie. Even when it's something as small as promising our teen a part of our time to play a game or go on an outing, we need to do what we can to fulfill that promise.

We parents are also responsible for teaching our children how to deal with conflicts, to help them be peacemakers as well. Here are a few skills that we can teach our children:

(1) Allow your children to make choices in the different questions that come up every day. This will give them a feeling of control over their lives and some confidence in their ability to make decisions.

(2) Give your teenagers the chance to express themselves without feeling they will be judged and condemned. We must appreciate that they are different people than we are and will not have exactly the same opinions and feelings we have.

European Diary

By John Ross Schroeder



European crime survey

BOREHAMWOOD, England — It is broad daylight. You are walking in a fashionable district of Rome near your hotel. Three young women approach. You suspect nothing.

Suddenly you find yourself being pushed and shoved. Instantly you sense the absence of your wallet. Your passport and your money are gone. Your mind races as you consider the consequences.

Like a bolt of lightning you awake to action. You quickly grab all three in a bear hug and yell "Police." One of the teenagers coughs up your wallet. You release the young captives.

A fairy story? Not at all. This

happened to a person I know extremely well.

Crime in Europe

This incident happened in Rome. It could have occurred in any European city west of the Iron Curtain. (Citizens and tourists are far safer in communist countries.)

Country by country, city by city, Europe is more and more a crime-ridden continent. And these crimes are often accompanied by violence.

Said Wolfgang Zeidler, president of the West German supreme court, "In the future, crime will play (See SURVEY, page 11)

Letters TO THE EDITOR

Open doors

Just today I received the Nov. 26 issue of *The Worldwide News*. It causes me to shake my head in amazement at the doors God keeps opening.

I'm truly thankful that God has called me to this work.

Judy Henry
Monroeville, Pa.

☆☆☆

Rereads literature

[I] am busy reading the book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. I've read it before of course, but each time it gets better, because I can understand it better. Like the Bible it has to be studied and read many times.

Florence Shireman
Richland Center, Wis.

☆☆☆

News of brethren

Thank you for the many articles of news and character building. I am particularly interested in *The Worldwide News* and the articles concerning Mr. [Herbert W.] Armstrong. The articles that get to us from Ghana and Mr. [Jo-

(See LETTERS, page 10)

The Worldwide News

CIRCULATION 55,000

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REFRESHING PROGRAM — Spanish-speaking ministers and their wives listen to a translation of a message given during the 12th session of the Ministerial Refreshing Program in Pasadena. Spanish-speaking members from eight countries attended. [Photo by Nathan Faulkner]

Spanish

(Continued from page 1) increase *Pura Verdad* circulation in Spain by 50 percent to at least 30,000," Mr. Walker said. Mr. Hulme said that "the media door to Spain seems to be opening wider, and we hope to take advantage of some new media opportunities."

Mr. Hulme added that Mr. Armstrong approved plans to begin subtitled the *World Tomorrow* program in Spanish. "We hope to have our first Spanish programs available by the summer," he said.

Mr. Walker said that the Spanish translation of Mr. Armstrong's book *The Missing Dimension in Sex* is complete, and the book is scheduled to be available in the spring. "This is a sorely needed book in Latin America, and we've wanted it for some time."

Mr. Walker has scheduled two trips to Latin America. The first, in February, will take him and his wife to churches in Mexico, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico, and the second trip, scheduled for the Passover sea-

son, will take the Walkers through Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru and Colombia.

"Having Mrs. Walker along is a big help," Mr. Walker said. "She is

able to talk to ministers' wives and brethren, and she is very helpful in finding out more about the needs of brethren and the churches during these trips."

Growth

(Continued from page 1) "This year was the first time under the current contract that we advertised in Peru, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Portugal," Mr. Hulme said, adding that when the Church put in a response card in French-language ads in France, Belgium and Switzerland, "it blew the top off of previous response." A French ad using the card drew more than 19,000 responses.

He said that a February ad in South Africa drew the highest number of *Reader's Digest* responses with more than 29,000, and that a June ad in Sri Lanka pulled the highest percentage response, at 26 percent.

"Of the total Italian *Plain Truth* circulation of 56,000, about 22,000

were added through *Reader's Digest* ads. I think this is a good illustration of the strength of this ad campaign," he said.

Preparing ads

Ray Wright, director of Publishing Services, explained what goes into preparing the ads.

Mr. Armstrong either personally writes ad copy, or Publishing Services prepares suggested ad copy for his approval.

If Mr. Armstrong originates the copy, then the design graphics area of Publishing Services prepares several possible layouts for his approval.

If copy is originated by other Church departments, then design graphics prepares "about 50 different concepts for consideration."

"After we have sketched out the original multiple concepts, our artists and copywriters will sit down with us and narrow the proposed ideas or layouts down to eight or so," he continued. "Then Mr. Hulme will come down, and we will further refine the remaining proposed ads based on his input."

"Finally," Mr. Wright said, "we take the final ads and layouts up to Mr. Armstrong for his changes and approval. During the hour or so that he goes over them, the whole process becomes extremely thrilling. He may change only a word or part of a layout, but it always improves what we've done."

The ads are prepared for publication and translated after receiving the pastor general's approval.

1984: a record-setting year

PASADENA — "This past year was truly outstanding in terms of growth in the work of God's Church," said evangelist Richard Rice, director of the Mail Processing Center (MPC). "Never has the Gospel been published so extensively or televised so widely as in 1984," he said. Two 100-million marks were attained for the first time:

- More than 100 million publications were sent worldwide, including magazines, books, booklets, letters and lessons.
 - Mail income from the United States surpassed \$100 million. This does not include income from other sources.
- Several all-time records were set in 1984 (figures are rounded off):
- Worldwide *Plain Truth* circulation reached 7.5 million in December.
 - *Good News* circulation passed 400,000 in the United States.
 - 6.1 million booklets, books and reprint articles were requested worldwide.
 - 1.7 million new names were added to U.S. files, and 2.3 million were added to the *Plain Truth* subscription list around the world.
 - U.S. Bible Correspondence Course enrollments reached 250,000.
 - U.S. television stations airing *The World Tomorrow* increased to 264. Three hundred fifty-four stations air the program worldwide (including the United States).
 - MPC received 4.9 million letters and cards.
 - The number of calls in response to the *World Tomorrow* television program was 552,000. Total calls, including those in response to radio and other media, were 791,000.
 - The number of baptized members passed 56,000 in the United States and 21,000 internationally, for a total of 77,000 worldwide.
 - Worldwide Festival attendance reached 126,000.
- The prospective member count in the United States reached 4,338, the highest in nine years. U.S. donors passed the 95,000 mark, a six-year high. Co-workers in the United States numbered more than 55,000 by the end of 1984, the largest count since 1971, according to Mr. Rice.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Hulme said that circulation of Church publications broke previous records for growth during 1984.

'Plain Truth' grows

"*Plain Truth* subscriptions are up 17 percent worldwide with over 2.3 million new subscribers added," Mr. Wright said.

"This brings total worldwide circulation to over 7.5 million [at the end of 1984]."

"The most dramatic growth came with the offer of a *Good News* English-language subscription to *Plain Truth* readers. This resulted in an enormous worldwide increase of 120 percent in *Good News* readership."

The English-language *GN* increased from 211,000 to 464,000. International *Good News* circulation increased 48.5 percent to 49,000 from 33,000.

Cooperation essential

Dexter H. Faulkner, managing editor of the Church's publications, said that "cooperation between all our departments is essential to sustain this kind of growth." He said that at the beginning of each year advertisements included in *The Plain Truth* are planned at a meeting with Mr. Hulme, Mr. Rice, Mr. Wright and others.

"We must make sure that we have adequate budget to cover additional subscription growth, that we have enough booklets on hand to meet international demand and that we are advertising certain booklets

like *The Plain Truth About Christmas* within a good time frame."

"We also make sure we advertise a broad range of Mr. Armstrong's booklets in *The Good News* to expose new co-workers to the basic doctrines of the Church," Mr. Faulkner added.

Mr. Wright said that besides working with Mr. Hulme and Mr. Faulkner he coordinates the *Plain Truth* newsstand program with evangelist Joseph Tkach Sr., director of Ministerial Services.

"Since field ministers direct local *PT* newsstand programs, every time we make a change in the newsstand program it can directly affect the local minister and his congregation," he explained.

Future growth

Mr. Hulme said that more growth in electronic and print media is planned for 1985. "We will continue to upgrade broadcast times for *The World Tomorrow*, and we will continue advertising in international editions of *Reader's Digest*."

He added that Mr. Armstrong has approved plans to subtitle the *World Tomorrow* telecast in Spanish and German.

"The problem is no longer finding appropriate media to preach the Gospel and build *Plain Truth* circulation," Mr. Hulme concluded. "We have so many viable opportunities for circulation development open to us that it is now a problem of finding adequate resources to utilize various media and support the subsequent response."



7.5 MILLION CIRCULATION — Worldwide circulation of *The Plain Truth* topped the 7.5 million mark with the combined November-December issue (above), according to Ray Wright, director of Publishing Services. Of that figure 3.2 million were *Plain Truth* newsstand copies, he said. [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

GRATIS I ET ÅR

ENKLE SANNHET

Nu i Skandinavien!

Over 50 år har tidsskriftet "THE PLAIN TRUTH" GJEN ENKLE SANNHET utført sin klare og verdensbegivenhedene og vist, hvor vi er på vej hen og hvorfor.

Tidsskriftet "THE PLAIN TRUTH" kan nå lesere på norsk i Skandinavien med tittelens ENKLE SANNHET.

Følg oss på 20 min. lesning av "THE PLAIN TRUTH" (over 200 sider)

Vi introducerer et internasjonalt tidsskrift for forståelse

GRATIS I ET ÅR

JAJ! SEND MIG VENLIGST DEN ENKLE SANNHET

Jeg ønsker å lese mer om hva som er grunnen til at verden er slik den er i dag, og hvordan vi kan bli bedre mennesker. Send meg gratis en utvalgt utgave av "THE PLAIN TRUTH" og en utvalgt bok eller avis. Jeg ønsker også å motta gratis utgaver av "THE PLAIN TRUTH" og "THE WORLD TOMORROW" på min adresse.

Navn: _____

Adresse: _____

Postboks: _____

Land: _____

Telefon: _____

Send til: Pastor General, 12501 N. 125th St., Overland Park, KS 66204, U.S.A.

SCANDINAVIAN AD — The above *Reader's Digest* advertisement helped launch *Den Enkle Sannhet* (Norwegian-language *Plain Truth*). David Gunn, circulation manager for *Den Enkle Sannhet*, reported that combined English and Norwegian circulation in the Scandinavian area increased 169 percent during 1984 to 34,683.

Ministerial Refreshing Program III

Session 12, Jan. 9 to Jan. 22



Leon & Reba Walker
Evangelist
Regional director
Spanish-speaking areas



Salvador & Maria Barragan
Local elder
Mexico City, Mexico



Fernando & Acelia Barriga
Church pastor
Mexicali and Tijuana, Mexico



George & Wilda Birdwell
Local elder
Director of Data Processing
Center
Pasadena



Luis & Lusby Chavez
Church pastor
Bahia Blanca and Centenario,
Argentina



Herbert & Concepcion Cisneros
Church pastor
Guatemala City, Guatemala, and
San Salvador, El Salvador



Donald & Carol Contardi
Assistant pastor
Glendale, Calif.



