



PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

November 12, 2004 • Vol. 1, No. 9

Greetings ministers and wives!

Do you realize how bad events are going to get *before* we flee to the place of safety?

The fact that President Bush was reelected will, I am sure, stabilize events in this country and the world in the short term. This Church still has a lot of work to do before Christ returns. Just the fact that God has given us our new Mail Processing Center, which is quite a large building, indicates that He wants us to send out a lot of literature before this is over. We don't have a lot of time, but we do have a lot of work to do. We are also beginning work on our administration building, and planning for an auditorium.

It does appear God has given us a small window to fulfill our commission. The Republicans also won critical seats in Congress. They could have something to do with selecting Supreme Court judges, which could also help stabilize things. But only for a little span of time, for us to complete this work.

Ultimately it doesn't matter who wins an election in the U.S. This country is going down like a rock in a river! Satan has been cast down! Problems continue to multiply as never before in this land. We need to prepare our thinking for major shocks in the near future.

As I have said, God has signalled to us that we are in accelerated times. The king of the north and king of the south are rising quickly. Ezekiel 5:2 says one third of the people in the nations of Israel will be killed by "fire ... in the midst of the city." It appears that will happen before we flee.

In the midst of all that, we have to finish God's Work. How can we do that?

The world will be in a shocking condition by the time Jerusalem is conquered. Christ said we will see "Jerusalem compassed with armies" (Luke 21:20). When we see that, we should "know that the desolation thereof is [near]." That is the signal for our leaving for the place of safety (verse 21).

"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled" (verse 22). This is what God has to deliver us from.

"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (verse 24). And that, of course, is when Christ returns.

Hosea 5:5 states that those three primary nations fighting terrorism right now—America, Britain and Israel (or Manasseh, Ephraim and Judah)—are going to fall together. Isn't it interesting how united they are today—and how isolated from the rest of the world? It's pretty obvious, as well, that Ephraim will be moved out of the

European Union. These prophecies are being fulfilled daily and reported in our newspapers!

We're about to see Israel trodden down like the mire of the streets. The Laodiceans will be right there in the middle of that. Because they were so hard, God says, *You're going to be trodden down, because I want to get your attention and save you! I want you to be in My Family!*

But notice the good news: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall

IN THIS ISSUE

Church Administration	3
Media Services	3
Editorial Services	4
Mail Processing	6
Business Office	7
Buildings and Grounds	9
Ministerial Training	10

be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh*" (Luke 21:25-28).

This passage is so critical. If we're not careful, when these difficulties break out in the world we will be prone to get depressed. We have a propensity to hang our heads and get caught up in the calamity, which is getting worse all the time.

God knows our human nature, and He is warning us not to do that. *Don't let this get you down*, He is telling us. *Lift up your head because your redemption draws near! Jesus Christ is about to return! Don't lose your hope or your positive attitude! You're getting awfully close to the end!* That's the battle we have. We must not look only at the bad news!

Look at the little nation of Israel. They have been coping with a consistent terror threat for years. They've lived in fear; they've had loved ones die. And it's robbed them of hope. The majority of them are convinced their children's lives will be worse off than their own, and they are in an open despair! They don't see hope in their country. What if you lived there? Would you go around in open despair, downcast and crestfallen because of what's happening to your land? It would certainly be difficult not to.

But God says, *No! No! Don't do that! Lift up your heads! This is good news!*

We MUST BELIEVE GOD. This is the new reality we are facing.

Israel is trusting its worst enemies rather than trusting God. Their German double-cross is coming.

We have to be able to connect what's happening in Jerusalem—and in the U.S. and Britain and Canada and Europe and Asia—to the return of Jesus Christ! That's nothing to hang your head about! Because when He comes back, His saints are going to be coming back WITH HIM!

Can you feel the "times of the Gentiles"? Can you see and sense that everything's going so well for the Gentiles? And that God Himself has actually put it in their minds to do what they're going to do to Israel? Can you see what's happening in the Middle East? It's all right there before us.

The nations of Israel—America and Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, the Jews—keep wondering, why is Germany against us? Why is Russia against us? And China, and Europe? Why is everybody against us? It's because we are facing the times of the Gentiles! God says we can see the sword, and we can feel the storm already building, the outer periphery of that perfect storm.

But it's all leading to good news, so don't let it get you down. Lift up your head. Because if we don't lift up our heads, *we're not going to fulfill the commission God has given us to do!* We'll be too discouraged. We must be a positive people, if we are going to understand what's happening on this Earth and still have God's urgency to prophesy again.

