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BLESSINGS FLOW FOR OUR 'ON TRACK' PERFORMANCE

By Herbert W. Armstrong

We moved to put ourselves "back on God's track." Now God is moving to shower blessings on His Work. IN EVERY WAY THE WORK IS LUNGING AHEAD and God is increasing membership and income.

I have said before that when our lives and performance are pleasing to God, He bestows on us blessings. He is adding conversions. He is prospering us so that financial income is once again increasing as it was during the first 35 years of this Work.

At services on the Unleavened Bread Holy Days, attendance averaged worldwide around 9 percent increase over the year before. Holy Day offering increases were sensational.

First and last Holy Day offerings increased as follows: In Australia, 57 percent and 72.4 percent; in New Zealand, 42.5 percent and 57.8 percent; in Canada, 35 percent and 33.7 percent; in West Germany, 78.1 percent and 31.9 percent (the only country with loss in attendance — 1.2 percent); United Kingdom, 26 percent and 20 percent; United States, 26.6 percent and 24.9 percent; and South Africa, 31.5 percent and 38.7 percent. Even considering inflation, these are splendid increases.

In March, 100,000 new subscribers were added to *The Plain Truth* subscription list — not counting newsstand distribution. This is United States only.

Mail subscribers, 1,090,384; newsstand circulation, 740,000. In the first three months of this year we added 206,000 new subscribers. An estimated 130,000 more were added in April. The present trend indicates close to 1,000,000 new subscribers will be added during the current year.

Newsstand responses — those adding new mail subscriptions — have doubled the past few months. Requests for magazines and equipment are twice what was projected. Newsstand response is 2.35 percent and growing.

Introductory *Plain Truths* are being sent out three times the usual rate. Normal six to seven months' supply exhausted in two months. Cardholder program has added 24,145 new subscribers, and on the waiting room program, 53,000 doctors' and dentists' waiting room copies have been added so far this year. Forty thousand new



ACTIVE APOSTLE — Clockwise from above: Herbert W. Armstrong converses with Ambassador College seniors April 30 in his campus home (see article, page 3); the Work's G-11 leaves Burbank, Calif., with Mr. Armstrong and his staff May 5; the pastor general waves to onlookers before taking off for Australia May 5; Mr. Armstrong addresses the ministers in for the Ministerial Refreshing Program April 30. [Photos by Dexter H. Faulkner and Nathan Faulkner]

subscribers have been added in three months by blow-in subscription cards.

The renewal rate for regular subscribers is 54 percent.

In all these 48 years of the Work perhaps no other part of the Work has accomplished as much as *The Plain Truth*. During these 48 years no other facet of the Work has done as much to spread the Gospel message as *The Plain Truth*.

Stop a moment and compare this Work with other professing "gospel" works in the world. Billy Graham conducts crusades. They are usually planned and started a year in advance. Six months in advance local churches who will join in general with the Baptist doctrines begin organizing the crusade.

At what they find to be the proper time in advance of the crusade, committees start work on all church members, as well as the general public, to work up interest and attend the crusade.

Of course many, probably most, of those attending a crusade are church members. Dr. Graham's evangelistic association presents limited literature

to those who "come forward." They also send this to those responding from television broadcasts of the crusades.

But they publish no magazine comparable to *The Plain Truth*. The crusades are followed up by local denominational churches, by inviting church attendance. Dr. Graham closes most of his crusade meetings and telecasts urging people to attend church *next Sunday*, but their association is not a church and they have no program for continually "feeding the flock," and local ministerial contact, counseling and personal continual contact and fellowship.

Just about all radio and television religious programs are limited primarily to the broadcasts, begging the public for contributions, and a very limited (and usually ineffective) literature follow-up.

Up until about 1968 or 1970 we purchased more radio time — with a DAILY broadcast — on numerous major 50,000-watt stations all over the United States and Canada, besides other countries around the world. We were the BIGGEST

PROGRAM ON THE AIR of a religious nature.

This was followed up by *The Plain Truth*, reaching many MILLIONS, and with an Ambassador College educated ministry — besides many booklets and even books — all sent FREE.

There is not, and never has been any program like this program of the living GOD for spreading Christ's message of the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD to the whole world.

No other leader of any religious movement — even though deceived into being Satan's movement — has had a program that would remotely compare in effectiveness with GOD's program. No other leader has gone to as many countries, and to personally invited meetings by kings, emperors, presidents and

prime ministers, opening doors to reach their people.