Walter Jr. & Joanne Dickinson
Church pastor
Albuquerque and Sante Fe,
N.M.



Pablo & Teresa Dimakis
Church pastor
Guadalajara and Tepic,
Mexico



David & Denise Dobson
Church pastor
Lubbock, Tex., and Roswell,
N.M.



Richard & Dorene Eckman
Local church elder
Palmer, Alaska



Gary & Linda Ehman
Local church elder
Green Bay, Wis.



Guy & Penny Engelbart
Church pastor
Cleveland, Ohio, East



Oswald & Tina Engelbart
Church pastor
Modesto and Stockton, Calif.



Carlos & Thelma Espinosa
Local church elder
Ezeiza, Argentina



Francisco & Carmen Espinoza
Local church elder
Mexicali and Tijuana, Mexico



Elroy Farah
Local church elder
Portland, Ore., West



Brenton & Susan Fiedler
Local church elder
Kingsport, Tenn., and Norton,
Va.



Lloyd & Helen Garrison
Local church elder
Birmingham, Ala.



Hal & Scarlet Geiger
Local church elder
Des Moines, Iowa



Gilbert & Leta Ray Goethals
Associate pastor
Little Rock and Searcy, Ark.



Pablo & Aurea Gonzalez
Church pastor
San Juan, Puerto Rico,
and Barquisimeto, Venezuela



Lambert & Nancy Greer
Church pastor
Kalamazoo and Coldwater,
Mich.



Michael & Tamara Grovak
Local church elder
Denver, Colo., West



Eduardo & Maria Hernandez
Church pastor
Bogota, Colombia



Lawrence & Joanne Hinkle
Associate pastor
Queens, N.Y.



Francisco & Graciela Hui
Local elder
Guadalajara and Tepic,
Mexico



Filidor & Edith Illesca
Church pastor
Temuco, Chile



Alphonso & Veoria Jefferson
Local church elder
Pasadena Auditorium P.M.



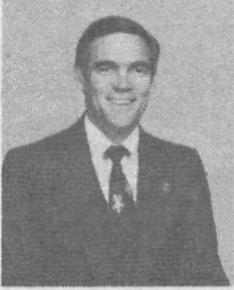
Mordakhai & Nancy Joseph
Local church elder
Pasadena Auditorium P.M.



Epeli & Sofi Kanaimawi
Local church elder
Suva, Fiji



Reginald Killingley
Church pastor
Huaraz and Lima, Peru



Randall Kobernat
Church pastor
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



William & Nancy Lumpkin
Local church elder
Portland, Ore., East



Gilberto & Minerva Marin
Church pastor
Chihuahua and Ciudad Juarez,
Mexico



Ron & Judy Meisner
Local church elder
Rochester, Minn.



Alfredo & Maria Mercado
Church pastor
Monterrey, Mexico



Joe & Mary Lou Morris
Local church elder
Pasadena Auditorium A.M.



James & Maxine Nork
Local church elder
Phoenix, Ariz., West



Mauricio & Carolina Perez
Church pastor
San Jose, Costa Rica



Donald & Myrtle Russell
Local church elder
Klamath Falls, Ore.



Wilfredo & Rosa Saenz
Associate pastor
Huaraz and Lima, Peru



Mario & Catalina Seiglie
Church pastor
Santiago, Chile



Morgan & Eva Tovey
Local church elder
Birmingham, Ala., A.M.



Don & Rosalie Turk
Local church elder
San Diego, Calif.



Thomas & Jody Turk
Church pastor
Office manager
Mexico City, Mexico



James & Diane Turner
Church pastor
Phoenix, Ariz., West



Daniel & Mary Vazquez
Church pastor
Jalpa de Mendez, Mexico

Not pictured:
Carol Farah
Dolly Kobernat

Church growing 'considerably' in Chile, says Santiago pastor

By Sandi Borax

PASADENA — The work of God's Church in Chile has grown considerably in the past few years, according to Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Santiago, Chile, church. He serves brethren there with his wife, Catalina.

Two years ago Church attendance was 100. Now, the two Chilean churches, in Santiago and Temuco, have a combined attendance of about 170. The church in Temuco is pastored by local elder Filidor Illesca and his wife, Edith.

Keith Speaks, promotion and circulation director for *La Pura Verdad*, the Spanish *Plain Truth*, said that in mid-1979 the subscription list for *La Pura Verdad* carried 1,000 names. Four card holders in Temuco and Santiago post offices, distributed request cards and multiplied the subscription list fivefold in 1980, he said.

By 1984 the circulation was more than 10,000, according to Mr. Seiglie. He said the card holders in the post offices were removed in 1984 because of a government ruling.

Shipping charges to Chile can be

more than 50 cents a magazine, said Mr. Speaks, so the Chileans devised a substitute to the newsstand program.

Mr. Seiglie explained: "We designed an easel program, which is a tripod with a bulletin board that holds two *PV* magazines protected by plastic. People can open the magazine and look through it, but they can't take it. Underneath are two card holders offering the magazine." The *Pura Verdad* list is about 11,500.

Tithes, offerings and donations made by Chileans stay in Chile, according to Mr. Seiglie. The churches there pay for most of the costs of hall rental, printing *Pura Verdad* subscription cards, and *Pura Verdad* lectures.

Yearly *Pura Verdad* lectures in Santiago began in 1982. "Of the 50 new people [attending the Santiago church] I'd say about 40 came as a result of the *Pura Verdad* lectures and follow-up Bible studies," said Mr. Seiglie.

He said members "usher, take literature requests and mingle with the visitors. We've had some people come into the Church because of the friend-

liness of the members. Instead of attending Church right away, they 'attended' members' homes. After a while they came to Church."

Of the 50 brethren that attend in Temuco, Mr. Illesca said that many are women with children and unconverted mates. Some of the members live as far as 400 kilometers (about 250 miles) away and can only attend services monthly. Many of the first members in Chile were members of the Israelite Church of the Covenant, which had some of God's truth.

"The Sabbath and unemployment are two of the main problems for the members in Chile," said Mr. Illesca. "Much of Chile is on a six-day workweek." But he added that most of the Temuco members are self-employed.

"Chile is heavily indebted . . . In the church we had full employment for the first two years [of the recession] despite the high unemployment in the country. In 1984, two to three members lost their jobs," said Mr. Seiglie, adding that brethren could use prayers in this area.

Chile has been under President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte's military rule since September, 1973. Though there have been some violence and riots of late, Mr. Illesca said the Church has "no problem whatsoever with the government."

Mr. Speaks explained that after an article on Chile in the August, 1981, *Plain Truth*, "Chile Up From Chaos," written by Gene Hogberg, "the Chilean Consulate here was very helpful to the Church from that point on."

The members in Chile attended the Feast in El Tabito, Chile, last year. Mr. Seiglie said he would like to see some foreign visitors at the site in 1985. He commented: "We haven't had anyone come for three years now. You can put that in large letters."



EASEL PROGRAM — Pictured is an easel in Santiago, Chile, that displays copies of *La Pura Verdad* (Spanish *Plain Truth*) and distributes subscription cards. The easels are the only form of advertisement for the magazine in Chile. [Photo by Mario Seiglie]

Brethren in Peru face inflation, food shortages

PASADENA — Raging inflation, illiteracy and chronic food shortages are among the daily problems and trials faced by brethren in Peru and Bolivia, said Reginald Killingley, pastor of the Lima and Huaraz, Peru, churches Jan. 11.

"Yet, despite these problems, the brethren are among the most friendly and hospitable you'll meet anywhere in the world," he said. "They simply trust deeply in God to provide jobs and put food on the table."

Mr. Killingley, who has pastored the Peru churches and outlying Bible studies since 1982, flies to Bolivia to meet with prospective members there at least twice a year.

In Peru, Mr. Killingley covers a regular 1,200-mile (1,920 kilometers) circuit between the two churches and Bible studies in Piura and Tacna, Peru.

"So far I've been using public transportation, since we haven't had the budget for a car," he said, adding that 1985 budget plans include the purchase of a ministerial vehicle.

Communication is difficult since most members don't have telephones. "I once joked with Mr. [Wilfredo] Saenz [associate pastor in Peru] that we ought to make having a telephone a requirement for baptism," Mr. Killingley said. "He replied that very few would then be baptized."

Mr. Killingley started a literacy program that uses Church booklets as textbooks. He said that some older brethren speak only Quechua (the language of the Incas), a native language with multiple dialects.

"Depending on the area, as many as 60 percent of the brethren either cannot read [Spanish] or read poorly," he explained. "So Juan Bayes, a schoolteacher, volunteered to help brethren learn how to read."

Having a job and being able to purchase adequate food is the chief difficulty brethren face. "Bolivia had a 3,000 percent inflation rate during 1984, and Peru had a 100 percent inflation rate," he said. "This makes it very difficult for brethren to make ends meet."

Because of inflation-fueled high prices, an average Church member spends between 60 and 70 percent of

his income on food.

Mr. Killingley said that jobs are scarce and keeping the Sabbath often causes problems. "If brethren want to take some classes to qualify for a higher-paying job and improve their standard of living, they find that the universities occasionally require a class that meets only on the Sabbath," he said.

Brethren also face the potential of political violence. "Conservative democratic governments have been unable to solve economic and political problems in Peru and Bolivia," Mr. Killingley explained.

He added that elections will be conducted in Peru in April, and also in Bolivia. "Many wonder why there has not been a military coup in Bolivia since they have such incredible economic problems there," he said.

He pointed out that terrorism is also on the rise in Peru. "The goal of these ultraleftist terrorists is to control the country by the 1990s — they are well trained. Lima is often without electrical power because they know where and how to destroy high-tension power lines."

Despite problems, the work of the Church continues to grow in Peru. "A *Reader's Digest* ad last year pulled over 800 responses for *La Pura Verdad* [Spanish *Plain Truth*]," he said. "We have new people attending from *Pura Verdad* public Bible lectures that were held in 1983."

There are 90 baptized members in Peru. Average weekly combined attendance at services is about 200 people, he said. There are no baptized members in Bolivia, but there are 3,345 *Pura Verdad* subscribers, compared to 40 about 3½ years ago.



El Salvador pastor says Church 'meets freely'

By Thomas C. Hanson

PASADENA — "The San Salvador, El Salvador, church meets freely with government permission, despite a state of siege that deprives citizens of their civil rights," said Herbert Cisneros, pastor of the churches and Bible studies in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Mr. Cisneros and his wife, Concepcion, were here for the 12th ses-

sion of the third Ministerial Refreshing Program, Jan. 9 to 22.

They serve the San Salvador church, with an attendance of 120, and the Guatemala City, Guatemala, church, with an attendance of 110.

They have two Bible studies in Guatemala: Las Flores, attendance 50, and Quetzaltenango, attendance 36; and one in Honduras, with an attendance of 22.

The two churches meet every Sabbath. Mr. Cisneros alternates between the two, with the other church hearing a sermon on cassette tape.

