

PASTOR GENERAL SPEAKS IN HONG KONG AND BANGKOK

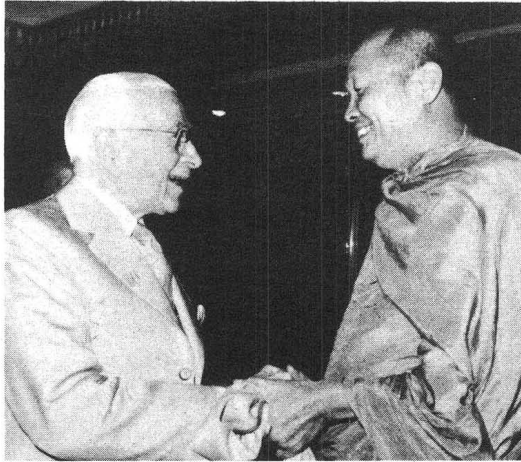
Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong wrote the following article Jan. 31 in-flight from Bangkok, Thailand, to Manila, Philippines.

By Herbert W. Armstrong
I will bring you up to date on the present trip so far. Sabbath, Jan. 23, I spoke to the brethren at the regular Sabbath service in Honolulu, Hawaii. There was a nice increase in membership since I last spoke there a year before.

Sunday, the 24th, we flew on to Hong Kong, crossing the international dateline. Suddenly it was Monday. It was Chinese New Year in Hong Kong. All businesses and shops were closed. Wednesday evening I spoke about an hour and 20 minutes to about 200 readers of *The Plain Truth*.

There seems to be a real interest there and apparently God has people there He is calling. I left David Hulme [media liaison] there to purchase time, if possible, on television and/or radio in Hong Kong. If we are successful in obtaining a good time on the air there, I feel sure we shall have a new church in Hong Kong within a year. We already have about three members there.

Thursday we flew down around the southern tip of Viet-



THAILAND GREETING — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong greets Abbot PhraThesopon of Wat Thai (Thai Temple) of Los Angeles, Calif., at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. The abbot had carried Mr. Armstrong's personal letter to King Bhumibol.

nam and over to Bangkok. Friday we flew north to Chiangmai. I was met at the airport by the mayor and other officials, and they supplied a car to a local hotel. At the hotel the king's mountain jeep van was waiting to take me, with Aaron Dean, my personal aide, and the Abbot PhraThesopon of the Buddhist religion (a rank similar to cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church) up to the king's northern palace atop the mountain. There I had a fourth personal visit with King Bhumibol.

The abbot had arranged the

meeting by telephone from Los Angeles, Calif., after visiting me in my home in Pasadena. The abbot had been much impressed by the splendid performance of students and graduates from Ambassador College, serving in the refugee program to the north of Chiangmai at the Thailand border. These Ambassador men and women have certainly let their light shine in Thailand that people there have seen and warmed up enthusiastically from their good works.

In Hong Kong the newspaper headlines were filled with seri-

ous bad news and evil in that part of the world. The Thursday morning Bangkok newspaper headlines were filled with news in big front-page headlines, of serious drug smuggling from surrounding nations across the Thai borders, in order secretly to smuggle such drugs as opium and heroin out of Bangkok ports to other parts of the world.

When I talked with the king, he had a new worry. Some 10 years ago, when I first talked with him for about an hour and a half, he pleaded with me to help him. At that time his hill tribes, illiterate nomads, had forsaken raising vegetables and food-stuffs and turned to poppies for the opium traffic. Through the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF), we provided six portable schools to teach them, and educate them to drop poppy raising and go back to food. Last time I saw the king, six years ago, he told me we had wiped out 90 percent of the opium raising.

But on this visit he had a new problem and worry. We had virtually wiped out the poppy raising of the Thai hill tribes. But now Communists and underground agents were smuggling in opium and heroin from neighboring countries, using Thailand as a means of getting these drugs smuggled out over the world. Even the United States government and the United Nations are seriously concerned, and threatening to use force to stop this drug traffic.

When we returned to the hotel in Chiangmai from visiting

the king, the evening newspapers were off the press, and my picture, landing at the airport, was prominently on the first page. My picture also appeared with a news story in the English-language Bangkok newspaper. At Chiangmai a supreme court justice and other officials of high rank were at either the airport or the hotel to welcome me.

Yesterday, Sabbath afternoon, I held a 1:30 p.m. service for *Plain Truth* subscribers in the ballroom of the Oriental Hotel. About 250 interested readers came, and I spoke for about an hour and 20 minutes. This, as well as the Hong Kong speech, was recorded for television by our own TV crew. Portions of these meetings will be seen on our own TV program within a few weeks.

