



# PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

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Greetings, ministers and wives,

I have several basic points I'd like to discuss with you.

*1. Beware of visiting with a young woman alone.*

Mr. Armstrong made the judgment that we should NEVER visit alone with a woman under the age of 65. And that includes even in a restaurant. You can phone her locally as you drive through the town if necessary. We must never invite a young lady to live in our homes. That could create many temptations.

We still uphold Mr. Armstrong's judgment. Over the years, I believe this problem has done more ministerial damage than perhaps any other issue. Sometimes the deadly effects last for years. Violating this judgment is grounds for dismissal from the ministry. We must avoid even the appearance of evil. That becomes far more important now since Satan has been cast down. Ministers and wives must not underestimate his power.

*2. We must always be aware of how important the holy day messages are.*

God has given me much revelation over the years. Quite often I have needed to speak on that subject or another one equally pressing. Therefore another minister is often assigned to give the message about the holy day.

This might have caused some ministers to think the holy day message is not so important. But no message is more important than the holy day message. It should increase in depth as we grow. The holy day plan was thought out before man was even created. It pictures God's Master Plan.

I would love to give that message myself, but nobody else can give my messages.

So please work hard to make certain that holy day messages are about the day itself. Too often a minister will touch on the subject and then actually speak on something that interests him more. That is a sign that we have failed to grasp the real depth of the holy day message.

If you fully stick to the holy day subject, God will enrich your message in many ways.

And that includes messages about the weekly Sabbath. Since I spend so much time on prophecy, you men must speak on other critical subjects. This is the only way we can feed God's people a balanced diet.

Also on a related point, you ministers who don't give the main holy day message must check with the main speaker to make certain you are not covering the same subject.

Also every minister should finish on time. The only exceptions should be when a regional director hasn't visited an area for a year or two. There might be a need for him to use some extra time then.

Also I do go over from time to time, usually because of some new revelation. Many of our ministers have very little speech training; they can become a burden on God's people by going overtime.

*3. Our song leaders need to be men who are competent and can stir the congregation.*

He gets the service started, so he needs to be able to be dynamic and upbeat. This prepares people's minds for the speakers.

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In closing, I would again like to comment on the overall condition of God's Church. When I go out into the field, it is so inspiring. Never before has our Church been so unified and enthusiastic. Thanks again for your great part in this Work of the living God.

With love, in Christ's service,

*Gerald Flury*

# CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Question:** If one loses his job and receives severance pay, is it considered income that should be tithed upon?

**Answer:** The tithe is holy to God (Leviticus 27:30) and He commands us to tithe on our *increase* (Deuteronomy 14:22). The “increase” is defined as wages or income derived from our personal productive effort. Included in this is salary, wages, bonuses, vacation pay, severance pay, investment income such as interest, dividends, capital gains and so on. Any income which arises from our personal effort—whether through services we provide

(as in a job) or through assets we invest—that gives rise to an “increase,” should be tithed upon.

On the other hand, income such as unemployment compensation, welfare, social security benefits or third tithe, are not required to be tithed upon because there is no productive effort that generates such payments. These are not considered part of one’s “increase” but rather fall in the category of gifts or income that *already* should have been tithed upon. Likewise, the recipient of a gift or inheritance is not required to tithe on it because the person whose productive effort *originally* generated the income behind the gift, is responsible to tithe on it.

# MEDIA SERVICES

## PRAYER REQUEST: CANADIAN TV COVERAGE

Canada closely regulates the percentage of U.S.-produced television programming that is allowed to be broadcast on Canadian television stations. Because of this restriction, we have found it difficult to expand our coverage of Canada. We would like to ask the brethren to pray that God would open some time slots for the *Key of David* program in Canada.

Currently we use the Vision Television Network to cover the entire nation. While we reach many households with this station, it does not carry the best reputation. In the past we have used more local provincial stations with greater success, but most of the time allocations for U.S. programming content are filled. We have several different agencies searching for additional times in Canada and feel confident that with the prayers of the brethren, we will soon expand our Canadian TV coverage.

## NEW MARKET: CNBC AUSTRALIA

Our program was approved for broadcast on CNBC Australia. Beginning April 3, 2005, we will begin airing at 8:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. CNBC will supplement our coverage of Australia’s Network 10. Slowly we are adding additional coverage throughout Australia with more favorable times. While CNBC is a cable-only network in Australia, the later time of broadcast will hopefully expose our program to a different audience than is

currently watching us on Network 10 and its affiliates.

Live programming for this station takes place at the CNBC Studios in Sydney with other content contributed throughout the week from CNBC Asia Pacific, CNBC Europe and NBC from the United States. This station is carried on cable in many hotel rooms throughout Australia.

## KEY OF DAVID RESPONSE

Last week’s program, “The 1150 Days Prophecy” was our sixth most responsive program in the last 18 months. Well over 1,800 calls were generated from this program in the United States and Canada. As we add response from our international stations, we will easily surpass the 2,000 response level again this year.