With love, in Christ's service,



CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

For all full-time ministers attending this year's Ministerial Conference, please remember the policy of reimbursement of your travel expenses. The Church will cover transportation, lodging and meal expense for both the minister and his wife. But please remember, the Church will pay FOR THE LESSER cost of either flying to the Will Roger's Oklahoma City Airport, or driving to Edmond from your home (mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.375/mile). The Church will reimburse lodging costs and the standard meal allotment while in transit if you drive—again with the stipulation that your total driving costs are less expensive than flying. If you prefer not to fly, and chose to drive even if flying would be less expensive, the PCG will reimburse only up to the amount of what the airline fare would have cost for both minister and wife.

The cost of rental cars will NOT be reimbursed during the conference.

Non-full-time ministers are welcome to attend, but as stated in the September 15 issue of the PGR, your travel and housing costs will not be reimbursed by the PCG.

As a reminder, all ministers and wives (full-time and non-full-time) will receive three meals a day, which will be provided at the John Amos Field House. Meals on

the weekend will be at your own cost for non-full-time ministers and reimbursable for full-time ministers and wives with a \$25 per person per day maximum limit of reimbursement.

If not done already, please make your own air travel arrangements and submit them for reimbursement on a separate expense report marked "2005 Ministerial Conference." If you would like the festival department to make your flight reservations for you, please contact Melody Thompson as soon as possible.

We will provide shuttle service between the airport and the Sleep Inn Hotel, in addition to transportation from the Sleep Inn Hotel to the field house during the conference. But we must have your full travel details (both arrival and departure), including airline, flight number, travel date and time, so we can arrange a schedule.

During the conference, lodging costs at the Sleep Inn for full-time ministers and wives will be direct-billed to the PCG. As in the past, all charges for food, phone, laundry or dry cleaning, entertainment and other incidentals will need to be paid by the minister himself upon checkout.

Should you have any questions regarding this policy, please feel free to contact Andrew Locher.

MEDIA SERVICES

By Andrew Locher

THE KEY OF DAVID—BRITAIN

Review tapes and DVDs have been provided to our agency in Britain as it works to secure airtime for our program under Mr. Harrison's direction. Mr. Flurry has always pushed for quality airtime throughout the UK, and we hope to have some good options for him to choose from.

One of the complications we face is that British media law limits our ability to promote our literature at the end of the program. We will be submitting various forms of advertising to our agent for their comment and suggestion on how we can best reach the British people. Our greatest challenge lies in the fact we cannot advertise within the airtime we purchase to air our show. Mr. Flurry is not allowed to display or promote any piece of literature in particular. We are not allowed to use our standard voice-over literature offer at the conclusion of our program as

we do throughout the rest of the world. As such, we have to make a connection between Mr. Flurry's presentation and the literature offer that airs separate from the program. We have many ideas, and will submit them for review so we can effectively reach the people.

Our agent, Big Picture Ltd., is asking questions about the content of the program reflecting the sensitivity of the British broadcasters to our message. So far through the station review process our agent Greg Roselli has told me "we have heard both positive and negative feedback with regard to your show." His concern lies in the small envelope of subject material we can use as the foundation of our shows. There is sensitivity to both political and religious topics—which as you can imagine strike at the core of *The Key of David*. There is no doubt that God will have to work miracles to acquire and retain airtime for our program in the UK!

THE KEY OF DAVID—HOUSTON, TEXAS

Strange events precipitated a change in our future TV coverage of Houston, TX, the 11th largest market in the country. We lost our original station contract for our program to air on KHOU (the CBS affiliate for Houston) but replaced it with a contract to air on KRIV, the Fox affiliate. Beginning the first week of January 2005, we will air at 9:00 a.m. Sunday just after “Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace.” This actually will work to our advantage through a better station, at a reduced rate and with greater potential reach. Thanks to the reduced rate, we were able to allocate some financial resources to another market to carry our program.

THE KEY OF DAVID—ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Atlanta, Georgia is the 9th largest television market in the United States with 5.6 million potential viewers. Beginning Jan. 2, 2005, the program will return to the greater Atlanta metroplex on WGCL, the CBS affiliate, at 7:00 a.m. Sunday mornings.

The addition of Atlanta and Houston will surely increase the call volume, and subscriptions to the *Trumpet* magazine. Both markets lie in the “Bible Belt” and should be highly responsive to our program.

THE KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

The schedule below applies to all stations in the United States, Canada and our website. Stations throughout Australasia and the Caribbean follow a schedule that is one week behind the U.S. and Canada due to shipping delays. The Philippines, South Africa and Malta all follow schedules that are a few weeks behind the U.S. and Canada for the same reason.

Program Title: “Lawlessness”

Airdate: November 21

Literature Offered: *No Freedom Without Law, Character in Crisis*

Synopsis: Recent political campaigns in the United States have revealed great divisions among the American people. How can these divisions be healed? God’s Word reveals that only adherence to a law and moral code can unify a people. The United States was founded on the pillars of religion and morality. Today, both religion and morality have been corroded in America. If the U.S. is to ever become unified, its peoples must turn to God in repentance and begin to obey His Ten Commandments. Only then can God truly bless America.

