

Would *you* flee  
Ike?

# HOW TO PROSPER IN A RECESSION

The armies  
of Armageddon

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

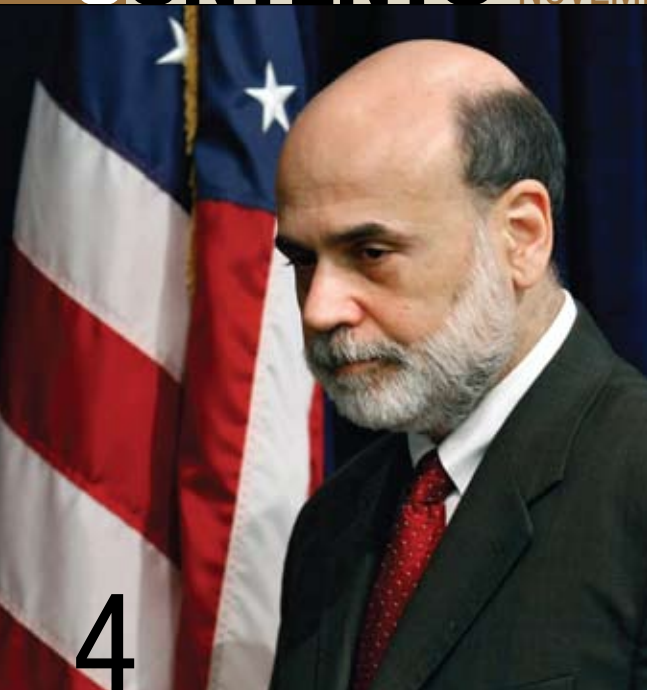
THE PHILADELPHIA

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# TRUMPET

## AMERICA'S FINANCIAL 9/11

This time was worse.  
And it was self-inflicted.



4

20

26

## DEPARTMENTS

- 1 FROM THE EDITOR  
**The "In God We Trust" Dollar**
- 16 WORLDWATCH
- 34 TELEVISION LOG  
**The Key of David**
- 36 LETTERS
- 37 COMMENTARY  
**The Healing of the Nations**

## WORLD

- 2 **Why So Many Disasters?**
- 22 **America's Next President Will Be In Over His Head**
- 24 **A Lesson From a Prisoner**
- 20 **The Armies of Armageddon**  
The Russia-Georgia conflict and Germany's response is far more important than the fall of the Berlin Wall!
- 31 **Iran's Other Weapon**
- 32 **Pakistan's Ominous Future**

## LIVING

- 10 **How You Can Prosper in a Recession!**
- 14 **How to Love Your Children**

## SOCIETY

- 12 **Would You Flee One of These ...?**  
Thousands of people refused to evacuate for Hurricane Ike. Don't be so sure you wouldn't have made the same mistake.
- 26 **The Politics of Family Values**  
Even as both parties seek the moral high ground, society's building block crumbles.

## ECONOMY

- 4 **America's Financial 9/11**
- 6 **The World Speaks Out**
- 8 **The Cause of the Crisis People Won't Face**

## RELIGION

- 28 **BOOK EXCERPT**  
**The Infamous Preface**

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## The “In God We Trust” Dollar

**H**OW CLOSE DID AMERICA COME TO ECONOMIC ARMAGEDDON in the last half of September? “The nation is gripped by the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression,” the *New York Times* wrote September 20. “Before Thursday night, when the treasury secretary, the Federal Reserve chairman and leaders on Capitol Hill proclaimed their intentions to take over bad debts, the prognosis for the American financial system was sliding from grim toward potentially APOCALYPTIC” (emphasis mine throughout). A former vice chairman of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve said, “It looked like we might be falling into the ABYSS.”

Regarding that September 18 meeting, the *New York Times* said congressional leaders sat in “stunned silence” while listening to the assessment. According to Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, congressional leaders were told “that we’re literally maybe days away from a complete meltdown of our financial system, with all the implications here at home and globally” (September 19).

The September 21 *New York Post* added these frightening details: “The market was 500 trades away from Armageddon on Thursday, traders inside two large custodial banks tell the *Post*.”

If congressional leaders sat in “stunned silence,” just how sobering is this problem? It had to be frighteningly serious to impact our leaders that way.

This financial crisis ought to be causing *all* of the American people to be sitting in “stunned silence.” We really are falling into an apocalyptic abyss!

Is there a solution? Yes, and it is printed on our own dollar bills!

In case you have forgotten, it really does read “In God We Trust” on the U.S. dollar bills. Our forefathers had enough faith in God to know that we must not be tempted to put our trust in the dollar. But that is exactly what we have done.

Here is the giant paradox: America’s only hope is printed on the almost worthless dollar bill! Will Americans face this financial disaster saying “In God we trust”? Or will we put our faith in men to solve the problem?

**Our forefathers had enough faith in God to know that we must not be tempted to put our trust in the dollar. But that is exactly what we have done.**

The treasury secretary said on September 21, “This is a humbling, humbling time for the United States of America as we go around the world and talk to people about our financial system.” We humble ourselves before the leaders of this world as we try to solve our worst financial disaster ever. But are we humble and faithful enough to declare a day of fasting and prayer as Abraham Lincoln did? Or are we ashamed to even mention God’s name in the context of solving this problem?

WE MUST HUMBLY GO TO GOD TO SOLVE OUR FINANCIAL PROBLEMS and all of our other problems. We’re a long way from learning that lesson, and we will suffer mightily until we do!

Extreme greed and corruption are routine in the way we do business in America. Our business leaders and people practice

the way of *get*, not God’s way of give. “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Where is there a Wall Street businessman who doesn’t scoff at such a beautiful scripture? We have sown the wind and now must reap the whirlwind.

America has rejected God’s warning for 70 years through this work. Words cannot reach our people. Now God is going to get their attention the only way He can.

Herbert W. Armstrong warned of a gigantic financial crisis that would shake the economic world. He said this unparalleled crisis would motivate Europe to unite into a great superpower.

He wrote in July 1984 that a banking meltdown in America “could suddenly result in triggering European nations to UNITE as a NEW WORLD POWER larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S. That, in turn, could bring on THE GREAT TRIBULATION suddenly. And that will lead quickly to the Second Coming of Christ, and END OF THIS WORLD as we know it” (emphasis his).

In August 1984, one month later, he prophesied about a nuclear catastrophe described in Matthew 24 that would usher in the return of Christ. “Now we’re hearing in the news of a soon-coming nuclear winter,” he wrote. “Nuclear explosions will produce an Earth-covering cloud that will give us a nuclear night. The sun will not get through. Crops will not grow. Billions will be killed by the nuclear blasts. Those remaining will starve. ...

“[T]his is no wolf-wolf cry! It is PROPHESIED in your Bible! It is REAL! And ... *economic crisis threatens to bring this about* ...”

Notice, this unparalleled suffering will be ushered in by a prodigious economic crisis! That means that the September 2008 “economic crisis threatens to bring this about”! This financial meltdown is leading directly to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

God is punishing America, the British peoples and the Jewish nation in the Middle East because of their many sins. More than a hundred prophecies in the Bible tell us so. (Request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The German magazine *Spiegel* wrote that “it really does look as if the foundations of U.S. capitalism have shattered.” When the foundation is shattered, the building collapses. European and Asian leaders see America’s imminent collapse. That means that the foreign currency that is used to support our mountain-sized debt will soon flee the country.

Our government is nearly \$10 trillion in debt and borrowing another trillion to bail out the financial markets! When will this madness end? Not until our *debt-based economy* totally collapses. Then we will finally learn to trust in God—not deceived men who think we can solve our own problems.

When I discuss faith in God, I’m not talking about *the lack of faith* that you see in Christianity today. I’m talking about the faith you read about in your Bible. Almost all of the American people—including religious people—have bowed down to the dollar.

The solution to our financial crisis is to trust God. That faith is explained in your Bible. Request our free booklet *What Is Faith?* It will show you how to trust God and be protected from the economic catastrophe that has *now* descended on America and the world! ■



**GERALD FLURRY**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

# Why So Many

# Disasters

**What's behind the succession of catastrophic events that has recently pounded the United States.**

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

**D**URING ANY NORMAL week, the featured story at the top of every news cycle would have been Hurricane Ike. But the week surrounding September 11 was anything but normal. Instead, the monstrous, Texas-sized hurricane, one of the most expensive storms in U.S. history, was submerged by the economic tidal wave that hit Wall Street.

Former Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan was asked if the economic crisis—marked by big-time failures, panic-driven merges and federal bailouts—was the worst of his career. “Oh, by far,” he said. Later he called it a “once-in-a-century type of financial crisis.”

Remarkably, at the same time, America was also weathering a number of other stormy developments. That very week, Defense Secretary Robert Gates presided over a ceremony that transferred command of U.S. forces in Iraq from Gen. David Petraeus to Gen. Ray Odierno. A cloud of uncertainty, however, still hovers over the next phase of America's mission in Iraq. For several months now, U.S.-Iraqi negotiations have bogged down over the role America will play in Iraq after the UN mandate expires in December. Regular *Trumpet* readers know where this is headed. As we have repeatedly forecasted, Iran will inevitably wrest control of Iraq from the U.S. In fact, that process is now well under way.

In Afghanistan, the United States faces an increasingly violent insurgency and rising casualties. Deaths among U.S. forces in Afghanistan are at the highest level since the Taliban was toppled in 2001.



## THE MADNESS

Is there a method? Galveston residents like this firefighter are not the only ones asking themselves, *Why does this happen?*

Some military officials have even indicated that America is losing the battle for Afghanistan. The situation on the ground is further complicated by the cross-border attacks from jihadist groups that then seek refuge in neighboring Pakistan.

The crisis in Pakistan is actually a terrorist storm largely of America's making. Though U.S. leaders even very recently called former President Pervez Musharraf a “friend” who made Pakistan an “extremely important ally in the war on terror,” they inexplicably arm-twisted him into relinquishing his military control and holding democratic elections. Unsurprisingly in a country that has the second-largest Islamic population in the world, the ensuing election brought leaders into power who are proving themselves far more hostile to America's influence. Pakistan has quickly gone from being an important ally against

terror to being a **CENTRAL FRONT** in the war on terror! All of this is playing out exactly as we said it would happen in January.

Then there's Tehran's involvement. Although it is not often acknowledged in Washington, jihadists and weaponry are also pouring into Afghanistan from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The fact that Shia Iran is supplying Taliban extremists, who are Sunni, flies in the face of conventional wisdom, which teaches us that Sunni and Shia don't mix. Yet, even the 9/11 Commission concluded in 2004 that there was “strong evidence that Iran facilitated the transit of al Qaeda members into and out of Afghanistan before 9/11, and that some of these were future 9/11 hijackers.” When it comes to knocking out the United States, annihilating Israel and pushing hard against the European king of the north, Iran is quite happy to form

# ers?



strategic alliances with Sunni jihadist organizations. The Islamic Republic of Iran is the head of the terrorist snake—the biblically prophesied KING OF THE SOUTH. It's the *next* disaster looming on the horizon.

The fact that all these troubles are hitting in such rapid succession is no coincidence.

During an editorial meeting on July 15, my father told our writers that as prophesied events pound this world with ever-increasing intensity, our warning message needs to get STRONGER. He said that our nations—the United States, the British peoples and biblical Judah, called “Israel” today—have collectively reached the point of no return.

My father's comments were later converted into an article that appeared in our September issue. Notice what he wrote: “If you study the biblical prophets, there came a point when their warnings no longer spoke about repentance. They were simply

bold statements of fact—spoken as a witness against those peoples who had rejected God. I strongly believe our nations today ... have passed the point of no return. The hope of their turning to God during this age has been eclipsed by the magnitude of their rebellion! ... *The increase in catastrophic events shows God strengthening His correction*” (emphasis mine).

Since he made those comments, the pace of catastrophic events has increased all the more. If you've been watching world events, YOU KNOW THAT'S TRUE!

“Have you noticed the dramatic increase in catastrophic events lately?”, my father asked in that article. He highlighted two disasters in particular: the economic collapse and catastrophic weather. Regarding the bailouts of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, he wrote, “The government is bailing them out—but is already so deeply

indebted that *it* needs to be bailed out!”

“Meanwhile,” he wrote, “within the U.S. and around the world we see an acceleration in weather disasters.” Look at what happened after he wrote that.

Yes, America, Britain and Israel are *past the point of no return*. The pace of catastrophic events will continue to accelerate. In this issue of the *Trumpet*, we look at the most dramatic of these most recent events and show you how they are fulfilling exactly what God has prophesied for the latter-day descendants of ancient Israel.

The good news is, those same prophecies show where these events are *leading*. All signs indicate that we are now very near to the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth as King of kings! ■



# America's Financial 9/11

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were a warning from God. Seven years later, almost to the day, another crisis left the financial world teetering on the edge. But this one was self-inflicted. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**



## GROUND ZERO

The New York Stock Exchange after September 16's opening bell

**T**HE DAYS SURROUNDING SEPT. 11, 2008, will go down in infamy. The speed at which so many of America's most prestigious financial institutions collapsed should be etched into the minds of the American populace—

because, whether or not people want to admit it, that disastrous, gut-wrenching, sobering week represented a drastic turning point in U.S. financial hegemony.

What remains is a gaping crater in the nation's now-discredited economic core.

Consider 154-year-old financial icon Lehman Brothers. This revered banking giant survived the American Civil War, two world wars and the Great Depression. But on Friday, September 12, America's fourth-largest investment bank began to fail. By the following Monday morning, it was the *largest corporate bankruptcy in the history of the world*. This momentous event sent shock waves through the system. Lehman's investors and business partners hemorrhaged money. Global stock markets plunged. The Dow Jones took its biggest single-day fall since the morning, seven years before, when two airliners slammed into the World Trade Center in the heart of New York's financial district.

All by itself, the \$600 billion Lehman Brothers failure was a significant event—but Lehman did not go down alone. After emergency closed-door meetings hosted by the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department that weekend, it was announced that Merrill Lynch, another ailing Wall Street giant, would also cease to exist as an independent company.

That same Monday morning, it was also announced that American International Group (AIG), *the largest insurance company in the world*, had failed to secure funding to cover its multibillion-dollar losses. By Tuesday night, the situation became so dire that the Federal Reserve announced it would purchase 80 percent of the company to keep it functioning.

All of these seismic events occurred in the immediate aftermath of perhaps the biggest shock of all. On Monday, September 8, the U.S. government announced the \$5.2 trillion nationalization of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—*the largest corporate seizure in the history of finance*.

The week surrounding September 11 of this year will prove to be A MORE SIGNIFICANT TURNING POINT THAN THE ONE THAT OCCURRED SEVEN YEARS BEFORE.

It was a stark, blaring announcement to the world that THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC

SYSTEM HAS PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN. And when America's economy goes, the world as we know it will be radically transformed.

