



Dinosaurs
and the
Bible

Crisis
in Greece



Thank
you!

FEBRUARY 2009

THE PHILADELPHIA

WWW.THETRUMPET.COM

TRUMPET

Divining the FUTURE

Two forecasts:
one cloudy, one clear





2

11

16

24

DEPARTMENTS

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR
Did the Holy Roman Empire Plan the Greek Crisis?
- 18 WORLDWATCH
- 30 TELEVISION LOG
The Key of David
- 36 LETTERS
- 37 COMMENTARY
Are We Living in the Last Days?

WORLD

- 2 **Divining the Future**
- 8 **Who Is Dictating EU Policy?**
- 11 **The Battle for Sunday**
- 14 **Invasion From Within**
Will Britain awaken in time?
- 24 **Pirates Expose America's Broken Will**
- 24 **... And Some Secrets About Germany and Britain, Too**
- 32 **Germany's Plan to Control Africa**

LIVING

- 7 **The Power of "Thank You"**

NEWS OF THE WORK

- 12 **Rising Up**

RELIGION

- 16 **Dinosaurs and the Bible**
Does Scripture account for the age of reptiles?
- 28 **BOOK EXCERPT**
Offensive Warfare, Part Two

SOCIETY

- 22 **God Haters**

ECONOMY

- 34 **Former Superpower Seeks Foreign Lovers**

For a free subscription in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

COVER The Earth
STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry
Executive Editor Stephen Flurry
News Editor Ron Fraser
Managing Editor Joel Hilliker
Contributing Editors Mark Jenkins, Ryan Malone, Robert Morley, Philip Nice
Contributors Dennis Leap, Brad Macdonald
Associate Editor Donna Grieves
Production Assistant Michael Dattolo
Research Assistants Adar Kielczewski, Aubrey Mercado, Andrew Miiller, Richard Palmer
Proofreader Nancy Hancock
Circulation Shane Granger
International Editions Editor Wik Heerma
French, Italian Deryle Hope
German Hans Schmidl
Spanish Edition Editor Carlos Heyer

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly May-June and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2009 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

CONTACT US Please notify us of any change in your address; include your old mailing label and the new address. The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit any letter for clarity or space. **Website** www.theTrumpet.com **E-mail** letters@theTrumpet.com; subscription@theTrumpet.com or literature requests request@theTrumpet.com **Phone** U.S., Canada: 1-800-772-8577; Australia: 1-800-22-333-0; New Zealand: 0-800-500-512. Contributions, letters or requests may be sent to our office nearest you: **United States** P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083 **Canada** P.O. Box 315, Milton, ON L9T 4Y9 **Caribbean** P.O. Box 2237, Chaguanas, Trinidad, w.i. **Britain, Europe, Middle East, India, Sri Lanka** P.O. Box 9000, Daventry, NN11 1AJ, England **Africa** P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville, 7551, South Africa **Australia, Pacific Isles** P.O. Box 375, Narellan, NSW 2567, Australia **New Zealand** P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland, 1730 **Philippines** P.O. Box 1372, Q.C. Central Post Office, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1100 **Latin America** Attn: Spanish Department, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083, U.S.

Did the Holy Roman Empire Plan the Greek Crisis?

You are going to see the same kind of financial crises in other European countries. Here's why.

I'D LIKE TO ADD MY THOUGHTS TO A CRITICAL ARTICLE written by Richard Palmer, titled "Who Will Stop the Greece Fires?" It was placed on our website Dec. 16, 2008.

Greece is in trouble. Thousands of rioters rampaged through Athens. Angry youths attacked the Athens courthouse with petrol bombs. Broken glass and burned-out wreckage lay in the streets.

These riots are a sign of a far greater upheaval that is threatening to engulf much of Europe.

Athens isn't the only Greek city to be hit. Roughly half of the country's workforce has gone on strike. One resident of Thessaloniki described the city as "a war zone." Protesters wounded 12 police officers in 10 different cities in one night.

The rioting started December 6 after police shot and killed 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos. His death triggered a fierce reaction across the country.

But Alexandros's tragic death was simply the spark. The real fuel for the fire came from Greece's troubled economy.

Many of the people rioting are angry about the government's handling of the economic crisis. The unions want higher social spending, wages and pensions. Greece's two largest unions, the General Confederation of Workers of Greece (GSEE) and the ADEDY civil servants union, had planned a public demonstration in protest of the failing economy before Alexandros's shooting. The melee caused by this huge demonstration merged with the mass youth riots to create chaos on city streets in Greece and grind the nation to a standstill.

The Greek government can do little to fix the nation's economy though. Greece's fate was, in many ways, sealed seven years ago.

In 2001, Greece adopted the euro, as a member of the European Union. At that point, Greece's succeeding economic boom and following bust became inevitable. Columnist Ambrose Evans-Pritchard explained the situation in the *Telegraph*: "[T]here is obviously a problem for countries like Greece that were let into EMU [Economic and Monetary Union] for political reasons before their economies had been reformed enough to cope with the rigors of euro life—over the long run. ...

"Greece's euro membership has now led to a warped economy. The current account deficit is 15 percent of GDP, the eurozone's highest by far. Indeed, the deficit (\$53 billion) is the sixth-biggest in the world in absolute terms—quite a feat for a country of 11 million people" (Dec. 10, 2008).

Greece's foreign debt is a staggering 91 percent of its gross domestic product. Greece's banks are in crisis. The government has pledged to bail them out with €28 billion. But with Greece's economy in such bad condition, the Greek government will have difficulty borrowing the €28 billion it wants to give the banks.



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This could mean it will have to take the money away from its social welfare programs. That would make social unrest in Greece even worse.

There is no way out—and, according to some analysts, it was designed from the beginning to become that way. Those analysts agree with the brutal facts unfolding in Europe.

Bernard Connolly is a civil servant who authored *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, which exposed the evils of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism and the truth about the European Union. Over a year ago, he explained the process in an article in the *Telegraph*: "[T]he EU quite deliberately created the most dangerous credit bubble of all: EMU. And, whereas the mission of the Fed is to avoid a financial crisis, the mission of the ECB [European Central Bank] is to provoke one. THE PURPOSE OF THE CRISIS WILL BE, AS PRODI, THEN COMMISSION PRESIDENT, SAID IN 2002, TO ALLOW THE EU TO TAKE MORE POWER FOR ITSELF. The sacrificial victims will be, in the first instance, families and firms (and banks and investors) in countries such as Ireland ... Subsequently, German savers (or British taxpayers) will bear the burden of bailouts that a newly empowered 'EU economic government' will ordain" (Aug. 20, 2007, emphasis mine).

When the current European economic union was formalized, it became inevitable that countries like Greece would eventually face economic crises. Through the inclusion of Germany, the economic union allowed for European-wide interest rates that were much lower in countries like Greece than would normally have been possible. Low interest rates encouraged massive borrowing and artificially stimulated a boom. But as with all bubbles, eventually it popped. What Greece and other countries in southern Europe in particular are dealing with now is the aftermath.

The Holy Roman Empire

Romano Prodi was recently prime minister of Italy. He was eventually pushed from power by the Roman Catholic Church because he disagreed with the church on several issues. That illustrates the kind of power the Vatican exercises in EU politics. (The Catholic Church in Europe is very different than it is in the U.S.)

So the Vatican obviously approved of the EU plan to take more power for itself. The real power of the EU revolves around Germany and the Vatican—as it has throughout the history of the Holy Roman Empire.

That spells real trouble for this world—as it has for over 1,500 years! Any student of European history knows about the violent past of the Holy Roman Empire.

For over 50 years we have been warning about the rise of this

See **CRISIS** page 27 ►

Divining the Future

Two views of what's ahead for our world: one uncertain, based on guesses, from a high-profile U.S. government agency—the other absolute, based on the “more sure word of prophecy.” **BY RON FRASER**

AS 2008 DREW TO A CLOSE, THE U.S. NATIONAL Intelligence Council (NIC) released its report, “Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World.”

The report is extremely comprehensive, containing 120 pages of predictions about future world trends representing the views of a range of academics, diplomats and other governmental leaders from around the globe.

But there's a missing dimension in the NIC report.

Predicting the future is a chancy profession unless you have *biblical revelation* as your foundation. Without the depth of biblical prophecy as one's guide, one's predictions about the future remain shallow at best.

That is the missing dimension in the NIC report: *biblical revelation!*

Bible prophecy is a dimension of vital importance to understanding the future. Herbert Armstrong clearly saw this. He was unafraid to declare of the book which lays the future bare: “Here is a book—the Holy Bible—that dares to write out the future history

of this world in advance—that dares to prophesy what is actually going to *happen* within 15 or 20 years to specific nations, including Russia, the British Commonwealth, China, the United States, Italy, Turkey, Ethiopia, and many others—most of the major nations of this world” (emphasis mine throughout).

“But would you believe it if I told you what this Book predicts?” he continued. “If I told you what it predicts about your nation? Would you believe it?”

“You know, we have gotten away from believing that the Bible means what it says. We may not be atheists. We may not ridicule the Holy Bible. But we are living now in an age of skepticism. We are living in an age of doubt.

“Most highly educated people, and men of science, assume that the Bible is not the infallible revelation of a supernatural God, and they assume this without the scientific proof that they demand on material questions” (*The Proof of the Bible*).

There is a supreme intellect, the author of the universe, who declares, “I am God, and there is none else: I am God, and there is none like me, *Declaring the end from the beginning*, and from

ONE OF THE “RELATIVE CERTAINTIES” PUT FORWARD IN the NIC report is the prospect of the United States facing “[s]hrinking economic and military capabilities” that “*may force the U.S. into a difficult set of trade-offs between domestic versus foreign-policy priorities.*”

Let us be clear. According to inerrant Bible prophecy, there is nothing “relative” about the certainty that America faces shrinking economic and military capabilities! The Prophet Isaiah pointed to the time when God would take away from the Jewish and the Anglo-Saxon nations “The mighty man, and the man of war” (Isaiah 3:2-3).

The very challenge facing President Obama is just this. The rapid shrinking of America’s economic capabilities is forcing the nation to consider a *dramatic* reduction in the projection of its military power, inevitably leading to the “trade-offs” in foreign policy that the new administration is already wrestling with behind the scenes.

Simply put, under Barack Obama, U.S. foreign policy is bound to be subjugated to the mounting, soon-to-be *overwhelming*, domestic considerations posed by national economic, financial and social *collapse!* Societal disintegration will be hastened by the downward spiraling



Barack Obama

U.S. foreign policy is bound to be subjugated to the mounting, soon-to-be overwhelming, domestic considerations posed by national economic, financial and social collapse.

of national morale as the general populace soon realizes that the president simply *cannot deliver* on his vision of “hope”!

It is *TIME!* Time for the prophesied *collapse* of the Anglo-Saxon combine that has underpinned the global economy—and fought two world wars to retain a semblance of world peace—to be finally fulfilled! Read our editor in chief’s powerful expose of this reality in his free booklet *Lamentations: The Point of No Return.*

Anciently, at the fledgling nation of Israel’s founding, the Eternal God declared, “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you . . . I will break the pride of your power” (Leviticus 26:14-16, 19). To prove that Israel was actually the progenitor of the Anglo-Saxon nations, and that this prophecy applies to these modern nations today, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy.*

That prophecy has been part of the very foundational Scripture upon which the whole of Judeo-Christian society has been constructed! Yet the very people who ask “God bless America,” who for generations in Britain and its dominions asked “God save the king,” are patently blinded to that prophecy’s meaning! And right now it is being fulfilled before their very eyes!

ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, *My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure*” (Isaiah 46:9-10).

Without the acknowledgment of biblical revelation, any attempt at predicting the future is a mere list of guesses based on observable trends.

The NIC report maintains that “no single outcome seems preordained.” The reality is that major trends in world history *are* preordained! There simply exists no surer foundation from which to view the future than the “*more sure word of prophecy!*” (2 Peter 1:19).

The great reality is, God exists! His presence can be proven. He declares “the end from the beginning” (request free copies of Mr. Armstrong’s booklets *Does God Exist?* and *The Proof of the Bible*).

It is on this foundation that we offer the following observations on the NIC report, “Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World.” We will look only at those areas the report highlights as “Key Uncertainties” that have important *geopolitical* significance. By contrast with the NIC’s *uncertainty* of the outcome of these trends, we shall see in each case that the revelation of biblical prophecy clearly demonstrates the very *certainty* of their outcome!

America's Broken Economy

One glaring error in the NIC report is its head-in-the-sand claim that “The United States will remain the single most powerful country.” Prophecy is adamant that it will *not!* Certainly not until 2025 as theorized in this report. Your Bible prophecies the very *opposite* will be the case!

Speaking of those foreign entities that have powerfully penetrated our economies over the past two decades, Almighty God declares: “The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and *thou shalt be the tail*” (Deuteronomy 28:43-44).



NYSE trader

The U.S. has dramatically declined from the position of greatest lender to the tail-end of greatest net borrower—by far.

That curse has *already* befallen the Anglo-Saxon nations! In fact, the U.S. has dramatically declined from the position of greatest lender to the tail-end of greatest net borrower—*by far!* Soon the new “head” will call for the “tail” to pay up. The plain fact is, the “tail” is flat broke and hocked to its eyeballs in debt. It just won’t be able to pay the piper—and *then* the piper will be calling the tune!

Just why has this decline of America from the heights of superpower barely 20 years ago to its present status of pariah debtor-nation-of-the-world happened with such breathtaking speed? Simply because when the U.S. was the “head,” it failed to acknowledge that *it was the Eternal God who made it so!* “Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee” (verse 45).

Germany's Brandenburg Gate



Great Power Confrontations

The NIC report expresses uncertainty as to “Whether mercantilism stages a comeback and global markets recede.” The authors muse on the prospect of a reversion from the globalist business practices of the past 20 years to the world fracturing into competing power blocs that vie for control of trade. Mercantilism involves state intervention to promote a nation’s industry and to maximize its exports, together with applying protective tariffs to prevent imports and mounting overt efforts to create a trade surplus that will draw in wealth from competitors.

Should this situation arise, the NIC foresees the globe “descending into a world of resource nationalism, *increasing the risk of great power confrontations.*”

About this being a realistic scenario for the future, the NIC is uncertain. Let us remove the uncertainty.

The report declares, “We believe Europe by 2025 will have made *slow progress* toward achieving the vision of current leaders and elites: a cohesive, integrated and influential global actor able to employ independently a full spectrum of political, economic and military tools in support of European and Western interests and universal ideals.”

On this point the NIC is *patently wrong!* It completely ignores the historical capacity of one dominant European nation to move powerfully and swiftly into high gear, politically, economically and militarily, when faced with the type of disorder that is today rippling across Europe as a result of the current economic crisis.

One nation has become the world’s major exporter: Germany. Its whole economy is export-driven. It has positioned itself over the years as a major investor within industry, globally. Germany’s capital investment in all quadrants of the globe—north, south, east and west—is substantial. In particular, its recapitalization of Russian industry has aided greatly in that nation’s revival.

Either through its own business and banking interests or via its proxy, the European Union, Germany has for some years been buying up nationally strategic industries in competitor nations: water, electricity, postal services and general infrastructure. This gives Germany powerful leverage in its relations with such countries.

A revival of imperial German mercantilism, combined with such leverage, is definitely prophesied to lead to “great power confrontations” (Revelation 13, 17, 18; request a free copy of *Nahum: An End-Time Prophecy for Germany* for more information).

Global Economy

Referring to global growth projections, the NIC maintains that “the eight largest economies in 2025 will be, in descending order: the U.S., China, India, Japan, Germany, the UK, and France, and Russia.”

Given the present rate of the unraveling of the American economy, placing the U.S. at the top of the list is simply whistling in the dark. Biblical prophecy, as we have indicated, reveals that the U.S. and its fellow Anglo-Saxon nations are bound to be at the *tail end* of the economic scale. So which nation will be at the head in the near future? Prophecy indicates it won't be China, India, Japan, the UK, France or Russia.

The NIC misses by a mile the most powerful of indicators that the prophesied head of the whole global economy, in the foreseeable future, will be Germany—

leading a union of nations. Your Bible mentions that this great northern combine will comprise 10 entities subject to one leading power (Revelation 17:12-13).

Those who fully understand the history of the Holy Roman Empire have written of their fear that what has been building since the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community back in 1952 is nothing more

and nothing less than the resurrection of the old “Holy” Roman Germanic power in modern clothes (request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*).

What biblical prophecy does indicate regarding China, India, Japan and Russia is that they will erect a formidable Eastern bloc that ultimately will challenge the great northern European power for global dominance.

In fact, the indications of current world events are that this scenario will occur far sooner than 2025!



German factory workers

The head of the whole global economy, in the foreseeable future, will be Germany, leading a union of nations.

THE NIC REPORT IS SKEPTICAL AS TO WHETHER OR NOT ADVANCES TOWARD democracy will occur in China and Russia. We can allay its skepticism.

Prophecy for both these major powers proves *they won't!*

Biblical revelation points to each becoming more nationalist in how it projects its politics internationally as it responds to the ongoing global economic crisis. In the meantime, prophecies reveal that Russia and China will increasingly cooperate in defense and security arrangements, eventually drawing greater Asia into a security bloc intent on competing aggressively for markets and resources against an assertive European Union (see our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*). Africa and Latin America will continue to be wooed by both Russia and China in competition with the EU for strategic access to both raw materials and markets.

Japan's situation is not dissimilar to that of Germany in its need to draw upon overseas sources of energy and raw materials to sustain its industrial economy. However, Germany has embedded itself as the key economy within the huge 27-nation EU, a massive captive market and labor force. Japan has no such luxury. That situation could feasibly lead Japan to remilitarize in order to assert its power to gain much-needed energy and raw materials, as well as markets for its finished goods. Bible prophecy reveals that Japan will join that great Sino-Russian East Asian combine (Ezekiel 38:1-6).

Already, the Shanghai Cooperative Organization (SCO)—comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, plus Mongolia, India, Pakistan and Iran as observer members—presents a developing bloc of significant powers rising to resist Western domination. Japan, on the other hand, stands relatively aloof from the SCO, preferring to develop its historical interest in Southeast Asia.

Having displaced the U.S. as the largest provider of new business investment and economic aid in the region since the 1980s, Japan now seeks a more aggressive role in Southeast Asian politics. Undoubtedly, this will ultimately generate opportunities for greater deployment of Japan's already robust defense and security forces in the region. Shades of the Greater East Asia Co-Prospersity Sphere of World War II infamy leap into perspective as this scenario develops.

Japan is the biblical “Togarmah” of Ezekiel 27 and 38, while the “Gomer, and all his bands” referred to in Ezekiel 38:6 comprise the peoples that today populate Southeast Asia. This prophecy clearly shows Japan in association with Southeast Asia in a future alliance with Russia and China (verses 1-3).