EDITORIAL SERVICES

By Joel Hilliker

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE STATUS

Since the Feast, we’ve received a lot of questions about the course. Everyone is excited, and they should be! We’ve designed a full-page advertisement found on page 7 of the November *Trumpet*. So we are expecting to get thousands of requests!

What Mr. Flurry first envisioned for the course was to use the 58-lesson Ambassador College course that was first issued in 1954, and later revised beginning in 1965, as the model. After editing and updating the first nine lessons, plus two tests, we were ready to start printing them, but then a couple things came up that shed new light on our approach.

First, we discovered that in the 1970s, the course had been revised and reduced to just 12 lessons and that, beginning in 1977, Mr. Armstrong set out to “dynamically revise” this 12-lesson course—which he did. Then in 1981, he began adding additional lessons. His March 19, 1981, coworker letter explains: “I urge all who have not already asked for it, to request the new Lesson 13 of the Bible Correspondence Course.” By the time of his death in January 1986, 24 lessons had been copyrighted,

six were copyrighted after his death in 1986 and two in 1987—for a total of 32 lessons. While a very few minor comments were made to some of the latter eight lessons that Mr. Armstrong would not have approved, it’s clear that this “new” 32-lesson course had Mr. Armstrong’s stamp of approval overall.

The second thing we discovered was that around January of 1980, Mr. Armstrong initiated a “Subscriber Development Program,” which in essence was designed to bring new subscribers *whom God was calling* to conversion as quickly as possible. This weighed heavily on Mr. Flurry’s mind in light of the fact that we are now living in the last hour! Armed with all this new information, Mr. Flurry instructed that we pattern the course after the newer 32-lesson model instead of the 58-lesson prototype.

We believe this was all brought to light because God does not want our subscribers to go through 58 lessons (which would take almost five years) before they finish. This way, they will be able to get through in about three years. And, just as Worldwide had a much bigger stock of literature to back up the 32-lesson course in the

1980s which they did not have in the 1960s, so we also have more literature to back it up which we did not have before the court case victory.

Basically, we are going to follow the pattern of the 32-lesson course and alter the lessons only where needed to bring them up to date. As of this writing, we have finalized the text of the first two lessons. Many if not all of the updates we made to the 58-lesson course will be incorporated into the 32-lesson course, as needed. Basically, we update three things: examples, statistics and “present truth.”

Almost all the examples and statistics are out of date because the world has changed so much in the last 20 years! Much of what Mr. Armstrong said *would* happen *has* happened, or experts readily acknowledge is *about* to happen. Let’s illustrate with one example.

In Lesson 2, which was written 21 years ago, Mr. Armstrong said that “even the bubonic plague—the ‘black death’ of the Middle Ages—could make a terrifying comeback in the near future!” That might have seemed far-fetched to some. But now we can back it up with new discoveries. A team of doctors, after extensive historical research, has concluded that the “black death” was a virus and could not have been a form of bubonic plague. But the main point is that it likely has an infectious period of *3 weeks* before symptoms occur; that it is probably lying dormant and according to historical patterns, could emerge at “ANY TIME,” causing “MASSIVE DEVASTATION,” to use the words from the new book *Return of the Black Death*, just published in July!

The “present truth” revealed to Mr. Flurry must also be incorporated, as appropriate. For example, in Lesson 2 Mr. Armstrong talks of the signs of the times. Besides the examples and statistics of war, famine and disease that were brought up to date, we added the correct understanding of Matthew 24:14, the apostasy and the remnant that “prophesies again” to the list of signs showing that the return of Christ is *imminent*, much more so than 20 years ago!

Hopefully, that gives you a flavor of how we go about updating the course to make it ever more relevant to the people living *today*.

Because we anticipate that thousands of requests, we have set up a separate post office box, toll-free number, e-mail and fax number to handle questions that will come. The toll-free number will be a recording that will briefly explain the course and when they can expect to receive it, information about the tests, how it is paid for and how to enroll.

The lessons will be sent out once per month, *beginning in mid-January*. A test will be sent with every fourth les-

son consisting of 100 fairly simple multiple choice questions. A score of 75 or above is a passing grade. In order to receive the next four lessons, at a pace of one per month, those enrolled must pass the test.

Please note that the first lesson is an introductory lesson and rather “light” on Bible doctrine compared to subsequent lessons. The brethren should not judge how in-depth the course will be just from the first lesson.

Also note that **the course will NOT be sent automatically to the brethren**. Brethren are highly encouraged to enroll for the course, but they must request it. They may e-mail cc@icedmond.org with their full name and address, or they may call this toll-free number: 1-800-772-8577.