### A Closed-Door "Mafia" Meeting

The September 11 weekend saw some of the most intensive banker activity in history. According to the *Scotsman*, the assembly of bankers and global financiers at the offices of the New York Federal Reserve resembled "a scene from a gathering of Mafia dons" (September 16).

All the big names were present: Richard Fuld, the chairman and chief executive of Lehman Brothers; John Mack, the head of Morgan Stanley; Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan Chase; Vikram Pandit of Citigroup; Lloyd Blankfein of Goldman Sachs; Bob Diamond, the chief of Barclays Capital; and senior executives from Mellon Bank and Royal Bank of Scotland.

Awaiting them was the United States Federal Reserve chairman, Ben Bernanke, U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, and the chairman of the New York Fed, Tom Geithner. "It was Geithner who opened the meeting—and presented Wall Street's finest with the fright of their lives" (*ibid.*).

The agenda was clear: to determine how to save their own skins and halt the financial collapse before the U.S. banking system completely broke down.

As we now know, the meetings failed: A *Trumpet* source inside Lehman reported that a deal with Barclays was scuttled at the last minute by UK regulators; apparently they were worried that losses from Lehman would be so fearsome as to critically imperil Barclays' financial position, further threatening the UK banking system. And JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs successfully resisted Fed pressure to extend lines of credit to AIG, so the Fed itself was forced to use its own rapidly dwindling funds to take over the insurer's operations.

### Beyond Fixable

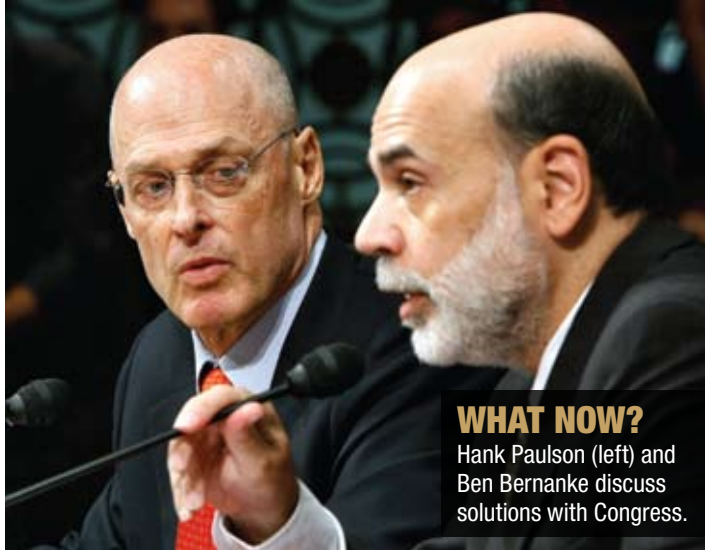
The crisis facing America is unprecedented. But it is not the fact that a couple of banks have failed that is causing worry.

"There's a serious banking crisis somewhere in the world approximately once every 10 years," wrote Jeremy Warner for the *New Zealand Herald* (August 5). Then, "every 30 or 40 years" there is a really big

one like the Great Depression, or the stock market crash of 1973-74, which saw the Dow plunge 45 percent.

The worry this time is that what is occurring is far bigger—a once-in-an-80-or-100-years-type event—or worse.

Economist and university professor Nouriel Roubini—a man *Barron's* once compared to the Prophet Jeremiah, whose warnings to ancient Israel went unheeded—



is warning that the worst is still ahead.

According to Roubini, a recession is about to help kill off hundreds of banks. Looking at America's "medium-sized regional banks, a good third are in distress," and half of the group could go bankrupt, he told *Barron's*. He also warned that big banks like Citigroup and Bank of America face collapse too, although the U.S. government might intervene to try and prop them up.

This is no longer just a "subprime" crisis, he said back in July. "[T]his is the crisis of an entire subprime financial system."

So far, total system-wide admitted losses are over *half a trillion dollars*. But this number may be a fraction of what is coming, and does not include the cost of Lehman's failure, the hundreds of billions that the Fannie and Freddie nationalization will cost, the \$85 billion that the Fed spent on AIG, or the cost of recapitalizing the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation when it is overwhelmed.

The U.S. banking crisis could now be nearing critical mass: where it starts feeding on itself. Bankers are losing the ability to stop it, as the collapses of Lehman, Merrill and AIG prove. Bank failures lead to losses at other institutions, many of which are already financially unstable, causing more asset fire sales and markdowns, and

more stress to the system. Thus, other banks fail, and the cycle feeds on itself.

"The entire Anglosphere bank and economic systems are imploding," *Hat Trick Letter* author Jim Willie wrote. "The United States, the United Kingdom, ... Ireland, Australia and New Zealand are suffering from critically wounded banking systems, led by housing markets" (August 7). Canada is not much better off.

The Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve are sure to implement a number of ingenious-sounding fixes. Unfortunately, any patch that regulators may put together at this point is like putting a band-aid on a wound that requires intensive surgery. In fact, the whole economic system is dying.

### Burn Me Once, Shame on You ...

When the current banking crises began in June last year, even the gloomiest of analysts were quick to point out that if conditions did deteriorate, foreign investors would be only too happy to come to the rescue and seize the opportunity to

purchase stakes in prestigious U.S. banks.

The analysts were right. As the banking crisis deepened and American banks went cap in hand to foreign investors for money, foreign governments jumped at the opportunity to purchase billion-dollar chunks of U.S. financial institutions: 10 percent of Morgan Stanley was bought by the Chinese government; 4.9 percent of Citigroup by the United Arab Emirates' government; 10 percent of Merrill Lynch by Singapore's government. Other foreign investors spent billions more, snapping up chunks of these firms and other U.S. financial institutions such as Bear Stearns.

But then something went wrong. American financial institutions quickly became poisoned chalices. U.S. banks weren't nearly as healthy as they or the investment ratings agencies claimed, and as corporate balance sheets continued to deteriorate, share prices plummeted.

Now, international investors are paying for the folly of their impulsive investments. And as Merrill Lynch found out after its deal with the Korean Asset Management Corporation fell apart and it was forced into a takeover by Bank of America: When investors get burned, others become very cautious about making the same mistake.

That was one of the reasons—maybe the primary reason—the federal govern-

# THE WORLD SPEAKS OUT

on America's financial crisis

## UNITED KINGDOM

The *Telegraph's* Edmund Conway writes: **"This may prove to be the dollar's epochal moment—the moment historians look back at as its major turning point. ... The U.S. taxpayer bailout of America's banking sector is an event whose significance will reverberate for many years."**

Prime Minister Gordon Brown blames America for the UK's problems: **"People were taking risks that were excessive—and that was mainly in my view in America and we are paying a price for what has come out of America"** (BBC News, September 21).

## CHINA

State newspaper *People's Daily* writes that the collapse of Lehman Brothers **"may augur an even larger impending global 'financial tsunami'"** and that **"The world urgently needs to create a diversified currency and financial system and fair and just financial order that is not dependent on the United States."**

## BELGIUM

Former Belgian Prime Minister Mark Eyskens says the world needs a new monetary agreement similar in scope to the 1944 Bretton Woods agreement that made the U.S. the world's reserve currency. The world can no longer stick to just the U.S. and European systems, he says. A **"worldwide control mechanism"** is needed (NPR, September 22).

ment seized Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac: *America couldn't afford to burn its foreign lenders again.*

Foreign investors, including the governments of China, Japan, Russia and some Middle Eastern nations, had loaned Fannie and Freddie more than \$1.3 trillion. China and Japan alone lent more than \$600 billion to the mortgage twins.

These are the *same lenders* that provide the hundreds of billions of dollars the federal government needs to borrow each year to function. And as the *Wall Street Journal* pointed out, the Treasury Department received a flurry of calls from angry and worried Asian investors just before it decided to nationalize the two mortgage companies.

"I suspect this is the first case where foreign central banks exercised their leverage as creditors to push the U.S. government to make a policy decision that protected their interests," Brad Setser, a geo-economics fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, told the *Washington Times* (September 9).

"The United States must acknowledge that its deep indebtedness is especially *dangerous* in times of economic crisis," wrote the *New York Times*. "The level and stability of American interest rates and of the dollar are now dependent on the willingness of foreign central banks and other overseas investors to continue lending to the United States" (September 8; emphasis mine throughout).

Did you get that? "The level and stability of American interest rates AND OF THE DOLLAR are now dependent on the *willingness of foreign central banks and other overseas investors to continue lending to the United States.*" That is a serious, serious statement.

But it is really much worse than that. For example: August last year, two Chinese government officials highlighted how China could use its massive U.S. dollar holdings (which include hundreds of billions in government treasuries) as a *political weapon* to influence the United States. One Chinese cabinet-rank minister went as far as saying that America's debt should be used as a "bargaining chip" to influence trade talks. Another Chinese official warned that China could set off a dollar crash if it so desired. Chinese state media referred to the country's stockpile of U.S. dollars as its economic "nuclear option," capable of destroying the dollar at will.

### The Danger of Debt

This dire situation recalls a prophecy in Deuteronomy 28. There is recorded a promise that a nation which keeps God's laws will receive this blessing: "The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure ... and *thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow*" (verse 12). As recently as the 1980s, America was the world's largest creditor nation.

Still, at that time, thanks to the government's financial mismanagement, public debt began to balloon rapidly. As it rose from the mid-\$1 trillion range up to \$3 trillion, *Plain Truth* editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong warned, "The U.S. and the entire world face a grave economic future from the burden of MOUNTING DEBTS" (let-

ter, Oct. 25, 1985).

That debt has since swelled to almost \$10 trillion—not counting promised Social Security checks and other liabilities. In a single generation, America has become the world's *most indebted nation*. It is suffering from the curse described in verse 44 of Deuteronomy 28.

A huge amount of that debt is owed to foreign nations—and they are already suggesting that they would like to pull their money out of this spastic and sickly American system as quickly

as possible without jeopardizing their investment completely.

Because of America's epic indebtedness, *these nations* now have the power to decide America's economic future! As the Master Economist of the universe says, "The borrower is servant to the lender" (Proverbs 22:7). America has become the

*servant of China and Japan* and all the other foreign countries it relies on for money.

It never pays for a servant to anger his master. The federal government has to keep its foreign creditors happy, even if that means U.S. taxpayers must unjustly pay for investment losses. That is why the Treasury nationalized Fannie and Freddie even though the move effectively doubled the public debt and raised grievous questions about the federal government's solvency.

Ten years ago, the late Tim Thompson, the *Trumpet's* financial writer at the

**Perhaps the biggest revelation of the banking crisis is the incredibly shaky foundation America's banking system is built upon.**



## THAILAND

Thailand's Central Bank Governor Tarisa Watana-gase told a symposium of senior central bank officials, **"Looking at the overall picture, what is now going on in Wall Street may remind us of what happened in our region 11 years ago [during the Asian currency meltdown]. At a glance, the root causes of both events are strikingly similar"** (*VOA News*, September 20).

## JAPAN

**"Japan learned its lesson in the 1990s,"** says Akio Makabe, a Shinshu University economics professor. **"It was wise when Wall Street was foolish"** (*International Herald Tribune*, September 21).

## GERMANY

Left-leaning *Frankfurter Rundschau* writes: **"The Americans are exposing the world to a highly dangerous experiment. ... Who would voluntarily lend an American bank money these days?"**

Center-left *Süddeutsche Zeitung* writes: **"The downfall of the investment banks has hit America at its core. It shows that the country's boom was to a large extent founded on self-delusion."**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel slams the U.S. for its failure to foresee the current banking crisis and for obstructing Germany's efforts in the first half of 2007 to bring greater transparency to the markets. **"On top of national rules, we need more international agreements to stem irresponsible financial speculation. Europe must see to it that we get more transparency on financial markets, clear rules and that crises such as the current one aren't repeated,"** she says (*Deutsche Welle*, September 21).

time, spoke of this very inevitability. "On the international level, strength of character is equated with strength of economy, and both are extremely lacking today in America!" he wrote. "[G]lobal investors are becoming increasingly aware that an investment in America is no longer an investment in strength. There is only an illusion of strength being propped up by foreign capital" (*Trumpet*, November 1998).

Perhaps the biggest revelation of the current banking crisis is the incredibly shaky foundation America's banking system is built upon. The historic blows it suffered in September have irreparably devastated America's standing as a sound investment.

"[W]e have reached a turning point in recent economic history," wrote the *National Post* back in March. "We are witnessing a literal *discrediting* of the financial community *without precedent* since the Great Depression. We are experiencing a *loss of confidence* in our capitalist game and those who play it that will have profound, lasting repercussions" (March 19).

When three of America's five princes of high finance—Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers and Merrill Lynch—all fail within a matter of months, surely it is a sign that global finance has, as the *Post* said, "reached a turning point."

AMERICA'S DAYS AS THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC KINGPIN ARE OVER.

"Once a loss of confidence occurs," Mr. Thompson continued, "the reaction is similar to the effect of adultery in many marriages today—victims of such a breach of trust start looking for a way out, and many times they take every financial advantage they can on their way out the door."

The global system is still dependent upon America enough that this effect may take a little time, but soon there will be a pile-up of sell orders on America's "stock"—just as there were on the giants of Wall Street.

Mr. Thompson concluded, "America is going to be blindsided and totally shocked when she is rejected by the investors of the world." Just look at what the world is saying about America now. Conditions are ripe for this stark prophecy to become reality.

### Where Investors Are Running To

As was the case after Sept. 11, 2001, the world has changed. Only this time, instead of the world rallying around America, the U.S. banking collapse is creating bitterness.

The world is turning away from America. Financial confidence is returning to an old power.

A crumbling America leaves only one alternative. The new rising powers in Asia are too new and untested, and investors appear unwilling to trust Communist China. Economic leadership is shifting *back to Europe*.

The euro is now the currency of choice for 320 million people. Including economies that are linked to the euro, 500 million people now depend on this currency. The total value of euros in circulation now exceeds the value of dollars in circulation. And the euro's share as a percentage of central bank reserves has continually increased, largely at the expense of the dollar, since its introduction as a currency in 1999. Even former Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Alan Greenspan openly acknowledged in September last year that it was "absolutely conceivable that the euro will replace the dollar

as reserve currency, or will be traded as an equally important reserve currency."

But most importantly, *biblical prophecy* indicates that Europe will, if only for a short time, dominate global finance and trade.

Revelation 13:16-17 speak of a coming European powerhouse that will *totally control global economies*. As America topples, this will be the next superpower to come on the world scene.

Back in 1984, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Plain Truth* news-magazine, wrote that a massive banking crisis in America could "suddenly result in triggering European nations to UNITE AS A NEW WORLD POWER larger than either the Soviet Union or the U.S." (member and co-worker letter, July 22, 1984). That was 24 years ago, before the European Union took its present form, and before the euro monetary agreement even existed.