Latin American families are naturally close, Mr. Cisneros said. Though members must strive to fulfill Malachi 4:5-6 and turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, this is less of a problem in Latin America.

Mr. and Mrs. Cisneros have two sons, Walter, 20, and Jadiel, 5; and two daughters, Patricia, 18, and Nathalie, 16.

Preaching the Gospel

About 14,000 people subscribe to *La Pura Verdad*, the Spanish *Plain Truth*, in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, according to Keith Speaks, *Pura Verdad* promotion and circulation director.

The Church has been unable to send *La Pura Verdad* into Nicaragua since May, 1982, Mr. Cisneros said.

Mr. Cisneros conducted *Pura Verdad* Bible lectures in 1983 and last year that brought 60 new people to attend Sabbath services or the Bible studies.

Tapes of *The World Tomorrow* in Spanish with Pablo Gonzalez, pastor of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Barquisimeto, Venezuela, churches, are played by radio stations in San Pedro Sula and Quetzaltenango.

Member trials

The military draft is a problem for young men in El Salvador and Guatemala, but not as much as it was, Mr. Cisneros said. His son Walter, who is studying architecture at Albert Einstein University in (See EL SALVADOR, page 6)

Minister recounts growth of God's Church in Mexico

By Jeff Zhorne

PASADENA — "We are walking through as many doors in Mexico as God makes available," said Thomas Turk, manager of the Church's Office in Mexico City, Mexico, during the Jan. 9 to 22 Ministerial Refreshing Program here. Mr. Turk pastors the Mexico City church.

"Much of the fruit depends on the political and economic stability of the country," added Mr. Turk, who travels throughout Mexico, often with his wife, Jody, and coordinates the work of the Church there, under evangelist Leon Walker, regional director in Spanish-speaking areas.

In 1977, when Mr. Turk was sent to the Mexico City Office, only one ministerial trainee and one minister worked in Mexico. Today nine ministers serve brethren in five Mexican regions. More than 200 attend weekly Sabbath services in Mexico City.

"Mexico is a diversified country," he said. "Each state has its own culture, dress, accents, food and dances. Mexico is a Third World country, so it does have poverty." The purchasing power of the average Mexican has been reduced by 35 percent over the past two years, according to the Jan. 15 *Wall Street Journal*. Mr. Turk considers that a

conservative figure.

"Mexican workers are quick to say inflation is their No. 1 complaint," the *Journal* continued, quoting a vendor: "They raise the minimum wage a little and the price of the things we buy twice as much."

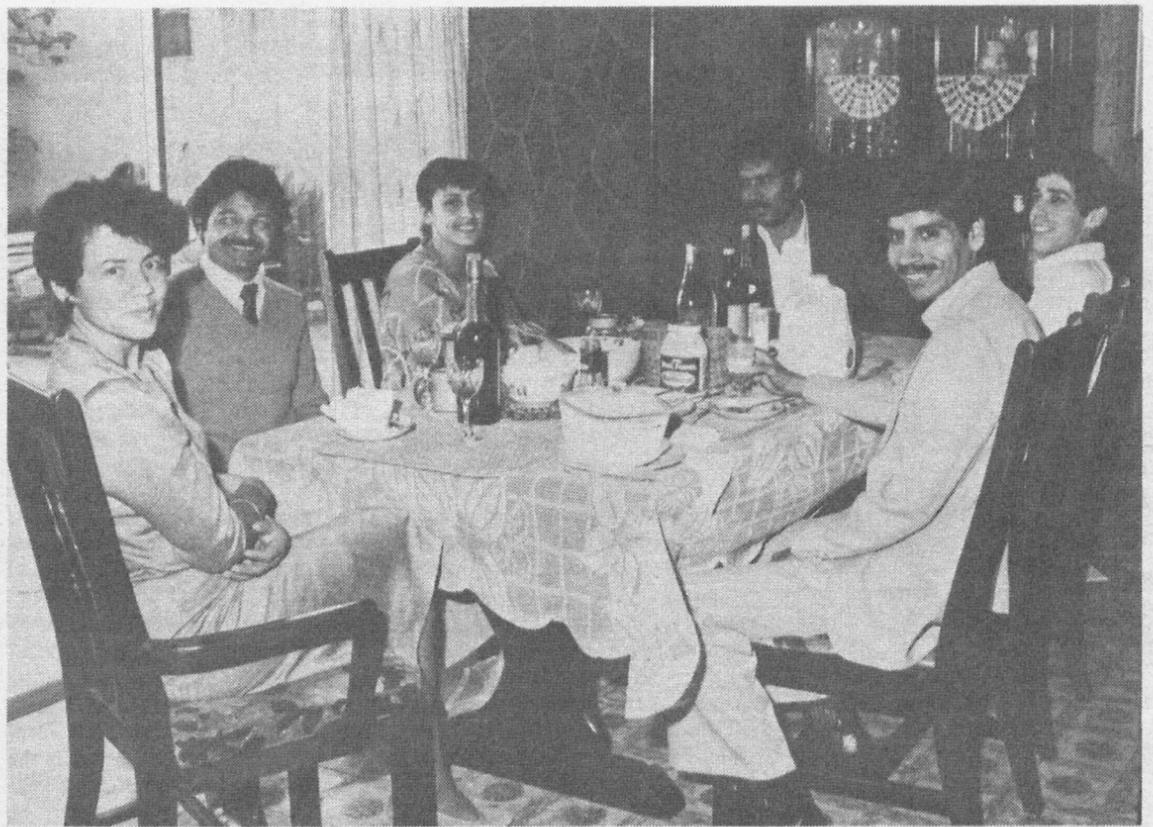
"A college-educated professional in Mexico can expect to earn [the equivalent of] \$1,000 a month," Mr. Turk said. "Besides his family, he may support his mother and father, brothers and sisters on that. It is not uncommon for eight to 12 family members to share a three-bedroom house."

For most brethren in Mexico a lack of poverty means having food and a roof over their heads and being able to attend the Feast. "A lot of members have prospered and been blessed by God," he said. "Some even have cars."

Mr. Turk said that most Mexican companies operate on a 5½-day workweek, so members must make arrangements to avoid working on the Sabbath.

More than 200 attend weekly Sabbath services in Mexico City, where Salvador Barragan, assisted by his wife, Maria, is associate pastor.

Brethren in Mexico City take part in Spokesman Clubs, socials and women's knitting and sewing classes. Bible studies, picnics and



MEXICAN MEMBERS — Brethren of the Tijuana, Mexico, church gather for a meal after Sabbath services Dec. 29. Clockwise from left: Bernardina and Roberto Martinez, Irma Beatriz and Ignacio Mendoza, Deildardo Lopez and Wilfrido Gonzalez. [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

biweekly meetings are scheduled for youths. Folkloric dance classes are offered on alternate Sundays.

"We have no trouble giving away the *PV* [*La Pura Verdad*, the Spanish *Plain Truth*]," said Mr. Turk. Religious radio broadcasts are prohibited in Mexico, but *Plain Truth*

Bible lectures have produced "very good results" in Mexico City, where 350 new people attended lectures conducted on the last three Saturday nights in November.

A single ad in *Reader's Digest* in the summer of 1983 added more than 11,000 subscribers in just a few months. Today 33,000 subscribe.

Border areas

To the north lies the area served by local elder Fernando Barriga, pastor of the Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico, churches, and his wife, Acelia.

"In Tijuana you have one million people struggling to make a living," said Mr. Barriga. "They're not worrying about religion. The brethren here must be—and are—really convinced about God's Church." Despite low incomes, many brethren can buy homes.

Of more than 50 people who attend Sabbath services in Tijuana, which borders California, 31 are baptized. In Mexicali, nearly 30 attend.

"You have people coming into the Church primarily because of

their relatives. Example is the factor," said Mr. Barriga.

Those who attend *Pura Verdad* Bible lectures, such as the one in Tijuana last December, may not contact ministers until years later, he said.

"At the lectures people ask about tithing and the Sabbath, but then we don't hear from them," said Mr. Barriga. "Some are reluctant to request visits because they don't think any minister would actually come to visit them."

Periodically Mr. Barriga visits members in La Paz, near the southern tip of Baja California Sur state, and Ensenada, Mexico.

Besides other activities, Tijuana and Mexicali brethren combine for biweekly Spokesman Clubs on Sunday mornings. "They're coming along, learning and growing," Mr. Barriga said.

Mexican west

Stretching for almost 1,500 miles along Mexico's western coast—called "cowboy country" by Mr. Turk—is the area served by Pablo Dimakis, pastor of the Guadalajara (See MEXICO, page 9)

Island 'truly...saturated,' says minister

Gospel preached in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rico's close association with the United States affords God's people here physical and spiritual blessings, according to Pablo Gonzalez, pastor of the San Juan and Barquisimeto, Venezuela, churches.

Puerto Rico, even though a territory of the United States, is Latin American, with a rich Hispanic culture. During the last three decades it has experienced a tremendous economic growth, Mr. Gonzalez said.

Unlike many Latin American countries, its economy and stable political institutions enabled the island to become the most progressive Latin American area. Its per capita income of \$3,528 in 1984 is the highest in the region.

"This relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States, the descendants of Israel, has played an important part in the work of the Church of God in the

island," said Mr. Gonzalez.

"The island is definitely being blessed and the number of persons being called by God, in relation to the population, is greater than any other Latin American country."

The first Sabbath service in Puerto Rico was conducted in February, 1974, with only a handful of people attending. Today the church has 63 baptized members, and an average of 150 people regularly attend Sabbath services.

Mr. Gonzalez said that almost 10,000 subscribe to *La Pura Verdad*, the Spanish edition of *The Plain Truth*, and the *World Tomorrow* television program is aired in English four times during the week. Plans are for a television station to broadcast the program with Spanish subtitles.

Another factor that helps the proclaiming of God's message and the growth of the Church in Puerto Rico is that Puerto Ricans, being

American citizens, often travel to the United States where they come into more direct contact with the work of God's Church.

Mr. Gonzalez also pointed out that many Puerto Ricans have relatives in the contiguous states who told them about *The Plain Truth* and the Church. Word-of-mouth contact produced many *Plain Truth* subscriptions on the island.

A blessing for Church members here is having a full-time minister available. Though Mr. Gonzalez divides his time between the churches of Puerto Rico and Venezuela, he spends most of his time here.

"The island has truly been saturated with the message of God," said Mr. Gonzalez. "I would say that Puerto Rico has benefited greatly, almost as much as the [rest of the] United States, by the preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in this end time."



PUERTO RICAN CHURCH — Pablo Gonzalez, pastor of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Barquisimeto, Venezuela, churches, speaks to brethren of the San Juan church Dec. 19, 1984. An average of 150 people regularly attend Sabbath services in San Juan. [Photo by Cesar Agostini]

El Salvador

(Continued from page 5)

San Salvador, is of draft age, but he is immune to the draft because he is in the university. Still, his father advises him to stay off the streets every other month when the army conducts its draft.

It's more difficult in Guatemala, where 20 members live in rural areas with guerrilla activity. In those areas boys 16 and older must spend 12 hours a month in the army. If they refuse they might be considered guerrillas and can be killed, Mr. Cisneros said.