It is most apparent to scholars of Bible prophecy that these alliances are already quite advanced in their making. On this reality—this *certainty* in relation to impending world events—the NIC report is silent.



Japanese Maritime Defense ships

THE REPORT WONDERS “[W]HETHER regional fears about a nuclear-armed Iran [will] trigger an arms race and greater militarization” or “whether the greater Middle East becomes more stable, especially whether Iraq stabilizes, and whether the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved peacefully” by 2025.

The Middle East is an area about which much is prophesied in your Bible. While there appears little doubt that the U.S. will withdraw from Iraq under a new U.S. administration, yielding to an inevitable takeover of Iraq by Iran, what our foreign-policy pundits do not realize is just how short will be the period during which Iran gloats over this American capitulation.

If only they understood Bible prophecy, they would realize that the pipsqueak nation of Iran—arrogant, terrorizing pest that its extremist political element is—is destined for a very short life as an influential power. The reason is that prophecies indicate that Iran, identified by our editor in chief as the biblical “king of the south” (request our free booklet of the same title), is leading the bulk of Islamic nations progressively toward a kamikaze push at the rising Europower. Prophecy confirms that Iran will be simply taken out of all contention as a nuclear power, or any other type of power of significance, by a literal blitzkrieg reaction to that “push” by the German-led European combine! (Daniel 11:40).

As to the NIC report’s uncertainty over the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the scenario is already set, according to a powerful combination of biblical prophecies. Already one key prophecy has leaped into focus. Key EU personnel and even influential Jewish observers are calling for a multi-nation peacekeeping force to encircle Israel, providing “security” for both Palestinians and Jews. Though such a force has not yet been agreed to, the fact that it has been discussed over the past few years suggests its becoming a reality in the not-too-distant future (as explained in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*).

What is so powerful about this biblical revelation is that it is prophesied to be a sign of the imminence of Christ’s return to the very city of Jerusalem! “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28).

THE FINAL KEY UNCERTAINTY the NIC report highlights is “Whether global powers [will] work with multilateral institutions to adapt their structure and performance to the transformed geopolitical landscape.” Looking at the increasing tendency for emerging powers to show little respect for institutions such as the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund, plus the decline of NATO, the authors foresee the prospect of “traditional alliances weakening.”

The decline of the Anglo-Saxon powers, in particular America’s *sudden* descent from superpower status, leaves the world without a global policeman. Inevitably, new alliances will form in the wake of U.S. decline.

In fact, as we have outlined, Bible prophecy is clear that three power blocs will emerge: an Iran-led Islamic power, a globally dominant European power, and an Eastern conglomerate of powers incorporating Russia, China, Japan and greater Asia.

But the signs are that none of these power blocs will exist by the year 2025! Each will be very short-lived.

The most dominant of all will be that great European bloc that will exist as a global superpower for barely three years (refer to our free booklet *Daniel—Unsealed at Last!*). The Islamic power will be of much shorter duration, with the bulk of its territory taken over by the Europower very early in its lifespan.

Finally, the great Sino-Russo pan-Asian bloc will overwhelm the European superpower.

This whole scenario will play out, believe it or not, in a period of just 3½ years!

The scenarios we have sketched in this article are not “best guesses.” These are actual events of global impact that have been embedded in prophetic Scripture for thousands of years—“the more sure word of prophecy”!

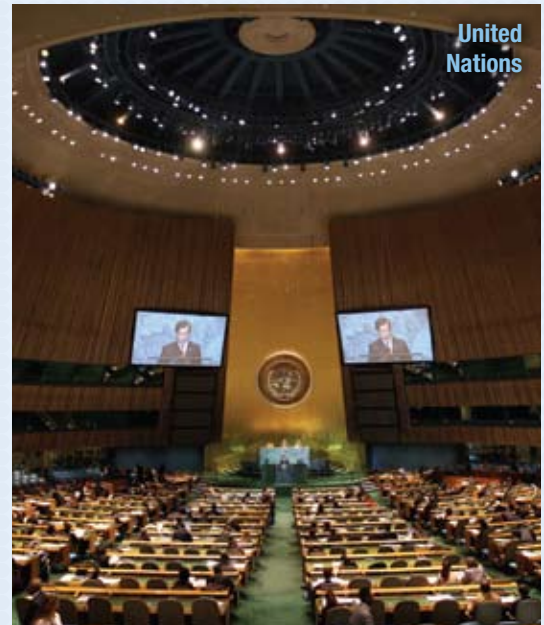
Go back and check the archive on the theTrumpet.com website. See how many prophecies for this day we have proven have already been fulfilled by the facts of documented history of the 20th and 21st centuries. See how the fulfillment of these prophecies has picked up rapidly since 1989! Check and see how fulfilled prophecy has accelerated since 2001, and then again spiked upward since July 2008. There are prophetic reasons why the trajectory of end-time world events has picked up at each of those points during the past 20 years. And it is guaranteed that the *pace* of world events fulfilling Bible prophecies for our time will only *increase* from now on!

Your Bible prophecies gigantic shifts in the “global landscape,” but not by “global powers working with multilateral institutions.” They will occur in direct fulfillment of biblical prophecy according the Creator’s master plan for the future of mankind!

This will be *a revolution unlike any other*, for it will come from the very *top* of government—the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Prince of peace. Even as the authority that supersedes all others declares: “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7).

And *that* is a declaration not bound up in the uncertainty of the predictions of a mere collection of bright human minds. It’s better than an ironclad guarantee!

It’s as sure and as *certain* as is the *unbreakable* Word of Almighty God! It is the “more sure word of prophecy”!



United Nations

The Power of “Thank You”

Science has measured the amazing effects of gratitude in our lives. **BY RYAN MALONE**

WHY IS IT GOOD TO SAY “THANK YOU”? OF COURSE, it is polite—an important social courtesy. But did you know that those who make it a point to practice gratitude also sleep better, exercise more, feel more optimistic and less materialistic, are more empathetic and joyful, and can even have sharper minds?

“As science is now proving, feeling grateful can actually make us healthier, literally,” says *Reader’s Digest* (October 2007).

Robert Emmons, a professor at the University of California-Davis, and Michael McCullough of the University of Miami teamed up for a fascinating study: The examination of three groups of people—one group noting the hassles of each week, one concentrating on things for which they were grateful, and another recording ordinary life events. Not only did the grateful group come out of the study (not surprisingly) happier, they “reported fewer negative physical symptoms such as headaches or colds, and they were active in ways that were good for them. They spent almost an hour and a half more per week exercising than those who focused on hassles. Plain and simple, those who were grateful had a higher quality of life” (ibid.).

The study, published in 2003, also showed how those around the grateful group were impacted by their joy and energy. They “even seemed to be perceived as more helpful toward others, going out on a limb to help people,” said Emmons. “This is not just something that makes people happy, like a positive-thinking/optimism kind of thing. A feeling of gratitude really

gets people to do something, to become more pro-social, more compassionate.”

In a more recent follow-up study focusing on college students, researchers found that “those who found something to appreciate every day were less materialistic—less apt to see a connection between life satisfaction and material things. They were more willing to part with their possessions. ... The grateful people were less depressive, envious and anxious, and much more likely to help others ...” (ibid.).

These studies show that people who are in a continuously grateful mindset enjoy “clearer thinking, better resilience during tough times, higher immune response, less likelihood of being plagued by stress, longer lives, closer family ties, greater religiousness.”

Scientifically, it makes sense. Dopamine is a chemical that is released “when people are feeling good ... It activates the parts of the brain in which complex thinking and conflict resolution are thought to be headquartered” (ibid.).

The emotional and physical benefits of gratitude are truly astounding—and nothing new, despite science’s recent endorsement of it. Millennia ago, this elegant wisdom was encapsulated in a simple proverb: “A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones” (Proverbs 17:22).

Here is a specific way to develop a “merry heart.” Be more thankful.

The Holy Bible repeatedly commands it. One verse in particular says that, even when making requests of God, we ought to do so in an attitude of thankfulness: “in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Philippians 4:6).

The late Herbert W. Armstrong—who often said that ingratitude was possibly our greatest sin—lived 93 active, abundant years. He repeatedly stressed seven principles of radiant health, the seventh of which is a positive mental attitude.

The *Reader’s Digest* author, Deborah Norville, suggests ways to become more thankful: “Record your thanks.” Each day, she suggests, “jot down three things that happened that day for which you are grateful ... and *why* this was good for you.” In addition to the gratitude journal, the author also suggests observing the patterns. “Over time, you’ll notice a consistency within the list of items you’re grateful for. Many entries will underscore the importance of people in your life. Others will highlight meaningful experiences.”

Finally, she suggests, “Seize the moment.” Start right now putting yourself in a gratitude mindset—and see the benefits to your mental, physical, emotional and spiritual health. Let gratitude dominate your thinking and your life—and reap the blessings today. ■



Who Is Dictating EU Policy?

The European Union's recent warmth toward Russia reveals the answer. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY happened last November in Nice, the picturesque city nestled on the gentle shores of the French Riviera. “The extent of the harmony ... was rare,” reported Spiegel Online. Leaders from the European Union and Russia buddied up to one another, discussing political and economic cooperation—even to the point of considering the creation of a “pan-European security pact” (Nov. 15, 2008).

The friendliness was especially intriguing considering how different it was from the way many European nations had been treating Russia only weeks earlier.

Almost immediately after Russia invaded Georgia last August, the European Union, under pressure from America and some eastern EU member states, suspended relations with Moscow and isolated itself, in word only, from the Kremlin. Given appearances, one would have thought that in Nice, after three seemingly tense months of separation, Brussels would have chosen to ease, gently and cautiously, back into its relationship with Russia. Not so.

As Spiegel Online observed, “Suddenly the barriers that had been piling up in recent months between the East and West seemed to be a lot lower. French President Nicolas Sarkozy, whose country currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union, and his colleague from Moscow, Dmitry Medvedev, cleared the political hurdles at the EU-Russia summit in Nice on Friday with surprising ease—

setting a new tone in difficult relations between unequal neighbors” (emphasis mine throughout).

At the summit, the EU showered Russia with promises, including an agreement to resume talks on a new Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, the possibility of a new European-Russian security pact, and even the promise that the EU would draw up a “roadmap” to help Russia join the World Trade Organization.

EU-Russian relations didn't just thaw; they got warm—FAST!

Europe's apparent about-face surprised a lot of people, particularly given Russia's

cally expedient thing to do. This thaw, say analysts, was inevitable because the EU simply cannot afford to upset one of its most important trade partners and critical suppliers of energy.

They're absolutely right—but there's another, more telling, *more worrying*, explanation for Europe's apparent 180-degree turn. It's the elephant in the room that no one is talking about.

And it powerfully demonstrates *exactly who* is dictating the EU's foreign policy!

The German Precedent

The *Trumpet* has given special attention to Germany's relationship with Russia since it invaded Georgia. Almost immediately after Russian tanks rolled into Georgia, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry explained the event's significance. Rather than driving a wedge between Russia and Germany—as it did with other European nations—that event



HOW IT'S GOING TO BE Berlin and Moscow have their own grand scheme for what Europe's immediate future is going to look like.

complete lack of repentance for its invasion of Georgia. Some observers explained the move by saying Europe simply realized it was the politically and economi-

strengthened the Russo-German relationship. Mr. Flurry even said that Germany may well have been *complicit* in Russia's assault on the fledgling state. (Read “Rus-

sia's Attack Signals Dangerous New Era" in our October 2008 issue).

Events have since confirmed that analysis. In fact, if you've been monitoring German foreign policy in recent years—particularly under former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder—you know that German leaders, for the most part, consider maintaining friendly relations with their eastern neighbor a *fundamental responsibility* of the German government.

It was no surprise then that when Russia invaded Georgia, *how to react* to the Kremlin became a point of tension between Germany and much of the rest of the EU. Instead of condemning, reprimanding and shunning Moscow, as America, the EU and most European states did to one degree or another, the Germans responded initially with relative silence, and then with warm gestures that *condoned* Russia's violent invasion of Georgia and subsequent combativeness.

Two days after Mr. Flurry first warned of Germany's complicity in Russia's attack in a speech to Herbert W. Armstrong College students on August 18, Stratfor wrote: "So Berlin is now reassessing its allegiances to Washington and NATO, which would keep the country locked into the policies it made as an occupied state. Or Germany could act like its own state and create its own security guarantee with Russia—something that would rip NATO apart. ... Stratfor sources in Moscow have said that Medvedev has offered Merkel a security pact for their two countries" (Aug. 20, 2008).

Think about that. While much of the rest of the world, including most of Europe, was angry with Russia, Germany was strengthening its relationship with the Kremlin—AND ESTABLISHING A PRO-RUSSIA PRECEDENT!

The European press became very vocal last November when the EU stopped giving Russia the cold shoulder and indicated that it was willing to restart relations with the Kremlin. But if you think about it, they ought not to have been surprised.

The EU was merely catching up with Germany, *which never stopped embracing Russia!*

Germany is, as French writer Madame de Staël put it, "*le coeur de l'Europe*"—the heart of Europe. Berlin is Europe's trendsetter, its bellwether, its pacemaker. It has the largest population and economy of any European nation, and is without doubt the Continent's *most influential* nation, geopolitically, economically and, in reality, militarily. The reality that has been exposed here is that unless the foreign-

policy objectives of European states, *and even the EU*, have Berlin's support, they carry little weight and get little traction. Neither Brussels nor any European state stands a chance of ever effectively penalizing the Kremlin—or anyone else for that matter—as long as its efforts contradict German designs.

The EU's summit with Russia on the beautiful French Riviera last November exposed a dark, foreboding reality: **GERMANY DICTATES EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY!**

Moreover, Germany is the only European state that Russia truly respects. It wasn't that long ago, after all, that steely-eyed Nazi soldiers were storming toward Moscow. The Russians understand what few other people or nations do today: **GERMANY IS THE EUROPEAN NATION TO BE FEARED MOST!**

This reality brings terrific clarity to any analysis of Russian foreign policy. Why has the Kremlin consistently refused to back off efforts to augment its influence on its western periphery, challenge American interests in Eastern Europe, undermine NATO, and in general practice a confrontational, even imperialistic, foreign policy? *Because of the security guarantee* it has forged with the *only* nation it fears!

And Economic Policy!

Not long after it got on board with Berlin's foreign policy toward Russia, the EU, as well as virtually every sovereign European state, found itself once again in the ring beefing it out with the German government.

The issue this round was *how to solve the financial crises plowing through Europe*.

By the end of 2008, Europe's economies were at a breaking point: Manufacturing and service industries were contracting; payrolls were falling; consumer and executive confidence was plummeting; industrial production was slumping. Half of EU member states were running budget deficits; most others were on the fence and quickly eating into surpluses. Social unrest spread, such as the violent riots in Greece, as bankrupt and tottering European governments struggled to find a solution to the mounting chaos.

As 2008 came to a close, Brussels and nearly every country on the Continent had settled on a solution: some sort of large, Europe-wide fiscal stimulus. There was only one problem. Europe's largest, most influential and best-positioned national economy disagreed with it.

While London, Paris and Brussels sought the flamboyant, American-style quick-fix, billion-dollar-bailout/stimulus-package approach, Berlin viewed that as

reactionary and potentially dangerous. Instead of further rupturing national budgets by borrowing billions and haphazardly throwing money at the problem, Germany argued the bona fide solution lay in sound, cautious fiscal management that would solve the *root cause* of the problem.

"At a time when the global benchmark for decisive leadership boils down to the number of zeros that are attached to economic stimulus packages," reported the *New York Times*, "*Germany has taken a different path*" (Dec. 16, 2008). Chancellor Merkel highlighted that path in a speech in December in the German region of Swabia, where she "lambasted the bailout mentality *gripping Western leaders* and lauded *financial discipline, balanced budgets and the ethic of thrift ...*" (*Washington Times*, Dec. 14, 2008). Every Swabian housewife knows the root cause of this crisis, she said: "You can't keep on *living beyond your means*. ... We are not going to participate in this *senseless race for billions*. We have to have the courage to swim against the tide." Merkel was insinuating that German housewives know more about the cause of the economic crises than some European leaders.

Talk about bold.

Also in December, Germany's finance minister, Peer Steinbrück, set off sparks during an interview with *Newsweek*. When asked what was wrong with the stimulus proposals being bandied about by Europe's leaders, Steinbrück denounced the plans and said that the "speed at which proposals are put together under pressure that *don't even pass an economic test is breathtaking and depressing*" (Dec. 15, 2008).

During the interview, Steinbrück specifically excoriated Britain for tax cuts it had just made, calling British efforts to kick-start its economy "crass Keynesianism," in reference to the famous British economist who believed nations should spend their way out of recession. Steinbrück's divisive outburst, said some analysts, was partly designed to undermine international confidence in the British economy and government. "[T]he last thing Mr. Brown's government needs is a further weakening of confidence in sterling assets among international investors," wrote Philip Stephens in the *Financial Times*. "It scarcely helps to have Germany's finance minister declare that Britain's strategy amounts to 'crass Keynesianism.' ... The danger ... has always been that international investors—in British government bonds, in particular—will take fright. **MR. STEINBRÜCK SEEMS TO BE EGGING THEM ON IN THAT DIRECTION**" (Dec. 11, 2008).

Were Steinbrück's remarks a direct *attack* on one of Germany's largest competitors in the European Union? International business editor of the *Daily Telegraph* and highly respected journalist Ambrose Evans-Pritchard thought as much. "For the first time in my life," he wrote, "*I am starting to feel twinges of anti-German sentiment. ... Even Teutophiles who think that Germany has played an enlightened role for 60 years are losing patience with the antics of the Finance Ministry and Bundesbank, and with the DICTATORIAL TURN in Berlin's EU strategy*" (Dec. 15, 2008).

Economist and Nobel peace laureate Paul Krugman was similarly enraged. He called Germany's response to Europe's collapsing economies boneheaded, and assailed Berlin for impeding a Europe-wide

Berlin's stalling tactics undermined the efforts of the rest of Europe to rescue their collapsing economies. Germany was trying to dictate European economic policy.

solution to the economic crises. "[Y]ou can't have a coordinated European effort if Europe's biggest economy not only refuses to go along, *but heaps scorn on its neighbors' attempts to contain the crisis*," wrote Krugman (*International Herald Tribune*, Dec. 15, 2008).

In an interview with *Spiegel*, Krugman said, "[I]f Germany, *the largest economy*, refuses to go along, there will be no cooperation. EVENTS HAVE GIVEN GERMANY A STRATEGIC POLICY IMPORTANCE DISPROPORTIONATE TO ITS SIZE" (Dec. 15, 2008).

Germany was basically employing the same strategy in regards to European efforts to solve the economic crises as it did against Europe's attempts to punish Russia. Berlin's stalling tactics undermined the efforts of the rest of Europe to rescue their collapsing economies. Germany was, in essence, trying to DICTATE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC POLICY.