"That, in turn, could bring on THE GREAT TRIBULATION suddenly," Mr. Armstrong continued, using the biblical term for the time of unparalleled suffering that will conclude this age of man. "And that will lead quickly to the Second Coming of Christ, and the END OF THIS WORLD as we know it."

Even now, a uniting Europe is fulfilling Bible prophecy, which says that for a time—just prior to Christ's return—Europe will dominate global trade and finance. Watch as this prophecy unfolds before your eyes.

America's spectacular banking collapse lurched the world toward this prophecy's fulfillment. The global economy has a gaping void. Europe is about to fill it—and take its place in history. ■

# The Cause of the Crisis People Won't Face

## HEADACHE

Traders at the New York Stock Exchange grapple with a collapsing market September 16.

**Experts are feverishly crunching numbers and punching out calculations to see if the economy can last. They should be analyzing something else.** BY JOEL HILLIKER AND ROBERT MORLEY

**I**F NOT FOR SPEEDY AND SWEEPING government intervention, America's economy would have tanked in September.

The trouble is, their solutions—the most radical federal intercession in the economy since the New Deal—in the long run will not prevent systemic meltdown.

Why? The reason is simple.

These remedies are failing to address what *caused* the problems to begin with.

Why is the U.S. financial system so diseased? It seems no one is willing to admit the real reason—even though it has been painfully evident for years.

The housing crisis involved a whole web of related problems with essentially a single cause. You had thousands of buyers lying on their mortgage applications; appraisers inflating valuations; lenders knowingly overlooking suspect documentation because they were just going to sell the mortgage to someone else anyway; credit-ratings agencies providing triple-A ratings to risky subprime mortgages even though they knew many were up to 10 times riskier than similarly rated

investments; and the National Association of Realtors telling people it is always a good time to buy and vigorously denying the existence of a housing bubble—even as the bubble was clearly popping.

Pretty repulsive stuff—up and down the chain.

What was the cause of this catastrophe? Any direct mention of it tends to raise people's hackles. People fault the lack of regulation. Okay—but why do we need regulation?

Because of *greed* and its associated sins. Lying. Stealing. Coveting.

The love of money, Scripture tells us, is the root of terrible, terrible evil. And as Proverbs 28:20 says, “He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.”

Across the board people have been working the system to GET all they can—regardless of right and wrong, regardless of the non-monetary cost, regardless of who gets hurt.

It has all been caused by THE WAY OF GET. This breaks God's moral, spiritual law, which establishes the way of give.

## The Shocking Reason Behind Foreclosures

Today, banks are foreclosing on houses in record numbers. Do you know why? It isn't because the homeowner got sick, or lost a job, or couldn't afford the payments.

In Stockton, California, 60 percent of delinquent borrowers do not even bother to contact their banks to attempt renegotiating their loan. “They stop paying and they stop talking,” says Kevin Morgan, an estate agent who sells repossessed houses for banks. “They just plain walk away.”

Prof. Nouriel Roubini of New York University says the industry is experiencing “a tsunami of *voluntary defaults*.” If trends continue, the financial losses could be more than a trillion, wiping out “most of the U.S. banking system” (emphasis mine throughout).

In past real-estate busts, homeowners did everything they could to make good on their word and their mortgages. This time, that is not happening in many cases. Homeowners are looking at their homes that are now only worth a fraction of what they paid just a couple of years ago, and deciding to mail in the keys and let the bank take the loss. It is a completely cool, well-thought-out business decision, not based on what is right and wrong but on the fact that under current bankruptcy law, there is little that banks can do about it. In five years the homeowners' credit will be repaired and they can return to the market to purchase a similarly sized home at half the cost. And in the meantime, because the banking sector is so swamped with home foreclosures, the delinquent homeowners might even be able to live rent-free for up to a year before the bank gets around to taking possession of the property.

Michael Pfeifer, a mortgage fraud lawyer in Orange County, California, says it has become one big game. “Lying is the reason we have the economic crisis to begin with. People thought it must be okay because they could get away with it.”

People don't seem to care about things like their reputation, honesty and character. The pursuit of money reigns supreme.

## A School for Unhappiness

Harvard Business School (HBS) provides another example of how widespread the moral breakdown has become. This is one of the most influential educators in global industry. One fifth of the CEOs in Fortune 500 companies have been groomed and shaped by this revered institution. The biggest banking conglomerates and oldest families routinely send their best and brightest young up-and-comers to HBS to

learn to manipulate the reins of power.

But consider the following event that took place at the 100-year-old HBS, and ask yourself: Can any society that values money and power over honesty and morals continue to prosper?

In 2005, over 100 applicants were caught hacking into a website that stored Harvard's admissions information. When the breach was revealed, the school administration retracted acceptance offers made to students involved in what Harvard labeled a "serious breach of trust."

Seems like a reasonable and just course of action. But an astounding 75 percent of Harvard's "corporate accountability" class sided with the hackers. These were students in a class on corporate ethics! They saw nothing wrong with breaking into the school's website, says Harvard graduate and former *Daily Telegraph* Paris bureau chief Philip Broughton.

In his book *Ahead of the Curve—Two Years at Harvard Business School*, Broughton describes HBS as basically an institution that transforms students into individuals capable of running businesses but fails them in almost every other way. In the words of *BusinessWeek*, Broughton describes a group of amoral strivers who are willing "to sacrifice family and friends for the success they felt they so richly deserved" (August 7). In his stinging account, Broughton says that as a result, HBS has turned into a "factory for unhappy people." HBS has also churned out some of America's most reviled corporate felons.

You can see the signs of such criminal thinking all over these latest Wall Street failures—and all Americans will pay the price. Take Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, for example. The government nationalized these two giant mortgage lenders after it determined they had drastically overstated (lied about) their reserves and had blatantly manipulated recent losses. Now, U.S. taxpayers are on the hook for trillions of dollars' worth of fraud-ridden "LIARS" (no documentation loans) and "NINJA" (no income, no job or assets) loans. And you can bank on the fact that as other lenders' profits get crushed, they will do whatever it takes to try and stay solvent. That means more fees, less taxes paid, more layoffs, reduced services, and higher lending costs for the rest of us.

### What Happens When You Break the Law

Many people believe that biblical laws no longer apply. They are dead wrong. Our broken economy proves it.

No one doubts the existence of physical law. The skyscrapers on Wall Street

couldn't have been erected without a respect for it. Some even believe in a Creator who designed physical law. Why should we believe, then, that the *moral* law that He authored and codified to govern human relations is any less binding on us—even when we see mountains of evidence that it breaks those who break it?

God's Ten Commandments prohibit lying and deceit. That would include fraudulent accounting practices, falsifying loan applications, misrepresentations of the health of mortgages to potential buyers, and so on. Man-made regulations and laws forbid most of these practices, but still, countless individuals and businesses obviously felt that, if they could get away with it, they'd come out ahead by engaging in them anyway. They overlooked the fact that they were also breaking a God-given moral law—something that *always* exacts a penalty.

The commandments forbid stealing. A particularly egregious violation of the spirit of this law is the kind of severance packages we are seeing among the CEOs of these failed Wall Street firms: \$22 million for Lehman Brothers chief Richard Fuld; \$60 million for Bear Stearns chairman Jimmy Cayne; \$68 million for Citigroup's Chuck Prince; \$161 million for Merrill Lynch's E. Stanley O'Neal. The recklessness of these men cost hundreds of thousands of people untold wealth. The fact that they are enriching themselves on the backs of the people they broke gives insight into how they conducted their business. No wonder their companies crashed. Though they are apparently violating no man-made laws, they are absolutely *trampling* on God's spiritual law.

The commandments forbid coveting and greed. These sins have been at the very heart of this financial crisis. At every level.

Legions of lawyers and armies of analysts are crunching numbers and trying to answer this question: Can the economy survive the looming financial collapse? But the real question is, can the economy survive the widespread *moral collapse*?

No financial system can stand for long when its foundations are compromised by such corruption!

Though the market is hopeful that the government's intervention will stave off disaster, in reality the government itself is compromised with the same fundamental problems that the private sector is. Though it pretends to have the resources

to fix these problems, the truth is that it too is a hair's breadth away from requiring outside intervention itself.

People do not want to hear about sin. But whether or not they admit it, that is exactly what has caused their economic suffering. All those who are losing jobs and wealth are suffering the results of *broken spiritual laws*. Not necessarily their *own* sin, but sin just the same.

### The Clearest Way to Wealth and Happiness

Many people believe God's law is a curse. Actually, it is an incalculable blessing, because it reveals exactly which behaviors will inexorably lead to curses such as those we see today, and which will lead to blessings.

Think what America's economy would become if Americans followed those laws and never stole and never lied. Think of the cost savings that would result from obedience to just those two of the Ten Commandments. Think

of how much money would be saved if businesses were never robbed, websites were never hacked, billion-dollar lawsuits were extinct, police did not have to track down criminals, and courts and prisons did not have to process convicts.

As Bruce Walker, writing for *American Thinker*, said, "The cool, practical, financial argument against sin is so overwhelming, the number crunching of any serious cost-benefit analysis of the trillions lost through our acceptance of sin is so convincing, that *hopeful people can dream that a wise leader will champion the fight against sin as the clearest way to make us wealthier and happier people*" (September 7).

Yes—*hopeful people can dream* about this, particularly because **THAT WISE LEADER IS COMING!** After the coming financial days of reckoning, Jesus Christ will return and champion the fight against the sins that are killing us today. You can read about the resulting wealth and happiness in the booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, free upon request. Once all the fraud and deceit is removed, a healthy, solid, prosperous economy *will* be established and will spread across the globe. Financial markets will thrive, businesses will succeed, families will enjoy wealth and fairness. Why? Because a world economy based on law and honesty—God's principles for prosperity—cannot fail to succeed! ■

**No financial system  
can stand for long  
when its foundations  
are compromised by  
such corruption.**

BY ERIC ANDERSON

**B**AD FINANCIAL NEWS IS EVERYWHERE! With bank and corporate failures, stock market losses and a depressed housing market, rising unemployment and inflation, money problems burden more and more of us.

Yet *note this biblical truth*: The God of the Bible wants everyone to truly prosper in the area of personal finances!

Jesus Christ said one of the main pur-

poses of all things including the air you breathe, claims ownership of all that exists? Understanding this important biblical principle is in fact the first *key* to financial success!

In Exodus 19:5, God Almighty says: “[A]ll the earth is mine.” Through Moses’s inspired pen, we read, “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord’s thy God, the earth also, with ALL THAT THEREIN IS” (Deuteronomy 10:14). “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ... [T]he

### God’s Law Regulates Your Income

God’s law, confirmed throughout the Bible, is that the first tenth, or “tithe,” of every individual’s income be paid to Him via His chosen servants.

God is a God of love (1 John 4:8, 16). He knows your needs and wants. He has your well-being in mind. He is concerned for you; that is why He has made this law regulating your income.

God’s law concerning what you earn is, in fact, a DEAL He has made with you.

# How You Can PROSPER

poses for His being sent to Earth was that we “might have life” and that we “might have it MORE ABUNDANTLY” (John 10:10). The Apostle John concurred: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest PROSPER and be in health ...” (3 John 2).

Prosperity is not a sin. It is a *blessing*. God is the greatest *giver* of abundance and prosperity. It is His will that we prosper and enjoy the “good things” in life.

Anciently, God made Job the richest man in the East. Once Job repented of his sin, God gave him *double* his original wealth (Job 42:10). God prospered Joseph abundantly (Genesis 39:2-3). God promised the Israelites great material wealth if they obeyed Him (Leviticus 26:3-5). “[I]t is [God] that giveth thee power to get wealth,” Moses reminded them (Deuteronomy 8:18). “Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth,” noted Solomon, another exceedingly wealthy ruler, “and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; *this is the gift of God*” (Ecclesiastes 5:19).

If God wants everyone to prosper and live abundantly, then why are so many wracked by debt and weighed down with financial worries?

There *are* reasons!

### What Most Don’t Know

God will not bless anyone who is breaking His laws. If we are breaking the Tenth Commandment by coveting goods we cannot afford, for example, then we will be far likelier to overspend and go into debt. If we are putting material goods before God, then God, in order to correct this, may curse us by withholding the prosperity He would much rather give us!

Do you realize that God, the Creator

world is mine, and the fulness thereof,” claims our Maker (Psalm 50:10, 12).

According to the Bible, “your” money—“your” income—rightfully belongs to God. “The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts” (Haggai 2:8).

This principle is important to remember when considering how we ought to manage our finances. What we may earn in wages or receive as a return on investments is *not really ours*—that is, not until two prior claims on our income are satisfied.

One claim is taxes. Jesus said that Christians should “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s ...” (Matthew 22:21). But the *first* claim is GOD’S claim. Christ concluded that verse, “AND [PAY] UNTO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD’S.”

With this statement, Christ pointed to a fundamental financial LAW that we must keep if God is to be able to bless us with the prosperity He promises—that is, the law of TITHING.

**If God wants everyone to prosper and live abundantly, then why are so many wracked by debt and weighed down with financial worries? There are reasons!**

Consider it: God allows you to work on His Earth, to use its resources, its forces and energies—to use what others have extracted from this planet, in manufacturing, distributing, selling, buying, investing. Whatever your occupation or profession, you are actually working in *partnership with God!*

When we stop and analyze this, we must admit that God surely supplies about 90 percent of everything we produce—and our own thinking, planning and working supplies, at best, perhaps 10 percent. Yet God doesn’t claim 90 percent of the proceeds, or the income. He doesn’t claim 50 percent, or even 30 percent or 20 percent.

God is exceptionally generous. He has reserved for His use only 10 percent of your income. And *after* you have been honest in paying God’s claim—*HIS* 10 percent—to His chosen representative (by the way, it is very important to prove where God’s work is, and tithe to the correct church), only *then* does God declare that the other 90 percent becomes legally yours. Our nine-tenths actually does not belong to us *until* we have paid God His tenth. That is God’s law!

### How You Can Prosper ...

Although the Creator God has unlimited resources, He has always conducted His work *among* and *through* human beings. Tithing (or “tenthing”) has been God’s financial system for millennia and continues to be a binding obligation upon New Testament Christians.

Long ago, even during the time of Abraham, God used the tithing system to underwrite His work. In Genesis 14:18-20, we see that Abraham (who was not a Jew, but who was the human “father of the faithful”; one who feared God and kept His commandments) tithed 400 years be-

fore Israel was commanded to do so.

Leviticus 27:30 and Numbers 18:20-21 spell out the details of tithing and show how the people of Israel were to tithe in support of God's religious system. Even after Christ's death, the Apostle Paul called tithing, which was confirmed by Christ, a law (Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:4-14).