The youths serve in noncombatant roles, watching for guerrillas and warning of antigovernment activity. Two sons of Church members serve in this capacity, Mr. Cisneros said.

It would be safer for the members to move to the larger cities, where guerrilla influence is not as strong, Mr. Cisneros said, but some remain because their education is on the land, and they feel that they wouldn't be able to find work in the cities.

One Guatemalan member avoids military service by doing dental work for the soldiers.

Two Church members have been killed in Guatemala. Jose Luis Merida de la Rosa was killed when the government civil defense killed everyone in his village ["Members Deal With Terrorism," *WN*, Jan.

24, 1983]. Patricio Ortiz, 34, director of the International Agency for Development (AID) mission in western Guatemala, was killed by soldiers Feb. 9, 1983 ["Central American Man Killed," *WN*, March 21, 1983].

Both of these men were descendants of the Mayan Indians, Mr. Cisneros said. There are four Church member families who are descendants of the Mayas. They speak Quechi and Man, but they can understand Mr. Cisneros' sermons in Spanish.

Church members in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are plagued by low salaries, high inflation and high unemployment. Few of the members are unemployed, though. They have enough to eat, but it takes a large portion of their salaries, Mr. Cisneros said.

Teenagers who finish high school find that some college classes are conducted on the Sabbath. Some new members have given up their careers for this reason when coming into the Church.

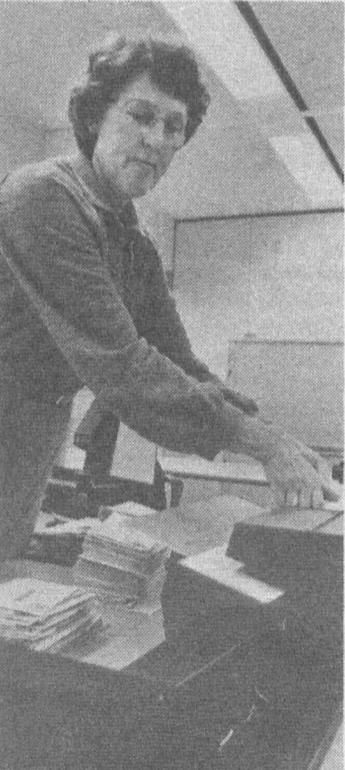
Two years ago evangelist Leon Walker, regional director of the Church in Spanish-speaking areas, told Mr. Cisneros he could move to Costa Rica. Mr. Cisneros declined because he felt it was not time to move to a safer country.

Salvadoran members have their passports ready to leave the country in case the guerrillas gain control, Mr. Cisneros said.

Dutch Regional Office serves area with 20 million population



SERVING THE DUTCH AREA — From top: Bram de Bree, regional director, and his wife, Geertruida; Johan Wilms, business manager; the building in Nieuwegein, Netherlands, that houses the Dutch Office on the second floor (one above the ground floor) at right; and Iepke Klarenberg, Mr. de Bree's secretary, who handles the mail. [Photos by Thomas C. Hanson and © Rob Glastra]



By Thomas C. Hanson
NIEUWEGEIN, Netherlands — The new office suite occupied by the Dutch Regional Office, 2½ times the size of the former office in Utrecht, Netherlands, "gives us the much-needed expansion to carry out more effectively and efficiently the work of God's Church in the Dutch-language area," according to Bram de Bree, regional director.

The Dutch Office, which officially opened here May 1, serves the Netherlands and the Dutch-speaking area of Belgium with a population of about 20 million.

The word *Nieuwegein* means new affection, according to Mr. de Bree, regional director in the Netherlands since 1978. *Nieuwe* means new in Dutch. *Gein*, the name of a river and town, is derived from the Hebrew word meaning affection, he said.

The primary means of preaching the Gospel in this area is through *The Plain Truth*, which is advertised in newspapers and magazines. Radio and television are only open to the larger, mainstream denominations, Mr. de Bree said.

Mr. de Bree feels that *Plain Truth* circulation should increase from its present 44,500 to 100,000 to have an effective witness to the area.

Office employees

In addition to Mr. de Bree, four others are employed at the Dutch Office.

Johan Wilms is the business manager for the office. An ordained deacon, he started work for the Church in the Netherlands in 1968.

Iepke Klarenberg handles the mail and is Mr. de Bree's secretary. She began work for the Church in the German Office in 1965, which at the time was in Duesseldorf.

Margit Zijderveld is a proofreader and does editorial work for the Dutch *Plain Truth* (*De Echte Waarheid*). Her husband, Jan, a freelance translator, translates the booklets, Correspondence Course

and occasional *Plain Truth* articles.

Feastgoers in Hooegeveen, Netherlands, received copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, written by Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong, and translated into Dutch by Mr. Zijderveld.

The translation of that booklet is a milestone for the Church in Dutch-speaking areas. "It's something we've waited for a long time," Mr. Wilms said.

Dutch members

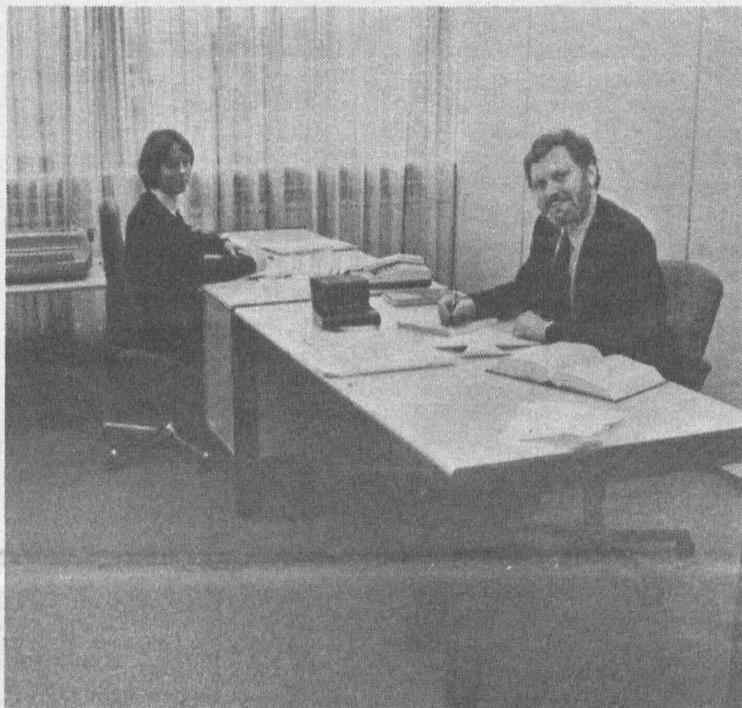
The Netherlands has a registered unemployment rate of 14.3 percent and Belgium 15 percent, according to November figures published by the European Community. Yet only 10 of the 217 baptized members in the Dutch-speaking area are out of work, Mr. de Bree said.

There is little talk among Dutch-

speaking members about "what will happen to us" when prophecy unfolds in Europe. "We are doing the work here, and trust God to protect us," Mr. de Bree said.

Mr. de Bree and his wife, Geertruida, returned to their native Netherlands in 1978 after 26 years in Canada, when Mr. de Bree assumed the regional director's post. He was a local church elder in Montreal, Que., before the move. The de Brees have two children, Cathy Rahel, 28, and Jane, 24.

The de Brees started attending services in Montreal, Que., in 1969. Mr. de Bree was ordained a local church elder there in 1976. He was ordained a preaching elder by Mr. Armstrong in 1979 and raised to pastor rank by Mr. Armstrong in 1982.



HUSBAND-AND-WIFE TEAM — Margit Zijderveld (left), is a proofreader and does editorial work for *De Echte Waarheid*, the Dutch *Plain Truth*. Her husband, Jan, a freelance translator, translates booklets, the Correspondence Course and occasional *Plain Truth* articles. [Photo by Thomas C. Hanson]

History of the Church in the Dutch-speaking area

Early 1960s — Dutch-speaking students attend Ambassador College in Pasadena; later they move to Bricket Wood, England.

June, 1963 — First member baptized in the Netherlands.

1964 to 1970 — The Netherlands and the Dutch-speaking area of Belgium are handled by Frank Schnee, regional director of the Church in German-speaking areas. Mr. Schnee and John Karlson conduct visits in the area. Most called at that time are return immigrants.

December, 1967 — Utrecht church begins. First service conducted by evangelist Raymond F. McNair, then deputy chancellor of the Bricket Wood campus of Ambassador College. Attendance more than 100, including visitors from West Germany. Services take place once a month with Mr. Schnee or visiting ministers from England.

September, 1968 — *De Echte Waarheid*, Dutch *Plain Truth*, begins. The magazine is advertised in *Dutch Reader's Digest*.

1968 — Johan Wilms opens post office box in Arnhem, Netherlands, to handle incoming mail.

July, 1970 — Roy McCarthy becomes Dutch regional director and pastor of the Utrecht church, but works out of Bricket Wood. He or ministers from West Germany conduct weekly services.

1972 — Dutch area becomes first to launch a *Plain Truth* newsstand program.

1974 — Dr. McCarthy moves to the Netherlands and conducts services there regularly.

March, 1975 — Utrecht Office opens. Dutch booklets mailed from the Netherlands.

1975 — First Feast of Tabernacles in the Netherlands takes place at Exloo.

1976 — Dutch language used for Sabbath services instead of English.

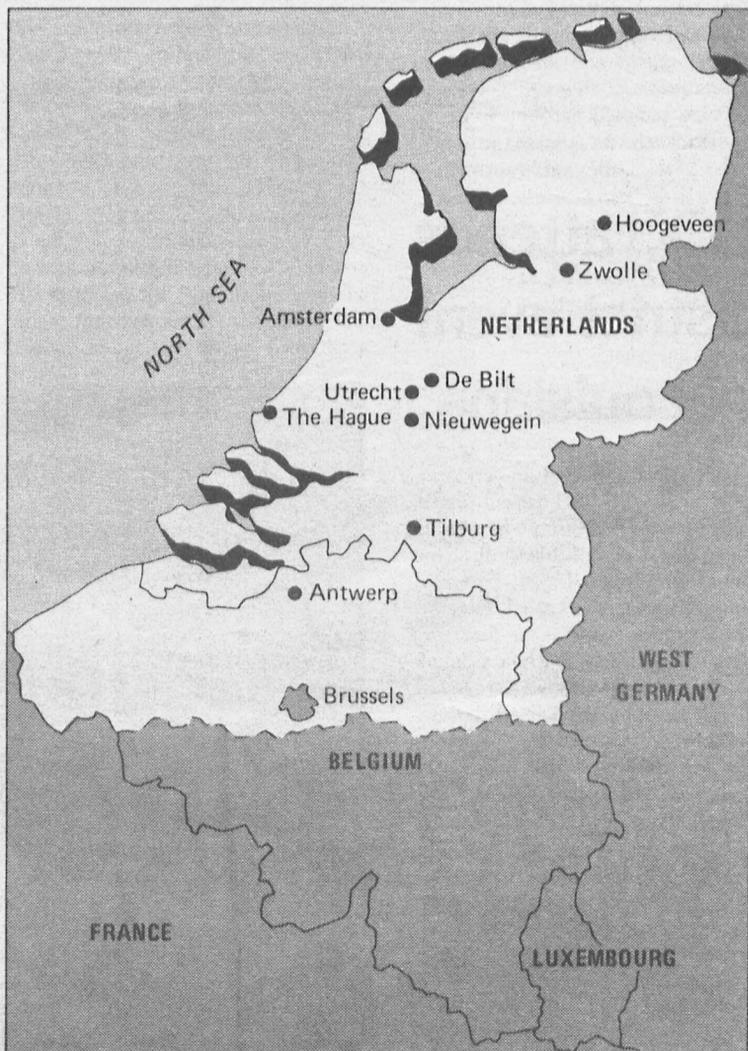
1976 — Dutch-language *Plain Truth* editorial office moves to Utrecht.