All those enrolled will receive a “welcoming” letter from Mr. Flurry explaining the basics about the course, including that the first lesson will be mailed out in mid-January. Meanwhile, besides editing and updating the course, finding pictures for the layout, and completing the programming for the database, we are ordering equipment that will grade the tests and *automatically* update the database with test results—saving a ton of manual work.

Finally, it’s interesting that Lesson 1 of the new course, as it works out, will be mailed out in January of 2005—40 years after the 1965 version of the 58-lesson course that many of us are most familiar with.

-Fred Dattolo

BOOKLET UPDATE

After moving our literature stock from the rented storage units near the Waterwood Parkway headquarters complex to the MPC building in May of this year, we’ve had to make some significant adjustments to our usable inventory. We discovered that inventory of several booklets was almost depleted.

In addition, the more than doubling of *Key of David* responses has put a greater demand on the remaining stock. Although the latter is a very positive trend, these two factors combined are among the main reasons we have reached (near) depletion levels on about a dozen of our booklets.

Replenishing the inventory has not been an easy task. A number of the depleted booklets were printed almost a decade ago, and are due for an overhaul of style and factual information. In the overstretched editorial department, it has been a challenge to add these projects to the ongoing cycle of publishing periodicals. However, we cannot afford to not have some of our key works in stock; we must ensure adequate levels of inventory so these items are always ready to mail out immediately to

those who request them.

This past week, several inter-departmental meetings took place to find solutions for this problem. Editorial has drawn up a schedule to reprint the most often requested booklets immediately, with limited editing. Booklets in lesser demand will be updated more extensively if needed, and then reprinted. Working away the backlog has been addressed with an aggressive schedule, so that we can start 2005 by maintaining stock levels rather than always playing catch up.

Once we have worked away the backlog, the mail department will be able to drive the priority list by indicating which booklets would need to be reprinted each month. Mr. Locher has agreed to come up with a to-do list each month based on current inventory, demand, and other factors. Editorial will commit to reprinting up to three booklets per month.

Another significant change will be increasing our print runs. At the moment, we need to reprint one booklet every month, assuming the life span of a print run to be five years. For many of our booklets however, we find this life span to be 18 to 24 months. Only by printing larger quantities of each booklet would we be able to stay on top of the demand for booklets.

In recent months we have also started to produce the *Key of David Reprint Series*. This initiative enables

Mr. Flurry to offer a particular article from any of our publications quickly for the television audience. In cooperation with Gibbs Printing in Dallas, Tex., run by member John Zoellner, we are able to turn these projects around in less than a week. Each reprint is printed in two colors in a limited quantity and serves only that particular program. Once the stock is depleted, the article will not be reprinted, unless offered again on the *Key of David*.

To help speed up the turn-around time for reprinting our booklets, ministers are invited to make us aware of any mistakes found in current literature. We keep files on each booklet, enabling us to quickly access and fix errors before reprinting.

This week we sent *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood* and *The Royal Book of Revelation* to be reprinted. The latter is not the revised version that Mr. Flurry has mentioned, but a reprint of our current booklet to tide us over until he is able to devote time to expounding upon the subject in more detail. We did update several of the statements concerning the court case, to at least bring that information up-to-date.

With these steps being implemented, we hope to eventually no longer have to send out the "With Compliments" slips stating that a requested item of literature is not currently in stock. -Wik Heerma

MAIL PROCESSING

By Andrew Locher

MAIL PROCESSING

We have a crew of three dedicated and hard working ladies who work the front desk/reception position. Carol Nash, Carolyn Coats and Melinda Yeary all perform a tremendous service that is often unnoticed. Not only do they direct phone traffic at headquarters, but they are responsible for the processing of all written requests for literature from the U.S., Canada and many other nations in the world. These ladies work in conjunction with the regional offices to process international orders for the world outside of Mr. Russell Williams' area.

Mrs. Nash gave an incredible update this week reporting that they had caught up on the back-log of orders from prior to the Feast all the way through to the present. This represents thousands of orders that were input, addresses changed, subscriptions renewed or canceled and all website literature requests entered. The speed of their "catching up" was phenomenal and has resulted in multiple thousands of orders being mailed to those requesting material from the PCC.

So far this year, they have processed 46,688 literature requests! That is amazing in comparison to the call volume we receive on our toll-free numbers in the call center, which answered 56,421 phone calls during the same period. These ladies surely deserve a pat on the back! Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

CALL CENTER

We answered a total of 8,648 telephone calls in the call center during October. The Feast of Tabernacles impacted our ability to answer all of the call volume that was presented, but we were able to remain open throughout the Feast with the exception of the holy days and Sabbaths. October is generally a little slower in the call center because the *Trumpet* magazine is a bi-monthly issue, resulting in higher call volume in September and more diminished volume in October.

