



PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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Greetings, ministers and wives!

Even as our building program moves forward, God works hard to keep our priorities straight. We must never forget the lesson of the Laodicean failure.

“Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host [Christ], and by him the daily ... was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down” (Daniel 8:11). NOTICE THIS: THE FIRST MAJOR SIN OF THE LAODICEANS WAS THE WORK BEING DESTROYED! This gets to the heart of why the Laodiceans failed.

In 1988, Joseph Tkach Sr. personally told me that the main focus was changed to Ambassador College. They deceived themselves into thinking that's what God wanted them to do, but that idea was right out of the mind of the devil—it meant the destruction of the Work! The truth is, when the Work was destroyed, the college was *already dead*—they just didn't know it! The college was there to do God's Work. When the Work goes, everything else goes. It's just a matter of time.

Mr. Tkach was losing his war with Satan when he thought he was serving God. But deep down, he had to know something was wrong.

What is the first major sin? Destroying God's *Work* of preaching the gospel around the world. That is always the commission of God's Church. In this “last end” we have that same commission, but the *emphasis* has changed. We are commanded to *prophesy again* as Herbert W. Armstrong did. The emphasis is on the warning—not the gospel, as it was with Mr. Armstrong. That is because time is so short and world events are so horrifying. We still preach the gospel to the world. However, we emphasize the warning that leads to the good news. The warning still points to the return of Jesus Christ—the good news of the coming Kingdom of God (or the gospel). This vision of Daniel 8:9-27 ends with the return of Christ.

This “last end” demands that we emphasize the warning. Man is about to experience the worst suffering ever. Like a good meteorologist, we must warn about the coming of the “perfect storm.” We are just giving “meat in due season.” But we also tell them about the good news (gospel) beyond the storm.

Still, THIS WORLD MUST BE GIVEN THE MOST INTENSE WARNING EVER! Our warning must equal the unparalleled severity of the coming storm.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, GOD WANTS US TO GIVE THE STRONGEST WARNING MAN HAS EVER HEARD!

So why does Satan try to destroy the Work first and foremost? The *only* reason we have been called “out of season” is to do God's Work. Otherwise we would be called when the rest of the world is.

In a sense, God has put us in jeopardy by calling us today. Why? To do the Work—declare His message.

Why are we in God's true Church today? For one magnificent reason: to do God's Work. I repeat: TO DO

GOD'S WORK. We must prophesy again as no people have ever prophesied for God. We must deliver God's message.

This is at the very heart of why 95 percent of God's people have failed Him today!

That is what it means to be Laodicean or lukewarm. They want to do their own work—not God's Work.

Now God has led us, through the PCG, to “raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen” (Amos 9:11). That reveals a lot about the Philadelphia spirit! The lukewarm saints have allowed God's tabernacle to crumble.

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The *place* of God's sanctuary was cast down. The *International Critical Commentary* says, "The word for *place* is rare, implying a construction." Yes, it is rare: It's talking about the Ambassador Auditorium. It has already been destroyed spiritually, and I would expect that it will be destroyed *physically* as well.

The Work was resurrected. But "the *place* of his [God's] sanctuary was cast down." And it remains cast down as a monument to the Laodiceans spectacular failure!

The fallen house of God remains a reminder to the PCG that the place or facilities God gives will fall into ruin if we don't do His Work!

We must never forget why God gives us a place of His sanctuary. *Always* it is there to do the work.

If the *place* is no longer used for that purpose, it and everything else falls into ruin.

The priority in Daniel 8 is THE WORK. When Satan destroyed that, he knew everything was destroyed. IF YOU DON'T DO THE WORK, YOU'LL DIE AS A CHURCH. The Work identifies the Church (Revelation 3:7-8). You individually must put your heart into the Work, or you will die spiritually!

Christ's whole life revolved around FINISHING God's Work (John 4:34). The key word is *finish*. That is where we must always focus. If we finish the Work we'll endure to the end and be in God's Kingdom. Christ is the Head of our Work today. We must have the same passion Christ had. He declared the Father and the Family! We must follow Him and never, ever follow a man!

Look how quickly the leaders in Pasadena got rid of *Mystery of the Ages* after Mr. Armstrong died! They lost their commission, and look at what happened. Joe Tkach Jr. said that *Mystery of the Ages* was riddled with errors—but in fact, it was critical to the Work! We use it all the time; it is required reading for baptismal candidates. One evangelist (who died recently) said it was essential to God's Work; shortly after that, his boss said it was "riddled with errors," and that man said, "Yes sir!" We must have more spiritual depth and courage than that!