As I proceed along, I am growing more and more bold in proclaiming the coming Kingdom of God, and Christ's return as the world's only hope. And I think people are more willing to listen to God's truth than they were seven to 10 years ago. As conditions worsen all over the world, Christ's message seems to strike a more responsive chord.

I find it may even be possible to put *The World Tomorrow* on TV and/or radio in Bangkok. Truly we are becoming a WORLDWIDE Church! Satan's opposition will increase, but more and more people are becoming reachable.

As usual Madam Sunirat (See BANGKOK, page 3)

Two-day campaign in Manila attracts overflow attendance

Pedro Melendez is a preaching elder in the Manila, Philippines, North church.

By Pedro Melendez

MANILA, Philippines — Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong conducted two campaigns during his visit here Jan. 31 through Feb. 8.

The campaign took place at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) Feb. 6 and 7. This was the same hall used in Mr. Armstrong's campaign here in January, 1981.

An enthusiastic and responsive audience overflowed the 4,200-seat convention center during both meetings. An estimated 4,500 people heard Mr. Armstrong each afternoon. About half in the audience were *Plain Truth* readers. The rest were people who responded to campaign advertisements, or friends and relatives who went along

with some 1,000 Church members.

Mr. Armstrong was introduced by Professor Marcos Herras, vice president of Adamson University here. Professor Herras introduced the pastor general as "a great religious leader" and "friend of the Filipino people."

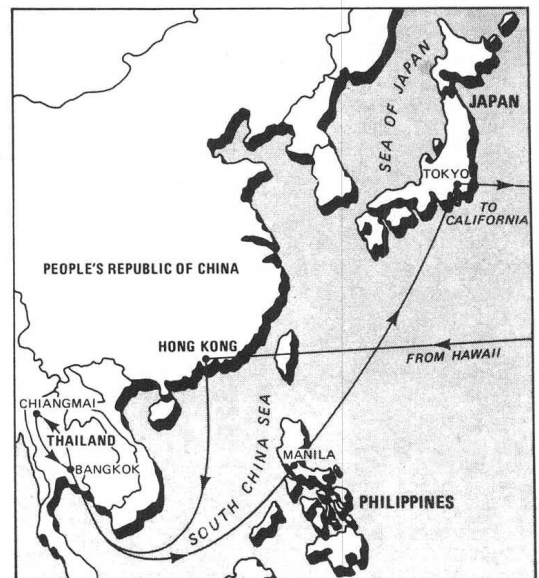
On the first afternoon Mr. Armstrong began by saying how he liked being back in the Philippines because it is "a happy place — full of happy people with warm smiles and handshakes." He then remarked that the world as a whole is not a happy place. "People don't get along with others. Leaders in government can't solve problems," he said.

Mr. Armstrong went on to trace the root cause of all troubles and unhappiness to the origin of human civilization. He explained how the first parents chose the wrong tree — the tree symbolic of the knowledge of good and evil, which could only give self-acquired knowledge of physical, material things through

the five senses. This, he said, could not give man the spiritual knowledge of how to get along with others and how to have a right relationship with the Creator.

Mr. Armstrong showed that mankind needed to partake of the other tree — the tree of life, which was also a tree of knowledge — symbolic of God's Holy Spirit, of revealed spiritual knowledge from God, handed down through His written Word, the Holy Bible. The Worldwide Church of God is the only church that believes the Bible, he said, and his is the only voice teaching God's truth.

In his second message at PICC the pastor general continued to explain how mankind could acquire the knowledge that would solve human troubles — by receiving God's Spirit through believing the Gospel, repenting and being baptized. Mr. Armstrong explained the meaning of repentance and the true (S e MANILA, page 3)



FAR EAST — The above map shows the route Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong took on his trip to the Far East Jan. 22 to Feb. 11. [Map by Ron Grove]

Church finances grow in 1981, reserves build, says treasurer

By Leroy Neff

PASADENA — Each month I have been writing a brief article for the *Pastor General's Report* about the business and financial picture of the Church in the United States. Since the records for 1981 have now been compiled for both the U.S. and international offices, we have prepared a report for the Church membership worldwide.

In the United States we ended 1981 with a 17.4 percent increase in income over 1980. This increase, though healthy, is not nearly as great as the Work was blessed with in the early years. But, it is a good increase that we should appreciate and thank God for. The cost-of-living increase for the year is now estimated at 9 percent; therefore, the net increase is about 8.4 percent in purchasing power.