Berlin's concerns about the solutions posed by its counterparts to Europe's economic crises may be entirely justifiable. Still, its stubborn, critical and confrontational dealings with its European neighbors reveal a great deal about Berlin's relationship with Brussels, and its approach to European unification.

The story of European unification is one of arm-twisting diplomacy. Virtually every single nation of the 27-member European Union has been forced to acquiesce to Brussels on one issue or another, especially in instances when a nation has been opposed by the majority of member states.

But in the case of Europe's response both to Russia and the economic crisis, Germany, instead of adopting the opinion of the majority of EU states, decided to stand apart from its neighbors. While Berlin expects other European nations to fall in line with Brussels, it clearly isn't afraid to defy the collective opinion of its neighbors and do what it likes!

Does Germany consider itself a member of the EU on parity with every other nation in the bloc? Or does it consider itself the leader of the EU, with the right to make its own rules, which the rest of Europe must then follow?

Berlin was exploiting its disproportionate strategic influence to, as Evans-Pritchard put it, implement a "DICTATORIAL" EU strategy!

The German Proteus

In his book *The Europeans*, the late Italian author and historian Luigi Barzini labeled Germany a *Protean country*. "As everyone knows, only when one tied down Proteus, the prophetic old man of the sea, could one make him reveal the shape of things to come. But he couldn't be pinned down easily; he continued to change. He could be a roaring lion, a harmless sheep, a slippery serpent, a charging bull, or in turn, a rock, a tree, a brook, a bonfire."

Germany's protean-like nature, said Barzini, makes it beautiful and alluring, impressive and worthy of great praise, yet at the same time distressingly unpredictable and opaque—a nation that ought to be watched.

We would do well to heed Barzini's warning. Many are the accomplishments and achievements of the German people. Indeed, where would the world be—where would high culture and class be—without the great German poets, composers, inventors, craftsman, educators, chemists and physicists? There is much to be said of German national character; of its thrift and efficiency, its penchant for perfection and quest for quality, its natural inclination for structure and order.

But Germany needs to be watched carefully and with a critical eye!

The German national character, like the national character of every people, has shortcomings and flaws. History shows, though, that in Germany, those flaws can threaten world peace!

We know history, and we believe Barzini's warning about Germany's protean-like ability to transform from a peaceful "brook" into a "roaring lion."

MOST IMPORTANTLY, we believe the multitude of Bible prophecies that warn that in the end time, Germany, composed of the modern-day descendants of the biblical nation of Assyria, will rise to the forefront of European politics and forge itself—at first subtly and cunningly, but then forcefully and violently—as the DICTATOR of what the late Herbert Armstrong termed a EUROPEAN BEAST POWER!

THAT'S why Germany's dictatorial influence over European foreign policy and even European economic policy should chill our bones! Both are a foretaste of Germany's impending, more encompassing, more comprehensive DICTATORSHIP—first over a united European superstate, then over the world!

There isn't space enough here to explain all the prophecies pertaining to Germany and the soon-coming UNITED STATES OF EUROPE. But they're there: in Isaiah 10; Daniel 2, 7 and 11; Nahum 2; Hosea 8; Matthew 24; Revelation 13 and 17. The Bible overflows with prophecies and history pertaining to Germany—and *it's not all negative*. In fact, the example of Assyria's repentance in Jonah 2 is one of the most positive and uplifting examples of repentance in the Bible!

To properly understand what's going on in Germany and the rest of Europe, it's imperative we set our gaze not only on current events happening on the Continent, but also on both history and Bible prophecy. This is what Christ meant when He said in Luke 21, "Watch *and pray*." Watching world events will not save a person from the impending disaster. Our watching must be done in the context of urgent prayer and in-depth Bible study.

Actually, effective watching—which leads a person to being so moved by the danger of the times in which he lives that he feels impelled to seek after God—is a function of prayer and intense study of the Bible and God's prophecies regarding end-time events. To *truly understand* what's happening in Europe, one must understand Germany in history and prophecy. If this subject genuinely interests you, request and study, in this order, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, and *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*



The Battle for Sunday

The Vatican wants to establish Sunday observance in EU law. If our peoples really understood history, this would terrify them. **BY RICHARD PALMER**

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS been fighting to make Sunday observance mandatory in Europe for the past 15 years. Its efforts have not yet succeeded in having a Sunday rest enshrined in European Union law—though at times it has come close.

Over the past few months, the church has been on the attack using the EU's Working Time Directive.

A hideously socialist piece of legislation, the Working Time Directive makes it illegal for a person to work for more than 48 hours a week. When originally passed back in 1993, the directive required all employees to have a weekly rest period, which "shall in principle include Sunday"—though it did concede that "it is ultimately for each member state to decide whether Sunday should be included in the weekly rest period, and if so to what extent." But before EU nations enforced the directive, the European Court of Justice annulled the provision that would require employees to rest on Sunday.

Catholics have been trying to get the provision back in the directive ever since. They may be close to doing so. The principle of Sunday rest is already codified in EU law for all employees under 18, within the 1994 Protection of Young People at Work Directive. It would be just one more step for the EU to impose it on the whole workforce.

Many members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have supported the introduction of a Sunday rest clause over the past few months. More than 40 MEPs signed two amendments to the Working Time Directive that would enforce Sunday observance "in principle." The amendments did not go to vote for procedural reasons.

Of course, behind the latest Sunday amendment proposals is the Catholic Church. The Brussels-based Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community (COMECE), a group of Catholic bishops, has been leading the charge. In a November statement calling for the European Parliament to enforce Sunday, COMECE said: "If the European Parliament is taking seriously the point clearly outlined in the directive, it would

be logical that it completed the present text with a disposition on Sunday as a day of weekly rest." The protection of Sunday, said COMECE Secretary General Piotr Mazurkiewicz, "is a cornerstone of the European social model and an issue of central importance for workers and their families" (TheParliament.com, Nov. 10, 2008). COMECE representatives have also met with a number of politicians to push their cause.

The directive will be under discussion for a few more months. COMECE admonished the church to "stay mobilized" on



the Sunday issue (press release, Dec. 17, 2008). Don't be surprised if a little pressure from the right place gets a new amendment added enforcing Sunday.

The pope has been a strong advocate of the revival of Sunday keeping. "Without Sunday [worship], we cannot live!" Pope Benedict XVI declared during a mass on Sept. 9, 2007, stating that it was a "necessity" for all people.

The prospect of a European government so powerful that it could declare one specific day a day of rest is frightening. This would be an EU willing and able to enforce lifestyle changes on its subjects whether they liked it or not. It would be a Europe that enforced a state religion: Catholicism.

Historically, when the Catholic Church has started telling everyone to observe Sunday, it has soon after started enforcing that law with brutality. Take the Council of Laodicea, for example. In A.D. 363, the Catholic Church proclaimed that all those

who did not keep Sunday, but rather rested on Saturday, were "anathema"—cursed, or excommunicated—from Christ. The Roman Empire then started torturing and martyring all who disobeyed. After Charlemagne gained power over Europe, he too began murdering those who kept Saturday. Throughout the Middle Ages, Saturday observers were tortured and murdered at the behest of the Catholic Church.

Every time Europe has been strong and united, it has enforced Sunday worship. Europe is becoming united, and its leaders are once again trying to enforce Sunday.

Making Sunday observance mandatory is just the first step down a bloody but well-worn road. Yet Pope Benedict has said that the revival of Sunday worship is fundamental to his mission.

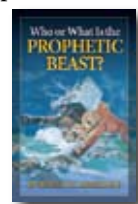
To anyone familiar with the teachings of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, the fact that the EU is blatantly trying to

enforce Sunday should be electrifying. Here is what he wrote: "The Roman Church caused people to receive the mark of pagan Rome—the Sunday observed by the pagan Roman Empire—and the penalty for disobedience was death! Fifty million or more were put to death—so says history. ... Yes, the mark... once again will be enforced! No one will be able to hold a job or engage in business with-

out it. Those refusing will once again be tortured and martyred—probably by the secret police of the political state—but at the behest of the church!" (*Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*).

Mr. Armstrong wrote those words over 56 years ago, before the European Economic Community even started. Now, European leaders are discussing amendments that would force Sunday observance on the whole of Europe, exactly the way Mr. Armstrong said they would. Bible prophecy reveals that, soon, no one will be allowed to work on Sunday, and those who wish to observe Saturday will be unable to buy or sell (Revelation 13:16-17). As in the past, when the Catholic Church has the power to enforce Sunday, life will be brutal for those who disagree. ■

To find out more about Europe's future, request Mr. Armstrong's booklet *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?*



Rising Up

News of a construction project that has the *Trumpet* staff excited and inspired

ALLOW US TO SHARE SOME NEWS about an exciting project we are involved in.

The Philadelphia Church of God (PCG), which publishes this magazine, also sponsors the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation. In addition to supporting projects like the archaeological excavations on King David's palace in Jerusalem, the foundation stages a concert series for the local community here at our headquarters facility in Edmond, Oklahoma. For several years now, we have brought world-famous performing artists to Edmond from all over the globe, including the Canadian Brass, Vienna Choir Boys and the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet. This past December, we hosted the internationally known 5 Browns to a sellout crowd.

To this point, we have staged those performances in a multi-purpose building on our campus. It has served adequately. But earlier last year, when we announced at a King's Singers concert that we were moving forward with plans to construct a new multi-million-dollar performing arts center, the audience spontaneously broke into a lengthy and spirited applause.

We broke ground on the new structure in January of 2008. Now, a year later, all of the basement work has been completed,

and the steel is being erected. Our excitement for the auditorium's completion—due in about another year—is growing daily.

Many in the community are excited along with us. When *Edmond Life and Leisure's* Dr. Clif Warren came to review the 5 Browns, he commented on our concert series: "A packed, sellout auditorium of 700 attendees suggests that the success of the quality programming of the Armstrong College arts agenda may portend their crown jewel [Armstrong Auditorium] planned to open next year may outgrow its seating of only 800 well before the building is completed."

Armstrong Auditorium is made possible by special gifts from members of the PCG and other

ARMSTRONG AUDITORIUM

Steel erectors in the midst of rapid progress on the building's grand lobby at the end of 2008. Inset: an architect's rendering of the finished building.



supporters as a monument to the honor and glory of the living God. Since we believe God's way of life is that of serving and giving, we are eager to share the benefits of this hall with the community. When it opens in early 2010, we plan to host numerous concerts, lectures, master classes, special educational performances for school children, and other major community activities. This is a gift to the community, and we believe it will prove to be a magnificent cultural jewel in the crown of Edmond.

This building, in a very real sense, will embody the way of togetherness, cooperation and love—of continually striving to put God first in our individual lives and to love our neighbors as

ourselves. It represents a *way of life* that strives for godliness and excellence in all things, that promotes marriage and family, upholds God's commandments and the laws of men, and upbuilds communities. It's a way of life filled with robust activity, rigorous accomplishment and exciting opportunity—and one the Prophet Isaiah said will soon SPREAD over all the Earth.

We seek to *share* that way of life now. This is why we do not ask for money on our television program and why our many magazines and publications carry no subscription price.

We feel that the steel rising up out of the ground in our front yard typifies an effort to build nobleness of character in service to God and fellow man. We will continue, with God's help, to practice the giving, serving, sharing way of life—to strive, within a world of mounting evils and ills, to show the beauty and hope in God's creation, the awesome potential in the mind of man that He created, and the joy that the way of give truly brings to all who embrace it. ■



INVASION FROM WITHIN



A deadly foreign army has invaded Britain. Will the UK awaken before it is too late? BY BRAD MACDONALD

IN SCOTLAND, EXCEEDING THE speed limit by more than 30 mph is generally penalized by the loss of one's license. Except, it would seem, if you are a polygamous Muslim husband dashing between two wives in two different towns.

That exact scenario occurred last year when a Scottish judge allowed a Muslim husband to retain his license after he was booked for driving 64 mph in a 30-mph zone. "He has one wife in Motherwell and another in Glasgow and sleeps with one one night and stays with the other the next on an alternate basis," argued Mohammed Anwar's lawyer. "Without his driving license, he would be unable to do this on a regular basis."

This episode is a measure of the bloodless cultural and legal invasion by the armies of Islam into British society and Britain's judicial system.

What does a British judge's acceptance of the Muslim practice of polygamy—even when it leads to the breaking of British law—say about the extent of Islam's incursion into Britain?

The British judicial system and government now accepts the primarily Muslim practice of polygamy. British welfare laws, for example, allow for husbands to collect state handouts *for each wife* as long as the marriage ceremonies were performed in polygamy-tolerant countries. The government has effectively assumed the responsibility of appeasing Muslims and

condoning—even embracing—Islamic culture!

This devious attack on the Judeo-Christian institution of monogamy is merely one example. To one degree or another, virtually all the foundational pillars and primary responsibilities of the British government—equal rights, the rule of law, education, national security—have been eroded by the rising tide of Islamification!

Britain's Shadow Islamic Court System

"Islamic law has been officially adopted in Britain," proclaimed London's *Sunday Times*. "The government has quietly sanctioned the powers for sharia judges to rule on cases ranging from divorce and financial disputes to those involving domestic violence" (Sept. 14, 2008). Under the 1996 Arbitration Act, these state-backed British sharia courts—of which there are many across Britain—when classified as arbitration tribunals, carry the force of law as long as both parties in the dispute agree to give them power to rule on their case.

Britain has Jewish tribunals that operate under the same act, yet they recognize the primacy of English law and *operate wholly within it*. By contrast, Islam recognizes no higher authority than sharia law. Britain's sharia courts often do *not* recognize the primacy of English law or many of the principles it is founded on, which means their rulings often differ from those that would be made under British law.

"Law is the expression of a society's cultural identity," wrote Melanie Phillips. "If there is no one law, there is no one national identity and therefore no society but *instead a set of warring fiefdoms with their own separate jurisdictions*" (Spectator.co.uk, Feb. 8, 2008; emphasis mine throughout).

Throughout history, Britain's legal system has been among the most successful in the world. It has been at the vanguard of the judicial maturation of Western democracies. That success has in large part been a result of the determination of the British to use law as a national equalizer and unifier.

Sharia law is incompatible with English law, especially regarding equality and human rights. By facilitating the development of what Phillips calls "de facto parallel legal systems," the British government is destroying its own governing principle of one law for all, exacerbating dangerous divisions within British society.

Consider further: Because these sharia courts are allowed by British law, their rulings are *enforceable* through county courts and Britain's High Court. That means Islamic judges can hear cases and deliver rulings based on sharia—and then expect the British judicial system, at the cost of British taxpayers, to uphold their decisions!

Insanity!

Ruling the Suburbs, Schools and Banks

Islam's penetration into other facets of British society is just as deep. Muslim control over some suburbs, for example, is so great that they have been labeled "no go" areas for those of a different religion. Last April, the bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali, warned publicly of the danger posed by these extreme Muslim communities. Instead of setting off alarm bells across Britain, Nazir-Ali was lambasted by the media and government for being Islamophobic!

The armies of Islam have also invaded the British educational system. Take Greenwood Junior School, for example, whose administration late last year sent a letter home to parents informing them that the school had, in the words of the Telegraph.co.uk, "canceled its Christmas performances *because they got in the way of the Muslim children celebrating Eid*"—a three-day Muslim festival during which Muslim children do not attend school (Dec. 4, 2008). Due to outrage by parents over the cancellation, the school rescheduled the Christmas celebrations for January.

Also in December, the *Daily Mail* reported on a movement to make Muslim prayer rooms, and even facilities for pre-prayer washing rituals, available to

Muslim students in every Catholic school in Britain.

Islamic ideology is invading—and in many cases being *invited* to invade—educational institutions across Britain, from kindergartens to universities. Islam-tolerant curricula are being written and new rules are being created to facilitate Muslim students, while British history and Christian-based ideology—which liberal administrators believe offends Muslims—is being eradicated.

Islam's incursion into British banking and finance is just as furious. In recent years, London has forged itself into a largely sharia-compliant financial hub in an attempt to woo cash-rich Muslims—despite the fact that, as Melanie Phillips has noted, “this provides a cover for terrorist financing and is a prime instrument for forcing the ever-wider spread of Islamic practices among Muslims” (National Review Online, Sept. 11, 2008).

Of course, the British government believes that by gutting itself to accommodate Islam, it is undermining radical Islam's efforts to stir up resentment inside Britain, appeasing moderate Muslims, and reducing the potential for conflict with Muslims in general. But the evidence suggests *exactly the opposite* is happening. The policies of political correctness, tolerance and appeasement are emboldening the armies of Islam and adding momentum to their cultural and judicial invasion!

“Britain Will Become an Islamic State”

In September, not long after the story about the sharia courts hit the news, the *Sun* newspaper released a video of radical clerics preaching about Islam's plans to take over Britain. “*It may be by pure conversion that Britain will become an Islamic state,*” declared Anjem Choudary, right-hand man of exiled preacher Omar Bakri Mohammed. “We may never need to conquer it from the outside.”

In January 2007, Britain's Channel 4 broadcasted a shocking documentary, filmed covertly, on Islamic activity in mosques throughout England. In the documentary, one Saudi-trained imam called for British Muslims to “dismantle democracy” by “*living as a state within a state*” until they are “*strong enough to take it over.*”

After the program aired, the government leaped into action—but not how you might expect. “The West Midlands Police lodged criminal charges,” wrote Brett Mason, “*not against the extremist imams but against the TV network.*” Responding to a complaint by the Muslim Association of

Britain, the police accused Channel 4 of inciting racial hatred by means of an ostensibly distorted documentary that demonized Islam” (*Australian*, July 8, 2008). Something is desperately wrong when, instead of investigating and penalizing subversive Muslim preachers caught on camera gunning for the destruction of Britain, British authorities attempt to reprimand the TV station responsible for exposing the truth.

Among many of Britain's leaders, logic and sanity have been replaced by the politically correct tenets of tolerance and multiculturalism.

Last July, the Center for Social Cohesion revealed that among Muslim students in Britain, nearly one third believe that killing in the name of religion is right; 40 percent say they support the introduction of sharia law into Britain; nearly 25 percent do not think men and women are equal in the eyes of “Allah”; one third don't think or don't know whether Islam is compatible with Western democracy; and one third say they favor the establishment of a *global Islamic caliphate*.

Other facts and figures indicate, as Phillips put it, that Britain “*now harbors the most developed infrastructure of Islamist terrorism and extremism in the Western world*” (Mail Online, Dec. 1, 2008).

Make no mistake: ISLAM IS INVADING BRITAIN FROM THE INSIDE OUT!