"And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered" (Daniel 8:12). *Transgression* means they had been given God's law and then knowingly broke it. They were not sinning in ignorance. That is why their eternal lives are at stake! We saw them transgressing and casting the truth to the ground, and practicing and prospering in that evil work. Most of their evangelists said, *If that's what they're saying at headquarters, that's what we must do*. They transgressed—they knowingly sinned—and they led 95 percent of the members away from God.

It's dizzying to realize that when they were told to do the OPPOSITE of what they were doing ALL THEIR LIVES, these ministers said *yes sir!* Something was terribly wrong with their religion. One of those men who was so supportive of *Mystery of the Ages* actually fought us in court when we tried to print it.

People can look and sound like they have their heart in the Work. One minister said John 4:34 was the motto for his Spokesman Club. That sounds great—but that man didn't finish God's Work. Just *knowing* this isn't enough.

Mr. Armstrong actually said *we can measure our righteousness by how much our heart is in the Work*. The Work is everything! It's not a matter of saying the right thing, it's a matter of looking to the Head and following His direction in what He leads us to do. We must always keep God in the picture!

You ministers must work hard to help our members keep their hearts in finishing God's Work, which is our only purpose. We are not in the college business—we are here to do a Work. If Imperial College doesn't do the Work, it's going to die. The Work is the purpose for the Church! If we don't do that Work, we won't be in God's Family.

With love, in Christ's service,



CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

PASSOVER START TIME

Passover services should begin shortly after sunset. In setting the exact time for Passover services in your congregations, add 10 minutes to the official sunset time (a small “safety” buffer of time) and then begin the services at the quarter-hour increment. For example, if the official sunset time is 7:35 p.m., start the service at 7:45 p.m. If the sunset is 7:36 p.m., start the service at 8 p.m.

LETTER

Mr. Flurry felt that this was an excellent letter and wanted it printed in the PGR. *Please note that this letter should NOT be read in the area where the teen in the story attends.*

Dear Mr. Flurry,

I find myself compelled to write to you again! It may seem like I’m trying to draw attention to myself but the reality is that I keep seeing God’s hand in my life and I want to share it with you.

My son Joseph, now 16, has been torn for years between two religions. My husband still attends WCG. I was in United for seven (long) years and Joseph started coming to church with me full-time when WCG went to Sundays. In 2001 God brought me into the PCG, and my husband, not thrilled of course by my choice of not only changing churches *again* but especially choosing the PCG, decided he would start taking Joseph every other week to United to keep him close to his friends. That was a real struggle for me. I feared Joseph would be enticed by his friends and possibly choose United for that reason. My wonderful minister, Mr. Witt, told me a couple of years ago that Joseph would have to make a choice by the time he turned 16. I’ve tried to take every opportunity to teach Joseph the truth, to help him see the significance of understanding who the end-time Elijah was and how you picked up the mantle of Elijah, etc. He believes the PCG is the true Church, and when he turned 16 he made the move! His dad wasn’t pleased with his choice; that’s another story for another day. I’ll try to get to the point now.

Joseph attended PYC last summer (another blessing and another story) but unfortunately he also attended United’s youth camp a week later, planned by his dad. He met a girl there that he really likes—she called him four times the week after he got back from camp! I put a stop to that but I fear it’s not over. *Anyway*... United had a winter basketball weekend in Louisville in December

that my husband had planned on taking Joseph to. (Just at the time Joseph had to make this move to PCG Satan tried to throw a monkey wrench into a vulnerable teen’s life with a *fun* weekend with Laodiceans AND A GIRL!) Joseph was excited about it. I’m sure a big part of the thrill was that SHE was going to be there. I, of course, was distressed. I spent a lot of time on my knees asking God to do something to prevent us from attending. I even fasted about it. I didn’t really know what to ask. I didn’t want any of us to get sick; I didn’t want us to get into an accident; I just didn’t want to go! The day drew nearer. The event was to begin Wednesday, December 22. My husband had to work that day so we were going to leave that evening and miss the first day’s activities. The weather had been quite nice. Wednesday it began to snow. They forecasted seven inches! I went out and shoveled the sidewalks, and while I was out there I just began to wonder. When I went inside I heard them say they were expecting an additional 7 inches! Before the day was over between 14 and 20 inches had fallen in the Ohio/Kentucky area. They were telling people on the news to *stay home*. There were people stranded all over the highways. My husband still wanted to go but decided not to try that evening. “Maybe it’ll be better Thursday.” I could not imagine how it would be better in 24 hours! The next morning he got on the phone and spent hours on the computer trying to figure out a way to get there. I packed my little bags, jumped in the shower, as though I were getting ready to go, and while I was in the shower I heard them say on the radio that 64 was closed. When I got out of the shower my husband said that they had announced that 71 was closed. Those are the only two routes we could have used to get into Louisville. There was *NO WAY!* It was not to be.