With all of that said, we still experienced a 212 percent increase over the October 2003 call volume! The *Key of David* program was off the air in October 2003,

which explains our dramatic increase this year.

Key of David call-in requests have more than doubled since the end of the Feast. There is a seasonal pattern of response to most every television program with the summer and early fall months typically drawing the least amount of response. Mid-October generally marks the point at which call volume picks up. If this is any indication of what we are to expect in the late-fall and winter months, then our old records will quickly become obsolete.

Our latest repeat program “Jordan Foils WMD Attack” had three times the amount of response it received the first time we aired the program! “The King of the South” program that we reported on in the last PGR received two and a half times as much response as it did with its first airing.

Our next two programs are new episodes taped over the past few weeks. Another new program is scheduled to be taped tomorrow. The new programs are receiving just as strong of response as the repeat programs.

The call center is going to have a busy winter!

MAIL DEPARTMENT

As was previously reported, we returned from the Feast to approximately 20,000 literature requests. After spending two weeks processing several thousand requests, we expected to have the total down to 15,000 pieces or so—at least gaining some ground. But as of two weeks ago, we were amazed to find that we hadn’t

made any progress, but had actually lost ground because the requests had grown to 28,000 pieces.

As a result of the new numbers, we scheduled a work party for October 31. With the help of approximately 12 to 14 very dedicated and highly motivated volunteers, plus the students who were helping with WATS, we processed an astounding 14,000 requests in just one day. For the week of October 25 to the 31, the mail department processed just under 20,000 pieces, which is truly amazing! This past week we processed another 10,000 requests, which makes for an incredible total of over 30,000 pieces for a two-week period of time.

The database currently holds 17,000 requests, of which 3,500 were just added from the most recent *Key of David* program. Over the next week, we hope to bring the total down even further.

We still have many thousands of back orders that we are trying to process, and should be caught up soon. It has been challenging to make any headway due to the tremendous response to the *Key of David* program.

We anticipate a real “problem” (a wonderful problem) when the new *Trumpet* magazine hits the subscribers’ homes. Not only does a new *Trumpet* generate thousands of calls, we offered the *Correspondence Course* for the first time in the November issue. We have supplemented our call center staff in anticipation of a very high ring-in. More volunteers wait in the wings should we need even more assistance in taking the calls.

BUSINESS OFFICE

By Andrew Locher

BUSINESS OFFICE

The start of construction on the Hall of Administration has been met with a welcome surge in contributions to the work which typically build this time of year. Last Wednesday (November 3) we closed a construction loan with our bank to secure financing for the Hall of Administration. Though we don’t expect to draw on this loan very much, it does provide the security that we will have the resources available to quickly provide cash necessary to complete construction of this magnificent building.

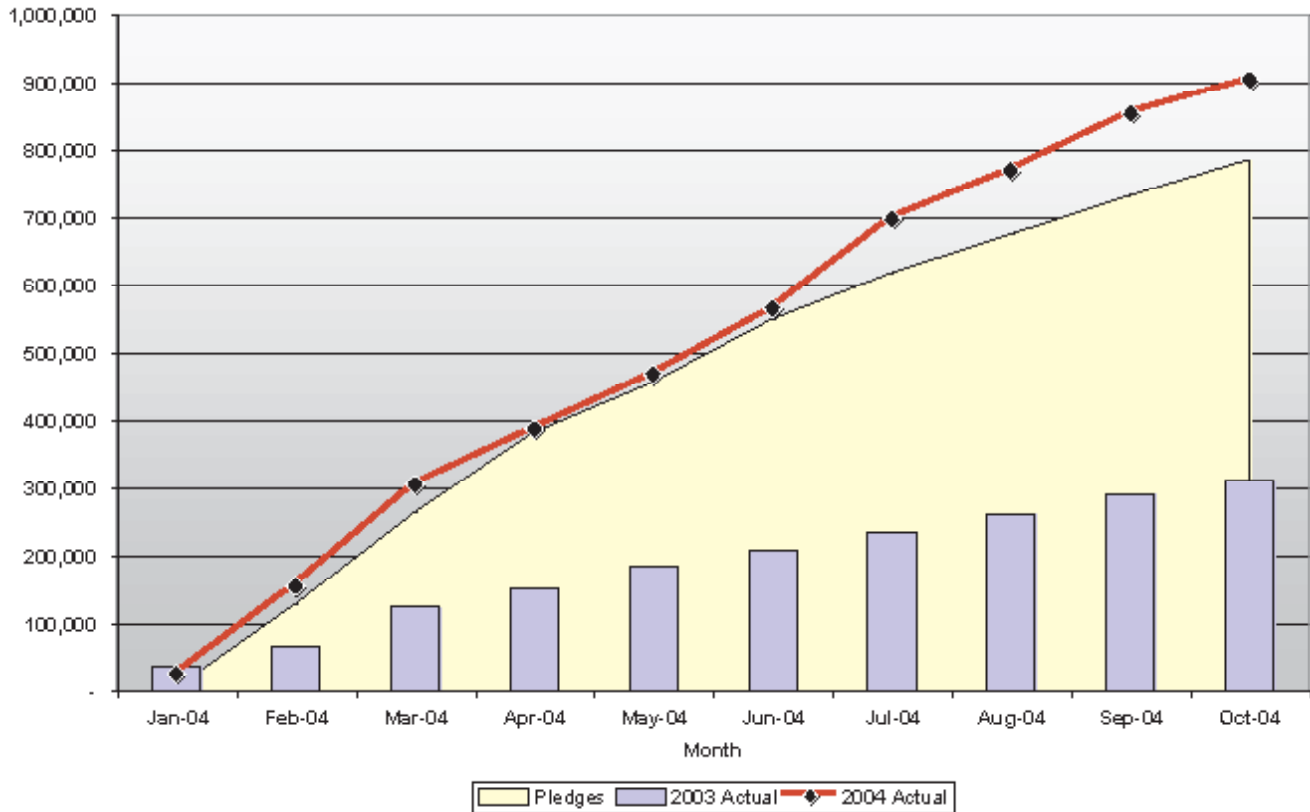
Coming out of a wonderful fall holy day season of offerings, tithes and special offerings, we are in a strong position to begin this major project simultaneous to the expansion of the warning message going out. The construction should be able to move forward without financial impediment now that the financing is in place.