It is still necessary to use great care in how the funds are used, so that we might continue in a sound financial condition. Our bank

reserves at the end of the year were substantial and adequate and much improved over a year ago. Many new radio and television stations were added, and the *Plain Truth* circulation increased above four million worldwide for the first time ever.

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

The 1981 audit team from Arthur Andersen & Co. has been working for some weeks now doing preliminary work for the U.S. audit. They gave the standard unqualified opinion in their 1980 audit, which was produced some months ago. You may be interested to know that our major offices are audited by local auditing firms; a few of the small ones are not yet audited.

The 1982 budgets were submitted to Pastor General Herbert W. Armstrong and approved in December. With this approval, we have a

balanced budget with a projected increase to reserves. The budget provides for approximately a 40 percent increase in media and immediate support areas, while most other budgets were set near a 10 percent

increase.

The financial office has prepared income and expenditure figures for the last two years worldwide, which are presented here for your inspection. This is the first time such combined figures have ever been prepared and published. The figures were compiled from United States and international office reports, and the expense figures reflect the format Mr. Armstrong presented in March concerning the organization of the Work.

These figures are unaudited for

two reasons. One, the 1981 audit, which is in process, will not be completed for several months. Two, in order for such combined figures to be "audited," it would be necessary for one auditing firm to audit all offices. As it is, there are many different auditing firms around the world who audit our records.

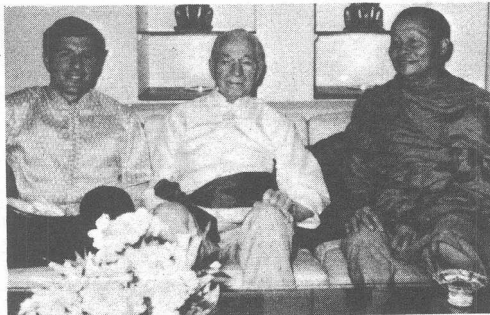
We hope that you are urgently praying that God will bless His Church with greater increases so that we can continue to expand even more rapidly in sending His message to the world.

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD COMPARATIVE WORLDWIDE RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES* FOR 1980 AND 1981 (Unaudited)

	1981	1980	Change	Percent of Change
RECEIPTS				
Contributions	\$ 71,723,000	\$ 60,913,000	\$ 10,810,000	+ 17.75
Festival	5,062,000	3,845,000	1,217,000	+31.65
Church assistance	8,621,000	6,832,000	1,789,000	+26.19
Holy Day offering	14,261,000	11,613,000	2,648,000	+22.8
Other receipts	8,691,000	7,109,000	1,582,000	+22.25
Total receipts	108,358,000	90,312,000	18,046,000	+19.98
EXPENDITURES				
Great commission	41,656,000	34,714,000	6,942,000	+20
Church	36,721,000	29,889,000	6,832,000	+22.86
Pasadena and regional offices	24,868,000	26,039,000	(1,171,000)	(4.5)
Total expenditures	103,245,000	90,642,000	12,603,000	+13.9
Net gain or (loss) to bank reserves	\$ 5,113,000	\$ (330,000)	\$ 5,443,000	

*Includes Ambassador College (Pasadena and Big Sandy) income and expenditures, and grants to the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation.

NOTE: A single set of averaged foreign exchange rates has been used in the translation of local currencies into U.S. dollars for both years for comparison purposes.



THAI CUSTOM — Pictured above are Aaron Dean, Herbert W. Armstrong's personal aide; Mr. Armstrong; and the Abbot Phra Thepsopon of the Wat Thai (Thai Temple) of Los Angeles, Calif. In traditional Thai custom, the abbot presented Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Dean with Thai formal shirts patterned after King Bhumibol's design.

BANGKOK

(Continued from page 1)

Telan, the wealthiest woman in Thailand, put her Rolls-Royce car at my disposal. She's a little wisp of a woman, only 4 feet 8 inches tall (or short). It was

through her that God first opened the door to meet the king. I hosted a dinner in her honor on Thursday evening, and she hosted me and our party at dinner last evening. Along with the Buddhist abbot, she met us at the plane on arrival and saw us off at the plane.

Manila

(Continued from page 1)

Gospel. He challenged the audience to check up on him in their own Bibles.

He also asserted that the Worldwide Church of God is the only true Church, which is preparing itself to help Jesus Christ rule this world and teach people true spiritual knowledge.

Mr. Armstrong wondered if many in the audience would believe his message. "Jesus Christ spoke at one time to a crowd of people about the same size as you here tonight, and only 120 believed," he said.