June, 1978 — Bram de Bree, a local church elder in Montreal, Que., is named regional director in the Netherlands. Dr. McCarthy becomes regional director of the Church in southern Africa.

May 1, 1984 — Dutch Office moves to Nieuwegein, Netherlands, from Utrecht.

The Church in the Dutch-speaking area

Churches	4
Full-time ministers	1
Local church elders	1
Deacons	4
Deaconesses	1
Attendance	334
Baptized members	217
<i>Plain Truth</i> circulation	44,500
International Good News circulation	600



DUTCH-SPEAKING AREA — The Dutch Office in Nieuwegein, Netherlands, serves the Dutch-speaking area in the Netherlands and northern Belgium. Dutch-speaking congregations assemble in De Bilt, Tilburg and Zwolle, Netherlands, and in Antwerp, Belgium. The Feast of Tabernacles is observed in Hooegeveen, Netherlands. [Map by Ronald Grove]

ACCENT ON THE LOCAL CHURCH

Brethren attend socials, hayride, hoedown

An annual winter social was sponsored by the **GRAND ISLAND** and **NORTH PLATTE**, Neb., congregations Dec. 8 at the Kearney, Neb., 4-H building. Bob and Billie Wake-man coordinated activities, beginning with a noon luncheon. A Bible study for singles was conducted by pastor Donald Hooser.

After Sabbath services, brethren ate a potluck. With sunset came preparations for a dance. Don and Dorothy Cummings, members who attend the Grand Island church, were in charge of decorations for the Country Hoedown. They and their crew transformed the open room into a country setting.

Dance music and entertainment were provided by the Rainbow Rhythm Wranglers, a country and Western band, led by Willy Domesland and composed of members from Colorado.

The band entertained the 285 people in attendance with lively country music and dance demonstrations for round dancing, clogging and the Virginia reel. Young people did the hokey pokey, and old-time favorites such as the bunny hop brought back smiles of remembrance.

Youths play in tournaments

The **PORTLAND**, Ore., area churches, including Vancouver, Wash., and Hood River, Ore., were hosts to the annual Northwest YOU basketball jamboree and dance Dec. 23 and 24. Attending were 237 girls and 249 boys of YOU age representing all of the churches in Oregon and Washington as well as the Vancouver, B.C., Sacramento, Calif., and Boise, Idaho, churches.

During the two-day tournament 30 teams played 42 games of basketball with three basketball courts in use simultaneously. An exhibition game between the ministers of Oregon and Washington was won by Oregon ministers 39-36.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a YOU semiformal dance entitled "Sounds of Music." Ross Jutsum, director of Music Services in Pasadena, furnished the recorded music and was master of ceremonies.

Three hundred brethren from the Pacific Northwest attended an annual girls YOU volleyball tournament

YOU attends district event in Louisiana

SHREVEPORT, La., brethren were hosts to a YOU district family weekend Dec. 14 to 16, beginning with a Friday night Bible study on the family by Charles Bryce, pastor of the Texarkana, Tex., El Dorado, Ark., and Shreveport churches.

Saturday began with a potluck lunch provided by the Shreveport church before a Sabbath sermon by evangelist Burk McNair, pastor of the Big Sandy and Tyler, Tex., churches. Saturday evening bowling and skating were available for families.

Speakers at a Sunday seminar were Rodney McQueen, associate pastor of the Texarkana, El Dorado and Shreveport churches; George Pinckney, pastor of the Monroe and Alexandria, La., churches; and Robert Peoples, Longview and Lufkin, Tex., pastor; who centered their talks on the theme of leadership.

After another potluck, YOU members played volleyball and then joined the brethren for family games. About 600 attended. *Lisle Bergmann.*

An adjoining room was set aside for children to play games and watch videotapes of cartoons and family type movies including *The Man From Snowy River* and *Old Yeller*.

After the dance, out-of-state guests spent the night with area members, while others journeyed home in the frosty December night.

Welcome to the '50s was the theme for a **BISMARCK**, N.D., family dance Dec. 1, with brethren attending from the Minot and Dickinson, N.D., churches.

A high school gymnasium was decorated with streamers and blue, pink and yellow balloons. High school pictures, class books, old records and pictures of "how it was then" were displayed.

Music featured selections from the 1950s and '60s, arranged by Steve and Holly Carlson. Bill Defoort entertained the group by being deejay during the evening. Prizes for the best-dressed people representing the '50s era were given to Alice Schaffer and Ron Getsman.

MOBILE, Ala., and **FORT WALTON BEACH**, Fla., brethren gathered under a clear sky Dec. 8 for

an evening stargaze, hayride and bonfire at the home of Glenn Daniel in Cantonment, Fla.

Steven Moody, pastor of the Biloxi, Miss., and Mobile churches, gave a lecture and answered questions on astronomy. The group used
(See **BRETHREN**, page 9)

Singles share international night

VANCOUVER, B.C., singles were hosts for their second annual international night Dec. 29 with more than 400 brethren attending.

Booths containing articles gathered from Festival sites worldwide were erected in the dining area. A palate-pleasing potluck with an international flavor was served before brethren were ushered into the auditorium for an hour of ethnic entertainment.

"Brothers All Are We" was the theme, and Debbie Minke, a Pasadena Ambassador College graduate, opened the curtains with "Let There Be Peace on Earth." A few of the performances were authentic Polynesian dances, a German folk dance and a bagpipe medley. Concluding the show, Colin Adair, Canadian regional director, thanked the performers and entertained the audience with humor.

Two hours of ethnic folk dancing and viewing of booths capped off the evening. The singles gave helium-filled balloons to children. *Joel King.*

Canadians hit ski slopes

Dec. 23 about 300 YOU members, chaperons and ministers from **BRITISH COLUMBIA** began a three-day vacation, packed with snow-skiing, swimming, dancing and dining at the Silver Star in Vernon, B.C.

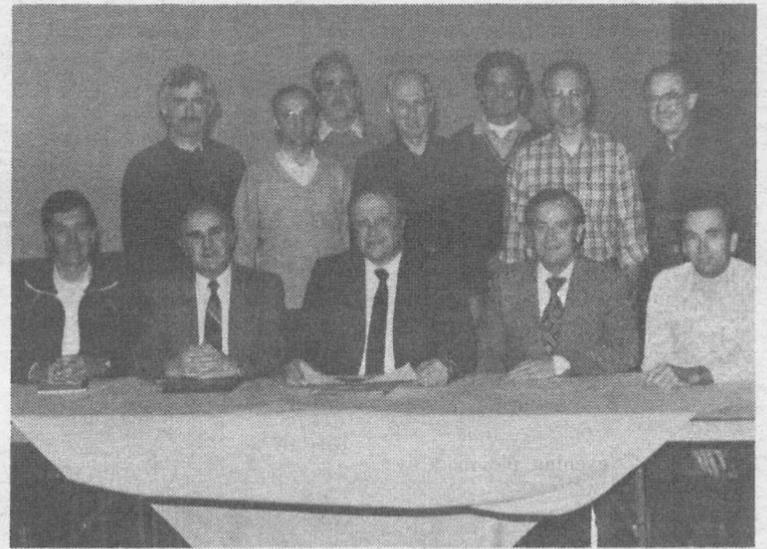
A Bible study by Thomas Ecker, pastor of the Vancouver, B.C., church, set the tone for the weekend. Mr. Ecker encouraged the youths to have the most fun possible while abiding by the most important rule for genuine fun: respect for the guidelines set by the ministry, chaperons and ski lodge.

Dec. 24, after a 7 a.m. breakfast of scrambled eggs, the majority of the group hit the slopes that were cushioned by freshly fallen snow.

Conditions were excellent for advanced skiers and provided a soft landing for beginners. At 11 a.m. a miniolympics contest entitled "Go for Gold" was directed by Lyle Simons, associate pastor of the Vancouver church.

A spaghetti dinner was served Monday evening, Dec. 24, followed by three films featuring skiing techniques and stunts by professional skiers. After the movies teens kicked up their heels to taped music at the Bunkhouse Inn under the supervision of John Stryker, assistant pastor of the Victoria and Courtenay, B.C., churches.

The bravest skiers tried night skiing the next evening. A turkey dinner was then served. *Joel King.*



WINNING TEAM — Contact representatives of the *Plain Truth* newsstand program meet Dec. 9 in Toronto, Ont., where more than three million magazines have been distributed since 1979. [Photo by Bob Brown]

Newsstand programs grow

At a *Plain Truth* newsstand meeting Dec. 9 in **TORONTO**, Ont., 200 area service representatives were told that more than three million magazines have been distributed in the Toronto area since the program began in 1979. An average of 117,000 *Plain Truths* are picked off newsstands in the Toronto area each month.

Most of the groundwork for this program was laid by Robert Elliott, former associate pastor of the Toronto West church, assisted by local church elders Paul Mastin and Trevor Brown and members John MacGuigan, John Pippy, Tom Muckian, Martin Connor, Mark Knapp, Stu Brown, Lionel Mooi, Don Wallbridge, Jerry Cooke and Neil Gooding.

At the meeting the group watched a videotape of Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong's visit to the R.R. Donnelley plant in Kentucky for the 50th anniversary run of *The Plain Truth*.

Mr. Mastin, manager of a family business that supplies much of the newsstand equipment for eastern Canada, gave a history of the Toronto effort.

The meeting concluded with up-

dates on organizational changes and pointers for better quality control in the program.

Beginning five years ago with only two outlets, the **CALGARY**, Alta., *Plain Truth* newsstand program has grown to 857 outlets, with an average monthly distribution of 30,000. The high point in 1984 came during the Calgary Stampede Rodeo, when distribution reached a record 43,000.

Calgary, a city of 620,000, is the stop-off point for more than three million tourists visiting Banff National Park in the Canadian Rockies.

In 1980 Church members serviced 12 outlets distributing 3,300 magazines each month. By 1983 outlets had increased to 574, thanks to housewives who blanketed the city with counter-top displays in dry cleaners, self-service laundries, restaurants, service stations, barber shops and hair salons.

Adding to *Plain Truth* distribution are waiting room subscriptions. Today about 175 Calgary brethren are involved in the newsstand program.

Neil Earle and Graemme J. Marshall.

Final clubs conducted

The **BRISBANE**, Australia, **NORTH**, Spokesman Club culminated the year with a ladies night Dec. 3 at the Gazebo Terrace Hotel.

Jeff Ryan conducted the topics session for the evening. Speeches were given by Steve Lowry, who

spoke on television advertisements, and Spokesman Club graduates Graham Duncan and Stuart Irvine, who spoke on travel and embarrassing moments.