FESTIVAL OFFICE

Mr. Flurry has decided to keep all Feast sites that we used this past year for the coming year, and perhaps in coming years. We received glowing comments about the new Feast sites in both San Diego, California and Surrey, B.C. The brethren enjoyed the new venues, and were treated with the most spiritually uplifting Feast in history—just as all other Feast sites reported.

We have very few changes to make in San Diego, as most arrangements worked well according to the plans, and the brethren seemed quite pleased with the site overall. We have many options for additional activities in the San Diego area, and the Feast site itself offers great expansion opportunities for the Church. The next *Philadelphia News* will feature an article promoting this site for additional transfers next year. We truly believe

Building Fund Offerings



this to be a wonderful Feast site for the future.

The Feast site in Surrey also afforded us a beautiful location for the Feast, in addition to a variety of activities. We did have a few problems, primarily associated with one particular hotel, but overall we received many positive comments about this site. We will not be using the Days Hotel in Surrey next year, as it seems most of our problems surrounded this particular hotel. Other establishments are eager for our business as we begin to make a wonderful name for the PCG in that area. Other concerns were raised about traffic congestion and the distance between hotels. We are working on finding some solutions to these issues, but feel that overall, they don't necessitate the relocation of the Feast site—especially in light of the many positive qualities of the Surrey site. Hotels and restaurants are much more conveniently located near the meeting location in Surrey than in Edmond, for example.

We have received a few sales packets for other sites within British Columbia in the mail. We are not seeking alternative sites right now in British Columbia, so we are a bit confused why the brochures were delivered. We also know that some reference verification has been re-

quested from the Surrey Tourism office that assisted us in working out the details for this year's Feast. Though the brochures may be written off as competitive offers from other communities, it appears more likely that some of our brethren are soliciting this information without direction from headquarters. This can obviously create serious problems, and we should avoid working outside of the direction of Mr. Flurry from headquarters. We are always open to ideas at headquarters. In fact, feedback and information provided headquarters from members in the field is where we generally start in pursuit of a new Feast site. But we would like to stress that any suggestions first be directed to headquarters prior to anyone in the field (minister or member) making direct contact with a prospective location.

We are already working on next year's Feast and hope to improve on some of the problems we experienced at the various Feast sites. Thank you to all of you who served so selflessly at this year's Feast. Thank you for your detailed comments and suggestions on your post-Feast reports. Your thoughts and suggestions drive our efforts to make the appropriate changes to improve the site for the coming year, so once again—thank you!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

By Wayne Turgeon

The cold, rainy weather this week has hampered work on many fronts here on God's land. It is nearly impossible to drive trucks and heavy equipment on the slick, muddy Hall of Ad. site, and any landscape maintenance and constructions efforts were also frustrated by the weather. We were, however, able to use this time to perform much needed maintenance on a number of our vehicles and other equipment. Work also continued at a steady pace on Mr. Flurry's home.