I just wondered if you realized these facts. We should not take them for granted. We should realize God has planned all this — guided it all — prepared His servant in a very special way even before conversion — for this great and mighty worldwide Work, proclaiming, alone by itself, the real TRUTH of God!

God's Church is positively UNIQUE; none is like it. Take, for example, our publications. There is no magazine like *The Plain Truth*, whether secular or religious. It has the interest of a leading national news magazine, but it views and explains world news and happenings from GOD's point of view — sees events and their meaning as GOD

(See BLESSINGS, page 5)

SCF

Team credits strong comeback to 16-year-old Sabbathkeeper

Pitcher Jon Rushing attends the Salem, Ore., church. His baseball team is counted among the top four teams with a chance to make the post-season playoffs, according to Salem pastor David H. Mills. "He sets a good example for the youths in Salem," Mr. Mills said. The Salem pastor added that one person called for a visit after reading the following article. The article appeared in the April 25 Salem Statesman-Journal, and is reprinted by permission.

By Sean Duff

SALEM, Ore. — Vic Backlund is praying that the Valley League baseball playoffs won't be held on a

Saturday. Any Saturday.

Backlund, the coach at McNary High School, has seen his team rebound from an 0-3 start to win eight consecutive league games, a streak which moved the Celts from last place in the Valley League to a game out of first.

One of the main reasons for McNary's resurgence is the strong left arm of 16-year-old Jon Rushing, whose baseball maturity belies his youth.

But if the Celts could make the league playoffs, and at this time there's no reason why they shouldn't, it would be in their best interests to make sure a playoff game isn't scheduled for a Saturday.

Because if it is, McNary will have

to do without the services of Rushing, whose religious beliefs prevent him from playing from dusk Friday to dusk Saturday.

"I just go to church on Saturday, but I'm not a Seventh-day Adventist," he said. "The whole family goes. We call it the Worldwide Church of God."

Rushing said his mother has been a member of the church all her life and his father has been a member

since he was 16.

Rushing has been forced to miss several games because of his convictions. "I don't even go to any Saturday games," he said. "I missed two (Senior Little League) championship games last year for district and state titles."

His absences, however, haven't prevented him from getting his teams to the big games in the first place.

Back in early April the Celts were 0-3, mired in last place and going against a McKay team that had visions of greatness. But Rushing stopped the Scots on four hits as McNary won 5-2.

"The start of McKay's game was when things started coming together," he said. "The defense seemed a lot stronger."

McNary's defense was flawless two weeks ago when the league's two premier pitchers, Rushing and Sprague's Randy Voigt, matched up in a no-hit duel for 7½ innings. McNary finally won in the eighth on Rob Ridings' two-out single.

"My curveball was real effective that game," Rushing said. "It has been lately. Things just seem to be getting better and better."

It was a significant win for the Celts. Not only did they finally reach the .500 mark in league play, but they handed Sprague its first league loss and beat the Olys' ace to boot.

That win proved to Rushing that McNary could go a long ways this season. "At first I just wanted to (See PITCHER, page 7)



SABBATHKEEPING SOUTHPAW — Pitcher Jon Rushing of McNary High School in Salem, Ore., is shown in action at a high school baseball game. [Photo by Ron Cooper, courtesy of Salem Statesman-Journal.]

Severely deformed baby healed; doctors, nurses call it miracle

By Michael Snyder
WALLA WALLA, Wash. — It had been a difficult pregnancy. Evelyn Patterson, daughter of Church member Carolyn Gemmill, was warned by her obstetrician to "expect possible problems."

Nov. 30, 1980, things went from bad to worse. Mrs. Gemmill was called to St. Mary's hospital here, where her daughter was in labor.

"As soon as I got there the head RN [registered nurse] told me that the baby was in great distress," Mrs. Gemmill told *The Worldwide News* by phone. "During her contractions, the baby's heart would stop," said Gerald R. Flurry, pastor of the Pasco, Wash., church.

The worst was confirmed at birth, according to Mrs. Gemmill. Patrick Patterson was born grossly deformed. "His skull . . . from about eye level to the back of his head was missing. His jaw was pushed back against his chin and his nose was flattened to one side," she related.

Patrick was born a "limp" baby. "The doctors started him breathing by artificial means," Mrs. Gemmill added.

Because of the deformity, Patrick was not shown to his mother until later. "The professional staff at St. Mary's expressed no hope for the baby," said Mrs. Gemmill. "The attending doctor scheduled a brain scan to see how much of a brain Patrick had."