Today, God's Church uses the same method to finance its commission to deliver a warning message and preach the gospel of the soon-coming Kingdom of

gency instead have virtually no savings—and are plunging even deeper into debt.

If you are suffering from a lack of abundance or blessings, how can you turn things around and begin to prosper in these increasingly difficult times?

The Bible gives us the answer. Continuing in Malachi 3: "Bring ye all the tithes [the whole tenth of your gross income] into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open

world and not in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus also said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness" (verse 33), and then all these material needs will be added to you besides. Seek God first, and He will see that your needs are met—even in hard times. Seek His Kingdom with all your heart, and your financial troubles will begin to melt away; your life will become happy as you prioritize eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yes, tithing is a LAW that produces man-

# SPER in a Recession!

God—the very message Christ preached—to this unhappy, debt-ridden world.

The organization that sponsors this magazine is the very work of God (John 6:28-29)—and it is sponsored, financed and conducted God's way, as God directs in His Word. This work is funded and supported by a growing number of co-workers who believe in the cause and gladly give of their incomes to support it.

Each week, our headquarters office in Edmond, Oklahoma, receives letters, e-mails and calls from our co-workers telling us how they have been blessed for supporting this work. Those who pay God's tenth are prosperous—not necessarily wealthy, but their needs are always supplied.

## ... Even in Hard Times

Have you ever wondered why financial difficulties are so prevalent in our economically advanced age? These problems were foretold centuries ago in a remarkable prophecy!

Notice what God asks through the Prophet Malachi: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?" And God answers, "In TITHES and OFFERINGS. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (Malachi 3:8-9).

There is a definite *cause* for every *effect*. The United States has been the wealthiest nation on Earth for many years. Tragically, it is slipping to a second-rate status. The U.S. economy has been eclipsed by that of the European Union. Bankruptcies are epidemic. Personal and collective debt is at an all-time high, and financial troubles are wrecking families. Families that should ideally have a minimum of three to six months' income in savings in case of emer-

gency instead have virtually no savings—and are plunging even deeper into debt.

That is God's PROMISE! Why not put God to that test? Why not prove Him to see if He doesn't increase the value of your income in this looming recession so that your own 90 percent God gives you will be worth more than your whole income now?

## A Spiritual Blessing

God's system of tithing is a financial law. It is sure to bring financial blessings. More importantly, though, it is guaranteed to yield tremendous *spiritual* dividends!

Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21). That, too, is a law. If your treasure is in this society's entertainments and pleasures—if you are spending "your" money—God's money—only on yourself and your own needs and selfish desires—then your whole heart and interest is in this

ifold blessings. Why? Because it reinforces God's way of GIVE and actually helps us to develop holy and righteous character.

Jesus taught, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again" (Luke 6:38).

Notice this beautiful cycle! See how the principle also applies to tithing: God gives to us—and we give back to Him on a return circuit that which is rightfully His—and He gives us MORE!

There is no way we can ever out-give God. Truly it is "more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). When we honor God with our substance, then our own material needs—and even many of our wants and desires—will be supplied. In addition, God will shower tremendous *spiritual* blessings upon us.

Yes, God wants us to prosper spiritually most of all. But He wants us to prosper in our personal finances too. Here's the key: We must learn to put God FIRST in everything. Backing and supporting God and His work, which includes faithfully paying our tithes, must take precedence in our lives.

When we invest our prosperity in God's work, we express our recognition of God's rulership over our planet's wealth and over us individually. We show our cheerful adherence to the first great commandment—worshiping the one true God and Him only. And the man or woman who keeps God's financial law *will* reap the physical and spiritual blessings promised in His Word.

God will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings so great there will not be room enough to receive them—guaranteed! ■

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**There is a definite cause for every effect. The United States has been the wealthiest nation on Earth for many years. Tragically, it is slipping to a second-rate status.**



# Would You Flee One of These ...?

**Tens of thousands of people refused to evacuate for Hurricane Ike. Don't be so sure you wouldn't have made the same mistake. BY BRAD MACDONALD**

**C**ATASTROPHES OFTEN FURNISH profound insight into human nature. When Ike barreled toward the Texas coast as a Category 3 hurricane in September, more than 1 million people on Galveston Island and in low-lying areas of Houston followed orders and evacuated their homes.

But more than *one hundred thousand* people refused to evacuate.

That seems illogical. Most of these people could easily have fled the death and destruction hurtling toward them. They *chose* not to.

It wasn't that they were oblivious to Ike's immense fury. They, like the rest of America, tracked the swirling mass of terror for more than a week as it crawled from the

southern Atlantic—grinding across Cuba, leveling large sections of the island, into the Gulf of Mexico, then toward the Texas coastline. Ike's attack was not sudden.

Gulf Coasters *knew* Ike brandished catastrophic winds faster than 100 miles per hour. They *knew* it held enormous volumes of rain. They *knew* it was creating a storm surge as high as 25 feet and would undoubtedly deluge homes, sweep away belongings and drive those who remained behind to the rooftops of their houses. They *knew* it would sever power supplies, cut food lines and poison water supplies. These people *knew*—and were warned tirelessly by officials—that they would likely be killed by this hurricane.

Still, they stayed.

Why would a *sane* person risk life, limb or family to a 900-mile-wide monster for the sake of *things*—or *convenience*? Rational people value life over death or the loss of material belongings. When terror knocks, they will do everything possible to shuttle their family to safety.

Perhaps it's easy to brand these people as irrational, selfish fools. But, if we're honest, their refusal to flee demonstrates a quality of human nature common to all of us.

## **One of Our Greatest Enemies**

Do you realize how much the occurrence of major weather disasters is increasing?

Before Hurricane Ike, President Bush had declared 422 major disasters—including damaging storms, wildfires, floods

and tornadoes—during his 7½ years in office. “Under Bush, the government has committed to spend \$87 billion in disaster relief funds to help states and localities clean up after floods, fires and storms, compared with Clinton’s nearly \$29 billion,” noted the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. “Even after adjusting for inflation, the Bush administration has spent 2½ times more than the Clinton administration on disaster relief” (August 10; emphasis mine throughout).

Catastrophic disasters are costing the government—or taxpayers—billions and billions of dollars!

But the government isn’t the only one bearing the costs of these disasters. Farmers across America can tell you about the cost of floods and droughts on their crops. Hurricane Gustav, which struck Louisiana less than two weeks before Ike, took an agricultural toll on that state of more than half a billion dollars. According to Louisiana Gannett News Service, “Statewide, officials estimate Hurricane Gustav alone destroyed more than 14 percent of crops and forestry, wiping out almost \$543 million in farm and forestry revenue, including more than half of the cotton and sweet potato crops” (September 17).

That’s *one* hurricane.

Ike compounded those figures. Though it did less damage than anticipated, its tab was expected to reach into the billions. Early estimates indicated insurance claims alone could reach \$18 billion.

That’s *two* hurricanes. By September the federal government had declared *fifty-four* other disasters across America for the year to date!

Aid agencies can also testify to the weather disasters striking America. In 2005, the American Red Cross had to borrow money (\$340 million) for the first time in its 127-year history to pay for its response efforts to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That decision quickly became precedent. Days after Gustav struck, the Red Cross announced that it needed to borrow more to fund its \$70 million Hurricane Gustav relief effort.

The Red Cross is not alone in its funding shortfalls. As Philip Rucker noted in the *Washington Post*, “The gap between Gustav expenses and donations comes at a perilous time for relief groups. *An unusually high number of U.S. disasters this year has taxed charities, from wildfires in California to tornadoes across the South.*

... Other nonprofit groups also prepared for the worst from Gustav and provided shelter, food and clothing for thousands of evacuees. The Salvation Army spent in excess of \$1 million on Gustav, *but it has raised just \$30,000 to cover it*. Save the Children, which spent more than \$100,000 on diapers, cots and bassinets at shelters, *has raised \$35,000*. Catholic Charities USA spent more than \$200,000 and has *taken in \$10,000*” (September 6).

That new, unsettling reality is telling: Weather disasters have become so common and so intense, aid agencies simply cannot keep up with the demand for assistance.

Take an honest look across the American landscape. Abnormal weather is impacting virtually every region of the country. Fires and droughts routinely ravage the West and Southwest, with some cities and counties experiencing the worst drought in recorded history. Hurricanes are striking the South. Extreme storms with hard

**These weather curses are a wake-up call from God to the American people. You could compare them to the early-warning calls for action blasted to the residents of Galveston before Hurricane Ike.**

winds and flooding rains are occurring across much of the Midwest and into the Northeast. And the whole nation is feeling the consequences: State governments, unable to pay for the damage to their states, are looking to the federal government to bail them out; insurance companies are struggling to pay out claims and are raising insurance premiums; food prices are going up as a result of crop loss and damage.

Weather has become one of America’s greatest enemies! And statistical trends suggest that the problem will only get worse.

Is there anything people can do about this? In a sense, it amounts to one large hurricane approaching landfall. The almost universal belief, however, is that there is nothing to be done except bunker down and try to ride it out.

But the truth is, there is an evacuation route most are simply refusing to use!

**The Reason for Catastrophic Weather**

Most people would dismiss this fact, but the increase in catastrophic weather conditions *is described in biblical prophecy*. And its CAUSE is thoroughly explained!

In Amos 4, God says: “And also I withheld the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest. I caused it to rain upon one city and caused it not to rain upon another city; one piece of

ground was rained upon, and the piece upon which it did not rain withered. So [the people of] two or three cities wandered and staggered into one city to drink water, but they were not satisfied ... I smote you with blight ... and with mildew; I laid waste the multitude of your gardens and your vineyards; your fig trees and your olive trees the palmerworm ... devoured; yet you did not return to Me, says the Lord” (verses 7-9, Amplified Bible).

What a perfect description of U.S. weather patterns! Between them, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike forced 3 million people to evacuate their homes. These people literally fled from one city to another, just as the Prophet Amos described.

Amos’s prophecy, like many others in the Bible (read, for example, Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28), shows that the weather is a *measure* of God’s happiness with and blessings upon man—or lack thereof. That’s right. God uses the weather as an instrument of *correction*, as well as an instrument through which He *blesses* the obedient.

These weather curses are a wake-up call from God to the American people. You could compare them to the early-warning calls for action blasted to the residents of Galveston before Hurricane Ike.

The question is: *How are you responding?*

The fact is, there is a strong tendency in human nature—common to all of us—that makes us want to pretend that if we just keep doing what we are doing, everything will turn out just fine in the end.

*All humans have the proclivity to ignore terror!*

We should think about this before we judge those who refused to flee Ike. Yes, *you* have the same proclivity as those in Galveston to ignore terror, ignore warnings and *refuse to flee to safety!*

Don’t believe me? There are at least HALF A DOZEN hurricane-sized crises barreling down on America RIGHT NOW. What are *you* doing to protect yourself and your family from them?

**Tracking Hurricanes**

For years, the *Trumpet* has tracked and warned about the *multitude* of figurative hurricanes bearing down on the Anglo-American peoples. Today, many of these violent storms are on America’s doorstep; some are already pounding the nation.

See **HURRICANE** page 25 ►

# How to Love Y

## Understanding and fulfilling their greatest need

BY RYAN MALONE

**D**O YOU WANT A STRONG RELATIONSHIP with your children?

Early on in life, most parents, mothers especially, feel a deep bond with their children. Sometimes, however, as our children grow, that bond can fray—children can grow distant—barriers can go up—a “generation gap” develops. Is it possible to prevent that, and actually make those bonds *stronger* as our children grow?

It may come as no surprise that a child’s greatest need is to be **LOVED** by his parents. But what is love? It is not an emotion. It is *action*—a way of life. That way of life is one of *outgoing concern* for the one loved. In one word, love is the way of **GIVE**.

In this fast-paced world, we tend to give our children more **THINGS** and *less* of **OURSELVES**. Studies show that between 1965 and the late 1980s, the amount of time children spent interacting with parents dropped 43 percent. A 1992 study conducted at Stanford University found that parents in 1986 were spending *10 to 12 hours less each week* with their children than parents in 1960.

Is it any wonder that a “generation gap” develops in those circumstances?

Our children need us to give of ourselves. They need our *loving attention* more than they need *things*. They even need it more than they need our instruction or discipline!

*Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry recommends that in our time with our children, only 5 percent should be spent in discipline, and another 10 percent in teaching and instruction.

The other 85 percent should be **LOVE**.

How do we practice that formula? How do we forge strong bonds *quickly* with our children? Here are some practical tips.



# Your Children

## TIP 1

**Make your children smile and laugh.**

Each day, ask yourself: *How much have I made my children laugh or smile today?* Also ask, *How much have I laughed WITH my children today?* Make goofy faces at them. Tickle them. Let them see you happy. Don't be afraid to sing songs with them. Play happy music and dance around the house. Point is: Do things together that make you all smile and laugh. Here's a hint. If, when you're done with those things, your child asks you to "do it again!"—you're on the right track.

The Apostle Paul taught that ministers are to be "helpers of your joy" (2 Corinthians 1:24). Parents should fulfill this role in the home. We must first set an example of living a joyful, hope-filled life, and then strive to inspire that same joy in our children.

Much of this can be accomplished simply by *playing with your children*. Recall your own fondest memories of your parents. Even if your relationship was strained, you may remember piggyback rides or games of catch with Dad, or laughing and romping with Mom on the floor. Those types of activities, if kept in balance and without excessive roughness, can establish a bond with your children *more quickly than almost any other activity*.

## TIP 2

**Listen to your children.**

Certainly there are times when your children should listen to *you*. Few things help someone more, though, than being *listened to*.

If your son can come to you with a little problem about his Lego creation when he's 7, and you do everything you can to help him through it, he will be more likely to come to you with a more grown-up issue when he's 17.

Family meals and family Bible studies are great opportunities for you to build the listening habit. Understand what's on your children's minds and in their hearts. If you make that effort, you will come to understand and appreciate them more, and they will feel respected and be far likelier to return that respect.

In 1 Thessalonians 2:11, the Apostle Paul shows that a good father is one who has "exhorted and comforted and charged" his children. As a simple study of those words in the original Greek language will illustrate, a loving parent is one who *consoles, strengthens, teaches and even calms*. We must have a calming presence on our house. Our children should be *strengthened and encouraged* by us.

## TIP 3

**Show your children physical affection.**

Relationship counselor Gary Smalley suggests that married couples give each other seven meaningful, affectionate, non-sexual touches a day. He suggests this will actually improve *any* relationship.

Consider applying it to your children. Seven meaningful, affectionate, non-functional touches each day—not just holding their hand as they cross a street, or disciplining them, but really showing them affection with your touch. For a start, perhaps set a goal to hug and kiss them once when they go to sleep, when they wake up, when you or your children leave the house and when you or they get home.