HALL OF ADMINISTRATION

As previously noted, we have been unable to work at the Hall of Ad. site due to the wet conditions. I have spent many hours this week working with the pricing, bids and projected figures for the Hall of Ad. construction. I picked up the approved bolt pattern drawings from Rees and Associates and dropped these off at Van Hoose Constructions, our steel contractor for the job.

The dirt contractor had his new tractor and other pieces of equipment dropped off late this week. Hopefully, if the weather holds, we will be able to make use of them next week. This is the season where one day of rain can delay work for several days. With the prediction of wetter than normal conditions due to a weak El Niño effect for these fall and winter months, God's intervention is

definitely needed in the weather here on campus.

NEW HOMES

Mr. Flurry Home: The oak flooring is on site and we are now letting it sit to become acclimated to the environment in which it will be installed. Mark Hyde finished the kitchen tile and has already started on the other tiled floors. He is working to stay ahead of Jeff Burks who is doing the cabinetwork in the house. Jeff's materials have arrived and he is using the garage as his central work area. He will probably start with the kitchen cabinetry before working on the upstairs projects.

The oak flooring installers could come today and lay the sub-floor. If this doesn't occur, they will come out on Sunday or Monday. The outside stone finally arrived. The bricklayers have now completed the fireplace surround and are currently working on the stone corners at the front of the house. The electricians have set the meter base today. While OG&E were out repairing a nick in the insulation on the line that feeds Mr. Stephen Flurry's home they came over and measured the length of wire needed to hook up the permanent power for Mr. Flurry's home. I called OG&E and set up the permanent meter accounts, which should be set up next week.

-Roger Brandon

MINISTERIAL TRAINING SERIES

HOW TO CONDUCT PROPER AND EFFECTIVE IN-HOME VISITS PART FOUR: PROBLEM COUNSELING

By Dennis Leap

From time to time our members find themselves caught in some serious problems. Some few members fall victim to alcoholism, drug abuse, adultery, sexual abuse such as incest, severe financial problems, attitude, marriage and demon problems. As God's true ministers, we must learn to handle the counseling necessary to eradicate these kinds of problems. We must also learn how to counsel the extended family members affected by such problems.

Serious member problems must be taken care of by the regional director, or a man appointed by the regional director. Because of the incredible geography associated with each region, serious member problems are usually dealt with in a team context—regional director working with and guiding a local elder or associate pastor. In a similar vein, all regional directors should be seeking wisdom from Mr. Flurry when dealing with serious problems. As a local elder or local church elder, you may be required to assist your regional director with serious problem counseling. This article will give you some very important steps to follow.

Local elders should not attempt to solve serious member problems alone! However, you must train yourselves to be alert to these kinds of problems so that you can bring them to the attention of your regional director. The local ministers are the extra eyes and ears for the regional pastor. If you spot any serious problems or potential problems be sure to contact your regional director immediately.

APPROACHING SERIOUS PROBLEMS

If at all possible, deal with serious problems away from Bible study or Sabbath services. Dealing with difficult situations can be awkward. Problem counseling often produces a certain amount of emotions. A private place away from the view of other members protects the privacy of the member experiencing problems. For some serious problems, this may be unavoidable. For example, a person with a demon problem may act up during a Bible study or Sabbath service. Demon problems displayed in public may need to be dealt with in public. Local elders and local church elders should feel free to

deal with this kind of problem immediately and then call the regional director very soon afterward.

Schedule your problem counseling with the member involved ahead of time. When making the appointment with a member concerning a serious problem, be sure to let them know what problem you are planning to discuss. This reflects common courtesy. Communicate to the member that you are coming to be of help! Be sure that they know you are coming to them out of love and concern. Be in a positive attitude concerning the member before you go to the counseling. Never begin a problem counseling in a negative frame of mind.

When you arrive for the problem visit, put the member at ease. Ask several personal questions about their family, the day's activities or work, to open communication. Show real interest in them. At an appropriate moment, introduce the problem. Get to the heart of the matter. State the problem clearly and concisely. Get the member involved in the discussion. Ask as many questions as necessary to establish all of the facts. Realize that you may be unclear on some aspects of the issue at hand.

SHOW THE ERROR

Show the individual his or her error. Show them how they are hurting themselves, their mate and families (if applicable). Show them how they are hurting the Church of God. Remember, all sin has a negative effect on God's Church. Explain the scriptures related to the member's problem—show the member what God says. Serious problems can only be solved through repentance and law keeping. You, as God's minister, must hold up the mirror of God's law for the member. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:22-25). As ministers, we much teach that the

root cause of all human problems is sin. Overcoming sin and the related problems associated with sin can happen relatively quickly, if a person is truly repentant

Give a positive solution to the problem. Show the member how to overcome the problem. Be compassionate while doing this. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1). We must remember that we are sinners too. We should be wise and reasonable in our expectations. However, we must be sure that the sin is overcome.