Yet despite Islam's burgeoning armies—and ignoring the brave cries of commentators like Melanie Phillips and of many other frustrated British citizens—the government lacks the courage and character to admit the blatant failure of its liberal approach to immigration and to deal conclusively with the problem. Intoxicated on the syrupy elixirs of political correctness, tolerance, appeasement and multiculturalism, the British establishment fails to see what so many Britons see: that a deadly enemy is growing in their midst.

Who's to Blame?

Much of the blame for radical Islam's invasion of Britain lies with the government, and its naive, apologetic and deeply flawed approach toward Islam.

“The reason for such flawed policies is the false analysis on which they are based,” says Phillips. “The government and security establishment *refuse to acknowledge that what we are facing is a religious war.* Instead, they think that Islamist terrorism is driven by grievances which are basically the fault of the West” (ibid.).

It is no exaggeration to say that a deadly foreign army has invaded Britain.

Thousands of Muslims living in Britain consider themselves at war with Britain—literally! Yet, despite the growing presence and influence of Islam's marauding armies, the response of the British government is to negotiate, appease and compromise their way out of war!

When will they realize this tactic isn't working?

In fact, the British government is making the problem worse. By failing to confront the Islamic soldiers in their midst, and *embracing policies that promote the growth of Islamic religion and culture in Britain*, Britain's leaders are making future conflict and catastrophe inevitable and are thrusting Britain closer to collapse.

Islam's successful invasion of Britain is a powerful condemnation of Britain's leaders. It exposes the dire leadership crisis in that nation!

It is also evidence of a prophecy in the book of Isaiah that talks specifically about a leadership crisis in Britain, as well as in America and the Jewish state. Notice Isaiah 3: “For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away . . . The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator” (verses 1-3).

God says explicitly that He would take away quality leadership from Britain, America and the Jewish state. That's exactly what He is doing! These nations have produced some of the greatest political and military leaders, inventors, judges and orators in world history. But look at Britain, America and Israel today: The Churchills, Franklins and Ben-Gurions have vanished!

While this prophecy is deeply sobering, it's more positive than you might think. God says *He* removes quality leadership from these nations. Think about that. Why would God, the fantastic Being who created this universe, be so interested in who leads these countries?

And if God is responsible for taking away high-quality leadership from these nations, doesn't that mean He may have given it to them in the first place? It does!

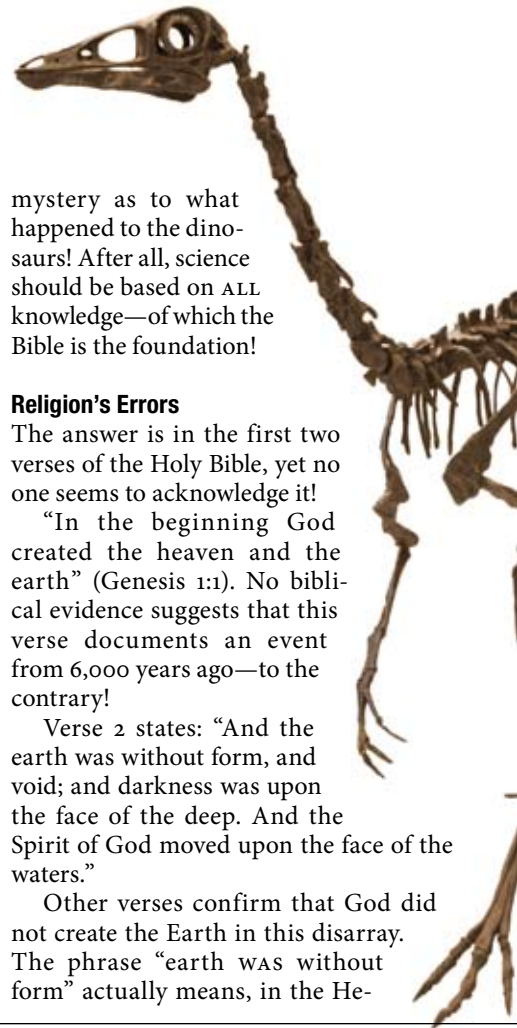
Isaiah 3 shows that God is deeply interested in world affairs, *especially* the affairs of Britain, America and the Jewish state! The Bible *overflows* with evidence of God's involvement in world history, and especially His unique and moving relationship with these nations. To learn more about this fascinating reality, request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. ■



**Does Scripture account
for the age of reptiles?**

BY RYAN MALONE

Dinosaurs and the Bible



DINOSAUR TRACKS, THE ALMOST homemade-looking sign says on the side of Highway 160 just west of Tuba City, Arizona, on the way to the Grand Canyon. The expanse of fossils and footprints, scattered throughout this portion of the Painted Desert on a Navajo Indian reservation, attests to a dramatic moment in Earth's history.

The site lies some miles north of an ancient meteoric crater, and the story seems relatively clear from the evidence left behind. Some footprints indicate running—confusion as traffic collided in the final moments of a chaotic world. Yet, the majority of the footprints seem to face the direction of the crater—as if these large reptiles were transfixed by a fiery display in the sky. The world around them was collapsing. Precipitation had muddied the terrain. When the meteor hit, scorching heat burst in all directions, baking this dinosaur community right into earth—the footprints, the eggs, the dung and even an almost-entire dinosaur skeleton—all of it fossilized just off this wilderness highway.

Paleontologists have left the remains there, says one of the Navajo locals who

guides tourists around, though all the finds have been documented. This desert museum is one of many sites that attest to the destruction of a majestic breed of animals. These imposing creatures have captured the imagination of many a young boy, and the story as to their extinction has perplexed paleontologists, scientists and evolutionists, who can only theorize as to how the “age of reptiles” came to an end.

Mainstream Christians, on the other hand, are leery of all this dinosaur talk, fearing that—if scientists are right about these creatures' existence—the Bible's credibility could be forever extinguished. They assume the Earth is 6,000 years old, and that the Bible attests to that fact. This either causes them to ignore fossil evidence or to concoct outlandish theories that dinosaurs lived between Adam and the great Flood of Noah's day.

On this point, traditional Christianity needs to be corrected. If scientists knew this, perhaps they would be less likely to dismiss the Bible as some mythical text that weaves a tale of a world much younger than they believe to exist. Science would, in fact, see the ANSWER to the age-old

mystery as to what happened to the dinosaurs! After all, science should be based on ALL knowledge—of which the Bible is the foundation!

Religion's Errors

The answer is in the first two verses of the Holy Bible, yet no one seems to acknowledge it!

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). No biblical evidence suggests that this verse documents an event from 6,000 years ago—to the contrary!

Verse 2 states: “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

Other verses confirm that God did not create the Earth in this disarray. The phrase “earth was without form” actually means, in the He-

brew, the Earth *became* without form and void (see Genesis 19:26 where the same Hebrew verb is used stating how Lot's wife *became* a pillar of salt).

How much time passed between the creation of Genesis 1:1 and the ensuing destruction of the Earth's ecosystem as noted in verse 2? Though the Bible does not tell us—it could have been millions or billions of years—it does tell us *how* the Earth came to be in such a state.

Genesis 1:2-10 indicate that the Earth was covered with water and that no sunlight was able to pierce through the impenetrable, lethal atmosphere. What God embarked on, according to this account, was a RE-creation. This is what the Bible states occurred 6,000 years ago. Earth was RE-inhabited with life. Psalm 104:30 shows that God *renewed* the face of the Earth.

Understanding this timeline allows for dinosaurs to have existed much more than six millennia ago. It is only when so-called Bible believers lock themselves into a 6,000-year-old world that they have trouble with dinosaurs. This gives birth to the erroneous notion that dinosaurs had to exist until the time of the great Flood—another Earth-wide destruction. A simple study into the account of Noah will show that he brought some of *every* kind of animal onto the ark (see Genesis 6:19-20). *If dinosaurs had existed, they would have been on the ark*—and still would have existed in large enough numbers to be documented throughout man's history.

Older Than 6,000 Years!

The Bible talks about the Earth *before* the re-creation of Genesis 1:2. An account like

Isaiah 14:12-15 sheds light on this: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet

thou shalt be brought down to hell [Hebrew: *sheol*, meaning grave, pit or exile], to the sides of the pit."

The Bible tells of an impressive angelic creature that rebelled against God before the creation of Adam. His attempt to launch a coup against God's heavenly throne resulted in his being thrown back down to the already-existent planet Earth. Jesus Christ confirmed this during His earthly ministry: "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven," He said (Luke 10:18). Thus, unprecedented Earth-wide destruction ensued!

The story of the Bible is not about a young Earth, but an ancient one that was literally impacted by the rebellion of a great archangel so many years ago. Any details about the Earth after the re-creation are vastly different than those of the pre-Adamic world. Instead of an age where colossal reptiles roamed a planet hostile to human existence, this new age shows foliage and fruits, gardens and grains, and a dominant supply of warm-blooded mammals. This re-creation was a different Earth in that sense—a new cast of animals, where mammals take center stage while cold-blooded reptiles are more of a sideshow. Of course, the reptiles are vital to the ecosystem, but their role of dominance and grandeur is gone.

This world, after the ruins of Lucifer's rebellion were repaired, is one completely suited for warm-blooded humankind, created in the image and likeness of God, to have dominion (Genesis 1:26). Man could not have dominated a world in the age of the Tyrannosaurus Rex or the Brachiosaurus. Nor could he have survived. The fruits and vegetables, the meat, and even the pleasant beauty and sounds of birds and flowers, were all created FOR THE AGE OF MAN.

Global Catastrophes

Whether they believe the Bible or not, scientists must admit that the Bible does plainly allow for the existence of a pre-Adamic Earth and ecosystem, and for the catastrophic destruction of that world. What they will not accept is that the evidence *they* have uncovered proves the Bible's explanation to be the answer to this age-old mystery!

The fossil record proves the biblical explanation.

Scientists look at the remains of the pre-Adamic world (our term, not theirs) and see fossils buried in what they say is an evolutionary order. That is what they assume—finding, we might add, no transitional fossils between these layers. This is something

that still stumps the greatest scientists! The world, in truth, was actually teeming with all sorts of life of varying sizes. When destruction rained down on the Earth, rocks were laid down suddenly. Those creatures close to the impact of a meteor would have been cremated and/or buried and baked near the surface, as can be seen near that spot in the Painted Desert.

This great extinction wiped out old and young, eggs and elderly, small and large. No other explanation can account for such a dying off of these prehistoric life forms—particularly the dinosaurs, which, for example, disappeared in all regions of the world. It caused the extinction of air, land *and* marine reptiles.

For those who believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God, this explanation gels with this divinely inspired text. (For more on this, request a free copy of our booklets *Does God Exist?* and *The Proof of the Bible*.)

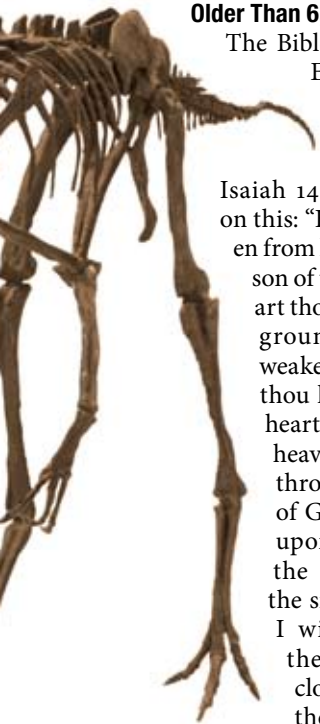
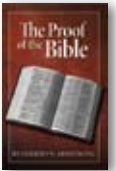
These reptiles did not evolve into mammals. They were obliterated. The so-called Cenozoic era—the age of man's existence on Earth, where all vegetation and life enable human survival—began after God re-created the Earth. Cenozoic rock, because it represents the age of man, consists of an entirely different set of sedimentary layers and fossils than was laid down in the pre-Adamic destruction mentioned in Genesis 1:2. In these more recent layers, not surprisingly, fossils of the warm-blooded mammals associated with man's world predominate.

What geologists have found in Cenozoic rock is another mass burial of life. This can be traced back to Noah's Flood, occurring about 1,650 years after the re-creation of the Earth. This worldwide catastrophe was not as severe as the pre-Adamic one, as sea life was not extinguished.

Bible and Science Can Coexist

Rather than proving evolution, the layers of fossilized rock attest to supernatural forces at work in nature: first, huge meteor showers unleashed by Satan's war against God (Ezekiel 28:16-18) and the ensuing catastrophic Earth-wide flood; and, second, the Flood of Noah's day, caused directly by God Himself.

Thus, there is no conflict between fossil record and biblical truth. Despite scientists' attempts to ignore God and discard the Bible, the FACTS of science and God's Word will always agree with and mutually amplify each other! ■



WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

Ireland WILL VOTE AGAIN on the Lisbon Treaty this year. The only country to hold a referendum on the refashioned European Constitution, it voted no last June. But after tweaking a few things, Brussels is insisting that the Irish vote again. The European Union's "democracy" is the kind that does not take no for an answer.

On Dec. 17, 2008, the European Parliament voted to make it illegal for employees to work for more than 48 hours a week—without any exceptions. If the vote stands when EU chiefs meet to make a final decision, countries will no longer be able to opt out of the Working Time Directive. The fact that Brussels can make such a law—against the wishes of member states—shows just how powerful the EU bureaucracy has grown.

After many delays and a year of backroom dealing, on December 9 **the EU officially deployed the largest police mission ever launched under the European Security and Defense Policy to Kosovo.** The EULEX force, which is made up of over 2,000 policemen and justice workers, is helping **Germany** cement its hold on the Balkans. For more than a decade, Gerald Flurry has been warning that Germany would be "the future administrator of Kosovo and of the whole Balkan Peninsula" (*The Rising Beast*; request your free copy).

Union between the Catholic and Orthodox churches is the only solution to the world's economic, political and social crises, according to Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I and Cardinal Walter Kasper. Speaking on November 30, Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity,



stated that unity between the two churches "is not an option, it is a duty." On December 15, Pope Benedict XVI praised the steps toward unity that the Orthodox and Catholic churches have taken. The Catholic Church is rallying its daughter churches to its banner, as prophesied in the Bible.

Europe's relations with **Russia** continue to improve. The European Commission wants to draw former Soviet satellites closer to Europe, according to a draft communiqué seen by the EUobserver in November. The document also stated: "The conflict in **Georgia** in August 2008 and its broader repercussions have resulted in increased awareness of the vulnerability of Eastern partners." Historically, when Germany—the real leader of the EU—has become aware of how vulnerable Eastern nations are, its reaction hasn't been to provide aid and support. In reality, Europe is looking to absorb as many of the Eastern states as it can

without harming its relationship with Russia.

The spirit of compromise shown in the communiqué is also evident in Europe's other dealings with Russia. After a two-day meeting of foreign ministers at the beginning of December, Europe led NATO to compromise with Russia. The U.S. and the UK wanted the former Soviet satellite states of Georgia and **Ukraine** to receive formal roadmaps toward membership in NATO, something that would infuriate Moscow. Instead, Germany and Old Europe won out. Georgia and Ukraine were given a fuzzy "maybe," and Russia was appeased. NATO agreed to a "conditional and graduated re-engagement" with Russia. Over the past year, an obvious difference has appeared between the U.S. and Germany regarding Russia. The U.S. wants to oppose Russia, but Germany wants to come to some kind of an arrangement, as it did before World War II.

Cuba

Venezuela

Brazil

Peru

MIDDLE EAST

HAMAS DECLARED AN END to its six-month "truce" with **Israel** on Dec. 18, 2008, a day before the truce was scheduled to expire. Since early November, when the Israeli military destroyed a tunnel being dug from Gaza into Israel, Gaza terrorists have escalated their rocket attacks on southern Israel. Hamas has said it will consider renewing the lapsed truce—but in truth, truce or no, Hamas will continue to strengthen its terrorist capabilities and strike at Israel while seeking international sympathy and Israeli concessions.

The danger on Israel's northern border also appears to be growing. Israeli Defense



Minister Ehud Barak told the Knesset November 24 that Hezbollah is now three times stronger than it was during the **Lebanon** War in summer 2006. He said the terrorist group has 42,000 missiles, and that they could reach towns and cities over 125 miles from Israel's border with Lebanon.

Meanwhile, terrorist-sponsoring Tehran has indicated it has expanded its nuclear work, claiming it is now running 5,000 uranium enrichment centrifuges.

On December 8, hundreds of Iranian students gathered in front of the **Egyptian** Embassy in Tehran to protest Egypt's alleged cooperation with Israel against the Gaza Strip. **Students held up signs glorifying the assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat as well as signs against Egypt's current president, Hosni Mubarak**, calling for his death. In addition, in early December, leading Iranian-government newspapers called for Egyptians to rise up against their government and follow the example of Khaled



Islambouli—the man who assassinated President Sadat. If President Mubarak does pass from the scene, Egypt's radical Muslim Brotherhood would likely become the dominant political force in Egypt.

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told members of the European Parliament December 2 that Israel wants a stronger relationship with the EU. On the same trip, Livni attended a NATO ministerial meeting, where the NATO council ratified an Indi-



vidual Cooperation Program agreement with Israel. While Israel appears to be getting closer to Europe, European leaders continue to criticize Israel. In early December the EU circulated an internal document outlining its plans for advancing the peace process. Among other things, it called for the opening of Ori-ent House, a building that once served as the Palestinian Authority's de facto Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and for Israel to freeze all settlement

activity and to transfer large parts of the West Bank to the control of Palestinian security forces. Bible prophecy tells us that Israel's appeals for closer ties with a seemingly pro-Palestinian EU are preparing the ground for the Jews to seek military help from Europe at a time when the U.S. will no longer be there for them.

Meanwhile, Islamist terrorist activity in **Pakistan** is increasingly threatening the supply lines that the U.S. and NATO rely on for the war in **Afghanistan**. In three separate attacks on truck terminals in northwest Pakistan in early December, about 300 vehicles and containers loaded with U.S. and NATO supplies were destroyed or damaged. The U.S. has few resources to spare to fight the terrorists endangering its supply lines through Pakistan, which are used to transport at least 70 percent of the supplies for coalition forces fighting in Afghanistan. The U.S. is already failing

to make headway against the Taliban in the hostile terrain of Afghanistan. Should things spiral further out of control in Pakistan, that battle could become even harder.

ASIA

India WAS BROUGHT to a gut-wrenching standstill Nov. 26, 2008, as **Islamic terrorists armed with guns, grenades and explosives went on a 59-hour rampage** through Mumbai's bustling financial district. While it is still unknown exactly who was responsible for this complex attack, which killed nearly 200 people, Indian security agencies

believe the attack was orchestrated by the Pakistani-based Islamist militant organization Lashkar-e-Taiba.

As a result, relations between India and Pakistan have soured. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh vowed to take whatever measures necessary to punish those responsible for the attacks and said India would not tolerate neighbors that provide safe haven for hostile militants. Pakistan fired several dozen individuals from its intelligence service, but it refused to hand over any suspects to New Delhi. As a result, there is significant pressure on India to take military action against Pakistan. Such action, however, would likely play into the Islamists' hands—and make the U.S.'s fight against terrorism even more complicated.