## TIP 4

**Praise your children.**

I don't mean flatter. I don't mean puff up their vanity or give them a warped sense of self-esteem like so many "experts" today tell you to. At the same time, don't be so afraid of turning them into narcissists that you fail to give them the *encouragement* they need.

Give genuine compliments about their accomplishments. They need specific comments on what they are doing well: be it drawing, spelling, sports, music, playing or building. Get detailed in your praise. Don't just compliment your daughter's coloring; give her specific feedback on what she is doing well. Praise like this will also help children not feel like *they* are so great, but that they are *doing* something worthy of praise. Practicing this will spur them to even greater accomplishment—and, at the same time, draw them closer to you.

LET LOVE DOMINATE 85 PERCENT OF THE TIME YOU spend with your children. This is what they need most of all. They don't need more things. They don't need more activities or opportunities. They need *us!* That is what we must *give* them. That puts all the things, activities and opportunities in the right perspective and balance.

How do we fulfill our children's greatest need? By *giving our lives* to them—our time and energy—ourselves. We must *love* our children by giving them our attention and admonition, our consolation and comfort, our laughter and our lives. ■

# WORLDWATCH

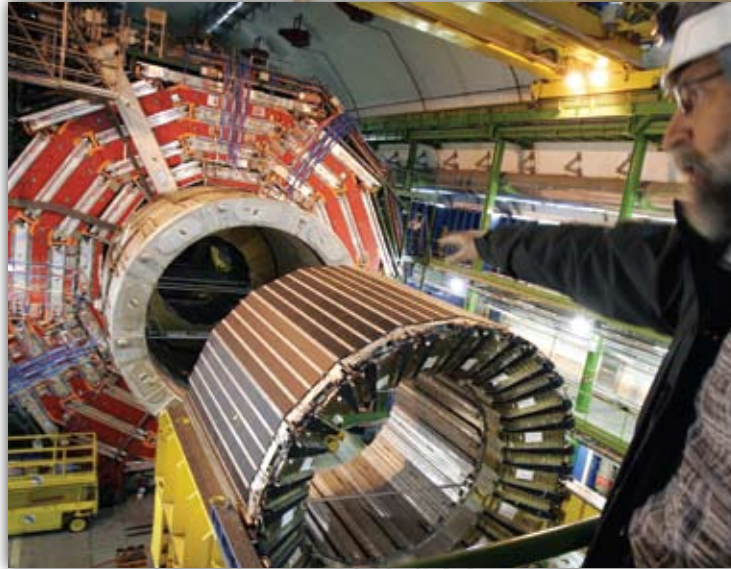
## EUROPE

**P**OPE BENEDICT XVI AND French President Nicolas Sarkozy are laying the groundwork for the biggest change in French governance since the French Revolution. Sarkozy's enthusiastic welcome of the pope to Paris in September would hardly have been newsworthy were he the leader of any other state, but **France** has strict laws to guarantee a secular state. Some believe Sarkozy broke these laws in his grand reception of Benedict, personally meeting him at the airport before hosting him at Élysée Palace. Those laws, though, may change. The pope told Sarkozy France needs a "new reflection" on the "true meaning of *laïcité*," or secularism. In a ceremony at Élysée Palace, he spoke about a new kind of "healthy secularism" that is "fundamental to become more aware of the irreplaceable role of religion." To the pope, a healthy secularism means Catholicism.

The pope also wants Catholicism to be more ingrained in **Italy**. While visiting the Mediterranean island of Sardinia September 7, Benedict spoke of Italy's need for a "new generation" of Catholic politicians committed to using their beliefs to shepherd their country.

Meanwhile, an Italian comedian is facing possible prosecution under one of Mussolini's laws that forbids "offending the honor" of the pope. Sabrina Guzzanti made controversial remarks about **Pope Benedict XVI** at an anti-politics rally in Rome in September.

As the European Union rises, the Catholic Church



wants to ensure it has a leading role. The Lisbon Treaty, aka EU constitution, failed because it was not Catholic enough, according to **Ireland's** top Catholic figure, Cardinal Sean Brady. "Without respect for its Christian memory and soul, I believe it is possible to anticipate continuing difficulties for the European project," said Brady in August. Translation: *Catholics will support you if you enforce their day of worship and religious views.*

Following **Russia's** Georgian operation, **Poland** formally agreed to host a U.S. missile interception base on its territory August 21. As part of the deal, the U.S. agreed to come to Poland's aid "in case of military or other threats." Before the Georgian war, 70 percent of Poles surveyed were against building the missile base on Polish soil; afterward, 63 percent supported an American military presence in Poland. According to another poll, half of Poland fears a Russian attack. As Russia grows more aggressive, watch for fear to motivate



European countries to forge a similar alliance to the one Poland and the U.S. signed.

Meanwhile, torn between Russia and Europe, **Ukraine's** ruling coalition became divided against itself and folded in September. The tug-of-war inside Ukraine mirrors the tussle outside. Ukraine lies on the border of Europe and Russia and is strategically important to both. Watch Ukraine as the line is drawn between East and West.

**Germany's** foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, is currently heavily involved in drawing this line. Already Europe is implementing his pro-Russian—or rather, Russian-wary—foreign policy. Europe has refused to commit to inviting Ukraine into the EU, for example. And at a summit on September 1, heads of the 27 EU nations agreed on a soft declaration on the Russia-**Georgia** crisis that made no mention of sanctioning Moscow.

As Europe grows in power, it is becoming less free. A series of proposals adopted by the European Parliament will now allow citizens of one EU nation to be convicted by

another EU nation even if they were not present at the trial.

Europe hosted one of the most anticipated events in physics history in September. **The \$8 billion Large Hadron Collider at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva, Switzerland, was successfully activated on September 10**, though a technical fault caused it to be temporarily shut down 10 days later. Despite the anticipated initial glitches, the fact that this machine is in Europe, not America, reflects an important shift. The ongoing loss of leadership in the field of science is another symptom of a U.S. superpower at the end of its life cycle. Europe is ready to fill the void.

## MIDDLE EAST

**I**srael IS SET TO GAIN A NEW prime minister, with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni

United States

Mexico

Cuba

Nicaragua

Venezuela

Bolivia



winning the Kadima primary in September. Livni was given six weeks to form a coalition government. If she fails in that effort, national elections will be held in early 2009. Polls indicate that if an early general election were called Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu would win.

Israel freed 198 Palestinian prisoners, including some serving time for murdering Israelis, on August 25. "This is a gesture and a trust-building move aimed at bolstering the moderates in the Palestinian Authority and the peace process," the Prime Minister's Office stated. If the so-called moderates in the Palestinian Authority were really moderate, however, they would hardly want Israel to release terrorists.

On his first trip to **Syria**, France's President Sarkozy met with his Syrian counterpart, Bashar Assad, on September 3. By courting Damascus, France is increasing Syria's legitimacy in the international community despite its support of terrorism. "Sarkozy's visit [is] also a recognition of the regional clout Syria has with **Lebanon's** Hezbollah and the Palestin-

ian militant group Hamas, in addition to its close ties to **Iran**—all opponents of U.S. policy in the Middle East" (Associated Press, September 3). While Europe is seeking to deepen its involvement in the Middle East, such involvement will only work against the interests of Israel and the **United States**.

In August, shortly after the Russia-Georgia crisis erupted, **Syrian President Assad visited Russia to meet with President Dmitry Medvedev**, who agreed to strengthen military ties with Syria. Indications are that the current Russian-U.S. impasse is leading Russia to provide more weapons and diplomatic aid to countries and terrorist groups that are opposed to America. "The Russian move into Georgia has begun a tectonic shift in the (Mideast) region," said Joshua Landis, a Syria expert in the U.S. "It has emboldened Syria, Hezbollah and Iran to

push harder against Israel and the U.S." (ibid., August 26).

Iran in particular provides Russia with considerable leverage. Russia, a major arms supplier for Tehran, is assisting it in its nuclear program and is protecting Iran through its veto power in the UN Security Council. If the U.S. wants Russian cooperation on Iran, it must not press Moscow too much elsewhere.

**Iraq's** parliament voted overwhelmingly in favor of prosecuting the secular Sunni chairman of Iraq's Democratic Party, Mithal al-Alusi, for visiting Israel to attend a counterterrorism summit in

September. Members of the parliament said Alusi committed a crime by violating a law that had been in place during Saddam Hussein's administration. Alusi responded, "What they really want is to threaten any person who talks against Iran." At the summit, Alusi had said, "Iran is at the center of *all* the troubles in our region." Alusi could actually face the *death penalty* for attending the conference. Thus is the nature of the "free and democratic" state American efforts are creating in Iraq.

The U.S. and Iran agreed to hand over members of the Iranian opposition group



Mujahideen-e-Khalq (MeK) to Iraqi authorities, the Saudi daily *al Riyadh* reported September 3. Approximately 3,360 members of the group are currently being held in a U.S. camp in Iraq. Iraq has given the MeK six months to leave. Tehran considers the MeK—whose goal is to replace Iran’s Islamist theocracy with a secular regime—to be a terrorist group. The U.S.’s protection of the group has been a major obstacle in U.S.-Iranian negotiations over Iraq. Now, “By essentially selling out the MeK,” Stratfor reported, “the United States risks sending the wrong message to its current allies” (September 4). As America increasingly loses power and prestige on the world stage and its military forces continue to be overstretched, we can expect it to become less and less reliable as an ally.

Iran claimed it successfully launched a “dummy” satellite



aboard a multiple-stage satellite-launch vehicle August 16. Though the U.S. reported that the launch failed, it still demonstrates progress in Tehran’s missile program. Stratfor reported Iran appears to have a workable design that incorporates a second stage, which, when perfected, will mean Tehran will have missiles with a longer range.

## ASIA

**A**S TENSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. and **China** remain

high, Beijing is working to increase its strategic relationship with Germany. On September 10, **Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang traveled to Hamburg and met with Frank-Walter Steinmeier.** During the meeting, Steinmeier and Zhang stressed the need for maintaining Chinese-German dialogue as a means of establishing a realignment of global power. “We are seeking a new world order,” Steinmeier said. “New political and economic centers of powers are emerging, and China is one of them.” Dejiang responded favorably to Steinmeier’s remarks, agreeing that “Current global crises can only be surmounted if we join forces.” Both China and Russia are reciprocating Steinmeier’s overtures of friendship in order to overthrow the current American-dominated world order and replace it with a multipolar world.

These plans for a new world order are already expanding beyond just economic threats. **Russia plans to dispatch the Russian Navy to the Caribbean Sea before the end of the year,** according to Deutsche Presse Agentur. Moscow reportedly plans to use warships and planes in joint exercises with Venezuelan forces. This would be the first time Russia has held maneuvers in waters patrolled by the U.S. Navy since the fall of the Soviet Union in December 1991. Watch for Washington to lose ground in its existing theaters of military deployment as the U.S. is forced to further extend its already-overstretched defense capability to cope with the pressure being applied to its perimeters by a resurgent Russia.

Meanwhile, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is looking to East Asia. On Au-



gust 31, Putin called for Russia’s first pipeline to its Pacific coast to be completed without further delays. The completion of this pipeline will open up the energy-hungry markets of China and **Japan** to the practically untapped oil reserves of Eastern Siberia. The first half of it is on schedule for completion next year. The Siberian wilderness has presented an obstacle to the oil trade between Russia and its eastern neighbors, but once Moscow gets pipelines in place, it is likely to become one of East Asia’s chief energy suppliers.

Japan is in political turmoil. On September 1, Yasuo Fukuda became the second Japanese prime minister to resign his office in less than a year. Despite his failure to elicit governmental unity or economic stability in Japan, Fukuda did manage to accomplish one very important thing during his time in office. He strengthened Japanese ties with mainland Asia, especially China. Now that he is gone, however, Japan vitally needs a strong leader who can pull it out of its economic and political malaise. As American power on the world scene declines, expect a future leader to arise who will exploit the relationship with China in order to move Japan further away from America and closer to its Asian neighbors.

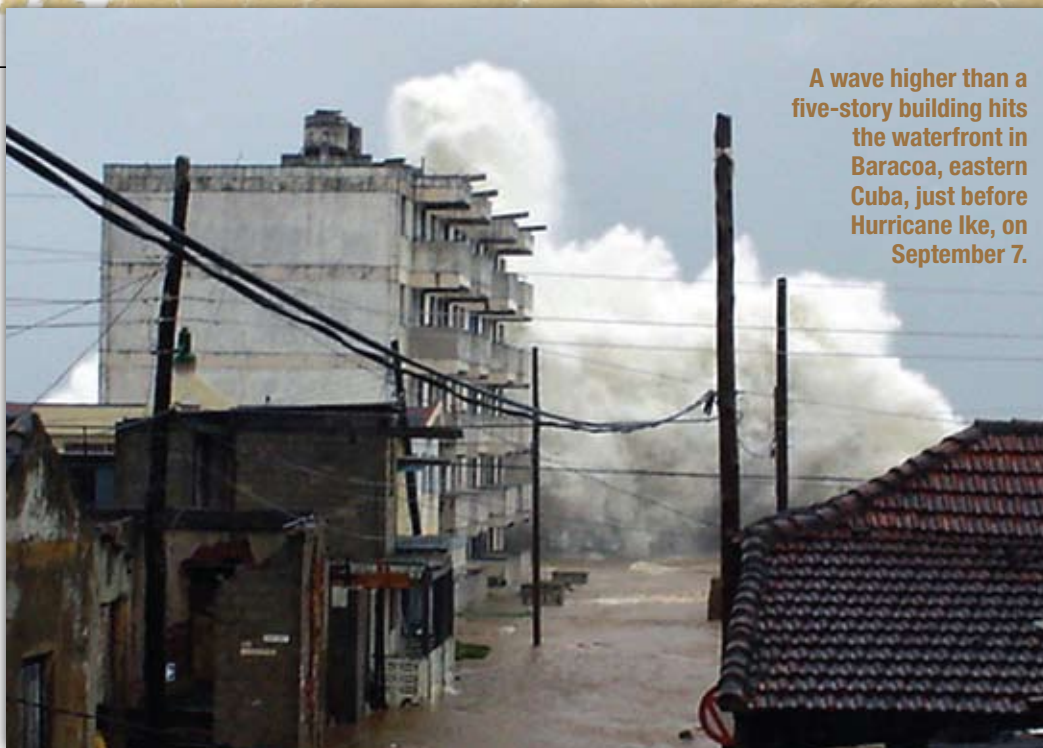
## LATIN AMERICA/AFRICA

**M**EXICAN PRESIDENT Felipe Calderon held a security meeting August 21 to address a rise in kidnappings and drug-related murders. BBC News reports that there is an average of 65 kidnappings per month in **Mexico**, but because many may be paying the ransom to free their loved ones, the real number could be much higher. More than 2,600 have died in drug-related violence so far this year. President Calderon has dispatched more than 30,000 soldiers across the country, but that measure has not been effective. Public marches in response to the kidnappings were held August 30. Less than two weeks later, on September 12, Mexico suffered its highest death toll for a single day in 2008: 41 homicides.