## KEY OF DAVID WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Program Title: “The Rod of an Almond Tree”

Airdate: March 27, 2005

Literature Offered: *Jeremiah and the Greatest Vision in the Bible* and *No Freedom Without Law*

Jeremiah saw a vision of a rod of an almond tree. Many are confused as to what this vision means. But God reveals the answer to this riddle in the book of Numbers. You need to understand the vision of the rod of an almond tree because it will directly affect you and your family in the near future! This week on *The Key of David*, Gerald Flurry explains the rod of an almond tree.

# MAIL PROCESSING

## MAIL OPERATIONS

The mail department continues to work at keeping pace with the growing interest in God's truth. Last week the department processed over 15,000 pieces of mail. 8,388 were Lessons 1, 2 and 3 of the *Bible Correspondence Course*. The rest were composed of U.S., international and Spanish mail. We experienced two days of rain which allowed the landscaping crew to come in and help process the correspondence course. Because of the rain, several students were able to devote extra time to the lengthy process. All totaled, it took approximately 75 man hours over two days to process the course. We hope that this will be the last time we process the course manually.

Your prayers concerning the new mail machine are still appreciated. The parts that were on backorder have arrived and the machine is going through the "rebuild" process. It's estimated that the process should take about two weeks. The machine should be ready to ship during the first week of April. We had hoped to have it shipped by the end of March, which would allow ample time for transit, set-up and training prior to the next correspondence course mailing. Please continue to pray that God will intervene and speed up the various stages

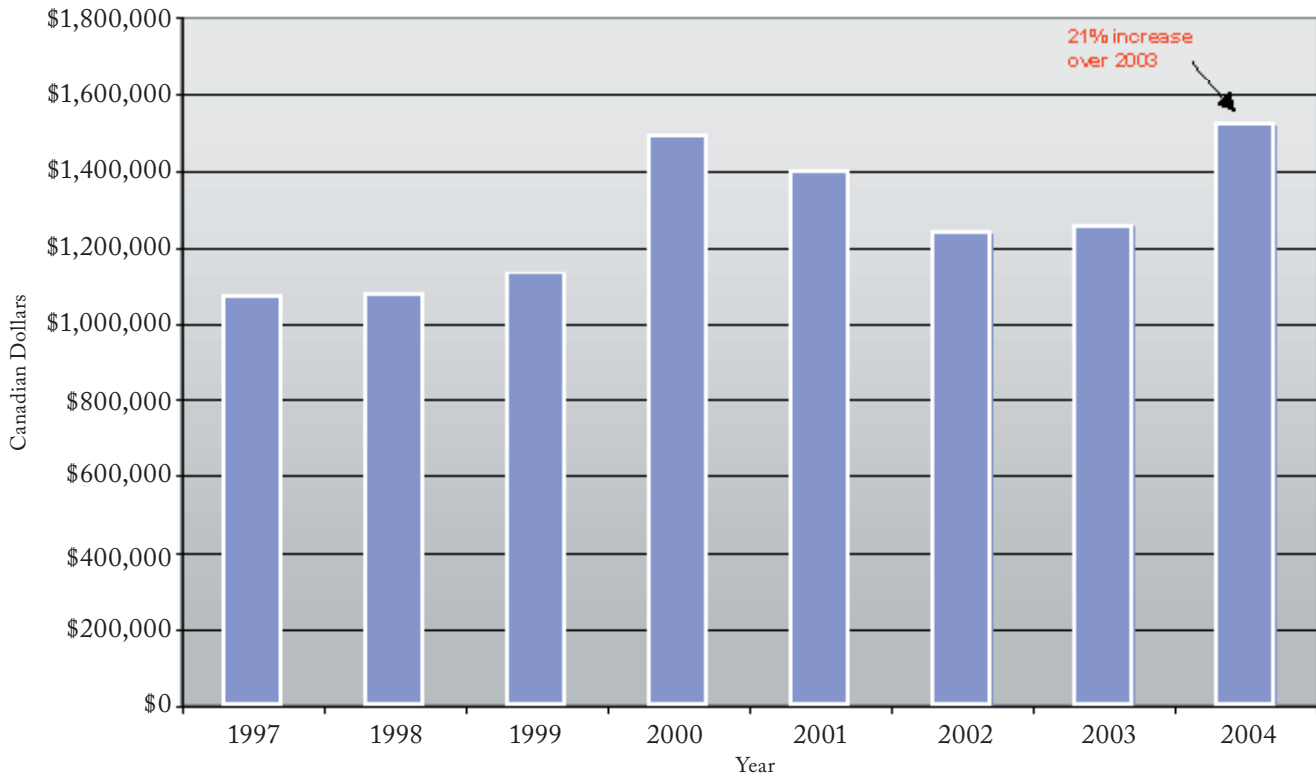
left in acquiring and using the new machine.