After the weekend ended, the temperatures hit the 60s and mounds of snow were GONE in just a couple of days!

I wondered, do I dare be so bold as to think God sent this storm for my son? Then I thought, do I dare question answered prayer? The best thing for me to do was to get on my knees and thank God. That was probably the *only* thing that could have prevented us from going, short of sickness or an accident. God would have to tell me to my face that this wasn’t His doing in order for me to believe that. It convinced me that God knew there was extreme danger awaiting Joseph. The snow served its purpose. It came, and it went.

Joseph hasn’t had contact with any of his friends in

United since early December, and it's been hard for him. I've been praying that God would send more teens into our area, and just last Sabbath we had two older boys, who had stopped attending a while back, return. It's really hard for teens in the outlying areas. We have to rely on camp and the Feast of Tabernacles to build friendships. But then, I'm sure you are aware of that.

Thank you so much for all you do for God and His people. You've taught us so much about faith and love, and with the experiences I've had since coming into the

PCG, I'm going to be without excuse when the severe persecution sets in. We really are not alone and God really is aware of what's going on in each of our lives.

It would be easy for me to begin to ramble on now but I won't. I just wanted to get this to you while the details are still pretty fresh in my mind.

Thank you again for your loyalty to God and I pray for you every day!

Love,
Katrina Hostetler

MEDIA SERVICES

THE KEY OF DAVID MONTHLY RESPONSE

The mid-month response levels show a continued pace that is far greater than response we received last year during the same time. With two weekends remaining in March, we will answer close to 10,000 calls once again.

PAX TV NETWORK

It turns out that PAX follows an unusual broadcast format for the Mountain time zone. The program airs on Paxson Network as follows: 6 a.m. Eastern Time, 5 a.m. Central Time, 5 a.m. Mountain Time, 6 a.m. Pacific Time, 5 a.m. Hawaii, and 6 a.m. Alaskan Time.

NEW MARKETS: WICHITA FALLS, TEX. AND LAWTON, OK

The *Key of David* program will resume airing in the Wichita Falls, Tex., area. Beginning immediately, we will air on the FOX television affiliate right after FOX news at 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning. We have previously done very well in this part of the country with

our program and have high expectations for reaching more people along the Texas/Oklahoma border. Some of the members in the Lawton, Okla., area were first introduced to the Philadelphia Church of God through a local station in Wichita Falls.

KEY OF DAVID SCHEDULE

Program Title: "The 1150 Days Prophecy"

Airdate: March 20, 2005

Literature Offered: *Daniel—Unsealed At Last!* and *Haggai*

Synopsis: Jesus Christ said His main passion was to finish the Work of God. Yet the Prophet Daniel spoke about a specific period in the end time when the Work of God would be stopped for 1150 days. Even though this time period was the worst defeat for God's Church in the end time, the world knows nothing of it. Do you have the detailed understanding of your Bible required to grasp this 1150-day period? Next week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry will discuss the 1150 days prophecy.

EDITORIAL SERVICES

All hands are on deck for the imminent launch of the new *Trumpet* website. We confidently included a small advertisement for the site in our March/April *Trumpet* issue, and now we're scrambling to finish it before the magazine hits the mailboxes. It appears we will be ready to go live sometime next week; we have put a small banner on the current site in the meantime in case anyone sees the magazine, jumps online and beats us to the punch.

The new site contains an archive of *Trumpet* issues going back to March/April 1998. Each article and sidebar must be entered into Locus, the content management website created by Imperial College student Patrick Hogan. Apart from the few absolute necessities within the department (such as this PGR), all the students have made it their top priority to post the archived *Trumpets* and other literature on the website. With so many man-hours being poured into the project, the work is

progressing rapidly. Meanwhile, Patrick is making a number of last-minute tweaks and enhancements.