He pointed out Matthew 24:14, where it says that the Gospel of the Kingdom would be preached in all the world and then the end of this age would come. "You are witnessing the fulfillment of this prophecy right before your eyes tonight," Mr. Armstrong proclaimed.

He remarked that he was now in his 90th year and that this may be his last time to come to Manila to preach a similar message. He challenged the audience to think seriously about his message and to change the way they lived.

At the end of Mr. Armstrong's message regional director Guy

Ames of the Manila Office of God's Work announced that Mr. Armstrong's books *Tomorrow* — *What It Will Be Like* and *The Incredible Human Potential* and the booklet *The Seven Laws of Success* were available for distribution in the lobby.

He also advertised *The Plain Truth and Youth 82* and gave the Church's mailing and office address and telephone numbers. Already 5,000 new requests for *The Plain Truth* magazine have been received.

Mr. Armstrong arrived in Manila, Sunday, Jan. 31, on the Work's G-II aircraft from Bangkok, Thailand, where he had conducted a successful Bible study with *Plain Truth* readers.

His other activities in Manila included a luncheon meeting of Manila's Rotary Club of University District, at the Manila Hilton. About 100 club members heard a powerful message about the troubled state of the world today and how it will be solved.

"If there were peace in the world, I wouldn't need to be an ambassador for peace, but we have no peace. We have nothing but troubles... we're all asleep — supposing everybody is so kind and so good that they won't use the nuclear weapons and other

weapons that have been invented that can blast all humanity off the face of this planet. You need to remember that no weapon of destruction has been invented that man hasn't used," warned Mr. Armstrong.

Feb. 3 Mr. Armstrong was the guest of honor and speaker at a testimonial dinner sponsored by the Mabuhay Ang Filipino Movement (a national organization integrating all civic organizations) in the Manila hotel. The other speaker that evening was Justice Porfirio Sison of the court of appeals. He introduced Mr. Armstrong as "a voice that brings back men to God," and "the answer to our prayers for the arrival of a spiritual leader who thinks of the welfare of his fellow-men and not just his own church."

Giving a similar message on why problems exist today and how they will end, Mr. Armstrong exhorted the 700 leading men and women gathered there to follow the way of giving, sharing, cooperation and service instead of getting, competition, vanity and violence.

Feb. 5 Mr. Armstrong ordained six elders. Guy Ames was raised in rank to pastor, Pedro Melendez to preaching elder and Jeremiah Ortiguero, Felipe Casing, Bernardo Rosario, David Oloya to local elder.

responsibility for placing new *World Tomorrow* radio and television programming in the United States and some overseas areas.

Throughout the remainder of 1981, the relationship between God's Church and BBDO proved to be successful, with a 96 percent increase in United States television coverage within six months.

Having concentrated on expansion of *The World Tomorrow* telecast in 1981, BBDO plans to empha-

size *The World Tomorrow* radio broadcast in 1982.

Headquartered in New York City, BBDO is the fourth largest U.S. advertising agency, and sixth largest in the world, with offices and affiliates in most countries worldwide. They now handle advertising and media placement for God's Church in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium (Radio and Television Luxembourg), Spain, Ecuador and most of the Caribbean, as well as the United States.

Print advertising also expanded under Mr. Armstrong's direction in 1981. In many countries, electronic media are government controlled and closed to the Work. Therefore, newspapers and magazines become the main vehicles for delivering Christ's Gospel message. This effort will continue through 1982.

Church attendance grows

Joseph Tkach Sr. is director of Ministerial Services in Pasadena.

By Joseph Tkach Sr.

PASADENA — The year 1981 was truly a year of growth in the churches worldwide, both in numbers and spiritual development. In the United States there were 2,546 baptisms, 20 new churches, 64 ministers ordained and a 17.5 percent increase in Bible study attendance.

An attendance record was set at Bible study in Pasadena, averaging more than 1,200 a week for the whole year. There seems to be renewed zeal for accomplishment. The headquarters' church is growing steadily in every way. God is

blessing the Church with strong, loyal, dedicated laborers.

In the international areas, the results are similar. Last year produced 1,361 baptisms, 20 new churches and 21 ordinations.

Truly, the harvest is plenteous and the laborers are few. But God is granting continued steady growth.

United States

Church attendance, 73,349; *Plain Truth* circulation, subscribers, 1,493,634, newsstand, 1,470,000, total, 2,963,634; *Good News* circulation, 74,496; *World 81* circulation, 16,649; *Worldwide News* circulation, 37,359; churches, 368; members, 51,371; full-time ministers, 326; local church elders, 393; Festival sites, 16; radio outlets, 77; television outlets, 89.