Problems generally continue year after year because the member either refuses to repent or they refuse to accept the responsibility for his or her actions. This is the case for most alcoholics. They either refuse to admit their problem or they blame the reason for their drinking on someone or something else.

Also be sure to deliver to the member an ultimatum. Be clear in what you expect. In other words, show them what you plan to do if they don't resolve the problem. Be firm, serious and decisive. If the minister is wishy-washy in delivering an ultimatum, then generally the member will be wishy-washy in attacking the problem.

TAKING CORRECTIVE ACTION

The extent of the corrective action, if any, should be determined by the conduct and attitude of the member. A corrective action may be as simple as a strong reprimand or as serious as a formal disfellowshipment. If a person is not seriously trying to overcome a problem, he or she should be suspended after the third admonishment. "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself" (Titus 3:10-11). God's people are called to be overcomers (Revelation 2:26). Serious questions can be raised about a member's conversion and dedication if he or she does not strive to overcome a problem that is pointed out to them.

A suspension from services and other fellowship, without a formal disfellowshipment, is often all that is needed as corrective action for most problems. It is not easy to give a black-and-white formula here. Judgments must be made. Not every case or every situation can be handled exactly the same. For example, the corrective action for a smoking problem could be different than that of a severe alcohol problem, although the nature of the problems are similar. Generally, both problems require a suspension. A suspension for smoking may be as little as 30 days. However, a suspension for severe alcoholism or drug abuse may need to be for 60 to 90

days. The time limit depends upon the person's attitude and progress in overcoming the problem. A smoking problem may take 90 days to overcome. A member truly dedicated to overcoming an alcohol problem may really overcome the problem in 30 to 60 days.

Certain sins require immediate suspension. For example, sins such as adultery, fornication and child or spousal physical abuse should carry the penalty of immediate suspension. (Again, this list is not necessarily all the sins that require an immediate suspension.) All suspensions and disfellowshipments must be approved by the regional director. The only exception of course would be the case of demon problems displayed at Bible study or services.

SAVE THEM

Our attitude in problem counseling should be to save the individual. When we are dealing with members' problems, we must remember that we are dealing with someone's eternal life. We cannot take this aspect of our jobs casually. We should pray fervently for God's wisdom, mercy and judgment. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed" (James 1:5-6). All of us lack wisdom. Even though we may have experience, we must remember that we are dealing with individuals. God promises us that He will give us the wisdom that we need to work with all individuals.

After our counseling, we should pray that God helps the member see his or her problem and make the necessary changes. Praying about the member's problem after the counseling is the most often forgotten aspect to our job. Samuel the prophet knew that he was required to pray for the people. "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way" (1 Samuel 12:23). If we don't pray about our members and their problems, Samuel says that we are sinning against God.

Our ultimate goal in serious problem counseling is to save people from the lake of fire. "And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 22-23). Understanding this fact should put the pressure on us to approach this counseling with extreme carefulness. But one fact should remain clear to all of us—we cannot live people's lives for them. We must tell people what God expects of them, and the rest is up to them.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBER PROBLEMS

On occasion, serious problems are uncovered during initial visits with prospective members. As ministers we must realize that some prospective members that come to us were alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes (male and female), homosexuals and lesbians. Some prospectives are living in non-married relationships. Some prospective members have demon problems. This is the world in which we live! We should approach each new prospective visit with the realization that we could encounter such a situation. We should not be naive enough to assume anything, especially on PM visits.

Never invite a prospective member to services until you are totally sure that the PM has fully overcome any one of these problems. If you discover that a PM has any one of the problems listed above, be sure to inform your regional director immediately.

DON'T VISIT ALONE

You should not handle a problem counseling alone, unless it is an absolute emergency. Too many things can happen in this day and age that could negatively affect your ministry. Most of the time our wives should accompany us on problem visits. You can also use a local

elder, deacon or rarely a leading man to accompany you on problem visits. If you are handling a problem visit for your regional director, be sure to let him know who will be accompanying you on the visit.

By way of reminder, never visit a woman under 65 alone under any circumstances. Mr. Armstrong made this an absolute law while he was alive. Even if you, as a minister, are above reproach, some women are not. In addition, we must not give the appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Never take a chance on this. Once your reputation is ruined—it is ruined. Some recent examples of former ministers should give us all the wisdom we need in this area.

The PCC needs dedicated men to visit and assist with the counseling of God's people. As elders in God's Philadelphian remnant, we must properly respond to our calling to visit and counsel. Do we plan to use this instruction given in the PGR? If our answer is YES, then we will be more effective in our visiting.

Jesus Christ said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9:37). There are not many of us who are truly dedicated to God. We are members of the select group of "few" laborers. God's people desperately need us. So let's get out and visit, deal with the problems and finish this WORK!