"One specialist told Mrs. Gem-



EVELYN AND PATRICK PATTERSON

mill to start looking for an institution to place the baby in," Mr. Flurry said. "Another didn't expect him to live 24 hours. And if he did he'd be a 'vegetable.'"

Prayer request

Drained by the experience, Mrs. Gemmill went to a nearby friend's house to rest. "I had asked my daughter if she would mind if I asked the Church for prayers," Mrs. Gemmill reported. "She attended church as a child and agreed immediately."

After being called, Mr. Flurry contacted several other Church members and asked them to pray also. As Mrs. Gemmill learned later, Patrick began breathing on his own almost immediately after the prayer request and was taken off an artificial respirator.

'Incredible miracle'

The following morning Mrs. Gemmill went back to the hospital. Upon arriving at the maternity ward, the head nurse came up to Mrs. Gemmill and said, "Come see our miracle baby!"

Mrs. Gemmill was stunned to see that "the boy's head was perfectly formed, the skull intact, his jaw line normal . . . It was an incredible miracle! He was kicking and yelling — telling us he was fine!" The doctors canceled the brain scan.

After Mrs. Gemmill told the head nurse of the Church's prayers, the nurse stated, "It could only be an act of God."

"Now whenever the nurses talk about the Patterson baby, they refer to Patrick as the 'miracle baby,'" said Mr. Flurry.

Five and a half months later, Patrick exhibits no signs of retardation or other abnormalities, according to Mrs. Gemmill. "He's growing hair, cutting teeth," she reported. "He laughs a lot and is a very happy, healthy baby."

Omaha member captures Mrs. Nebraska state title

OMAHA, Neb. — "It's all about having the right combination of being a wife, mother and individual," said Kristi (Wangness) St. Pierre, citing the basis for her being selected 1980 Mrs. Nebraska. "I think the judges agreed when I said that the family is the core of the United States."

After winning the state title, the 23-year-old Church member represented Nebraska at the week-long Mrs. America Pageant in Las

Vegas, Nev., April, 1980.

"The judges asked some very pointed questions during the national contest," said Mrs. St. Pierre. "Two questions were whether I thought God was a woman and should women be drafted into the military."

Mrs. St. Pierre has been acquainted with state pageants since 1965, when her mother, Ardean Wangness, now a Church member, was named Mrs. South Dakota.

For the record

PASADENA — The Alpha Charlie (AC) shortwave radio network operates at 1500 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) instead of the time reported in the May 4 *Worldwide News*, according to Garland Snuffer, coordinator of the network.

The Sunday morning network involves more than 70 members in the United States and Canada, he said. Station WB6ZOT at Ambassador College in Pasadena is normally on at this time.

International members who wish to become involved with the network can write Mr. Snuffer at 300 W. Green St., Pasadena, Calif., 91123, U.S.A. His call letters are N6SN.

Now an accountant for an architectural firm in Omaha, the former Mrs. Nebraska spent much time coordinating and promoting the 1981 Mrs. Nebraska Pageant in March.

Mrs. St. Pierre's hobbies include painting in oils, playing piano, singing and playing tennis and golf with her husband Tracy.



KRISTI ST. PIERRE

BLESSINGS

(Continued from page 1)

does, looking down from heaven. No other church or magazine editorship has the KNOWLEDGE to do that.

No other church has a program remotely comparable to ours. In our publications, besides *The Plain Truth*, members receive monthly *The Good News*, feeding them spiritually, and semimonthly *The Worldwide News*, keeping them up-to-date on Church and Gospel-proclaiming happenings, besides so much personal news to keep us all close together in a spiritual fellowship with God and with Christ. Then the new *Youth 81* magazine for the youths of the Church — and a weekly *Pastor General's Report*.

No church — Catholic, Methodist, Baptist or whatever — has a publication program such as God has given us. No church has weekly events — keeping up member interest like God's Church. Take our

Spokesman Clubs, our YOU and YES programs — our basketball and other activities — our annual Feast of Tabernacles and other feasts to hold us together, and keep us growing spiritually. THERE IS JUST NO CHURCH LIKE GOD'S CHURCH!

I think we need to realize HOW DIFFERENT — and how much MORE INTERESTING, how much more spiritually stimulating and invigorating is God's Church.

And our publications are a vital and basic part of the Church — its life, and its growth.

Now the way is opened for us to place *The Plain Truth* in hundreds and thousands of chain supermarkets — Safeway and others. I will describe this in a letter to members.

So much of this growth and spiritual development has come through our publications. Before my conversion, God trained me in the field of publications, and also in public speaking. I think I had not realized, myself, how vital this early training was in building God's Church and Work.