The rising antagonism between India and Pakistan could push Pakistan further into the arms of the Iranian mullahs and India further toward its East Asian allies.

The militaries of Asia are already broadening their cooperation and interoperability as a reaction to increasing acts of terrorism worldwide. The People's Liberation Army of **China** sent nearly 130 troops to the Indian province of Karnataka to begin its second-ever round of joint military exercises with the Indian Army on December 6. These exercises focused primarily on counterterrorism operations and were held to enhance mutual understanding and trust between the world's largest armies.

Military leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also worked toward increasing military cooperation during a meeting in the **Philippines** on December 10. There, military leaders agreed to share military information with each other in the fight against terrorism, and discussed the possibility of holding joint mili-

tary exercises in the future.

On December 7, during talks with visiting Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov, **Chinese President Hu Jintao** called for stronger military ties with Moscow. The two nations also announced that their third round of joint anti-terror military exercises will be held sometime this



year. *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong taught for years until his death in 1986 that biblical scriptures such as Ezekiel 38 and Revelation 9 reveal that a 200-million-man army would emerge from Asia to fight a coming United States of Europe. Watch as Asian military power and cooperation continue to rise.

The rise of the Asian nations has far-reaching consequences for the U.S. As Chinese technology improves, Beijing has stepped up computer espionage against the

U.S. in order to gain an advantage in any future conflict. The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission released a report on November 20 stating that China has hacked into American databases containing diplomatic, military and corporate secrets. Such security breaches have the potential to bring the American military to its knees.

LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

AT THE END OF NOVEMBER, the Mexican government reported that almost half the police officers examined to determine their competency and honesty failed the test. In Baja California, which abuts the U.S., nearly 90 percent received a "not recommended" rating. Nevertheless, the Mexican government runs the risk of providing the drug cartels with new blood possessing a



higher level of training if they were to dismiss the bad police officers.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is again pushing to scrap the presidential-term limits that could eventually push him from office. He last attempted to remove the limits in December 2007. The potential for violence, even armed violence, in the lead-up to the possible March vote is high.

Russian President Dmitri Medvedev paid Latin America a visit in November, touring **Peru, Brazil, Venezuela** and **Cuba**. Commenting on Moscow's foreign-policy motives, Stratfor wrote: "Russia's true

aim is to secure a compromise on key strategic issues, such as U.S. plans for installing ballistic missile defense systems in Europe and Russia's dominance of its near abroad. One of the tools Moscow has is the intrusion of Russian influence in the U.S. near abroad—Latin America. A tried-and-true method of igniting tension between the two rivals, this strategy was pursued by the Soviet Union during the Cold War and was later revived by former Russian President (now Prime Minister) Vladimir Putin" (Nov. 17, 2008). During the visit, Russian warships were deployed in the region to mark the occasion. In December, the Russian Navy sailed a warship through the Panama Canal for the first time since World War II. Russia is flexing its muscle in the region right under the U.S.'s nose.

The EU launched its anti-piracy mission off the coast of **Somalia** on December 8. It has sent six warships and three aircraft to patrol the region. Germany's cabinet approved the deployment of one frigate and up to 1,400 soldiers as part of the mission (article, page 24). Meanwhile, **Iran** un-

loaded an undisclosed number of troops, unmanned aerial vehicles and ballistic missiles in **Eritrea**, according to media reports on December 9.

Crises continue to overtake **Zimbabwe**, including a chol-



era outbreak that has killed more than 1,100 people since last August. Meanwhile, no progress has been reported in resolving the political standoff, and inflation was at 231 million percent last July but is now believed to be much higher, necessitating the release of the world's first \$10 billion bills. In response to calls for him to step down, President Robert Mugabe told his party at its annual conference, "I will never, never, never, never surrender. Zimbabwe is mine." **Opposition leader Morgan Tsvingarai** again threatened to quit in the wake of the abductions of 42 members of his party. Zimbabwe, once a prosperous, free and fair country, has sunk to the depths of disease and poverty due to wretched leadership.

ANGLO-AMERICA

AS AMERICANS ASKED themselves in late November, *What is going on—and whatever happened to that one \$700 billion bailout?*, they were walloped with news

of an additional \$800 billion stimulus package, most of which would notionally go to buying mortgage-backed securities from banks, and some of which would purchase credit card debt and individual loans.

Bloomberg reported that the \$700 and \$800 billion plans are just the beginning: "The U.S. government is prepared to provide more than \$7.7 trillion on behalf of American taxpayers"—which amounts to half the value of everything the nation produced in 2007 (Nov. 24, 2008).

But as these astronomical figures are thrown this way and that, a new figure is popping up in economic reports: *zero*. In December, the Federal Reserve cut its interest rates to their lowest levels in history in an attempt to stave off the Great Recession a little longer. The rates, which were around 1 percent, dropped to a range of 0.25 to zero. In spite of this historic event, banks are still unwilling to lend and Wall Street is nonplussed.

Also in December, investors who bought U.S. treasury bills received *zero* percent interest. With inflation, that means those who buy treasuries lose money on the "investment." Some traders exchanged T-bills that actually returned a *negative* yield. Institutional investors use government debt as part of their investment strategies since it is backed by the government's ability to tax. "That's how extreme the market anxiety is," one analyst said. "Some are willing to give up a little of their money just to park it in a

relatively safe place."

Meanwhile, the government is passing a multi-billion-dollar bailout plan to meet the demands of American automakers and their unions, and 554,000 Americans filed for jobless claims in one week in December. The *Wall Street Journal* reported in mid-December that 50 percent of *all* U.S. companies could be at risk of failure in the coming years if the credit situation does not improve.

A front-page *Guardian* headline confirmed in late November what the *Trumpet* has declared since its inception: "Sun sets on U.S. power: report predicts end of dominance." The report, produced by America's National Intelligence Council, says the days of American power are over and that Washington will now be unable to call the shots alone (article, page 2).

A quarter of Britain's major retailers are in trouble, with about 60 percent of the top 200 in a loss-making position. PricewaterhouseCoopers estimates that one in five stores could be empty by the time the current economic downturn is over. Retail output composes 20 percent of Britain's gross domestic product.



The *Telegraph* reported November 25 that the government had slashed its UK growth forecasts by the biggest amount since it started projecting annual output in the 1970s. The government also acknowledged for the first time that Britain is facing a recession. In what the *Telegraph* said "was billed as the most important Treasury statements in decades," the chancellor of the Exchequer ordered numerous tax cuts and a massive increase in spending in an effort to prevent the slowdown.

IN GOD WE TRUST

God Haters

Non-believers are getting aggressive. Here's why.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

YOUR MIND IS NATURALLY HOSTILE to God. Mine too. So said the Apostle Paul in Romans 8:7.

"This does not necessarily mean that all unconverted human minds are actively, intentionally, maliciously hostile," wrote Herbert W. Armstrong in *Mystery of the Ages* about that scripture. "Most humans are passively hostile against God. They simply do not normally think about God. If God is mentioned they become embarrassed and often try to change the subject."

That was written over 20 years ago. How times have changed.

It seems every few days another example appears of active, intentional, malicious hostility against God. Many people are thinking quite a lot about God—specifically, how to force Him into retreat.

We are witnessing something of a crusade. It's not just an effort to clear space for non-believers to practice their non-belief. They already have plenty of that. This is a movement to systematically eliminate God from public life—to establish godlessness as the state religion.

God a "Mythological Creature"

Take the story that emerged in early December about an antiterrorism law in Kentucky acknowledging that the state's security "cannot be achieved apart from reliance upon Almighty God." A plaque in the state's emergency operations center quotes Psalm 127: "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

American Atheists Inc. is hopping mad about it. As far as it is concerned, this is tantamount to establishing a state religion, expressly forbidden by the First Amendment. It filed suit against the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security in an effort to strike the offensive references. American Atheists president Ed Buckner justifies the action with this reasoning: "I'm not aware of any other state or commonwealth that is attempting to dump their clear responsibility for protecting their citizens onto God or any other mythological creature."

Not only is God *not* mythological or even a creature, Kentucky isn't dumping *any* responsibility on Him. It isn't dialing back its operations or trimming its budget out of faith that God will protect. Its policies are 100 percent the same as they would be if it didn't afford God this passing acknowledgment. Still, this clause and this plaque pose enough of a threat to unbelievers that they are moved to fight.

Ed Buckner probably wouldn't find anything to threaten his unbelief in Washington D.C.'s new Capitol Visitors' Center, built for over \$600 million right next to the Capitol building. In telling the story of America, it is full of voids where God once was.

America's strongly religious history has been sanitized for atheistic consumption. The fact that church services in the Capitol building were an *official congressional function* for most of America's history has been substituted with the lie that the community was simply permitted to use the building, even for church, when

Congress wasn't in session. The visitors' center version of Article VII of the Constitution omits the phrase "in the year of our Lord." From Article III of the Northwest Ordinance, the italicized words in this excerpt have been stricken: "*Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged.*" In a display showing the inside of the House chamber, the "In God We Trust" etched in stone above the speaker's head has been scrubbed out.

These are creepy, Orwellian omissions. The officials making them are more concerned about abiding by godless orthodoxy than they are about factual accuracy.

If the idea is to avoid offending someone who has a different religious belief than that of America's founders who lived that history, authored those documents and chiseled that stone, then why should that take precedence over offending those who *do* believe in God? A Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life poll in 2008 found that 92 percent of Americans say they believe in God. The other 8 percent are doing a remarkable job of making 92 percent a minority.

Britain recently offered a comparable example. There, if ignorant schoolchildren

want to know what a *disciple* or a *minister* is, they'll have to look somewhere other than Oxford's new *Junior Dictionary*. The book's publishers, in order to reflect the modern, multicultural, multifaith Britain, have removed those words, along with most all others having anything to do with religion. *Altar, psalm, pulpit* and *saint* are gone. The *devil* is no more. *Sin* has been scrubbed. The book can only include so many words, and space apparently had to be cleared for entries such as *blog, celebrity, chatroom, MP3 player, tolerant* and *bilingual*.

"Why Believe in a God?"

Back in America's capital city, thanks to the American Humanist Association, on public buses there are signs reading, "Why believe in a god? Just be good for goodness' sake." The campaign matches one that the British Humanist Association brought to Britain's capital. In January, London's city buses began displaying ads saying, "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life."

These ads, the latter supported by *The God Delusion* author Richard Dawkins, highlight atheism's new aggressiveness. Christopher Hitchens, whose latest book is called *God Is Not Great*, describes himself not as an atheist but an "antitheist." He is a spokesman for many who believe that religion is at the root of the world's problems. Imagine how peaceful the world would be, they say, if only people would give up religion.

Another entry in this genre is the Bill Maher documentary *Religulous*, released last October. The comedian lured religious people of all types—most quite kooky, judging from the movie trailer—in front of a camera in order to poke holes in their flimsy faith. The film was proudly marketed on its irreverence; it was the highest grossing documentary in America in 2008.

As the Apostle Peter prophesied, "there shall come in the last days SCOFFERS"—people who brazenly mock God (2 Peter 3:3).

Filling a Void

The Apostle Paul also foretold that "in the last days" we would witness a rise in "boasters, proud, blasphemers ... unholy ... fierce, despisers of those that are good"—and that such evils will "wax worse and worse" (2 Timothy 3:1-3, 13).

But in the same prophecy, Paul also pinpointed one of the primary reasons for the trend: that even those who are religious, those who have "a form of godliness," would be guilty of "denying the power thereof" (verse 5). Truly, the fact that God

haters are advancing is a measure of the weakness and vapidity of Christianity in the Western world today. There is much to poke fun at. There is an *emptiness* to fill.

Some religious people point with pride at the swelling numbers filling the megachurches. But numbers have never meant much to God. "[S]trait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it," Christ said.

Many of the criticisms and attacks on religion find their mark because *most religion is false religion*—dreamed up by the mind of man. Rather than recognizing that we are made in God's image, and for a transcendent reason that illuminates God's sovereignty over us, people create false gods in their own image.

The *root cause* of these problems, however, lies beyond the physical realm. It lies in the very real and active existence of a *devil* that hates God and influences mankind to hate Him too. The growing fervor among some to stamp God out of existence is not borne of cool, rational logic, as some would have you believe. That natural hostility to God in all of us? The Bible shows that *Satan* put it there (e.g. Ephesians 2:2; more scriptural proof can be found in our free booklet *Human Nature: What Is It?*).

The preponderance of conflicting beliefs, of shallow, emotion-based religion, even of violent and destructive religious ideas that *have* caused a great many of mankind's problems, also trace back to this evil being who is doing all he can to keep people from finding that narrow way that leads to life. The Bible plainly says he has deceived the "whole world" (Revelation 12:9).

What Fools Say

"The FOOL hath said in his heart, There is no God," the psalmist of Israel once wrote (Psalm 53:1). Let's look at a case in point.

In December, *Discover* magazine featured "Science's Alternative to an Intelligent Creator"—an article that described scientists' latest attempt to explain the truly limitless number of factors that make our universe and Earth "perfectly tailored for life." Possibly, perhaps, "Our universe may be but one of perhaps infinitely many universes in an inconceivably vast multiverse. Most of those universes are barren, but some, like ours, have conditions suitable for life." There are *infinitely many universes*, and—lucky us—we just happened to be born into the one where everything is perfect.

This is absolute fiction—a fairy tale in a lab coat. It cannot be corroborated by even a microparticle of evidence. Yet *Discover* said it "may well be the only viable nonreli-

gious explanation" for how "the laws of the universe seem custom-tailored to favor the emergence of life." The article contained this brilliant quote from Bernard Carr, a cosmologist at Queen Mary University of London: "If there is only one universe, you might have to have a fine-tuner. If you don't want God, you'd better have a multiverse."

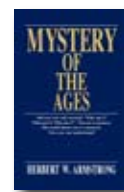
What a devastatingly revealing statement. If you don't want God, you pretty much have to accept a fable as reality. You need to put your faith—which drives your understanding of why the universe is and what our place in it may be—in the imagination of some scientist who is himself deeply prejudiced against the idea of God.

But if you simply accept the observable data regarding our material world, and acknowledge the basic, elementary truth that the universe we see is the only one there is, then you really must allow that *there is a "fine-tuner," a Designer, a magnificent Creator behind it all!*

Look again at the Apostle Paul and the book of Romans. Read the first chapter, beginning around verse 18. The material creation simply could not be a more finely tuned, well-designed, intricate, beautiful, awesome work, the pinnacle of all that both art and science prize and strive for. It's as if God purposefully saturated it with elegant perfectness in order to *ensure* we didn't overlook Him in it.

And yet, in our arrogance and obstinacy, overlook Him we have. Our minds, under Satan's sway, are naturally hostile to Him. And thus, having rejected Him as the lawgiver of all the *material* realm, people reject Him as the *moral* lawgiver as well, and cast themselves adrift in a surging sea of human reasoning and moral relativity.

If you see the folly in the notion that a religion-free world would be utopia—if you chafe at someone referring to God as a "mythological creature"—if you recognize the self-evident truth that there is a "fine tuner" behind this custom-tailored universe—if, further, you can see that natural hostility to God *within yourself* and desire to be free of it—if you are tired of the surging sea and want to latch hold of something firm—then ask us for a free copy of Mr. Armstrong's book *Mystery of the Ages*. In one volume, intended to be read alongside your own Bible, you will find solid answers to life's most plaguing questions. And you'll come to see the vivid, powerful proof that God *is*, and in Him is so much to love.



Pirates Expose America's Broken Will

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

IN 1785, DEY MUHAMMAD OF ALGIERS declared war on America's fledgling confederation of colonies by abducting several American merchant ships in the Mediterranean and holding their crews for ransom or selling them into Moroccan slave markets.

Before the Revolution, America's oceangoing vessels had relied solely on Great Britain's naval and diplomatic power for protection against pirate brigades. After winning independence from Britain during the Revolution, however, American ships were left to themselves in facing the perilous dangers of traversing the sea along the Barbary Coast.

Alarmed by the hijackings and fearing it would be perceived as weak by its enemies, America's earliest reformers argued for a more powerful central government. In

"The Federalist No. 41," for example, James Madison wrote that a stronger federal government was needed to "maintain a navy" that would "be a principal source of her security against danger from abroad." America's international trade and commerce, Madison wrote, "the great reservoir of its wealth, lies every moment at the mercy of events, and may almost be regarded as a hostage for ignominious compliances with the dictates of a foreign enemy, or even with the *rapacious demands of pirates and barbarians*" (emphasis mine throughout).

In replacing the Articles of Confederation with the United States Constitution in 1789, the founders gave the federal government the power it needed to levy taxes on its citizenry, to raise and support a national army, to provide and *maintain a navy* and to **DECLARE WAR** on enemy combatants.



FORMIDABLE? Pirates shuttle back to the shore of Somalia after seizing a Ukrainian cargo ship.

Even after it adopted the Constitution, many of America's founders remained wary of a powerful centralized government—particularly one with an established naval force. But the scourge of piracy in the waters of the Mediterranean helped tip the balance in favor of naval shipbuilding.

... and some secrets about Germany and Britain, too

THAT the world's most powerful navy lacks willpower isn't the only prophetic revelation Somalia's pirates are exposing.

Germany's response has been almost precisely opposite to America's. The nation is up in arms. It is charging to the forefront of a European Union move to use piracy to justify dramatically stepping up its naval power.

In December, Europe's foreign ministers launched the EU's first-ever naval intervention, called Operation Atalanta. It is a huge step forward for the European Security and Defense Policy, a major instrument in giving Europe a unified military identity distinct from NATO. For some time, the German military has wanted to expand its authority to hunt pirates on the high seas, but has been hindered by legal constraints. Operation Atalanta circumvents these legal obstacles, since Germany's constitution allows for such military activity within the context of a

"system of collective security."

Berlin has approved deploying German warships to support the effort. Still, military officials say Atalanta's mandate is not broad enough, and they are asking for more: the authority to aggressively pursue pirates. These hawks have plenty of supporters in the German government, as well as among the press and public. "Nearly unanimously, the media [are] calling for the Bundeswehr to operate as 'robustly' as possible against the pirates" German-Foreign-Policy.com said (Dec. 10, 2008). The situation is showing just how much the German public has overcome its skittishness about taking military action.

Germany has milked this same stratagem for years. Using a unified Europe as its cloak, and pointing to rising global security needs—some of which have been of its own making—Germany has gradually restored its legitimacy as a military power. This

trend will continue, as pretenses for Berlin to expand its armed forces and increase its deployments multiply. The prophetic significance of this development won't be lost on our regular readers, nor on students of Germany's military history.

But perhaps more astonishing has been the *United Kingdom's* response to the Somali piracy.