This past week we ran a full test-run for what will now be weekly updated news content on the website. We had a stimulating *Trumpet* roundtable discussion last Thursday afternoon—a meeting of five *Trumpet* writers discussing world events—and we had five short articles written for the website (about WorldWatch length—we’re calling them “webwatches”) by the following morning. This is the schedule we hope to follow each week; it gives us a couple of days to edit and fact-check them and to run them by Mr. Gerald Flurry be-

fore all of them are posted at midnight on Sunday night (automatically, mind you—hopefully we’re all sleeping at that point).

I hope you’ll find our new *theTrumpet.com* a useful tool in keeping up with current events and researching past *Trumpet* material. In Editorial we are all excited to see the fruits of our labors coming to bear, and to be able to share them with the rest of the world. I encourage you to take a look this coming week; when the new site goes live, spend some time clicking through it and seeing how it works. We would consider any suggestions for improvements you may have. *Joel Hilliker*

MAIL PROCESSING

INSERTION MACHINE

We still do not have our mail inserting machine installed yet due to back-ordered parts. We would appreciate prayers of the brethren to speed delivery and installation of this vital piece of equipment.

A GOOD MONTH SO FAR

We have packed over 20,000 pieces of mail so far this month. With the help of a singles activity that assisted in clearing some backorders, and the assistance of two members who volunteered an entire week in the MPC, we have been able to nearly clear out our entire back-log of orders. But with each passing day, we once again fill up the system with additional orders.

CALL CENTER ADDITIONAL STAFF

We have made some staff changes to help us extend the hours our call center is open. We will open at 7 a.m. Central Time on Mondays from this point forward because we have missed so many early morning calls after the busy weekends. We have also moved a few staff members from their headquarters offices out to the MPC to serve as backup operators throughout the day on Mondays and Fridays.

PAXSON RESPONSE

The first two weeks of response to our airing on Paxson Network has brought in quality, mostly new response. Each Friday morning, close to 30 operators start taking telephone-call requests for our literature at 6:15 a.m. Eastern Time. The first ring-in is by far the most busy with close to 75 percent of all the weekly response coming during a brief 20-minute span of time. The vast majority of our stations on PAX lie in the Eastern time zone. The satellite feeds and national cable also broadcast during the first or Eastern satellite feed.

Over 300 requests have been made thanks to the PAX Network contract we currently have. Though this number is not enormous right now, we have not been able to advertise the program outside of our TV logs on the websites.

With the March/April *Trumpet* hitting homes, we anticipate a sizable increase in audience for the program, resulting in more calls. Paxson Network also airs 10 different spot advertisements throughout the week promoting our program. With more programs under our belt, we will develop a familiarity with our viewers on this network that will yield even more calls. Overall, we are quite pleased with our start on Paxson Network.



REGIONAL REPORTS

MID-WEST UNITED STATES

The Mid-West Region has had an exciting month since I last updated you. We are getting ready for the fast approaching Spring Holy Days. Along with that, the pre-Passover trials have certainly been coming with full force upon God's people. We all need to pray fervently for one another as we face the white-hot wrath of Satan during this last hour!

I am not going to spend any time this week on reporting the specifics of the region as pertaining to new contacts, baptisms, etc. That's because I'd like to convey a story to you that I believe is truly inspiring and uplifting. This is the real life, recent experience of a new member of the Philadelphia Church of God. They have recently been invited to attend services with us and it is wonderful to see the lengths that God will go to help His people that are still out there—wandering around in the spiritual confusion of Laodicea.

I asked this new member to write down her experience. Following is what she wrote.

We stayed with the Worldwide Church of God until it no longer even slightly resembled the Church we had known under Mr. Armstrong. We felt lost—confused—unable to join the world's churches and unable to find God's true Church. We wandered back out into the world.

Our grandson was burned to death in a horrible car accident on April 19, 2003. He was just 18 years old! We were severely traumatized. The minister, Mr. Michael Hanisko from the United Church of God preached the sermon. (He was the only minister we could remember from former church days.) His sermon woke up the things we had known in the past. We were so excited to hear some of God's truth again! We hurriedly began attending the United Church of God. Our first day was Pentecost weekend—June 7 and 8.

We asked for Mr. Armstrong's literature only to find they were not so keen on the subject of Mr. Armstrong. We specifically wanted *Mystery of the Ages*. They didn't have it. A couple of members told us we could order it and gave us the number and admonished us; "you won't want to go to that Church because the minister is a regular little

Hitler" (speaking of Mr. Flurry). We ordered *Mystery of the Ages* in October or November of 2003. We were so excited to have it again.

We finished reading *Mystery of the Ages* and were becoming increasingly dissatisfied with the United Church of God. We called all our old wcc friends to see where they were going. None of them were totally happy with the splinter groups they were attending.