Club President Mark Robertson presented Rodney Dean, club director and pastor of the Brisbane North and Caboolture, Australia, churches, with a pictorial album and thanked him for his guidance and direction throughout the year.

Mr. Dean recalled some of the unforgettable moments of the year and stressed the importance of the club and the impact it can have on individual and Church life.

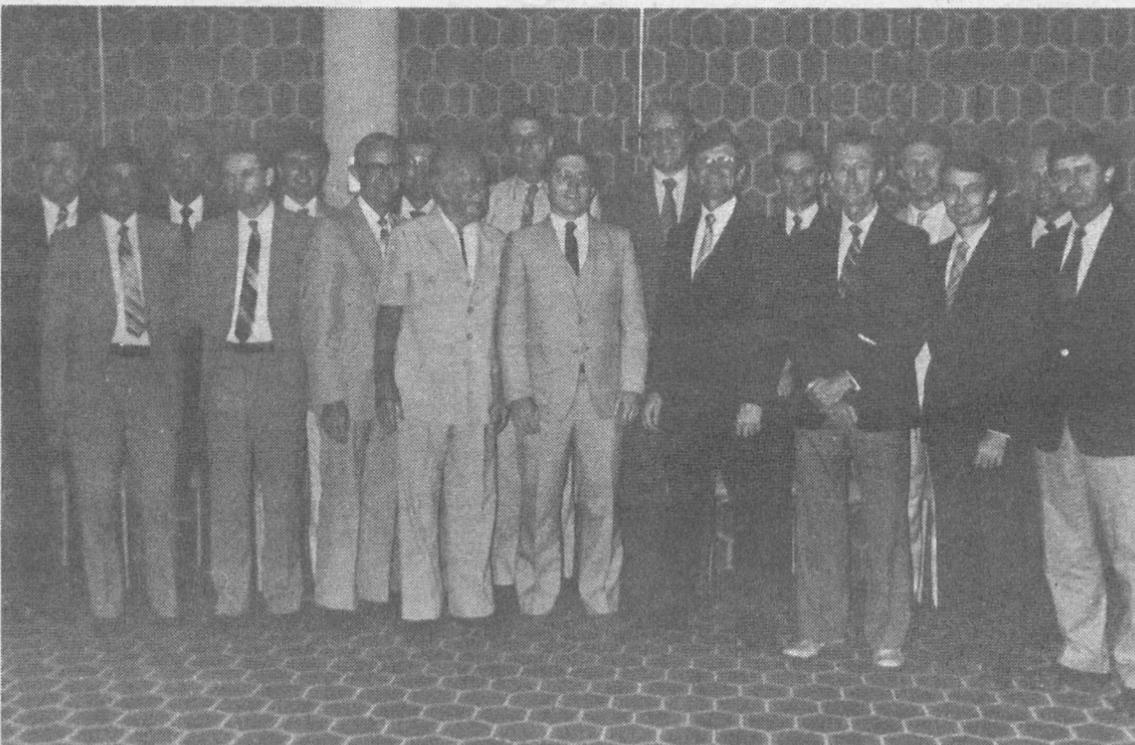
Dec. 22 the **ADELAIDE**, Australia, Spokesman and Graduate Club members and guests attended the 1984 graduation dinner and ladies night at the Ansett Gateway Hotel.

Topicsmaster for the evening was Jon Napier, and toastmaster was Michael Barylak. Members of both clubs gave four-minute speeches on a unique experience they had during the year.

Kerry Gubb, pastor of the Adelaide and Darwin, Australia, churches, presented graduation certificates to Mr. Barylak, Robert Bellon, Vince Bifulco, Geoff Earle, Mr. Napier, Max Raston, John Schutz and Jim Wallace.

The evening's proceedings were videotaped for the Darwin church.

David Wyatt and Bruce Scotland.



FINAL MEETING — Brisbane, Australia, North Spokesman Club members mark the end of the club year Dec. 3 with a ladies night and wrap-up lecture by director and pastor Rodney Dean.

Brethren

(Continued from page 8)

two telescopes to view constellations and the moon.

Brethren ate hot dogs cooked over the bonfire before taking an hour hayride through the backwoods of Cantonment. After the ride, brethren returned to the fireside to warm themselves and to socialize.

A DAUPHIN, Man., winter social Dec. 8 began with an evening auction of lunch boxes decorated by Church women. Ken Aime served as the auctioneer.

After the meal an opportunity night took place with activities such as cake decorating, wood burning, hairdressing, knitting, cards, wood-carving and chess instruction.

Later in the evening, pies made by the men were judged and auctioned. The winning pie was a flapper pie made by Neil Durnin. The evening helped raise money for the social fund.

After Sabbath services and a Bible study Dec. 1, brethren from the MOUNT POCONO, Pa., church traveled to Old Forge, Pa., for a pot-

luck dinner and an old-fashioned hoedown in the Firehouse Recreation Center.

Ronald Reedy, associate pastor of the Mount Pocono and Bethlehem, Pa., churches, helped arrange for the use of the building. Roy Holladay, pastor of the Mount Pocono and Bethlehem churches, supervised the event.

The band consisted of Frank Murman and his wife, Faith, Fred Vercruyssen, David Holladay and Bud Crawford. Gene Hedgepeth, Nancy Budda, Mary Ann Durkin and Mr. and Mrs. Murman sang songs.

The MIAMI, Fla., church had a talent show Dec. 1 at the Hialeah, Fla., Junior High School after Sabbath services and a potluck dinner.

Instrumentalists included Kay Hodge and her daughter Kim performing a piano duet, Rachel Thomas playing piano, Rick Bagwell playing trumpet and Anthony Megie on guitar. Comedy skits were performed by John Buckland, Rafael Buil, Gail Mae and Lisa Ralph and friends.

Vocal acts were performed by Tondra and Felicia Smith, Tammy and Shena Johnson, Allan Okaya-Jones, Rosie Bean, Mr. Buckland,

Christine Stroy, Alan Marcellus, and Reggie Peterson who sang an original song. Accompanists were Louetta Okaya-Jones on piano and the Cool Change Band.

Songs of the Caribbean were performed by the Island Echos and the grand finale, entitled "Festival in Havana," was performed by a group led by Martha and Ronald Dopico.

Thirty-five modern-day pioneers from the SYDNEY, Australia, SOUTH church visited Elizabeth Farmhouse, the oldest existing homestead in Australia, in Parramatta, Dec. 6.

Built in 1793 by John and Elizabeth MacArthur, pioneers of the Australian wool industry, the homestead still contains the oldest surviving olive trees, which were planted in 1805 and still bear fruit.

Ben and Marion Shepherd, children of members, dressed in 19th century costumes as John and Elizabeth MacArthur and played a duet on an 1836 Broadwood piano and flute.

Lunch at a botanical garden rounded off the day's activities.

Christine Spitz, Darlene Daly, Treba Jackson, Bill N. Sass, Margie Storm, Shirley Segall and John Newman.



HISTORICAL MOMENT — Marion Shepherd plays the flute while her brother Ben plays the piano during a Sydney, Australia, South historical field trip Dec. 6. Ben and Marion are dressed in 19th century costumes.



TIJUANA SABBATH — Fernando Barriga, pastor of the Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico, churches, speaks to brethren at Sabbath services in Tijuana Dec. 29. [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

Mexico

(Continued from page 6)

and Tepic, Mexico, churches, and his wife, Teresa. Francisco Hui is associate pastor.

Those with low-paying jobs "are very resourceful and look for ways to supplement their incomes," said Mr. Dimakis. Why are they more resourceful? "Because they have purpose in life that is worth more than gold. They know where they are going.

"In sermons we encourage brethren to be creative and to solve their problems — doing their part with God's help," said Mr. Dimakis. Inflation topped 100 percent in 1982, 80 percent in 1983 and 50 percent last year.

Church youths sell honey and cheese to raise money for outings. Eighty percent of the earnings go toward the summer camps in Oaxtepec, Mexico, according to Mr. Dimakis.

About 50 brethren attend biweekly Sabbath services in Tepic. Four years ago, 35 baptized members attended services in Guadalajara. Today 58 are baptized.

Northeast battles inflation

Congregations in the Mexican northeast, served by Alfredo Mercado, and his wife, Maria, are the Monterrey church, where 80 meet biweekly, and Bible studies in Villa

Gonzales and Piedras Negras.

Despite soaring costs of electricity, gasoline, rent and food, brethren are able to maintain a higher standard of living than other areas of Mexico, according to Mr. Mercado.

"When they change spiritual things in their lives, they prosper in their business," he said. Said Mrs. Mercado: "We have seen the plan of God working in the brethren, because they do very, very well when they obey God's laws."

On the northern border, across the Rio Grande River from El Paso, Tex., lies Ciudad Juarez, pastored by Gilberto Marin, and his wife, Minerva. More than 90 attend in Ciudad Juarez and the Chihuahua church to the south.

Many brethren are wives with unconverted husbands, "so we must plan activities that are inexpensive, not time-consuming and at a well-known, central location," said Mr. Marin.

"We also have children who come to services without their Catholic parents," Mr. Marin said. "Because of the brethren's good example, the parents send their children to Church to learn how to study, how to be respectful, how to enjoy life and how to spend their time."

Growth in south

Indian influence is prevalent in

Member recovers miraculously after being crushed by tractor

By Randy Gregory

TAYLOR, Tex. — "Just stay here and pray," gasped Billye Button, wife of Ralph Button, a deacon in the Austin, Tex., church. Mrs. Button lay crumpled on the ground in pain. Mr. Button stayed a few moments and prayed with her, then despite her protests ran to get the car.

Randy Gregory is a member who attends the Austin, Tex., church.

Sept. 9 had been a busy day at the Buttons' ranch near Taylor. Mr. Button and his wife, who often work together, had finished setting a steel gate in concrete at the entrance of their property.

At dusk Mr. Button drove his Ford tractor up the slight hill that led to their house, with his wife rid-

ing on the fender by his side. Near the house, one of the tractor's front wheels rolled over a septic-tank cover, which gave way under the weight.

Suddenly Mrs. Button flew forward off the fender. Mr. Button stretched out his arm to keep his wife from slamming her head against a metal arm on the tractor.

But his foot slipped off the clutch, and the tractor, once again in gear, lunged forward. His wife struck the steel arm with her face and throat. As she fell to the ground, one of the rear tires rolled over the right side of her body, inches from her head.

Mr. Button got the car, but Mrs. Button was in too much pain to be lifted into the seat, so he called for an emergency vehicle.

Help arrives

An off-duty volunteer heard of the accident when a radio call with directions was given. He was the first to arrive at the Buttons' ranch. When other help arrived, oxygen was administered, a heart monitor attached, and Mrs. Button was loaded into the vehicle using inflatable clothing that cushioned her on the rigid stretcher.

"Two miracles occurred before we ever left the field," said Mr. Button. "One was that she survived the accident. And the second was that she lived until the [emergency vehicle] arrived."

At the hospital in Taylor, X rays revealed at least five broken ribs, a broken hip, the pelvis broken in two places, escaped air in her chest cavity and a broken collarbone.

Mrs. Button was driven to a larger hospital in Temple, Tex. There doctors worked through the night to stabilize her condition.