It appears Britain couldn't be more excited about the prospect of joining Europe's effort to fight Somali pirates, particularly since a Briton will be captaining it. Rear Adm. Phil Jones, whom the EU tapped to command the action, called it "*something of a privilege* for the UK to be asked to lead such a milestone operation and it is an important step in reassuring the international



IN GERMANY WE TRUST

Escaped hostages who jumped from a hijacked ship were rescued by a German helicopter.

shipping community that something is being done to protect our maritime interests."

Here are a few reasons why that statement is so appalling.

Britain had *already* been fighting pirates off the coast of Somalia. Its frigate HMS Cumberland had been deployed there under the NATO umbrella. But it and three other NATO vessels have been replaced by the EU's Operation Atalanta, which includes



“The majority of the members of Congress, irrespective of their feelings toward federalism, could no longer bear the disgrace of kowtowing to Barbary,” Michael Oren wrote in *Power, Faith and Fantasy*.

“The liberation of our citizens has an intimate connection with the liberation of

our commerce in the Mediterranean,” said then Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. President George Washington added, “If we desire to avoid insult, we MUST be able to repel it.”

So Congress authorized the construction of six frigates, and the U.S. Navy

was born. Soon after, the United States of America waged its first overseas war—*against pirates of the Mediterranean*.

Somalia Again Humbles American Might

Today, more than 200 years later, the United States has the largest, most powerful navy in the world—*by far*. Yet last November, Somali pirates aboard speed boats embarrassed the American superpower when they hijacked a massive oil tanker bound for the U.S. through a waterway patrolled by the U.S. Fifth Fleet.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted to being “stunned” by the “extraordinary rise” in hijacking attempts. In a 12-day period in November, Somali pirates seized *nine* vessels passing through the Gulf of Aden. All totaled, as of mid-December 19 ships and at least 383 crew members were being held hostage by Somalia. Yet Vice Adm. William E. Gortney, who commands the Fifth Fleet, told the *New York Times* that there were NO PLANS to rescue any of them.

The most powerful naval force in the world simply WILL NOT ACT!

Admiral Mullen complained about “legal and military obstacles” to fighting

Britain’s HMS Northumberland.

In essence, Britain is exchanging one frigate for another, expressly for the “privilege” of sailing for the first time under an EU flag, subject to EU political control!

In lieu of backing the Atlantic alliance, Britain is supporting the EU’s vainglorious effort to forge its own military identity—one that European leaders have openly stated is intended to check the power of Britain’s strongest ally, the United States.

And Britain can hardly spare an extra ship. HMS Northumberland is one of only *seven* British warships capable of deployment right now. This frigate is actually being *diverted* for this mission to benefit *Germany* primarily. It had been slated to head for the South Atlantic—in order to secure the *Falkland Islands*.

Guess what happened the last time Britain reduced its naval presence there? It withdrew the ice patrol vessel HMS *Endurance* from the seas around the Falklands in 1982. The Argentine military took the

opportunity to invade. *The Falklands War resulted*.

The Falklands are a highly strategic sea gate guarding passage of sea traffic between the South Pacific and southern Atlantic oceans and the Antarctic. Britain has claimed them since 1690 and defended its claim multiple times, in keeping with a prophecy that the end-time nations of Israel, of which Britain is a main one, would “possess the gate of his enemies.” But prophecy also showed that a rebellious Britain would *lose* those gates (e.g. Deuteronomy 28:52). And so it has, one by one. Consequently, we have been watching for the Falklands to fall for some years.

Now, since the warship that Britain was going to send there will be tied up on an EU mission, it is instead sending a Royal Fleet Auxiliary landing ship with a crew of civilian sailors—easy pickings should anyone decide it’s finally time to pry the Falklands from British hands.

That Britain would choose the German-inspired piracy mission

over protecting the Falklands is ghastly. “What on Earth are we doing putting EU flag-waving ahead of our own security priorities?” the Tory shadow defense secretary Liam Fox asked. Excellent question. “It is outrageous that the British government would ever diminish the protection of our strategic interests in order to pay homage to the politics of the EU,” he said (*Telegraph.co.uk*, Dec. 7, 2008).

How far Britain has fallen from the days of Pax Britannia! The Royal Navy once forged the British Empire—it extended and defined British power around the world. Under Lord Salisbury, the law mandated that it be larger than the world’s next two largest navies combined!

Today’s navy is like that of the past only in name. “The Royal Navy has been pared to the bone,” a senior naval source told the *Telegraph*. “In any shooting war with a serious enemy the Royal Navy would *cease to exist within a few weeks*” (ibid.).

That the EU is encouraging

and hastening this process, exploiting the resources of the Royal Navy in order to extend its own military footprint, is especially insidious. Is Germany—which is deeply entrenched in Argentina—actually pushing Britain to abandon the Falklands in order to satisfy its own ambitions in South America?

The inevitability of Britain’s severance from the EU is becoming plainer all the time—an event biblical prophecy strongly indicates and which we have spoken of often. It appears Britain could well lose the Falklands while trying to please Europe—only to then lose Europe as well.

Those Somali pirates are only chasing after short-sighted, selfish gain. But their crimes are uncovering so much that biblical prophecy has directed us to watch for—not just a weak-willed America, but also a weakened Britain that will be stripped of its possessions, and a German-led Europe growing in military strength at their expense. **JOEL HILLIKER**

piracy. “One of the challenges that you have in piracy, clearly, is, if you are intervening and you capture pirates, is there a path to prosecute them?” Mullen said (*New York Times*, Nov. 19, 2008).

This is what most concerns America’s military brass—whether or not PIRATES can be *prosecuted*?

After some criticism had been leveled at the United States for not taking a lead role in defeating the pirates, Defense Department Press Secretary Geoff Morrell strenuously defended the Navy. “This notion that there’s inaction out there is just utterly false,” Morrell said at a press conference. Morrell admitted that the Navy was at least partly responsible for protecting international shipping lanes. “But the companies ... also have an obligation to secure their ships to prevent incidents such that we’ve been seeing at alarming rates over the past several months,” he added, suggesting companies take additional precautions like adding armed guards.

What a comfort *that* must be to international shipping merchants: *You’re on your own fellas!* And think of the clear message America’s inaction sends to hostile powers.

In the days of Washington, Adams and Jefferson, America was concerned about being *perceived* as weak. Not anymore!

Regarding the oil tanker en route to America, the U.S. Navy *knows* where the captured ship is located. It even has permission from the United Nations to enter Somali waters in pursuit of the pirates.

But it lacks the *will* to act.

“We know where these guys live and where their ships and boats operate from—it’d be a simple mission to take them out,” a retired Marine general told *Time*. “There was talk of the U.S. military doing some kind of mission—the Navy would love to do it—but *there’s no stomach for it right now*” (Nov. 19, 2008).

AWESOME MILITARY MIGHT—and pitifully *weak* willpower to go with it.

The pirates are hearing this message loud and clear. After capturing the oil tanker, they audaciously attacked an American cruise ship, one of 30 vessels they went after in a period of just two months. They know good and well America has “no stomach” to stop them. America’s top military brass no longer view aggressive action against murderous thugs as a commonsense approach to combating terrorism.

That approach, however, *is* now being employed by other, much less powerful nations. Take India, for example. On

DAYS GONE BY America’s strength of will on the seas is now as outdated as oak hulls and cast-iron cannon.



In the days of Washington, Adams and Jefferson, America was concerned about being perceived as weak. Not anymore!

November 18, a pirate ship launched grenades on the Indian ship *Tabar* and then attempted to ram the vessel. But instead of running away from the would-be hijackers, the Indians fired back—sinking one of the pirates’ mother ships! It was the second ship the Indians sank in two weeks.

The *Investor’s Business Daily* noted that India’s approach “contrasts sharply with the handwringing helplessness of other navies patrolling the area under a United Nations mandate. Their mission is proving ineffective, and the enemy is growing bolder. ...

“India showed that the only message

with authority in this perversely incentivized void is FORCE. The West may have bigger, more technologically advanced navies than India’s 118-ship naval flotilla, but ONLY INDIA has demonstrated the way to raise the cost of piracy” (Nov. 19, 2008).

The article predicted that from then on, ships flying the Indian flag would most likely pass through the Gulf of Aden without incident!

America used to have that kind of pride in its power, back when leaders were more inclined to act courageously against the forces of terror. When North African pirates, for example, demanded tribute from the U.S. government to ensure safe passage for American ships through the Mediterranean, Thomas Jefferson’s reply was unambiguous: “The style of the demand admitted but one answer. I sent a small squadron of frigates into the Mediterranean.”

And that was when the United States had a *tiny fraction* of the power that it has today. Like present-day India, there was much less power, but a lot more pride.

Biblical prophecy says this is exactly what would happen. There may still be plenty of power in America today, but the *will* to use it—as God prophesied in Leviticus 26:19—has been crushed. ■

Read the PROOF

Meticulously researched, using secular history along with biblical history and prophecy, Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves that these nations are prophesied about in the Bible. Request your free, eye-opening copy today.

dangerous power. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, which explains much of that history.)

The facts overwhelmingly prove there was an extremely close relationship between Germany and the Vatican in World War II (the sixth head of the Holy Roman Empire), even though the Vatican vehemently denies it.

What happened between Germany and the Vatican of World War II is *only a preview* of the immediate future.

Otto von Habsburg has been a prominent leader of Europe in the recent past. He once said, “The [European] Community is living largely by the heritage of the Holy Roman Empire, though the great majority of the people who live by it don’t know by what heritage they live.” That was a great understatement! He also said, “We possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations of Europe equally; THIS IS THE CROWN OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, WHICH EMBODIES THE TRADITION OF CHARLEMAGNE.” History shows that Emperor Charlemagne waded through a sea of blood to gain converts to Catholicism.

In our booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*, we wrote: “For several decades God’s Church has been warning of the emergence of Germany as the most dominant player in a European Union of nations. The Bible teaches that this force will suddenly catapult the world into the third and final world war.

“Yet, even if we set aside Bible prophecy for a moment, there are more than enough modern-day Jeremiahs warning about Germany’s developing links with its fascist past. [O]ne of these modern writers [is] Martin Lee In his words, ‘Something awful was laid bare by the fall of the Berlin Wall. The fascist beast had reawakened and was on the prowl again.’ Other well-known books, like Roger Eatwell’s *Fascism*, Bernard Connolly’s *The Rotten Heart of Europe*, and Margaret Thatcher’s *The Downing Street Years*, all serve as Churchillian warnings for a world that has proven itself prone to slumber as events grow worse. Most of the mainstream press is oblivious to the dangerous, foreboding presence developing on the horizon in Central Europe. That’s the way it was before World War II.

“We must wake up and heed the words of this handful of informed and astute political analysts. ‘You have not anchored Germany to Europe,’ Margaret Thatcher said in 1995. ‘You have anchored Europe to a newly dominant, unified Germany. In the end, my friends, you’ll find *it will not work*.’ It is Germany’s national character to DOMINATE, she said.

“While Germany lay in ruin and ashes after World War II, Herbert W. Armstrong had the crystal-clear, prophetic vision to see a Germany that would again rise to world dominance. He knew the Nazis were not eliminated altogether. They only hid themselves, like cockroaches when the kitchen light is switched on.”

Europe’s Financial Crisis

“Germany entered the euro with an overvalued exchange rate,” wrote Bernard Connolly. “It then faced a long period of high unemployment that drove wages down and restored its competitive position. But Germany was also helped at the beginning of this process by the newly established ECB The ECB initially set interest rates where Germany needed them—far too low for most other EMU countries That combination, and Germany’s initial uncompetitiveness, created booms in many other EMU countries. But, as in the U.S. in the 1920s and again in the 1990s, inappropriate interest rates and temporarily booming growth totally distorted perceptions of today versus tomorrow. The result has been that firms and families in these countries have massively over-borrowed and banks and investors have massively over-lent,

often on the illusory security of inflated house prices” (op. cit.).

The United States is currently trying to solve its debt-related problems by lowering its interest rates and making borrowing easier. This is treating the symptom: It may reduce the pain temporarily, but won’t fix anything in the long term. Nations like Greece, though, do not have even this option. They cannot change the interest rate to a level that suits them—they are stuck with whatever the ECB decides. AND THE ECB IS MOST HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY GERMANY.

The crisis in Greece is a forerunner of a whole rash of similar crises set to soon break out across Europe.

Greece isn’t the only nation caught in this trap. Spain’s economy has gone through a similar process to what Connolly described, and now the International Monetary Fund is predicting that its unemployment will reach 15 percent. Ireland and Denmark are also paying the price of overheating their economies.

Does this mean that it is over for a single European currency? Not at all.

As both the *Trumpet* and men like Connolly have been warning, BERLIN HAS BEEN PLANNING FOR THIS CRISIS BEFORE IT EVEN ADOPTED THE EURO. EUROPEAN ELITES KNEW IT WOULD EVENTUALLY COME. AND THEY WILL SOON PRESENT A SOLUTION.

In this context, it is noteworthy that the GERMAN CENTRAL BANK holds the second-largest reserves of gold in the world. During the first quarter of 1999, at the same time the euro was launched, Germany bought up huge reserves of gold. Enough, according to the *Economic Intelligence Review*, to back an entire currency (March 2000). In addition, when the 11 nations joined the euro, they signed over their gold reserves to the European Central Bank, in Frankfurt, Germany.

However it happens, Germany is prophesied to come out on top in this financial crisis. Social unrest and riots will eventually force Europeans to succumb to a strong united government of Europe, LED ULTIMATELY NOT FROM BRUSSELS, BUT FROM BERLIN.

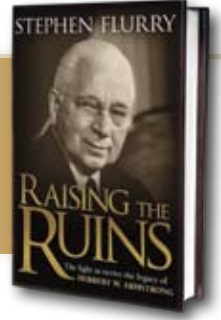
Greece is just one of the first places to have trouble. But national economies across Europe are deteriorating, and soon, if trends continue, much of the Continent will be in trouble. As the old saying goes, “Possession is nine tenths of the law.” The European Central Bank is but a revival of the old centralist designs of the Third Reich. The ECB is domiciled in Germany. Its gold reserves are held in Germany. Germany’s most influential bank is Deutschebank, which has massive global investments in international business. Of all the EU member nations, it is Germany that is in the strongest position to dictate terms for any bailouts sought by the EU’s weaker members such as Greece.

Watch Germany. Watch for Germany to be at the helm in a restructuring not only of EU member nations’ economies, but of the entire European Union itself! That union will be united and then guided by the Vatican.

SO WHO IS NOW THE REAL SUPER ECONOMIC POWER IN THIS WORLD? GERMANY.

That too was carefully planned. The Germany-Vatican combine is gaining power that this world can’t even imagine!

The crisis in Greece is a forerunner of a whole rash of similar crises set to soon break out across Europe. They will provide the catalyst for the EU’s leading nation, Germany, to rise to the fore with solutions of its own making. Biblical prophecy declares that the result will be a European superstate with Germany at the helm. And that is not good news for America, Britain and the little nation called Israel. ■



In his book *Raising the Ruins*, available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is part two of the 22nd chapter.

S T E P H E N F L U R R Y

Offensive Warfare

PART TWO

“The way we look at it, this preface gives us much greater opportunities in the upcoming depositions and trial. I believe this is the only way we can win.”

— Gerald Flurry, *Letter to legal team, June 11, 2002*

PERHAPS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT MATERIAL WE UNCOVERED in preparing for Ralph Helge’s deposition was the role he played in defending the WCG against the state of California in 1979. As head of the church’s legal department, he fought right on the front lines against dissident ministers who wanted to wrest control of the church away from Mr. Armstrong. Speaking before church members inside Ambassador Auditorium on Jan. 13, 1979, Helge asked, “Now what’s really behind the scenes of this lawsuit? ... I’ll tell you what it is. It’s a few dissidents that want to take power and change the doctrines of the Church of God. They don’t like the way it’s being run. And they don’t like the doctrines.” That comment could just as easily describe our lawsuit with the Worldwide Church of God 18 years later, except this time the ones who wanted to take over power and change the doctrines were on the *inside*. And the tragedy is, Ralph Helge had joined the dissidents who wanted to take over and change the doctrines Mr. Armstrong had established.

Helge continued in his 1979 message with another comment that probably tens of thousands today would make about Tkachism: “We’ve got certain rules and we’ve got doctrines. If you like them, tremendous. And if you don’t, or I don’t (I’ll point to myself), then I’ll go to the church that teaches doctrines I do like. But I don’t come in here and try to change the way Mr. Armstrong has set the doctrines” —which is exactly what the Tkaches did. They didn’t like the doctrines, changed them, and then FORCED everyone out who wouldn’t go along.

When we reminded Helge about these statements in his 2002 deposition, he said it was different in 1979 because the dissidents attacked “from the outside.” But even in that case, those dissidents were *originally* on the *INSIDE* before Mr.

Armstrong disfellowshipped them for attempting to liberalize church doctrine. In any event, a takeover attempt from the outside is not in any way worse than an inside job, spearheaded by a Judas-like betrayal.

Later in 1979, again while speaking at church services in Pasadena, Helge said, “You talk about contempt. You talk about utter contempt. Here a man [Herbert Armstrong] works all his life in the might and power of God to raise up churches, and here some pip-squeak dissident is going to control Mr. Armstrong and the church.” Talk about a self-fulfilling prophecy. Nineteen years later, Helge testified under oath that Mr. Armstrong was employed *by* the church, that the board had *control* over Mr. Armstrong’s work and the authority, if necessary, to FIRE him.

■ HELGE’S LATE CAREER MOVE

During the deposition, Helge said he had been told by the WCG he would soon retire and be replaced by Bernie Schnippert. It sounded like his final job assignment would be this lawsuit. Mark Helm asked him about the e-publishing project and how that got started. Helge said he got the idea sometime in 2001 while reading a magazine over lunch. “I just started to read it and it just clicked, hey, this is something to investigate.”

In looking at the timeline, however, the decision to e-publish appears to have been much more calculated than Helge indicated. On Feb. 13, 2001, Mark Helm informed WCG attorneys that we intended to amend our counterclaim to allege that it would be futile for us to seek the WCG’s permission to reprint Mr. Armstrong’s works. We wanted to add this to our brief because the Ninth Circuit, even in ruling against us, did leave the door open slightly for us to possibly rely on the Re-

ligious Freedom Restoration Act. And for RFRA to be added to our counterclaim, we had to show how futile it would have been to obtain a license for the works.

On Feb. 16, 2001, Ralph Helge contacted Zondervan Publishing for its evaluation on “the licensing fee or sales price for copyrighted literature owned by the church.” This means that just *three days* after we told them about the futility amendment, *they started contacting publishers about the procedures and fees for licensing their literature*. It was yet another made-for-litigation ploy.