In anticipation of the new mailing machine, the department has changed its fulfillment process. We have begun using windowed envelopes which allow us to print the address information directly on the packing slip. Previously we labeled each envelope and had to match each packing slip with the proper address label before inserting the literature. Now we simply insert the packing slip with the literature and close the envelope. The windowed envelopes are more expensive but we have saved the cost of address labels. The most valuable savings has been in time. By eliminating the address label, we have cut the processing time down—operating at least 25-33 percent faster.

Once received and operational, the new mailing machine will impact our whole fulfillment process immensely. Where we once spent many valuable man hours processing certain mailings, the machine will handle that workload, which will allow our labor resources to focus on other critical aspects of the fulfillment process—improving the overall efficiency of the department. God's message continues to grow in urgency and we're thankful that He's providing the means by which we can deliver that message faster.

# BUSINESS OFFICE

## Philadelphia Church of God Canada Total Donation Income 1997-2004



## REGIONAL REPORTS

### A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF AN INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

*Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, February 15, 2005*

I've just watched the bright orange orb of the sun sink through some low, grey ribbons of cirrus cloud, rest momentarily on the surface of the Pacific Ocean, then quietly slip from view. It's 7 p.m. on a balmy winter's eve in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. A pleasure liner sounds its horn and slowly eases out of its berth, bound for its next port of call in the dusk of early evening. I'm here on pastoral business. The view is pleasurable, the itinerary short, and busy.

Recent growth in Mexico moved me temporarily out of the headquarters office chair into a seat on a Ted Airlines airbus winging its way south of the border. Arriving at 1:10 p.m. yesterday, upon catching a 7 a.m. flight, via Denver, to Puerto Vallarta, one of the people who had requested a visit met us at the airport and guided us to our hotel. Shortly after, we met a second person who had also requested ministerial contact and not long after were engaged in counsel.

The following day, having stretched our legs with a brief walk to the local marina and back, we met our sole member (one of a city) in Puerto Vallarta, Luis D'Avila. We counseled for some hours, lunched, continued to counsel, then retired to freshen up at our hotel

prior to watching the day end and another begin, as the life-giving rays of the sun disappeared below the watery horizon.

The following morning, DEADLINES, *eternal deadlines* had to be met. I'd completed a *Trumpet* article on the very eve of our departure, had written a *Philadelphia News* article on the plane on the way over and, in between counselings, was working on an article for the *True Education* magazine, already a few days overdue. Through the kind offices of one of the prospective members, I arranged for handwritten drafts of already completed articles to be faxed to Angelica Luna, the IC student who does my word processing back at headquarters. By then the need to care for the inner physical man meant another pleasant walk to a local restaurant for another meal, watching the boats bob in the harbor, before turning in prior to greeting another Mexican day.

In addition to these other commitments, we had already checked out Puerto Vallarta as a future Feast site, considered a site for a future youth camp, investigated the prospects for newsstand placements for *La Trompeta* and, ahead, on the morrow, lay more counseling, more writing with the intent of dispatching the *True Education* article for word processing to meet yet another inevitable deadline! Then it would be a race back to the hotel to pack and be off to Puerto Vallarta airport the following day for the trip home in time to take the morning lecture for the International Relations class at Imperial College, approve another weekly *International News Report* for dispatch, catch up with the week's correspondence, hold a department meeting, attend evening Bible study, then finally the blessed respite of a restful Sabbath morning before attending services in the afternoon. So ends another busy, eventful, stimulating, inspiring and most rewarding week in the life of just one international regional director in Christ's service, holding up the arms of that prophet, helping do the most vital Work on Earth.

Ron Fraser

## UNITED KINGDOM

The big event we are all looking forward to here is our pastor general's visit to England for the Passover, the weekly Sabbath, and the first day of Unleavened Bread. Many of the brethren are planning to attend the combined services in Pitstone, a small village northwest of London where the meeting hall is situated. Brethren from England, Ireland, Scotland, Europe and the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Cyprus will be staying over in and around Pitstone to welcome Mr. Flurry and hear what he has to say. We have also planned for the first time a combined sit-down evening meal for the Night to Be Much Observed. This special weekend is very exciting for the brethren, some of them never having met that prophet and their pastor general, and most of the rest of them not having met with him since his last visit to England almost four years ago.

Although we have to report the loss of one of our loyal and dedicated deacons, Roy Horne, who died February 24, we can also report the baptism of a young lady from Ireland who was put into the body of Jesus Christ on the Sabbath of January 29. We also have received an unusually large number of visit requests from ex-WCG members. This is certainly good news and reflects the urgency of the time, and we will endeavor to fulfil these requests as quickly as possible and look forward to some new growth in this region.

At last we have been able to see the *Key of David* program on our TV screens! At the moment we have a three-month contract to air the program every Sunday on Reality TV at 6 a.m. Once established, we hope to secure a better time slot in the future.

Our ministers and wives have settled back in their areas after the 2005 ministerial conference much rejuvenated by the high level of lectures given on the five days of the conference. This information will be inculcated into sermons and Bible studies so that we all continue to speak the same thing as we enhance our headquarters focus.

John Durrad