In the intensive-care unit she had breathing difficulties and was attached to a breathing machine. Both lungs were badly bruised. One lung was punctured. The diagnosis was damage to her heart or arteries.

God intervenes

Harold Lester, pastor of the Austin and Waco, Tex., churches, was with Mr. Button all night. At 5:30 a.m., Sept. 10, Mr. Lester was permitted to anoint Mrs. Button. He realized death could come at any time

unless God intervened.

"You can't leave us now," Mr. Lester told Mrs. Button. "We still have a lot of growing to do."

God intervened, and the next four days were ones of miraculous progress. Mrs. Button's punctured lung closed and healed within the first day. The circulatory problems completely disappeared after a few days.

Her hip, X-rayed as broken in the Taylor hospital, looked fine in X rays at Temple. After a week and a half in intensive care, Mrs. Button was moved to her own room and began physical therapy. The therapy helped keep fluid in her lungs to a minimum.

With a special bed she was gradually placed in a standing position. She was instructed to practice the motion of walking, without taking steps.

Then came the first few steps with the help of parallel bars. She also practiced extending the fingers of her right hand, which had been curled up since the accident.

God continued to intervene for Mrs. Button. The broken pelvis and ribs were aligned. The broken collarbone left only a slight bump.

Mrs. Button was released from the hospital Oct. 26. Though sleepless nights of pain and discomfort continued she gradually resumed the duties of a homemaker.

Each day she exercises with her husband by walking a half mile. The once-curved right hand is still weak, but she is playing the piano again.

"My sense of values changed completely," said Mr. Button, who commented that the physical things are definitely secondary in importance now.

Couple brought together

Speaking of his wife he said: "We've always been very close. I think we have a deeper appreciation for one another."

With tears in her eyes, Mrs. Button said: "I've learned there sure are a lot of brothers and sisters out there. They touched me very much."

She won't forget the cards, letters, prayers, calls and flowers or those who came to her home to clean and cook.

Added Mr. Button: "You know that your brethren love you, but I don't think it really soaks in on us how much."

Survey

(Continued from page 2)

a similar role for citizens as the pest and smallpox did in the Middle Ages." (*Die Welt*, May 17, 1984). Mr. Zeidler is concerned. The crime statistics are not encouraging.

Continued *Die Welt*: "When in 1967 the number of crimes went over the two million mark in West Germany, this was considered shocking. In 1983 the police registered 4.3 million crimes. The numbers are still rising."

Jump over to Italy. One newspaper headline read: "Italy Crime Becoming Epidemic." Italian columnist Ralphe De Toledano described "anarchy as a way of life" in Rome, his favorite city. And that was five years ago.

The Dutch are no better off. Said a Nov. 10 article in *Elseviers* magazine, "Holland is becoming more and more crime ridden and authorities are at a loss what to do about it."

Forbes magazine made this comment Feb. 27, 1984: "Amsterdam used to be known for tulips. Now thanks to an overdose of live-and-let-live progressive thinking it's become known for dope and crime."

But what about the nation with a reputation as the most civilized in the world — Great Britain? Civilized? — not according to an Associated Press (AP) report from London published in the *International Herald Tribune* Nov. 6, 1984. It said: "A Gallup Poll on crime published Monday [Nov. 5] said that Brit-

ish respondents reported more crime than those in any of 13 other countries in Europe, and that the amount of crime reported in Britain followed only that of Colombia, Brazil and South Africa."

Said another report, "During the last 50 years, Britain has changed from being a relatively crime-free society to one in which serious crimes of violence and dishonesty occur on such a scale as to constitute a significant social problem" (*Some Causes of Crime*, March-April, 1983).

Dublin, Ireland, is a charming city of the Old World. Most wouldn't think of Dublin in terms of a crime problem. Yet polls establish that almost a third of Dubliners were either mugged or burglarized in 1982. Purse snatching is epidemic. Gangs of youths smash car windows at stoplights and grab parcels and handbags.

This column does not paint a rosy picture of city life in Europe. The purpose, of course, is not to discourage European tourism.

Take Rome as an example. Rome is an attractive city — one well worth visiting. The creative side of the Italian character is marvelous to behold. Restaurant and hotel services are among the best in Europe. Don't turn down a trip to Rome. Just use good judgment and be careful when walking the streets of any large European city. Criminal activity is growing in most.

Character of crime

In looking over the crime scenario, numbers alone are not necessarily the most important factor. It is the character of the crimes that

should cause most concern.

Consider Britain. Nearly all authorities agree that the trend toward violence against the person has increased significantly. Doctors have noticed that horrifying stab wounds are on the increase in the past few years. Juveniles tend to arm themselves with anything from a kitchen knife to a screwdriver.

But why is violent crime increasing in Britain? Several factors are involved. One concerns the misuse of potentially good teaching aids.

As one reporter said, "Television could do a great deal to educate and socialize children, but TV is where they pick up a lot of their motivation in choosing to attack [people] to beat boredom."

Also, the video revolution makes gross and cruelly violent films available to the average British home with (until legislation) no effective restraints against children viewing them.

Common sense says that violent aggression on the screen can and sometimes does arouse observers to commit acts of violence. There is, of course, a time lag.

Another factor is parental vigilance — at an all-time low. All one Liverpool, England, mother could say when asked the whereabouts of her teenage children was: "How would I know? I was at the pub."

A term was coined describing these victimized young people. They are called latchkey children. Many people don't bother to keep track of their offspring any more.

Common factor

Crime-rate comparisons between countries sometimes reveal significant differences. Soccer violence is

epidemic in Britain; sport violence is minimal in the United States. Street murders are the rule in American cities — less so in Europe.

But commonality is needed in this column to draw a clearer picture. Drug abuse is a common causal factor for crime in European cities. There are few exceptions.

Throughout much of Western Europe evidence is mounting of an alarming increase in crime-causing drug abuse. Take Amsterdam as an example. Journalist Rosemary Brady wrote in the Feb. 17, 1984, *Forbes* magazine that "for a city of 750,000 the crime file is indeed frightening. Muggings have increased sevenfold since hard drugs first gripped the city in the early 1970s . . . The city's estimated 14,000 hard drug users are blamed for 90 percent of the crimes."

Again, keep the problem in perspective. Rosemary Brady did qualify herself. She continued, "True, Amsterdam isn't nearly as dangerous as New York, but it's quite a change for Holland."

In Italy narcotics usage was minimal just a decade ago. But in the Orwellian year of 1984, "Italy faces a fast growing drug addiction problem." At least that was the title of a May, 1984, report for United Press International (UPI) by Sylvia Poggioli.

A French news story is no more encouraging. Nicolas Skrotsky wrote for *USA Today* June 17, 1984: "Specialists estimate that the number of drug abuse cases in France rose by nearly 20 percent last year over 1981, addicts using everything from heroin and cocaine to acetone and rubber cement."

Back across the English Channel,

Britain fares no better. Reports *The Daily Mail*, Sept. 6, 1984: "Drug addicts have unleashed a rising wave of muggings on British cities this year in a desperate bid to pay for their craving. The revelation that British police chiefs now accept that much of our street crime is being fanned by a drug epidemic came during the annual Interpol Conference in Luxembourg."

A British Home Office official added in the article: "One thing is certain. Drug abuse must increase crime. If there are young people having to find 200 pounds a week, or 40 pounds a day, to buy drugs, then they have got to get it from somewhere. That's just plain common sense."

A 1980 UPI report commented on American drug abuse, "Drug addicts commit six times more crime when they are under the influence of heroin or other opiates than when they are not 'high,' and a new study . . . involving 243 male addicts in Baltimore [Md.], showed they committed more than 500,000 crimes during an 11-year period." A 1982 study funded by the Rand Corp. came up with the same conclusions.

Frankly the level of European violence is shocking. Europe is not so civilized as it once was. Said the prophet Ezekiel, "Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezekiel 7:23).

This prophecy graphically indicts the Western world. The prophet spoke of a time when conditions would be so bad that one violent crime would follow another just like links on a chain. We have reached that day.

THE MISSING BILLFOLD

STORY FOR YOUNG READERS By Shirley King Johnson

Oh, the joy of running loose on the farm! Major thrust his nose deep into grass beside Grandfather's windmill. All the sweet smells of little creatures filled his nostrils — rabbits, squirrels and chipmunks. Suddenly one scent was fresh. Yelping his delight, Major followed the scent back and forth. Up to the garden fence he galloped and back again to the windmill. But there he was distracted by another scent — the strong scent of Grandfather. Major paused, perplexed. Grandfather's billfold lay on a board at the edge of the pump platform.

Seizing the billfold in his teeth, the beagle trotted over to the cave. Tucked half under the eaves was a cardboard box filled with straw. It was here that he took his naps on chilly afternoons. Dropping the billfold in one corner of the box, he nuzzled straw over it and packed it down with both front paws.

Grandfather and Jim came out of the house, closing the back porch screen door with a thump. Major looked up. Grandfather had his long shotgun in his hand. He was trying to see where Jim was pointing.

"Above the trees" Jim said. "It's a chicken hawk, isn't it?"

"Yep, it is." Grandfather raised his gun straight up in the air. BLAMM!

"You missed a mile," Jim said. "Let me try."

Grandfather lowered the gun. "How much instruction have you had in handling firearms, James?"

"Not very much, sir."

"Then I think it would be a good idea if you waited until you're old enough to take a class on firearms and safety. Then I'll be glad to take you hunting with me. As for that chicken

hawk, I wasn't shooting at him. I wanted to scare him away. That species is on the endangered list so that means it's against the law to shoot them. Fortunately, they do seem more scarce around here lately."

"Oh, I see." Jim said. "Excuse me for what I said about your aim."

"Apology accepted," Grandfather said, smiling. He stood the gun carefully against the house. "I'm going in to get my binoculars." As he opened the screen door, he looked back at Jim. "Don't touch that gun, James." He went on in.

Jim sat down on the back step, eyeing the gun. "I can't wait till I'm old enough to go hunting with Grandfather," he told Major aloud.

Major walked over to the steps, went up them and sniffed at the long gun. It was still smoking a little at the end. How he hated the thing. It made frightful noises.

"Come away, little hound," Jim said, smiling at his dog. "There's no way I'm going to touch that gun. No-o-o way!"

Major's nose sniffed at the butt of the gun. Here it smelled like grandfather and his nose pressed more firmly against it. The gun moved slightly, then tipped over. It landed on the cement sidewalk below. BLAMM!

Buckshot sprayed the lower cottonwood limbs near the yard gate. Major leaped from the steps and dived head-first into his box by the cave.

Jim jumped to his feet in alarm. "Major! Are you okay?" Rushing over, he grabbed up his dog and sat down, cradling him in his lap. Major licked his face. "You're all right," Jim said thankfully. "That was a scare!"

The back-porch door flew open and Grandfather came out like a rocket. "James! What happened? Are you all right?"

"I'm fine," Jim assured him.

Grandfather's hand moved to his

chest and he patted it with gasps of relief. He leaned against the back door. "That sound took 10 years off my life. I imagined you had shot yourself." His eyes moved to the sidewalk and the smoking gun that lay there. "James, did I, or did I not tell you to leave that gun alone?"