**One quarter of Cubans left their homes as Hurricane Ike swept through in early September, damaging much of the country.** Losses are estimated at \$3 to \$4 billion, a staggering cost for the island. Still, Havana rejected an offer of aid from the U.S., perhaps hoping to get a better offer from Russia, which had delivered 200 tons of humanitarian supplies to **Cuba** a few days earlier.

Latin American countries are increasingly taking a firm stance against the United States. **Nicaragua** recognized the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia September 2, siding with Russia. Presumably in response, the U.S. trade secretary canceled a planned visit to Nicaragua. Bolivian President Evo Morales expelled U.S. Ambassador Philip Goldberg September 11 for allegedly inciting violent protests. Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez expressed his support for the action by giving the U.S. ambassador to **Venezuela** 72 hours to leave and pulling Venezuela's ambassador from the States. For more on Latin America's swing away from the U.S., read our September article "The Hidden Enemy in America's Backyard."

After months of violence and negotiation, **Zimbabwe's** officials finally signed a power-sharing agreement September 15, and as of this writing are deadlocked over the appointment of cabinet ministers. March elections were won by Morgan Tsvangirai, leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, but Robert Mugabe, head of the ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front and dictator of Zimbabwe for nearly three decades, refused to recognize the results. Instead, he renewed violent intimidation of opposition politicians, their families and voters. Mugabe, who retains much if not all of his power, knows exactly where he sits, telling his party: "Anyhow here we are, still in a dominant position which will enable us to gather more strength as we move into the future. We remain in the driving seat." Regardless of who is appointed to the cabinet, Mugabe will keep his presidential position, head the cabinet, and control the army. As prime minister, Tsvangirai will inherit Zimbabwe's 11 million



A wave higher than a five-story building hits the waterfront in Baracoa, eastern Cuba, just before Hurricane Ike, on September 7.

percent inflation.

Along with despots, famine, HIV and terrorism, add flooding to the list of Africa's perils. About 150,000 people have been displaced in **Benin** alone, with tens of thousands displaced in other African countries as well. In an August 19 press release, the World Health Organization (WHO) described floodwaters across West Africa as a health risk to millions, and said flooding will add to the impact of the food crisis. There has been "widespread damage to bridges, roads, railway lines and other infrastructure vital for delivering health services and humanitarian supplies," WHO said.

## ANGLO-AMERICA

COMMENTATORS HAVE DEcried financial "blood in the streets" as gigantic financial institutions are bought out or go bankrupt—an economic catastrophe that signals America relinquishing the role of global financial leader (see article, page 4).

While American bank failures are becoming as routine

as eating lunch, the Bank of England is telling **Britain** its economy is in for a "horrible surprise," a startling prospect, since Britons themselves are already used to huge banks such as Northern Rock failing. David Blanchflower, of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, says unemployment will rise by 60,000 per month starting in October and continuing for several months. Another Bank of England monetary policy committee member warned that house prices could fall by about 30 percent before the end of the year. Credible rumors are also circulating that Halifax Bank of Scotland Group is in danger of imminent collapse.

"Islamic law has been officially adopted in Britain," London's *Sunday Times* reported September 14. "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. Rulings issued by a network of five sharia courts are enforceable with the full power of the judicial system, through the county courts or High Court. Previously, the rulings of sharia courts in

Britain depended on voluntary compliance among Muslims."

Early September saw a pack of hurricanes and tropical storms howl across the Gulf Coast and the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. Gustav, a Category 2 hurricane, flooded the Louisiana coast with a 14-foot storm surge at the beginning of September. Days later, Tropical Storm Hanna paced along the entire seaboard, dumping rain and causing isolated flooding. Tropical Storm Josephine swirled in the eastern Atlantic off Cape Verde without causing major damage, but Hurricane Ike, a Category 2 storm when it jumped onto land, chewed up Galveston, Texas.

**Australia's** most important farming region, the massive Murray-Darling Basin, is experiencing the worst conditions on record. Rivers are at critical levels, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission said September 2, with the amount of water entering the Murray River at a record low, and more dry weather is predicted. The drought report "paints a picture of the worst conditions since records began in 1892," the *Australian* stated (September 2).



# The Armies of

The Russia-Georgia conflict and Germany's response is ten thousand times more important than the fall of the Berlin Wall! Here is why. **BY GERALD FLURRY**

**T**HE WORLD IS FOCUSED ON the American elections. But there are even more important elections coming on Sept. 28, 2009. Those will occur in *Germany*. And because a crisis is simmering there right now, this momentous event could come to a head even sooner than we think.

After this momentous election, *one man* will rise to power in Europe. A man we have been anticipating for years.

German leadership is currently in turmoil. After the last German election in 2005, the Social Democrats and the Christian Democrats pinned together an unwieldy “grand coalition” government with Angela Merkel as its head. Three years later, that political alliance is full of divisions. It looks as though it may not last until the next election day.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has used her office to try to play peacemaker with her coalition's various factions, but now it looks like she is in serious trouble. Something has forced her hand: Russia.

In August, the Red Army invaded Georgia, one of the former Soviet satellites that hosts part of an important oil pipeline leading to Europe. Georgia had been turning toward the West and NATO, but Russian tanks put a stop to that. They showed the world how bold Russia is and how far its leader, Vladimir Putin, is willing to go.

Angela Merkel is from East Germany, so she knows what Russian rule is like. But because of her shaky government, she has been unable to steer her own country's foreign policy. Germany sees what power Vladimir Putin has, and it is scared. Merkel wants to react by standing up to Russia, and, according to Stratfor, she is now abandoning her peacemaker approach to find a way to get control of Germany's foreign policy.

But Merkel is coming to a dead end: a network of German leaders who have different plans. This group of leaders is like the Nazi underground network that developed during and after World War II, ready and waiting to come to the surface and establish its own vision for Germany's future. And it is a deadly and terrible vision!

Now, the upheaval in the grand coalition opens the door for someone else through flatteries and deceit to put together a coalition and become chancellor—next September, if not before.

The reason Chancellor Merkel does not control foreign policy is that other German leaders are grabbing the reins. One of them is Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. In addition to presiding over foreign affairs, he is curator of Germany's intelligence agencies and has a lot of power. Steinmeier wants to resurrect the “Great Germany.” He doesn't like America. He believes Germans have a fundamentally

*different* mentality than Americans.

Former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder is another important part of this network. After ruling in Germany for seven years before Merkel, he took a job as an officer in Gazprom, Russia's state-owned energy company. Both Schröder and Steinmeier are very friendly toward Russia. There is a pro-Russian sentiment in Germany. Even as Russia invaded Georgia, some of Germany's media outlets attacked America and sided with Russia. Many Germans are excited about how Russia's invasion has exposed the weakness of America. And many Germans want a strongman of their own like Russia has in its former-KGB-agent prime minister.

Germany's tumultuous government and its urgent need to deal with Russia may also bring another important German to power: Edmund Stoiber. Stoiber is the best friend the pope has in Germany, so he is not out of the running for making a comeback as the leader of Germany and of Europe. The Vatican is the world's listening post; it has a lot of power. It also has definite plans for Germany and Europe's future—a Catholic future. Europe is going to have to be pared down if it wants to deal with Russia; the pope definitely wants it pared down to a Catholic core.

But did you know that Germany and Russia have probably *already* dealt with their most urgent differences? Consid-



# Armageddon

ering the involvement of Schröder and Steinmeier, all kinds of agreements could unfold. I believe that Germany’s leaders may have already agreed to a deal with Russia, a modern Hitler-Stalin pact where Germany and Russia divide countries and assets between themselves. This agreement would allow each to turn its sights on other targets. Any such deal that may have been struck between Germany and Russia is a precursor to war!

Russia’s conflict with Georgia, Germany’s reaction to it, and a German-Russian pact will bring a man on the world scene like we have never seen before. This man is *prophesied* in your Bible!

Daniel 8 speaks of a fierce German ruler to come “in the latter time.” Verse 23 describes him as a “king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences.” “And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many ...” (verse 25). This king comes acting like he wants peace, but he is lying! He will be a ruthless and violent man—preaching peace but practicing war!

Daniel 11:21 says this end-time Antiochus will “come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries,” yet will be a vile person. Verse 25 shows he will war against the king of the south with a GREAT ARMY.

*I believe we might see the Daniel 8:23 man within this year!*

This is Germany and Europe’s moment!

The Daniel 8 man is going to change the German landscape—economically, politically and militarily. Germany needs a man for emergencies. What we see developing now is just such an emergency, and Germany is about to bring that man to power. This is what’s just ahead of us!

We have seen the king of the south, radical Islam, come together and begin to push. We are now seeing the “kings of the east,” Russia and China, aggressively assert their power. And Russia versus Georgia is bringing in the Daniel 8 man, a man who will finally stand up and USE POWER: the king of the north!

This is the rise of the Holy Roman Empire. It’s back!

Herbert Armstrong said in 1960, and even before, that there would be a European superpower that would be greater than the United States or Russia. Do you see this prophecy, which came from the Bible, coming to pass step by step? Do you see how America is falling apart, how our dollar is collapsing, our alliances are fracturing? Our people don’t have the will to confront these challenges. They are too concerned about their entertainment, their sports, their pornography. They do not want to be distracted by war, or saving their nation, or obeying God!

Russia’s invasion of Georgia, if you can believe it, is bigger than the fall of the Berlin Wall! Ten thousand times bigger than that! It is the first military strike of the kings of the east! The world is thundering toward Armageddon!

Read Revelation 16:12-16. *These armies of Armageddon are already on the world scene today!*

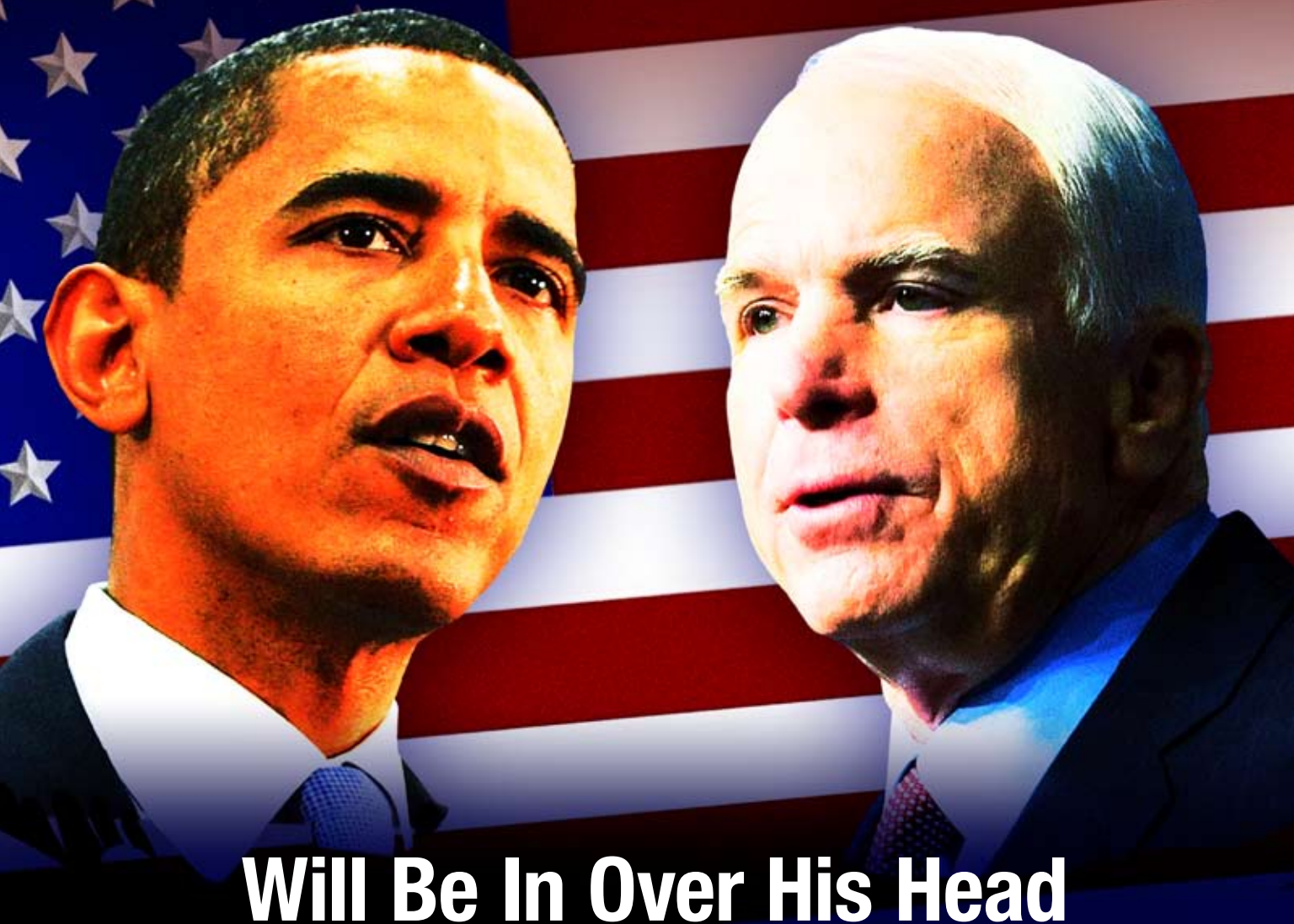
Are you ready for what is coming? Are you paying close attention to what is occurring before our eyes?

But even in this oncoming destruction there is also HOPE! God has revealed something else that we should remember. Though Anglo-America is doomed to fall, and the kings of the north and south and east are to engage in the most horrific World War III, the rest of Daniel 8:25 shows the end of this violent and bloody king of the north and his armies: “he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.”

This means this violent king will fight GOD! All these men will be destroyed by Jesus Christ Himself. When you see this man come on the world scene, you can know that the God who prophesied all this is coming back! *Jesus Christ is about to return!* This is wonderful news beyond anything you can imagine: Jesus Christ is about to return and put a stop to all war! That too is coming! Are you ready for it? ■

With editorial assistance by PHILIP NICE

# America's Next President



## Will Be In Over His Head

Change is coming, yes—but not the kind the candidates think. BY JOEL HILLIKER

**L**ET ME OFFER AN ADVANCE warning to the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first-country-second Washington crowd: *Change is coming!* John McCain promised in his speech at the Republican convention in September. He used the word 10 times. “We need to *change* the way government does *almost everything*,” he said. “We’re going to ... make this government start working for you again, and get this country back on the road to prosperity and peace.”