Nearly a year later, I had been sound asleep in my bed when God filled my mind with His words. It was God and nothing could ever convince me that it was not! He filled my head with His LOUD voice and simply said, "Because you are neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth!"

No vision—no dream—no other words—just that! And with the words came the absolute positive knowledge that it was God Almighty! I sat bolt upright in bed and started crying and waking my husband, Sam. I told him, "God spoke to me," and terrified, I told him about it. I knelt and started praying and crying out to God. "How can you expect me to know where to go? I can't find where you want me!" I cried and cried—pleading with God to show me what he wanted me to do. I reminded God that His Church had split into so many sects that it seemed impossible to know which way to go.

My husband was very shook up too. There was very little sleep that night as we pleaded with God. About two weeks later on Pentecost 2004, (exactly one year from when we first started attending the United) we attended services with the United Church of God, still not knowing where else to go, although we were desperately searching—calling different Churches of God for information.

Afternoon services were about to begin. We felt lonely—out of place—and unsettled. A man walked directly up to us in this crowd of approximately four hundred members. He was very tall—white haired—broad shouldered and very distinguished looking. His eyes and his smile were warm and friendly. We thought he was going to sit by us. We shook hands and told him our names. I don't remember if he told us his. He was one of those people you feel like you want to be near. He asked, "What brings you here?" That

should have been a strange question but we didn't think so at the time.

I answered, "Well, at least they keep the Sabbath and the Holy Days!"

He said, "What are you looking for?"

I said, "The truth—as it was taught to us by Herbert W. Armstrong!"

He said, "That would be Gerald Flurry with the Philadelphia Church of God."

I said, "We heard he was a regular little dictator."

He said, "That's what they said about Mr. Armstrong too."

I said, "You're right! I remember that!"

He said, "Mr. Flurry is a kind, compassionate man who serves the people of God faithfully and follows God. You will find him on WGN on Sunday mornings at 7 a.m."

At that—they told us all to sit down. He turned and said "We don't want to lose you" and he walked toward the podium and across the front toward the doors. We watched to see where he went because we wanted to talk to him after services to hear more about this.

After services we asked the couple next to us if they knew who he was and they said they hadn't noticed anyone talking to us. We looked and looked for him but we never saw him again.

We tuned in to WGN on Sunday morning to view *The Key of David* broadcast and what a wonderful surprise! There were the four horsemen of the Apocalypse—galloping across our television screen and Mr. Herbert Armstrong's familiar voice thundering out the prophecies we are now watching come to pass. And there was Mr. Flurry—a new messenger—speaking with the same authority and the same message. He spoke with URGENCY! He offered Mr. Armstrong's very literature—free of charge. We were elated!

We couldn't stop thanking our Father. We wanted to shout to the world, "We have found the Church of the Living God—the God of Mr. Armstrong!" We were starving for God's truth and He has had mercy on us poor, deceived, weak

and foolish called out ones. "Forgive us Father and fill us with your truth!"

We called in immediately for the literature and a visit from God's minister.

And you know the sad thing is—the Trumpet magazine was in our office from the time we had first ordered "Mystery of the Ages." Our daughter had thrown the Trumpet into the big junk mail box—separating our bills from other mail.

We were pleading for the truth and didn't know it was right there in our own house. Truly God calls the simple of the world.

"Forgive us Father."

What an inspiring story! I can't help but think of the scripture in Hebrews 13:2, which says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Could it be that the man who spoke to this couple on Pentecost less than a year ago was an angel? It doesn't make much sense any other way.

Praise God for His love, wisdom, mercy and patience upon us all!

Brian Davis

NORTHEAST UNITED STATES

Things in the Northeast have changed little since my last PGR report about a month ago. I have been able to travel there for a multi-week trip. In fact, I am writing this from New Jersey.

I'm able to visit and counsel with new contacts, prospective members and members, etc., in the company of the associate pastors and local church elders. This helps us all to make sure we are of one mind, speaking the same thing, operating by the same policies, etc.

The region has been receiving a steady flow of new contacts for a while. They have increased tremendously as of late. Nine out of the 22 total visit requests for January and February have come in the last eight days of February. This is certainly great news but even better when you consider *The Key of David* begins broadcasting in the Buffalo, N.Y., area as well as on several PAX stations soon.

It appears as though God is preparing the area for growth. Time will tell.

Colleen and I send our love and pray for all of you often.

Craig Winters