"Yes, sir. You told me not to touch it and I didn't."

"You didn't?" He shook his head. "It didn't go off by itself. It didn't move down to the sidewalk by itself. When I went inside, I stood it up by this door."

"But I didn't touch it. It was Major's fault."

"Major?"

"Yes, sir."

"You want me to believe your dog pulled the trigger of a gun?"

"No, sir. He was sniffing at it and he knocked it over and it went off when it hit the sidewalk."

Grandfather rubbed his chin for a moment. "So that's what happened! I'm relieved. I knew you wouldn't disobey me. It was stupid of me to leave that gun there."

Jim stood up and circled his arms around his grandfather's waist because he looked like he needed a hug.

"I am stupid, stupid!" Grandfather said as he hugged Jim back.

Jim looked up at the kind eyes that brimmed with tears. "You, Grandfather? Stupid? No, you're not. You're smart!"

He shook his head. "I do lots of stupid things, honey. That's another reason why I want so much to make it into God's Kingdom. Then I won't ever make another mistake!"

Grandmother came to the back door with her eyes wide with wonder, her hand at her throat. "What's going on out here? I was upstairs when I heard one shot and then another. Are you both all right?"

"We three are fine," Grandfather replied. He reached down to scratch Major's ear. "I got the gun out to scare off a hawk and then foolishly leaned it against the house while I went in for my binoculars. I knew James could be trusted not to touch it, but Major pulled a fast one. He knocked it over. I'm thankful no one was hurt." Giving Jim another hug, he picked up his shotgun and took it inside the house.

Back in a few moments, Grandfather's hands began to search his overall pockets. "James, have you seen my billfold? I seem to have lost it. It wasn't in the desk drawer either."

"No, sir."

"Did you give it to Grandmother as I told you to do?"

Jim's brow wrinkled. "When did you tell me to give it to Grandmother?"

"Yesterday. We were working on the windmill pump and the man came to collect for delivering the paper. You went in and got my billfold for me — remember?"

"Yes, sir. I remember going in and getting it out of the drawer where Grandmother showed me it was."

"Do you remember putting it back?"

Jim's teeth caught in his lower lip. "Let me think. The road grader came by and I ran out to watch it."

"I hope you didn't lose my billfold in the tall grass along the road bank," Grandfather said in a worried voice.

"Oh, no, sir, I didn't. I remember now. I put it on the boards on the windmill platform." Jim hurried to the windmill. Grandfather and Major followed at a slower pace. Jim bent low. Then he straightened, puzzled. "It's not there. I thought I put it here, but it's gone."

"H'mmmm," was all Grandfather said.

(To be continued)

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

UPDATE

PASADENA — Pastor General **Herbert W. Armstrong** approved an Ambassador Foundation project to teach adults English in Sri Lanka, according to **Aaron Dean**, personal aide to the pastor general and a vice president of the foundation.

"The Sri Lankan government officially requested that the Ambassador Foundation send four to eight Ambassador College students to assist in the Mahaweli River dam project," Mr. Dean explained.

He said that Sri Lankan President **Junius Richard Jayewardene** personally asked Mr. Armstrong to consider the project during a Nov. 24 meeting in the presidential palace in Colombo, Sri Lanka (see *WN*, Dec. 24).

"The Sri Lankan government will provide room and board at the Victoria Dam that we visited during Mr. Armstrong's trip there in November," Mr. Dean said. "We have been told that the facility where Mr. Armstrong ate lunch will provide the classrooms and the students' housing."

Mr. Dean said that the students will teach adults who must relocate because of the dam project. "The government is eager for us to get started, so we have scheduled the project to begin in June after the academic year ends," he said.

Robert Morton, regional director of the Church in Australia and Asia, will travel to Sri Lanka to complete arrangements this spring, Mr. Dean added.

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PASADENA — The Pasadena and Big Sandy telephone response areas of the Mail Processing Center (MPC) set consecutive records here Jan. 5 to 6 with 15,836 calls and Jan. 12 to 13 with 15,852 calls, according to evangelist **Richard Rice**, MPC director.

The previous record was 13,940 calls, set Oct. 20 to 21, 1984, by Pastor General **Herbert W. Armstrong's** *World Tomorrow* program *Revelation: Catastrophic Event*.

The record-breaking programs were *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and *Ascent to Greatness*.

David Hulme, director of media purchasing, said that better broadcasting times for the *World Tomorrow* telecast, greater numbers of stations [see article, page 1] and efficient telephone procedures contribute to higher response.

Mr. Rice added another reason: "In my opinion — and this is based on my personal observations and information I receive from the mail — I believe the word is getting out and that more and more people are being directed toward Mr. Armstrong by word of mouth. People seem to recognize that he is a man of God, that what he says on the *World Tomorrow* program rings true."

Scott Toliver, statistician and senior operator for the Pasadena telephone response area, pointed out that during the Jan. 12 to 13 weekend, 28 stations preempted the *World Tomorrow* program for a cerebral palsy telethon. Based on past experience Mr. Toliver estimated that response would have topped 17,000 responses if these stations had aired the telecast

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PASADENA — A cassette series of *World Tomorrow* radio programs for church libraries was mailed to English-speaking congregations in Europe, South Africa, the United States, Asia, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, the South Pacific and the Caribbean in mid-December, according to **Larry Omasta**, director of Media Services here.

David Hulme, director of media purchasing, said, "Pastor General **Herbert W. Armstrong** approved the development of a pilot library cassette-tape program of his *World Tomorrow* radio broadcasts when he announced his decision to cancel future broadcasts of the radio program in the United States" (see "HWA Announces Radio Decision," *WN*, Sept. 24, 1984).

"These tapes," Mr. Omasta said, "contain eight of Mr. Armstrong's 30-minute radio programs — two programs per tape — on the subject of the true Church."

"We are planning to send out three or four more sets of additional radio programs during 1985," he added.

Garland Snuffer, supervisor of the radio production area of Media Services, said the next shipment of tapes is scheduled for March.

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PASADENA — Pastor General **Herbert W. Armstrong** instructed the Media Services Department here to send a videocassette of his Dec. 7 Bible study in the Ambassador Auditorium to all churches in the United States, according to **Larry Omasta**, Media Services director.

The Bible study was Mr. Armstrong's first after returning to the Church's headquarters in Pasadena from his Oct. 30 to Dec. 2 trip to the Far East and Asia.

"The videotape consists of three parts," Mr. Omasta explained, "Mr. Armstrong's introductory comments; the Media Services production *More Than a Monarch* about **King Bhumibol Adulyadej** and **Queen Sirikit** of Thailand; and Mr. Armstrong's concluding remarks."

"We are planning to distribute the tapes the week beginning Jan. 21," he added. "We will be contacting all regional directors about setting up videotape distribution in their areas."

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KINGSTON, Jamaica — Riots triggered by a 20-percent increase in gasoline prices erupted in major



JANUARY GRADUATION — Two Pasadena Ambassador College students receive diplomas at a Jan. 10 ceremony on the Pasadena campus. From left: William Stenger, registrar; Sharon Metz, who received an associate of science degree; evangelist Raymond F. McNair, deputy chancellor; Eric Keefer, who received a bachelor of arts degree; and Gregory Albrecht, dean of students. [Photo by Nathan Faulkner]

cities of Jamaica Jan. 15, according to Associated Press and United Press International reports.

Although at least four people were killed and others injured, **Charles Fleming**, pastor of the Kingston church, told *The Worldwide News* in a telephone interview Jan. 16 that, to his knowledge, "none of the members have suffered injury or damage or loss of property." About 300 attend Church services or Bible studies in Jamaica.

The rioters blocked major roads with burning tires. Most of the disturbances were in Kingston, where schools, government offices and businesses were closed and people were encouraged to stay at home.

"The situation eased up to allow a semblance of normalcy in the business district for about six hours Jan. 17, allowing people to shop," Mr. Fleming told *The Worldwide News* in a second telephone interview.

"Even if the violence clears up in

four or five days, pressures that have built up over the past year continue. So, we would appreciate the continued prayers of the brethren," Mr. Fleming said.

One employee opened the Church Office there Jan. 15, but Mr. Fleming, who was unable to get to the office that day, told him to close the office and go home. The office reopened Jan. 17, but Mr. Fleming told employees to go home at 3 p.m. on word of more violence.

Spokesman Club was canceled Jan. 15, and Bible study was canceled Jan. 16, Mr. Fleming said.

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PASADENA — Two Ambassador College students received diplomas here Jan. 10 in a ceremony in the faculty lounge of the Ambassador College Student Center. The degrees were conferred by evangelist **Raymond F. McNair**, deputy chancellor of Pasadena Ambassador

College. About 20 people were present.

Eric L. Keefer of Peoria, Ill., received a bachelor of arts degree, and **Sharon Metz** of Trumbull, Conn., received an associate of science degree.

Before the presentation of degrees Mr. McNair spoke on the importance of character development and the value of the liberal arts education from Ambassador College.

Mr. McNair said that education is in trouble in the world today and that world educators are beginning to realize the value of a liberal arts education and the need for more emphasis on character development in the educational system.

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PASADENA — Ministerial Services released the following ordinations:

Lazarus Chimba of the Harare, Zimbabwe, church, was ordained a local church elder Oct. 11 by **Roy McCarthy**, regional director for the Church in southern Africa.

Fritz Sonderegger, a deacon in the Canberra, Australia, church, was ordained a local church elder Dec. 8.

INTERNATIONAL DESK

A WORLD VIEW
FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

PASADENA — Last year was a year of growth and progress for the work of the Church in the Dutch language.

Bram de Bree, regional director, reported 16,570 new subscribers to *De Echte Waarheid*, the Dutch edition of *The Plain Truth*. By the end of 1984, circulation stood at 44,500.

Six issues of the Dutch-language *Good News* were issued during 1984. Circulation of *het Goede Nieuws van de Wereld van Morgen* increased 1.2 percent. Returning to a monthly format in January, the magazine will be offered to readers of *De Echte Waarheid* who have subscribed for two or more years.

Youth 84 circulation increased 25.7 percent in 1984. Most Dutch Youth Opportunities United (YOU) members have a good command of the English language. English is taught as a second language (as are German and French) in high school.

In addition, the participation of the Dutch YOU members at the Summer Educational Program

(SEP) camp in Loch Lomond, Scotland, contributes greatly to their English vocabulary.

Last year saw the beginning of the translation, printing and issuing of the Youth Educational Services (YES) lessons in Dutch. Gerald van



DUTCH LITERATURE — Pictured is some of the literature circulated in the Dutch-speaking area. The Church gave Feastgoers in Hoogeveen, Netherlands, copies of the newly completed Dutch edition of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* (pictured at left). [Photo by G.A. Belluche Jr.]

der Wende and his wife, Leni, translate the lessons and do layout.

Three new booklets were translated in 1984. This brings the number of Dutch booklets to 41. Feastgoers received *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* — a long-awaited book in the Dutch language.

With the biweekly Antwerp, Belgium, church becoming weekly, there are four weekly congregations in the Dutch area: De Bilt, Tilburg and Zwolle, Netherlands, and Antwerp. Church attendance increased 10.2 percent last year to 334, and membership increased 7.9 percent.

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