Barack Obama, his opponent, has been promising *change* from the beginning of his campaign. “It’s time for [Republicans]

to own their failure. It’s time for us to change America,” he said—one of his 16 mentions of the word during his own convention speech. “And that’s why I’m running for president of the United States.”

It is the perennial promise of politics. *Something’s wrong with the way things are. We’re going to get in there and shake things up. Get this country moving again.* It is the most oft-repeated theme of the candidate asking for votes. *As soon as I’m in power, we’ll set things right.* It is the essence of the nominees’ pitch: that utopia is just a vote away. *We will sweep out the corruption and bring a new era of prosperity and peace. THIS time, it’s REALLY going to change!*

The promise of change has, in fact, motivated most every putsch and coup and revolution in history. Think beyond America’s borders for a moment. Change was the promise Pervez Musharraf once offered Pakistan. It was the promise that inspired Palestinians to vote Hamas into power in 2006. It was the promise of the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Change was the promise of Castro’s Cuban revolution, and of similar events throughout South America. It was the promise of most of the big men presiding over their bits of the African continent. Even Adolf Hitler campaigned to a disgruntled electorate on a promise to solve his nation’s economic



woes. No leader ever sets out to create a legacy of same-old, status-quo *failure*.

Still, the fact remains that *not one* of the primary forms of government in human history—monarchy, democracy, republic, oligarchy, despotism, tyranny—nor system of political economy, from capitalism to communism—has brought about and sustained any real semblance of peace, prosperity and happiness for the masses. Not one has truly made good on its promise. All have been plagued by failure and corruption.

Among the innumerable company of history's experiments in governance, the republic of the United States stands as the greatest. And still we see an election whose overarching theme is aimed at addressing broad discontent and anxiety among the electorate with the promise of *change*.

With thousands of years of such failure to look upon, why then do we cling to our conviction that a solution is almost in sight? The grim reality remains as the Prophet Isaiah described it nearly three millennia ago: "[W]e wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness."

### Promises, Promises

Like every presidential aspirant, John McCain is making some big promises. He has pledged, among many other things, that if elected he will combat hunger nationwide, save the Everglades, work to rid Africa of malaria, and win the war in Iraq. He will end dependence on Middle Eastern oil, capture Osama bin Laden, expand the military, and ensure the nation has high-quality intelligence. He promises to restore people's trust in the government, inspire greater public service in Americans, help smokers quit, protect doctors from lawsuits, ensure that students have access to excellent schools, secure America's borders, fix FEMA, train workers for the new economy, and make U.S. employees more globally competitive. He also plans to balance the budget, stop wasteful government spending, rescue Medicare, and save Social Security without raising taxes. And this is just the short list.

Wouldn't it be remarkable to see a president achieve all that? But wait. As far-reaching as these promises are, they don't even touch those of his opponent.

Obama has promised, among many other things, that if America elects him, he will safeguard all nuclear material worldwide within his first term, stop new nucle-

ar weapons development, finish the fight in Afghanistan, crack down on al Qaeda in Pakistan, end the Darfur genocide, and create a Palestinian state that exists with Israel "side by side in peace and security." He aims to cut the world's extreme poverty in half and boost international aid. He will help revitalize inner cities, overhaul immigration laws, outlaw discrimination against transsexuals, ban racial profiling, make the criminal justice system into one that will inspire every American's trust and confidence, and even attract more doctors to rural areas. He will provide free college education for those who want to become teachers, supply health care and broadband Internet access for every American, preserve Social Security, rebuild aging infrastructure, and build a 21st-century

## The next American president will face a drastically altered economic landscape. His term could well be consumed with trying to survive the vortex of trends sucking the economy down.

Veterans Affairs hospital—all while slashing federal waste and cutting taxes for 95 percent of working families. He will "make sure our economy is working for everybody," and generate "nothing less than a complete transformation of our economy." He pledges to reduce carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050, to reduce electricity demand even as the population increases, to "end the age of oil," and to "work to solve this energy crisis once and for all." Again, this is just cherry-picking from a much larger list of his campaign pledges.

It gives you a good idea of how socialistic the nation is becoming: The only serious contenders for its highest office are seducing voters with the lure of more government programs, more entitlements, and more regulations and laws.

But how much do Americans believe either of these men could actually keep these promises? Hard to say. Generally, politicians aren't held too hard to account for their soaring campaign rhetoric.

It's a good thing, too, because those promises are about to be absolutely shredded.

### The Real Issues

For one, the system itself is designed to limit a president and prevent executive overreach. This alone would prevent most of those promises from ever being fulfilled.

But the reason those promises of *change* are going to meet the same fate they always have has more to do with priorities.

Already, the concerns that many of those promises address are being overtaken by far more pressing, even existential concerns.

Right now, the American economy is embroiled in what Alan Greenspan has called a "once in a century" crisis. The economic damage is *irreparably* decimating America's already shaky standing as global financial leader.

The next American president will face a drastically altered economic landscape. His term could well be consumed with trying to survive the vortex of related trends sucking the economy down: sagging stock market, falling home prices, mounting job losses, failing corporations. The bounce in the dollar—caused not by a stronger U.S. but by a weakened global economy—will prove temporary; inflation will increase; consumer spending will slump. To finance his grand plans, the next president will need cash. But he will face increasingly miserly foreign lenders; as America's credit risk grows, their premiums will go up.

Higher interest rates will create additional problems: less corporate spending, fewer home buyers, anemic consumerism. The president's other option—printing money—will further hollow out the dollar's value. He will find it impossible to spend the nation out of recession simply because of its already historic indebtedness.

It is difficult to calculate the pressures these economic woes will put on the already strained social integrity of this nation. The next president will face far more significant social problems than his predecessor did. Unemployment, inflation, recession, food shortages—these will find corollaries in the fracturing of families and neighborhoods, the increase in substance abuse, domestic violence and urban crime. Consider as well the economy's unprecedented dependence on alien workers, and how the levels of immigration have weakened social cohesion and created pockets of hostile foreigners within the nation. Racial tensions are rising and could well be compounded by the outcome of this election, regardless of who wins.

And as much as the next president would like to restore America's former prestige in industry, science and technology, he will not be able to do so by pledging additional money—if it could be found—to attract better teachers and improve education. The younger generations are suffering measurable deficits in emotional maturity, intellectual capacity, work ethic, self-sacrifice, ambition and will.

These crippling problems have a number of causes that America has rendered itself incapable of confronting, including societal moral decline, sloth, and family breakdown. On top of these is the sense of entitlement and complacency produced by socialistic governmental programs—a malaise that cannot be remedied by more government programs.

Compounding these problems, the next president will find himself struggling with the irrefutable uptick in environmental disasters. According to Federal Emergency Management Agency statistics, Ronald Reagan saw an average of 23 major disaster declarations each year he was president. His successor saw 39 each year. Bill Clinton dealt with an average of over 47. President

Bush has seen 54 annually. Hurricanes Gustav and Ike brought this year's total, only halfway into September, to 56. That's a new disaster requiring governmental intervention *every 4.6 days*. The drain on federal resources is growing greater all the time. And those figures don't even include the far-reaching drought that, along with widespread flooding, has ravaged food production in the U.S.

The presidential candidates, though they may differ with some of these specifics, nevertheless accept the general premise that the nation's problems are worse than ever. In response, they each say, *That makes it all the more important that you vote for ME. It's because of all those troubles that this is, in fact, the most important*

*election of our lifetime. I'm the only man who can CHANGE things!*

But there is a darker reality that both candidates and their supporters, caught up in the commotion of the campaign, are ignoring.

The reality is that the next president will be taking the helm of a *cursed nation*.

### The United States in Prophecy

You can already see most of the problems described above besieging America. People want to believe that a new president will reverse the trends. If he doesn't, it seems clear that he will be overwhelmed by problems.

But when you look at what the Bible prophesies for America in the near term, the true horror of the picture emerges.

# A Lesson From a Prisoner



**“N**OTHING brings greater happiness in life than to serve a cause greater than yourself.”

This was the stirring lesson John McCain shared during his speech at the Republican convention in September. Perhaps every American whose ears weren't clogged with cynicism was moved by his account of how that lesson was etched in his mind during his ordeal as a prisoner of war in Vietnam.

Though he was in bad shape, McCain refused his captors' offer of release in order to deny them a propaganda tool. “I'd been mistreated before, but not as badly as others. I always liked to strut a little after I'd been roughed up to show the other guys I was tough enough to take it,” he said. “But after I turned down their offer, they worked me over harder than they ever had before. For a long time. And they broke me. When they brought me back to my cell, I was hurt and ashamed, and I didn't know how I could face my fellow prisoners.”

It was within the crucible of that trial—being reduced to a broken shell of a man—that something extraordinary happened. This man came to see the poverty of his own cockiness and, as he put it, “selfish independence.” As his POW buddies encouraged him and helped him endure, he recognized his place in the bigger picture.

“I fell in love with my country when I was a prisoner in someone else's,” he said. “I loved it not just for the many comforts of life here. I loved it for its decency; for its faith in the wisdom, justice and goodness of its people. I loved it because it was not just a place, but an *idea*—a *cause worth fighting for*. I was never the same again. I wasn't my own man anymore. *I was my country's.*”

In an age saturated by that “selfish independence,” such words are deeply refreshing. They echo the sacrifice, the commitment to duty, the loyalty, the unsoiled patriotism that we admire and want earnestly to share in.

The Bible prophesies that the years ahead are going to be excruciatingly difficult for the country McCain fought for. However, he

believes, and he has convinced countless followers, that if only he becomes president, he can circumnavigate the challenges ahead.

“Today, the prospect of a better world remains within our reach,” he said in that same speech. “We face many threats in this dangerous world, but I'm not afraid of them. I'm prepared for them. I know how the military works, what it can do, what it can do better, and what it should not do. I know how the world works. I know the good and the evil in it. . . . I know how to secure the peace.”

No, he does not. That is the lamentable truth. As the Prophet Isaiah wrote, “The way of peace they know not.”

In a very real sense, the unfounded optimism that inspires so many to hope that this election will take the country in a better direction is closely akin to the cockiness and “selfish independence” of that naval aviator in the early days of his imprisonment at Hanoi.

But the horrors of that imprisonment broke him as a man. It was *that trial* that, at the time, unshackled him from the prison of his own arrogance. It was that pain and shame that ultimately exposed him to the free, refreshing air of a greater perspective. It was then that he could at last recognize the nobility of something *far greater than self*—in this case, the *idea* of a nation with a government that offered dignity to its citizens, a civilized government, one that stood for freedom, one that *served* its people rather than subjugating them. The pain of the trial inspired a love for the greater cause. The loss of self meant the gain of purpose.

This is exactly the sort of crucible that America is about to experience. “Great tribulation,” Jesus called it, “such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.” And it will break this nation.

But then, in that broken state, will come a moral awakening. “In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the Lord their God” (Jeremiah 50:4). Like Job in trial, America and the other nations descended from ancient Israel will at last come to see God. They will, in fact, come to love Him.

At that time, all men and women will serve the great God—and in so doing, come to know their greatest happiness.

For nothing brings greater happiness in life than to serve a cause greater than yourself.

**JOEL HILLIKER**

The scenario we've already looked at is forecasted in the Bible to continue—and get far worse. Prophecy shows that the economic, moral and familial failures will keep trending downward. The weather disasters will grow more frequent and more catastrophic. The pressures on food supplies will intensify. Immigration- and race-related hostilities will heat up and explode into violence. The national loss of vigor and willpower will become even more obvious. Not only that, these issues will be compounded by *still more* crushing crises, including devastating disease epidemics, more lethal terrorist attacks, pestilence and famine.

In addition, God prophesied the loss within America of strong, masculine leaders to shepherd the nation through such tribulations (Isaiah 3:1-4). The resulting national weakness and wreckage will leave America imminently vulnerable to the prophesied nuclear attacks by a foreign nation that leave cities without an inhabitant (Jeremiah 4:7)—and the subsequent national captivity. For a thorough scriptural study of how these prophecies apply to the United States, and to see the ultimately inspiring reason for which God is bringing them to pass, request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

This is how the Bible describes America's coming days. These are the curses progressively befalling this nation that has turned itself so completely away from the God who gave it such abundant blessings.

This sequence of curses is already beginning to ravage the United States at an accelerating tempo. Exactly *how much* will occur during the next presidential term is not certain. What is certain, however, is that the curses will not lighten up. They will only grow worse.

The only question is how quickly.

But thankfully, that is not the end of the story.

As surely as the Bible prophecies of America's demise, it foretells of its ultimate replacement by a righteous government that will—at long last—fulfill that perennial promise of politics. Biblical prophecy contains the advance warning to all the old, big-spending, do-nothing, me-first-country-second governments of this weary Earth: *Change is coming*.

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Revelation 11:15).

That truly is change you can believe in. ■

Perhaps most obvious is the Category 5 economic hurricane currently smashing into America. The average American has long ignored the balance sheets of American companies and the reckless spending of the U.S. government—and thus ignored the forecasts of the coming economic storm. That fierce storm has now arrived (see page 4). Economic devastation looms.

How are you responding to this financial hurricane?

Another crisis the *Trumpet* has talked about for years is the *geopolitical hurricane* hurtling toward America. Most Americans remain blissfully ignorant of the terrifying world in which they live. Most refuse to accept that much of the world *hates* the United States and, in many cases, is attempting to implement strategies and foreign policies designed to handicap and destroy American power. You can read about this in last month's issue of the *Trumpet*.

The United States is quickly becoming a global weakling while anti-American nations are emerging as powerhouses. Geopolitical demise may be an off-shore threat, but it stands to impact *every American*. How serious do Americans perceive this problem to be? How many are searching for a safe place?

There are multiple other powerful, potentially devastating hurricanes brewing inside America, which the *Trumpet* has written about for years. Racial tension is palpable; race riots loom. Sexual immorality and sundry sexual perversions—considered normal and widely promoted in mainstream media—are leveling marriages and families. America's children are mentally, emotionally and spiritually lost, abandoned by their parents and besieged by a culture that worships the gutter. The list goes on.

Like Hurricane Ike, these crises can and have been tracked, *many in alarming detail*, for years. Now they're on America's doorstep, and some are already making landfall.

One would think a rational person would be diligently searching for a safe place to go to escape these storms. Only an irrational person would ignore the terror, reject the warning signs and, like the folks in Galveston, hunker down and attempt to weather the storms alone.

Yet that's exactly what most Americans are doing! Few are evacuating to safety. Most are ignoring the warnings and going about life as usual.

## A Place of Safety?

Finding a safe place to escape to today, however, may seem impossible. There isn't a square inch of American soil that isn't exposed to one crisis or another. That's true.