Later during the summer is when they stated in court filings that they would have considered all along to license the works to us. Around this time is when the e-publishing idea “clicked” with Ralph Helge. At the deposition, Mark asked if there was anyone else at the WCG involved in the e-publishing project. “Not to my knowledge,” Helge responded. Later, after we asked who was in charge of coordinating promotion for the sale of Mr. Armstrong’s books over the Internet, Helge answered, “I’m the man.”

So here was an elderly man on the verge of retirement, who had worked in the WCG’s legal department for most of his adult life, given charge of the church’s new e-publishing “department,” established solely in order to undermine our futility claim and to “prove” they had never intended to suppress Mr. Armstrong’s works at all.

It’s pathetic, I know. But at the same time, it’s fascinating history because it shows how much we had acquired in fighting for the truth—even after losing at the Ninth Circuit. As much as they hated the idea, *they knew* that to prevail on the merits in court, they HAD to convince a judge that they were still using Mr. Armstrong’s material. So they lied about an annotated project and won at the Ninth Circuit. And in order to defeat our counterclaim, their in-house attorney established a new branch in the church’s PUBLISHING department, even on the eve of his retirement.

These are supposedly religious men—and yet willing to do or say just about *anything* as long as it helped them win in court.

At the same time, look at what we forced them to do by simply confronting them. At the beginning of the case, remember, Tkach Jr. arrogantly asserted that the reason they filed this suit was to “block the republication of *Mystery of the Ages*.” Their *duty* as Christians was to keep this book out of print because they believed “Mr. Armstrong’s doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation.” Two years later, even though it was a lie, they talked about using Mr. Armstrong’s material again. Two years after that, they inquired about licensing and followed that up by making Mr. Armstrong’s literature available on demand through e-publishing. True, the literature had to be prefaced by Fezell’s attack, which we weren’t about to accept. But still, *they were forced to do things they never would have dreamed of doing at the start*, simply because we were willing to fight for Mr. Armstrong’s legacy.

My father’s faithful determination was beginning to wear them down.

■ BERNARD SCHNIPPERT

As the WCG’s director of finance and planning, Bernie Schnippert made some interesting comments about the relationship between the church’s income and its distribution of literature. With Mr. Armstrong, Schnippert said, distributing free literature was designed to hook people into a well-orchestrated fundraising scheme. “If you’re going to move someone to your state of mind, you begin at a place you think will interest them and you take them where you want them to go. ... The progression of topics is a type of psychology.” Later, he said, “Mr. Armstrong’s books, when given, tend to create donations. ... [W]e discontinued *Mystery of the Ages* in spite of the fact that we knew it was, to be crass, a money-maker.”

Quite a difference from the party line in 1989—that they discontinued the book *because* of its expense.

Schnippert also elaborated on the WCG’s new approach under Tkachism—charging subscription fees for church literature instead of distributing it freely. He said, “[W]hen you give free literature and the person is told they must tithe, in the end you’ve taken more money out of them in some ways less honestly than if you just charged them in the first place.” Of course, as Schnippert well knows, no one ever forced people to voluntarily

give donations to the WCG. But that’s certainly the way they love to portray Mr. Armstrong’s followers—mindless dupes brainwashed into giving money to—OF ALL THINGS—a church!

Tkachism’s approach, of course—even though it triggered a precipitous decline in church membership and donations—is much more *honest*, in Schnippert’s view. They charged people up front for *new* literature and retired the flawed material so as to “not use it disingenuously” to make money when they “didn’t believe it.” Yet now that they were in the midst of a legal struggle over the “flawed” stuff, they had no problem disingenuously making money off Mr. Armstrong’s literature, *so long as the e-publishing scheme helped them win the case*. Schnippert said they could now justify profiting from Mr. Armstrong’s works so long as the writings contained a “disclaimer that plainly tells everyone that we don’t agree with it.” So he not only revealed the rank hypocrisy behind their supposedly courageous move to retire money-makers in 1989, he admitted that they WOULD NOT make Mr. Armstrong’s writings available without a derogatory preface attached. This was another huge admission for us.

Later, in discussing the preface, Schnippert said they worded it as carefully as possible in order “to be respectful of Mr. Armstrong and anyone who were to read it.” So Mark went through several statements from the preface, giving Schnippert an opportunity to explain what he meant by “respectful.” We asked him if he thought using phrases like “personal bias” and “advertising hook” were complimentary toward Mr. Armstrong. “Do you believe that Mr. Armstrong’s views were the result of a personal bias?” Mark asked.

WCG attorney Miles Feldman objected to the question and

These are supposedly religious men—and yet willing to do or say just about anything as long as it helped them win in court.

asked how Schnippert's personal views were relevant to the case. But *they were the ones trying to inject this preface into the litigation*, we maintained.

A lengthy exchange then followed with Miles threatening to call the court magistrate to settle the dispute and Mark complaining that Miles was wasting time. "This is a serious matter," Miles said, raising his voice. "And if you're going to accuse me of bad faith, I'm suggesting right now let's get the magistrate on the phone and we'll get to the bottom of this."

After Miles cooled off, Mark turned to Schnippert: "Suppose that the WCG literature had a preface which said that the doctrines of that church under Joseph Tkach Jr. were biblically unsound, he was an uneducated dictator with crackpot ideas, that his views were of interest only as a historical curiosity. ... Do you think that would be an effective marketing tool for your literature?"

Miles went ballistic.

But this was all *their* doing. *They* were the ones who introduced the preface and then insisted it be attached to every publication they supposedly offered as a "benefit" to us. *They* were the ones who made the preface **CENTRAL** to the case. So we took them to task on the preface and exposed the fact that they were guilty of the very things they accused Mr. Armstrong of. And when called upon to answer for their self-righteous hypocrisy, they ran for cover like cowards, hiding behind their lawyer's objections: *Inappropriate! Argumentative! Irrelevant! Invasion of privacy!*

But we weren't about to let them off the hook.

One might think both sides in this battle were being driven further apart in the summer of 2002—hardened by the grueling deposition warfare that took place over the course of two months. And from what we saw on the surface, WCG officials were getting angrier and more defiant by the day.

But on the inside, they were deeply conflicted. *They had the copyrights to Mr. Armstrong's literature* and they burned with anger at the thought of our little church—their nemesis—obtaining rights to distribute these works, especially after we tried to "steal" them.

On the other hand, they did not want to be exposed.

The WCG's preface turned out to be a tremendous opportunity for us. Our forceful response to it, my father said at the beginning of the summer, was the only way we could win.

And he was right. ■



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXK 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun



North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, SteubenvilleWBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, ZanesvilleWBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, LawtonKAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXX 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada K TEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL

12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle-KVOMA 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWK-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA

Australia Nationwide Network 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Adelaide, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Brisbane, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Melbourne, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Perth, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Sydney, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Barbados CBC Chan. 8 10:30 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Trinidad and Tobago WGN 8:00 am, Sun

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/ WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Germany's Plan to Control AFRICA

We warned this would happen 50 years ago—how could we know? BY PHILIP NICE



A BRIGHT SOUTH ATLANTIC SKY. Deep blue African coastal waters. A low, powerful, omnipresent rumble. The waters agitate, then divide into white furrows against the prow of a gigantic vessel cruising the ocean off Lagos.

The monolithic hull, 166 feet wide, and more than 60 feet high, displaces 77 Olympic swimming pools of seawater every ship-length it travels. And at 987 feet long, there's room enough to lay the Eiffel Tower down on its desk, a pipe-festooned prairie. The gleaming white superstructure of this \$100 million leviathan, six stories above the waterline, momentarily eclipses the sun, before allowing it to reemerge over a fluttering flag at the stern and a frothing, surging wake.

All of this to do one thing: Transport 200,000 tons of African oil.

More than 4,000 of these Goliaths cruise the oceans' superhighways, carrying billions of tons and trillions of dollars in oil, coal, tin, iron, uranium, nickel and platinum away from Africa's ports and into the fuel lines of the global economy.

As competition for Africa's resources heats up, who will end up controlling these treasure ships?

The Past

Stuffed African treasure boats sailing for Europe is nothing new. One of the earliest instances of African colonization occurred back when northern Africa was known not as an oilfield but as the "granary of the world," a land of lush forests, rich soil and exotic animals. Then, Rome came. In its wake, northern Africa became imperial Roman slag.

In the 1800s, Africa again became a frontier for European colonization. France, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Portugal each took a slice of the African continent, ferrying away its contents to help industrialize Europe. Otto von Bismarck's Germany secured the third-largest African empire, covering 1 million square miles in Togoland, the Cameroons, Tanganyika and Namibia—a sore spot, since German colonial tactics there included mass killings.

Although Britain dominated the African and global colonial scene with an unmatched navy, secure trade routes, comparatively masterful administration and comparatively minimal brute force, Berlin's master plan called for a German *Mittel-Afrika* empire to contest Britain's position in Africa and beyond.

Then came World War I. Kaiser Wilhelm's aggressive foreign policy ultimately backfired. Africa's supply ships continued to sail under the benign umbrella of Pax Britannia.

Then came Adolf Hitler. But Germany lost World War round two, and the gun smoke cleared on a new age: Pax Americana.

During the high-water mark for American and British greatness, billions of tons of raw materials floated from Africa and other nations to the United States and the United Kingdom. These nations also mined 150 percent more coal than the rest of the world, manufactured 75 percent of the world's steel, and possessed 80 percent of world aluminum, 75 percent of zinc, 66 percent of rubber, and dominated chromite, copper, lead, tin and bauxite production. They owned most of the gold in the world and produced 60 percent of the world's petroleum, not including vast foreign investments.

But Germany didn't scrap its master plan. Even before World War II ended, the Nazis implemented a plan to go underground. Six years later, Nazis in Madrid documented a plan for round three of Germany as master and Africa as storehouse, calling for "the unification of Europe as quickly as possible," initially via economic means. "Political propaganda must be carried out cleverly, and the unification of Europe must not appear as an enterprise holding out particular attraction for German interests" (1951 Nazi document).

The *Plain Truth* analyzed this captured document in May 1961: "For its industrial development, Germany requires—much more than in the past—raw materials, sources of energy and a market with strong purchasing power. All this it can attain only in a *unified* Europe and through the simultaneous development of Africa in a *common European undertaking*." The magazine forecasted that Germany would succeed, unifying Europe under its rule and taking control of Africa's rich and desperately needed resources.

The Present

Today, Africa is a continent brimming with poverty, disease, starvation, crime, corruption, war, misery—and diamonds, urani-

um, manganese, chromium, nickel, bauxite, cobalt, platinum and gold. Africa also contains 100 billion barrels of black gold—8 percent of the world's proven oil reserves.

Perhaps *the* essential resource for empire, oil is indispensable not only for gasoline and motor oil in cars, but also for hundreds of millions of other engines in trucks, fleet vehicles, public transportation, heavy equipment and industrial applications. Still, less than half of each barrel of crude oil is used for gasoline. The rest becomes materials for telephones, cameras, appliances, computers, CDs, DVDs, furniture, clothes, radios, photographs, containers, bags, tents, bandages, mesh, shingles, fertilizer, paint, contact lenses, aspirin and a host of other products that help define your life. And these consumer retail products don't even include business, industrial, scientific, medical or military applications.

Empires need oil. And crisis-riddled Africa's tankerfuls are up for grabs.

Meanwhile, America and Britain's influence over world resources is sinking. British colonies are, literally, history. America is officially in recession. Oil production and mining, not to mention manufacturing and shipbuilding, are now riding low in the water or submerged altogether. And the crucial sea gates once controlled by London and Washington—Panama, Suez, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malta, South Africa—have almost all fallen into enemy or independent hands.

Meanwhile, China has become Africa's newest and most enthusiastic colonizer, with wave after surging wave of investments, capital infusions, construction projects and bilateral agreements doubling Sino-African trade year after year after year and making cash-rich China Africa's third-most important trading partner.

As China makes its big red splash and America and Britain's colors fade, the black, red and gold is resuscitating its African ambition. Germany imports 97 percent of its oil from foreign sources, and the European Union, over 80 percent. Much of that oil comes from Russia and the Middle East, so Germany is looking south to its old colonial turf for oil that's easier to come by. Those colossal tankers from Africa are less likely to turn off the tap or blow up.

Germany's would-be quarry also holds 30 percent of world mineral reserves, producing over 60 metal and mineral products. One of the world's largest economies and its greatest exporter, Germany is stringing together a chain of diplomatic and business initiatives designed to finally turn its African foothold into a wide-open garage door.

"When the EU thinks of energy security, it looks not only east but also south," the commissioner for external relations said in an October press release. "We are determined to expand our network of energy partners by building on bilateral partnerships and regional initiatives." This time around, Berlin (with the help of Brussels) is more sophisticated in its infiltration of Africa to get what it needs.

Germany itself has more bilateral African investment treaties than any nation in Europe. Berlin has stretched its tentacles of influence south through the Balkans and Malta into Africa—not with rampaging Wehrmacht troops, but behind the smoke-screen of the EU and via diplomacy and trade. Germany stepped up its corporate colonization of South African markets in 1999, and held the first Africa-Europe summit in 2000, producing an action plan for economic, human rights, terrorism, health, education and environment issues—and industrial development of African resources. The same year, former European Commission President Romano Prodi revealed Europe's intentions: "The plight of Africa is essentially Europe's problem, not that of the U.S. or other powers, because of past links and proximity ..." Europe and Africa have "deep roots," he said, "and we should return to them" (*Financial Times*, April 4, 2000). Some Namibians might beg to differ. In October 2005, the European Commission advanced Europe's vision for Africa further with its "EU Strategy for Africa," which defined a framework for a strategic partnership for security and development between the EU and Africa. A year later, Brussels held the first EU-Africa business forum. And the EU currently provides Africa with billions of euros of aid each year, more than it receives from any other source.

At the same time, the European Commission challenged China to change *its* policy in Africa. Among other demands, the Oct. 24, 2006, report urged China to make its aid and investment policies more transparent. That threat, though subtle, was not empty. Berlin and Beijing are at odds in Nigeria, Angola, Sudan and Congo, as they compete for resources, and both have big ambitions for Africa as a whole.

In 2007, the corporate German energy and engineering juggernauts, including Siemens and Ruhrgas, secured a strategic partnership with Nigeria—an important source of coal, tin, iron ore, lead, zinc, limestone and niobium. Nigeria is the world's eighth-largest oil exporter and possesses the 10th-largest proven oil re-

See **AFRICA** page 35 ►

PERSONALS

Former
superpower
seeks
foreign lovers.

Loves to be spoiled.
Willing to do
just about anything
for relationship.

SALE

et

Rocke
ret

Reti
ing

Mir
celleri
is in S
car

Qu
conta

DIGITAL
New Y

Loves to be spoiled.
Willing to do
just about anything
for relationship.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

THAT'S THE STATE THAT AMERICA has been reduced to, particularly since the global economic crisis began. Though the trouble has spread through nations like a virulent contagion, everyone knows exactly where it started.

Global anti-Americanism is feeding on the fact that the U.S. is buried in debt, and that the free-market orthodoxy it has embodied is a proven failure. The worse the global economic contamination grows, the more that foreign nations are taking the opportunity to condemn America for its flaws and demand that it submit to their will.

And the United States—broke and utterly dependent on foreign creditors—has little choice but to submit. As it does, more and more it is looking like a jilted and desperate lover.

Just look at its efforts to pretty itself up for potential investors and allies.

Keeping Creditors Happy

One stunning example occurred at November's G-20 summit, a meeting of the world's 20 largest economies, called for and led by Europe.

Clearly, continental politicians see the economic malaise as their opportunity to seize center stage from America. Europe's elite went into the G-20 meeting with a long list of demands for new strictures

and international oversight to be placed on America's economy. "Times have changed," French President Nicolas Sarkozy explained. He said that at the expense of the dollar, "Now the euro and other currencies have a place in world financial exchanges, a new reality that he said should be reflected in the rules." He spoke for many European leaders in saying, "We demand to be heard, and quickly"—after all, "we know where [the problem] started."

Those demands were definitely heard. At the summit, U.S. President George Bush agreed to subject America's regulatory agencies to international scrutiny. In effect, this will delegate regulatory oversight to foreign bureaucrats, giving them power to demand changes in the way America does business. Dick Morris explained the agreement this way: "The results of the G-20 economic summit amount to nothing less than the seamless integration of the United States into the European economy."

Why this breathtaking concession? To placate foreign nations. It was a tacit admission of America's loss of prestige and its need to keep everyone happy.

America is desperate for foreign money to support its broken economy. In September, China passed Japan to become the U.S.'s largest foreign creditor. "China's new status—it now owns nearly \$1 out of every \$10 in U.S. public debt—means Washington

will be increasingly forced to rely on Beijing as it seeks to raise money to cover the cost of a \$700 billion bailout," the *Washington Post* reported. "The growing dependence on Chinese cash is granting Beijing extraordinary sway over the U.S. economy."

Just how extraordinary? To take a recent example, one reason the government stepped in to rescue Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—a move that got the federal government in the mortgage business and put taxpayers on the hook for \$5.2 trillion—was to protect foreign, particularly Chinese, bond holders—so they would continue to purchase U.S. treasuries.

The U.S. has also taken several steps to make it easier for foreign companies and governments to purchase U.S.-based corporations. Most recently it has encouraged foreign nations to purchase stakes in U.S. banks. After all, it wouldn't want to offend its creditors. How could America ask them to lend their money but not allow them to purchase U.S. assets?

One shocking move by American leaders to try to preserve the flow of foreign investment has been their embracing of sharia finance—banking considered lawful by Muslims. In November the Treasury Department sponsored an "Islamic Finance 101" course to educate government officials on the particulars of the system. More and more sharia-compliant companies and funds are popping up in the States, meaning that money can flow into America from cash-rich oil potentates in the Middle East, for example.

All that Americans have to do in return is to ensure the money is used in accordance with Islamic law. But as Rachel Ehrenfeld, director of the American Center for Democracy, says, that's no small concession. "[I]t's our money and we shouldn't be abiding by Islamic laws. Period. I don't want to have any kind of association with any laws that dictate wife-beating in Saudi Arabia," she said. She and other critics also contend that the sharia requirement of "zakat"—money for charity—ends up funneling funds into the spreading of radical Islam and even terrorist activity.

Many are the ways that America is dolling itself up in order to attract the attention of foreigners. In an effort to appear more sound financially than it actually is, the government has changed the way it calculates many of its economic statistics. It chronically underreports the rate of inflation in order to make its treasuries more appealing. It heavily massages the unemployment statistic in order to present a better economic picture. In reporting its bud-

get, it skews the picture by ignoring many “off-budget items” that would expose a much larger deficit. It raids Social Security funds, without which the government would have even larger deficits. All of these actions contribute to preserving foreign investment—for the time being. In reality, of course, they’re nothing more than—forgive the expression—lipstick on a pig.

A Stunning Prophecy

America’s growing desperation not only highlights just how much power the U.S. has already lost, but it also *accelerates* the loss of power.

Nevertheless, we can expect such actions to increase after the transition in the White House. After all, Barack Obama’s election victory was, certainly in part, a statement that Americans want to bury the prototypically American but globally unpopular leadership of President Bush in favor of the more cosmopolitan and internationally attractive face of a man with Kenyan blood.

Europe certainly has cause to rejoice in the inauguration of a president who has graciously urged Europeans to assume “the burdens of global leadership.” The European commissioner for external affairs is looking forward to a “more balanced relationship” between Europe and America (translation: more European power; less American power). Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is convinced Obama will change America’s mind about stationing a missile defense shield in Eastern Europe. Many nations are eager for a world with an Obama-led America much less convinced of its own exceptionalism. And Obama seems eager to oblige them, in an effort “to regain America’s moral stature in the world.”

This trend points to the fulfillment of a stunning and vivid prophecy recorded by the Prophet Jeremiah.

Speaking of the modern nations descended from ancient Israel, of which America is currently the most geopolitically prominent, the prophet said, “And when you are plundered, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, though you enlarge your eyes with paint, in vain you will make yourself fair; your lovers will despise you; they will seek your life” (Jeremiah 4:30, New King James Version).

Hardly the outcome America is hoping for. But, given the trajectory of current events, not at all unpredictable. ■

serves. Last November, German President Horst Köhler added his weight to the German-African Forum in Abuja to help lock in Nigeria as a German port of call.

The grand EU/Africa strategic framework includes an agreement made last September between the EU and the African Union to enhance electricity and gas pipeline interconnections between African countries and between Africa and the EU—worth €1 billion over two years—plus a whole barrelful of other development and security initiatives. “Development” ultimately means African treasure boats charting their courses for Europe. “Security” ultimately means providing the firepower necessary to keep it that way.

To that end, Germany has not shied away from breaking out its military from World War II mothballs. The Bundeswehr engaged in African missions in 1994, 2002 and 2006, and is currently participating in naval patrols off the Horn of Africa. In December, Germany dispatched gunboats to the Horn as part of EU Operation Atalanta to combat piracy.

This is in addition to Germany’s behind-the-scenes puppeteering in Ghana, Sudan, Rwanda (where it signed four financial cooperation pacts last year) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo—which is currently experiencing what is perhaps the bloodiest, nastiest humanitarian crisis in the entire world. Germany is also looking to “return to its roots” in Namibia, pouring investment and attention into its former colony, which happens to be home to the strategic deep-water port of Walvis Bay.

Another interesting note about all these corporate and military deployments: There have been almost zero German withdrawals.

The Future

What happens next? Today’s rising empires need treasure. Who will get Africa’s? Who will control the people of that continent?

How can we know? Only with the Bible. The same book that forecasted ancient world empires, the rise and decline of Britain and America, the emergence of Iran, Germany’s reunification and even the formation of the European Union tells us what lies in Africa’s immediate future. Without the Bible, we cannot be sure. But with it, we can *know*. Bible prophecy reveals that Africa’s stream of metals, minerals and oil will flow significantly to Germany.

Germany will become the master of Africa. Its current strategy will succeed, and it will extract billions of tons

of natural wealth to construct and fuel its gigantic, jaw-dropping, world-dominating empire. Its current economic and political woes are preparing the way for a Bismarck-style strongman to take the helm in Berlin and revolutionize Germany once again into a strong, unified, aggressive world power that, among other things, consumes Africa by the boatload.

Even today we can see Berlin strategically placing its military and corporate forces in Africa. Daniel 8 describes symbols of a modern empire that will extend south and east toward Jerusalem (verse 9). You can find additional information about this same empire in Ezekiel 27, which discusses its imperial trade connections. Verse 15 refers to Dedan, the forerunner and denotation of Africa, a place endowed with both ivory and ebony—among other natural resources.

But Revelation 18 affords the most detailed description of this imperial “king of the north.” The Bible is not silent about this empire’s corporate African blitzkrieg. Verse 3 introduces “the merchants of the earth,” the corporate boiler room that will help drive this ship of church and state to political and religious dominance over “all nations.” Verses 12-19 detail the level of wealth this future empire will acquire in the same way that the Nazis reaped payloads of gold, silver, precious metals, brass, iron, flour, wheat, livestock, slaves and “souls of men.”

In the short-term future, Germany will absolutely get what it wants out of Africa. Request a free copy of *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* to find out why. But the good news is that this iron-fisted empire, projected to be exorbitantly wealthy—and cruel—is also prophesied to fall, with the skippers and sailors on its treasure ships coming abeam and standing afar off, marveling at the destruction of this wicked power and “the smoke of her burning,” lamenting “that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea” (verses 18-19).

But this is merely the short-term future. Beyond the next few years in prophecy, a new revolution will sweep Africa, Germany and the whole world. Under this new world system, the world’s abundant resources will no longer be swindled, stolen or splashed with blood. The dishonest and selfish nature that all nations and all people have will be replaced with an outgoing concern for others. To read about the happy, abundant world this will produce, request a free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. ■

The Radical Left

I SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS MATTER precisely (“The Radical Left and the American Constitution,” January). I was deeply saddened for the following weeks after the election results, to say the least. A good part of me felt abandoned, that the former glory of the United States now holds no meaning in today’s view of what America should be. According to the media, the U.S. has been going about it all wrong up till now. ... I constantly remind myself that there is indeed “Light” at the end of this soon-to-be-horrid tunnel. ...

Derek Baggett—LOUISIANA

PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA WAS A CONSTITUTIONAL law professor prior to serving in politics. He will do as good a job or better than other presidents. He will look out for the interests of those people who have been largely ignored for much of the last 40 years. Most of the Christian world has forgotten one of the commandments that Christ said upon which rest the law and the prophets is “to love your neighbor as yourself.”

Ida—NEW JERSEY

Obama Victory

THE EUPHORIA OVER MR. OBAMA’S ASCENDANCY to the presidency once again proves man’s great yearning for a hero at a time of adversity (“Can He Deliver?,” January). If there is any indication how desperate we are, it is the belief that Mr. Obama has the panacea to the world’s problems—another one of man’s predilections for reliance on the self that will once again prove what our Maker has been trying to tell us throughout man’s history—that we of ourselves are nothing and can do nothing. Obama’s victory will indeed change the world. But it will change in ways that will prove to be a bitter pill for the world to swallow. ... Thank you very much for this message of true hope that we so desperately need in these difficult times.

Zuraida—QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

FANTASTIC PIECE. I FOR ONE ANTICIPATED an Obama win due to its prophetic implications both in the U.S. and the entire world. I do believe the financial crisis will lead to some form of riots (race and food) in the U.S. and the policies of Obama in the world will give rise to a strong EU and probably encourage the siege of Israel (Je-

rusalem) by Islamic extremists supported by Iran. Just like I learned from the *Trumpet*. Sad part is they won’t see it coming, and when it begins I fear for many in the

U.S. I am a Kenyan citizen who appreciates the work you guys do there at the *Trumpet*. ... I pray that God continues to bless your work so that you may reach people fast before it’s too late. ... The time is short. *Julius Mwangi*—KENYA

Archeology

IN A DAY AND AGE OF ANTI-Israel and anti-U.S./Britain sentiments, denials from

Middle Eastern politicians, and Iran saying that ancient Israel never even existed and so on, the timing of these archeological discoveries is very peculiar indeed (January). It’s really exciting. Having scanned recent articles dealing with archeology written by the *Trumpet*, I can almost picture this ancient city being put back together—the site of the temple, David’s palace, Nehemiah’s wall, the personal seals bringing characters to life, etc. ... Perhaps, as modern Ephraim, Manasseh and Judah reject their destinies and historical roots, the spirit of Israel seems to be shouting louder and louder ... I can’t wait for the next archeological discovery. *T.E.*—UNITED KINGDOM

The Pope Warns Europe

THIS SEEMS TO BE BIBLICAL PROPHECY IN the making (“A Warning From the Pope,” January). I personally believe a big part of this is thanks to the Islamification of Western Europe; this seems to be a counter-response, and depending on the feelings across that continent, Catholicism could spread like wildfire. *David*—NEVADA

EXCELLENT COVERAGE AND INSIGHTFUL exposition of what’s happening in Europe. ... *Steinar Myhre*—CALIFORNIA

Political Correctness

YOU PUT THE BLAME ON POLITICAL CORRECTNESS (“How Political Correctness Wrecked the Economy,” January). How about the fact that America is losing contact with reality? That’s what happens when a nation becomes sin-drenched. Christ warned that those who disobey His way will lose what little understanding they presently have. Giving loans to people who can’t repay is what you would expect from such people.

Peter Gates—ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

ONE OTHER ASPECT THAT GREATLY INFLATED the housing bubble was interest rates, which were cut from 6.5 percent to 1 percent between 2001 to 2004 by the Federal Reserve. UNITED STATES

YOU ARE ONCE AGAIN DISCOVERING A critically important truth, that authority and responsibility must never be separated. The authority to issue a mortgage must never be separated from the responsibility of seeing that the borrower has the wherewithal to pay it back. And the only way of doing this is to ensure that the mortgage stays with the lender The lender must lend from its own resources. Better still, borrowers should be obliged to take shares in the lending agency. That way, everybody has an interest in seeing the whole edifice stays afloat.

Jock McLaren—DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

America’s Financial 9/11

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER issue of the *Trumpet* dealing with America’s, and now the global, financial crisis. The articles clearly and accurately deal with the root causes of the crisis. The so-called bailout package does not address this. Years ago, Billy Graham stated that if a nation wants to succeed, it should pay attention to the Ten Commandments. He also said that if judgment does not come to the modern world, then God would have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah! For the last few years, I have been pondering this issue and questioned why God is letting the modern world get away with its sinful behavior. We are back in the days of Jeremiah, where God complained to Jeremiah, “these people weary themselves sinning ... and they do not acknowledge me.” ... May God’s wonderful statutes and laws continue to guide and inspire your ministry, and may God have mercy on us all. *Ralph de Groot*—CANADA

I READ IN THE *TRUMPET* IN 2000 ABOUT “the debt” being based on trying to increase American prosperity, and read that that debt “in a day” would trigger a serious and general crisis. Because this day has come, I want to congratulate the author of the analysis and editor.

Andrei Alecu—ROMANIA

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
 or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
 Edmond, OK 73083

Are We Living in the Last Days?

Even many public figures are asking the question. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

A LOCAL NEWS PROGRAM HERE IN OKLAHOMA RECENTLY accused our organization of scaring people with a doomsday message. Never in our 15 years of producing more than 500 episodes for the *Key of David* program or 19 years of distributing nearly 200 *Trumpet* issues, however, have we resorted to such vulgar attempts to lure an audience to our program or publication.

We do analyze and describe this world AS IT IS—and as God correctly prophesied *it would be* thousands of years ago—an EVIL, *sin-sick* world lying on its deathbed. That *IS* REALITY! But it's no scare tactic. It's actually a warning message motivated *purely* by God's great love for mankind—and one *filled* with HOPE!

There was a time when a "last days" message might have seemed fanatical. But with prominent economists, scientists, politicians and commentators now issuing grave warnings about the present course of world events, those days are clearly over.

The other night, I heard a popular radio show host encourage *millions* of listeners to purchase firearms because of the dangerous times we are living in. And the warning seems to be resonating with many Americans. Gun sales have risen by as much as 50 percent since the election of Barack Obama.

Do you get the sense that some people—*many*, perhaps—are concerned about the days in which we live?

Remember how close we were to economic Armageddon in mid-September? "The nation is gripped by the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression," the *New York Times* wrote at the time. The American financial system "was sliding from grim toward potentially apocalyptic," it warned (Sept. 20, 2008).

Remember the meeting congressional leaders had with Henry Paulson when the credit crisis was about to boil over? According to Sen. Christopher Dodd, congressional leaders were told "that we're literally maybe days away from a COMPLETE MELTDOWN of our financial system" (emphasis mine throughout). The *New York Post* followed up with the scary details, saying the market on September 18 was just "500 trades away from Armageddon."

Regarding the American elections, Thomas Sowell, a black conservative author and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, said this about the radical leftist administration that would occupy the White House: "There is such a thing as a POINT OF NO RETURN. If, in those first two years, Iran gets nuclear weapons, we will be at that point of no return" (Oct. 31, 2008). Caroline Glick wrote something similar in the *Jerusalem Post*: "Iran daily threatens to destroy the U.S., annihilate Israel, close the Straits of Hormuz, use nuclear weapons and proliferate nuclear weapons to other states. ... Yet one of the first foreign-policy initiatives promised by the incoming Obama administration is to attempt to diplomatically engage Iran with the aim of striking a grand bargain with the mullahs." She concluded, "Unless something changes soon, the consequences of the jihadist-multicultural

alliance will be suffered by *millions and millions* of people" (Dec. 2, 2008).

What about the appalling breakdown of family life in the West—particularly the U.S., Britain and Israel? In the *Spectator*, Melanie Phillips described how she has been warning repeatedly over the past 20 years about the "fragmentation of family life," how mass fatherlessness has created "deserts of depravity and highly damaged children" who are now "damaged parents," and "that the collapse of social and moral controls" would destroy "the most fundamental values of civilized behavior." As for Britain today, Phillips concluded, "The truth is that it is all *far, far too late*. Britain has simply undone the fabric of civilized life" (Nov. 14, 2008).

Are these scare tactics—or accurate descriptions of our REAL WORLD?

Similar warnings are recorded within the Bible. Take 2 Timothy 3:1, for example. The Apostle Paul wrote, "This know also, that *in the last days* perilous times shall come." Read how he described the "last days" in verses 2-4. It's describing world conditions that simply could not have been applied to an America of 100 years ago—or even 50. But it's uncanny how accurate the description fits today's world.

What about Jesus Christ's warning? While on the Mount of Olives, His disciples

asked, "[W]hat shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the *end of the world?*" (Matthew 24:3). The disciples too were intensely interested in what world conditions would be like at the TIME OF THE END—yes, the *end of THIS WORLD!* Jesus goes on to describe, *not the permanent end of Earth's existence*, but rather the end of THIS AGE—the world as we know it to be, *ruled by Satan* (2 Corinthians 4:4; Galatians 4:4). "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION," Jesus said, "such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew 24:21).

Even though these words came from *Christ's* own mouth, and with evidence piling higher that world conditions are worsening daily, many *still* cannot accept that all this will ultimately result in GREAT TRIBULATION.

We are, in fact, living in the very last days! The more astute commentators are seeing the outer edges of the oncoming storm.

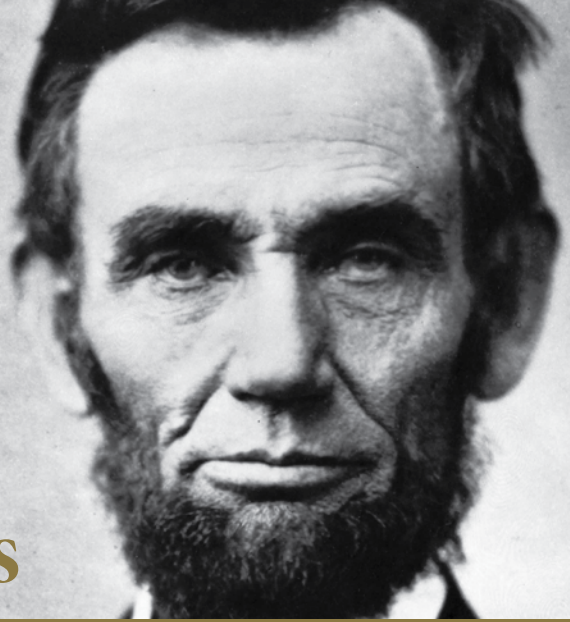
But what most *do not* see is that these dark days will usher in the return of Jesus Christ and the dawn of a NEW AGE! After describing the imminent end of this age in Luke 21, Jesus went on to say, "And then shall *they see* the SON OF MAN COMING in a cloud with power and great glory" (verse 27). As promised in hundreds of prophecies throughout the Holy Bible, Christ is about to return to this Earth to establish the world-ruling Kingdom of God.

We are destined, as no generation has been before us, to live in two different worlds!

Are you preparing now for the dawn of this *new* world—putting God first in all that you say and do, striving against fleshly pulls to live the joyous way that the Prophet Isaiah said would soon spread over all the Earth even as the waters cover the sea? ■



The most important two words in the Gettysburg Address



WHEN Barack Obama takes the oath of office as America's first African-American president, he will raise his right hand under the theme "a new birth of freedom." This phrase was first uttered in the Gettysburg Address by the man who emancipated the slaves and whose 200th birthday will be celebrated in 2009: Abraham Lincoln.

Will this "new birth of freedom" take Barack Obama's legacy as far as it took Lincoln's? History shows that the nation's success hinges on two essential words upon which Lincoln based that new birth of freedom.

"We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain," Lincoln said on the battlefield in Gettysburg, "that *this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom*—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

Did you catch it?

Lincoln had learned by cruel experience that the nation absolutely could not succeed unless it continued *under God*.

That year, 1863, proved to be one of the most momentous of his presidency. The nation, riven by war, was threatening to collapse. The president was determined to preserve the union. That spring, Lincoln charted a course to heal the nation's division that began by addressing the *cause*.

"It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord," he said. "We have been

the recipients of the choicest blessings of heaven. . . . We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation ever has grown; *but we have forgotten God!*" This great president then issued a proclamation for a day of fasting and prayer to confess this national sin before God.

Lincoln knew that *only God* could rescue the nation. God heard and answered that great national prayer offensive—and the nation was preserved.

What about our nation today? What will the next four years bring? The challenges of the day are fierce—economic turmoil, international instability, shifting alliances. Americans watch expectantly at how the new administration will navigate the storms.

As America's new president reaches forward for "a new birth of freedom," let us not forget the lesson that preserved the nation and secured Abraham Lincoln's legacy: that the nation's success will only be assured if we seek it *under God*.

America's past, and God's undeniable involvement in its earliest origins, are explained in riveting detail in our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Written by the late renowned educator and theologian Herbert W. Armstrong, this masterwork on biblical prophecy reveals the startling scriptural identity of the American people, and provides an astonishing advance look at what the years ahead will bring.



Join over 10 million readers. Request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* today!

HOW TO ORDER LITERATURE IN THIS MAGAZINE

In the U.S. and Canada call
1-800-772-8577

To subscribe online, visit: **theTrumpet.com**
Or, send an e-mail to: request@theTrumpet.com
Or, write to the mailing address of the regional office nearest you.
Addresses are listed inside the front cover of this magazine.

THE PHILADELPHIA
TRUMPET
Post Office Box 3700
Edmond, Oklahoma 73083 U.S.