But that doesn't mean there is not a place of safety for you to escape to. Bible history shows that God has a history of protecting righteous, obedient people. He caused Noah to build an ark to escape the largest flood in history. He rescued the Israelites from slavery. He protected the ancient prophets. He protected His true Church throughout the centuries, when His people remained faithful to Him.

This lesson permeates the Bible: God protects righteous, obedient people who seek His protection!

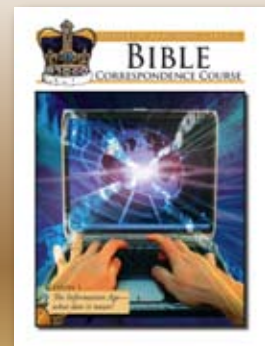
The United States faces a multitude of Ike-sized hurricanes—political, geopo-

**For years, the *Trumpet* has tracked and warned about the multitude of figurative hurricanes bearing down on the Anglo-American peoples. Today many of these violent storms are on America's doorstep.**

litical, economic and social. As they approach, are you searching for a place of safety for you and your family? If you're seriously interested in learning how to be protected from these terrible storms, order a free copy of *Repentance Toward God*, and request your first issue of the *Herbert W. Armstrong College Bible Correspondence Course*.

This literature, if you believe it and put it into practice, will be your vehicle to God's place of safety. ■

## LEARN YOUR BIBLE!



**Enroll in the free  
Herbert W. Armstrong College  
Bible Correspondence Course!  
Ordering information on back cover.**

**G**UESS WHO'S THE MOST CONSERVATIVE of the four major candidates vying for presidential offices in the White House this winter? It's the one who eloped with her high school sweetheart in 1988, who gave birth to her first son eight months later. It's the one with a 17-year-old daughter who is pregnant and unmarried. It's the career woman who resumed working at the office just three days after the birth of her fifth child—a Down syndrome baby.

Despite these decidedly untraditional “conservative” values, soon after Sarah Palin was introduced as John McCain’s running mate, the Republican base whipped into an excited frenzy that showed no abatement even as she paraded her dysfunctional family across the center of America’s grandest political stage.

**Looking for Real**

“People are looking for real,” Republican governor of South Carolina Mark Sanford told the *New York Times* after news broke that Palin’s daughter was pregnant. “Real means blemishes, real means warts, real means real. These family imperfections make people say, *That family isn’t so different from my family*” (September 1; emphasis mine throughout).

“If anything, this is a reminder that Sarah Palin is a real person who has the same experiences that regular Americans do,” chimed in Fergus Cullen, the New Hampshire Republican chairman.

Even conservative stalwart James Dobson, who refused to vote for McCain and then changed his mind *after* he chose Palin, defended the teen pregnancy revelation this way: “[A]ll it really means is that she and her family are human.” Dobson congratulated Palin for “not just talking about their pro-life and pro-family values, but *living* them out even in the midst of trying circumstances” (ibid.).

But should the Palin family really be held up as a proper role model for family living? Of course every family has its blemishes. But unless we CORRECT those mistakes and flaws, history will simply repeat itself.

**Mommy Migration**

Over the past 50 years, the number of hours married women spend working outside the home has *tripled*. And having small children at home has not deterred women from continuing their out-of-home careers. In fact, *seven out of ten* married women with children under the age of 6 are employed. While this figure includes those who work part-time, the

# The Politics of Family Values

**Even as both parties seek the moral high ground, society’s building block crumbles.** BY STEPHEN FLURRY

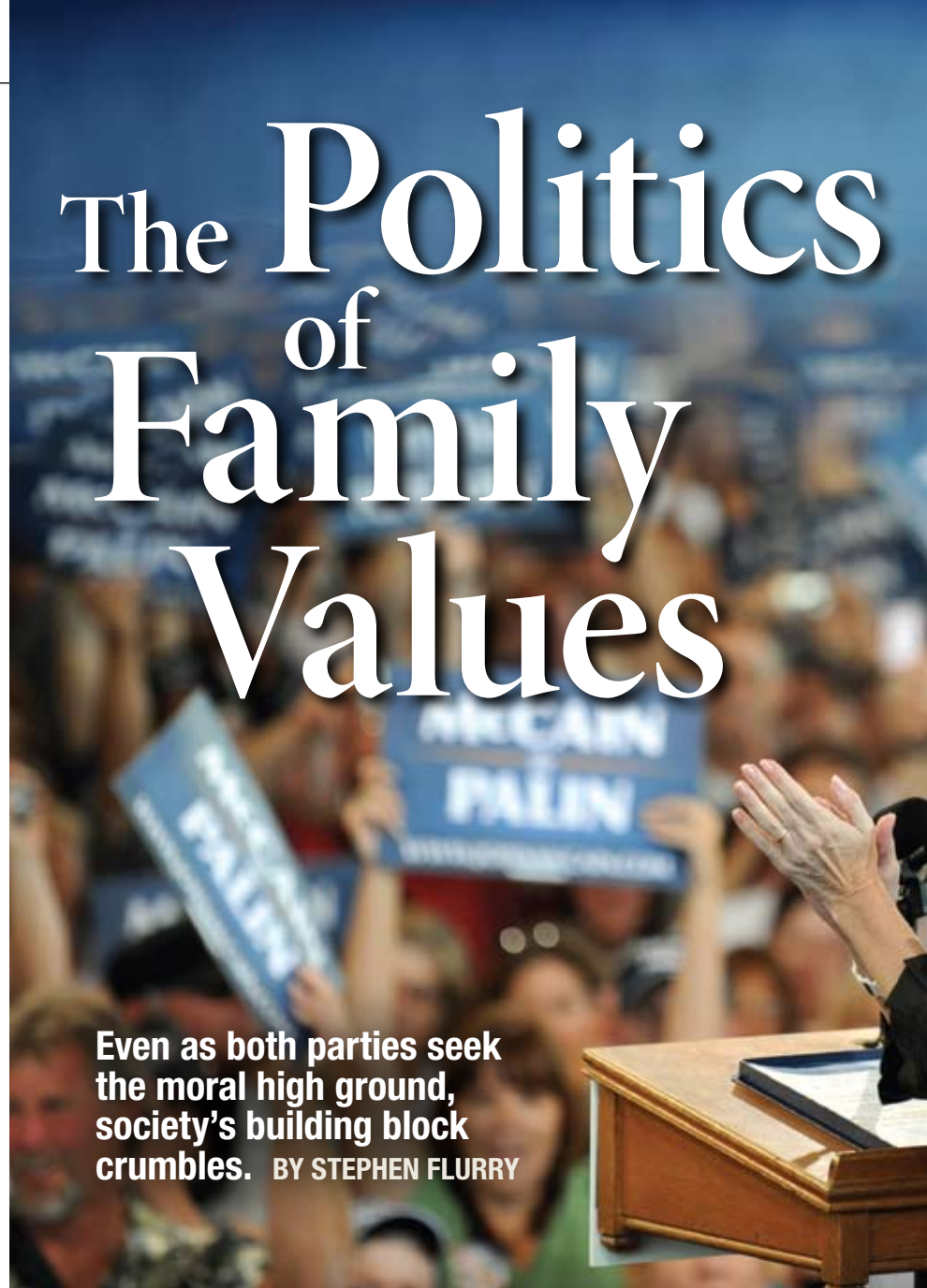
overall trend clearly points to this radical transformation in the mother’s role over the last half century: *Caring for children while dad is at work is no longer the primary responsibility for most mothers.*

That in turn has left many of our children at home alone, without supervision. And unsupervised teens are much more likely to struggle at school, abuse alcohol, take drugs, view pornography and *engage in premarital sex*. According to a study published by *Pediatrics* in December 2002, among sexually active teenage boys, 91 percent said their last sexual encounter was in a *home setting* and that it was usually *after school*. The study noted, “Youths who were unsupervised for 30 or more hours per week were more likely to be sexually active

compared with those who were unsupervised for 5 hours a week or less.”

Today, the United States has the largest teenage birthrate in the industrialized world: Some 500,000 babies are born to teenage girls every year. Most fathers are long gone by the time the baby arrives. Only one third of teen moms will ever finish high school. And nearly 80 percent will end up on welfare.

And yet, incredibly, since the Palin selection, conservatives have done everything possible to put a *positive* spin on the epidemic of teen sex and one of its MANY devastating kickbacks—unwanted pregnancies. Bristol, after all, is supposedly planning to marry the father. And more importantly, she has decided NOT to have an abortion.





## THE NEW “CONSERVATIVE”

Sarah Palin, the Republican vice presidential nominee, is the darling of the right.

“We’re proud of Bristol’s decision to have her baby and even prouder to become grandparents,” Sarah and Todd Palin said in a statement. “Conservatives” responded as though having the baby is all that’s necessary to value family life. Sarah Palin is a staunch pro-lifer, you see, which automatically qualifies her as the most conservative politician on either ticket.

When asked if Palin could handle the demands of the vice presidency in addition to her responsibilities at home, John McCain’s chief strategist dismissed the question by saying, “I can’t imagine that question being asked of a man.”

To even ASK THE QUESTION is now seen as *sexist*. And this is supposed to be the party that values FAMILY LIFE. Apparently,

the only traditional value left on the “conservative” platform is the pro-life position.

The right’s widespread acceptance of Palin as the next vice president actually signals defeat on the “working mom” battleground of the culture wars. As Ellen Goodman pointed out in a September 12 *Boston Globe* column, “Palin has made it politically incorrect to criticize working mothers. They are the demilitarized zone of the cultural battleground.”

### Defeat in a Culture War

Goodman compared statements made by influential conservatives before and after Palin was added to the McCain ticket. They are quite revealing. James Dobson, for example, at one time largely attributed society’s breakdown in the family to “working mothers.” He now says, “I believe Sarah Palin is God’s answer.”

Phyllis Schlafly once said the “flight from home is a flight from yourself, from responsibility, from the nature of woman.” As Goodman noted, Schlafly now says, “I think a hardworking, well-organized CEO type can handle it very well.”

Another telling comparison: At the 1992 Republican convention, Vice President Dan Quayle’s wife, Marilyn, said during her televised speech, “Most women do not wish to be liberated from their essential natures as women. Most of us love being mothers or wives, which gives our lives a richness that few men or women get from professional accomplishments alone.” Stopping just short of calling “women’s liberation” a complete flop, Mrs. Quayle added, “Not everyone believed that the family was so oppressive that women could only thrive apart from it.”

Not surprisingly, Hillary Clinton called Quayle’s comments “an insult to today’s modern women.”

Sarah Palin is no Marilyn Quayle. “To any critics who say a woman can’t think and work and carry a baby at the same time, I’d just like to escort that Neanderthal back to the cave,” Palin told the *Anchorage Daily News* back in March when she revealed that she was seven months pregnant while still clocking in at the governor’s mansion every day (March 6).

### The Left’s Sudden Embrace of Morality

Meanwhile, at the other end of the political spectrum, in a cynical attempt to score political points, the liberal intelligentsia became suddenly aware of—and *gravely* concerned about—the problems of promiscuous sex, teen pregnancy and the plight of working moms!

The *New York Times*—ever one to champion the role of motherhood above one’s career—said that many women greeted the news of Palin’s appointment with “incredulity.” The *Times* intoned, “Infants with Down syndrome often need special care in the first years of life: extra tests, physical therapy, even surgery” (September 1). The left-wing trendsetter also criticized Palin for accepting the vice presidential position since she knew in advance that it would immediately move her pregnant daughter under the intense glare of public scrutiny.

The *Times* also ran two front-page stories about the Bristol Palin pregnancy and implied that her mother should have never been given the nod when it reported that John McCain’s camp mistakenly failed to properly vet Palin before her appointment.

Yes, these same voices that have for decades urged mothers to abandon children for their careers, applauded women who choose single motherhood over marriage and that encouraged teenage sex so long as it’s “safe,” now *all of a sudden* are concerned about Sarah Palin’s family background.

Where have these warnings been the last 20 years even as the promiscuous sex they actively promote has brought about the rampant and deadly spread, primarily within the youth demographic, of sexually transmitted diseases?

STDs kill people by the thousands every year, but this dangerous threat is largely unrecognized by the general public because it is ignored by educators, politicians and even health-care professionals. Many of them even put a *positive* spin on the plague by dishonestly pointing to the modest decline in the teen birthrate as surefire proof that contraceptives guarantee a safe and healthy lifestyle.

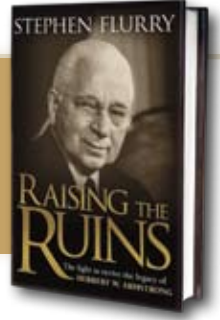
It’s no wonder the Democrats have found it so difficult to counterpunch John McCain’s appointment of Palin.

### A Prophecy Fulfilled

Yes, both sides of the political aisle have their distorted views about family values. Meanwhile, the basic building block of a strong and stable society—the traditional family—continues to crumble.

Everything in our modern-day dysfunctional society is exactly as the Prophet Isaiah said it would be: UPSIDE DOWN. This fact can mean only one thing, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in his 1981 book *The Missing Dimension in Sex*: “[C]IVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT IS ON THE WAY DOWN—AND OUT—unless that great ‘Unseen Strong Hand From Someplace’ soon intervenes and saves today’s sick society.” ■

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 the 21st chapter.



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

# The Infamous Preface

**“We’re not going to make a deal with the devil.”**

— Gerald Flurry, *Sermon*, April 6, 2002

**B**Y EARLY SPRING 2002, WE DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO call WCG’s bluff. After conducting our own investigation at headquarters to determine from others in the publishing industry what a fair offer would be, we put WCG to the test of their willingness to consider an offer from PCG “in good faith.”

My dad drafted a letter to Matthew Morgan on March 14. In it, we requested to print and distribute *Mystery of the Ages* and the 18 works we were seeking in our counterclaim. He mentioned to Morgan that Tkach Jr. had vowed in 1997 to keep these works out of print because of his “Christian duty.” And yet, my father continued, the WCG had curiously made recent representations before the court indicating a willingness to license the works. He reminded Morgan of Mr. Armstrong’s lifelong policy of giving away literature at no cost to the recipient. Nevertheless, “based on WCG’s recent representations to the court, we are making an offer in good faith to license these works.”

We offered to pay the WCG a royalty of 10 cents for every booklet we distributed, 25 cents per book and 50 cents for each correspondence course sent out. My dad concluded the letter by saying, “WCG recently made an ‘offer’ to have PCG underwrite the expense of so-called ‘e-publishing’ most of these works. Aside from not being a license to PCG at all, this ‘offer’ suffered from numerous problems, among them that WCG apparently could withdraw the works from circulation immediately upon the conclusion of the court case between our two churches. WCG’s previously announced ‘plan’ to produce an ‘annotated’ version of *Mystery of the Ages*—which by all appearances was created solely to gain a litigation advantage and (to our knowledge) has never been pursued—informs our concern in this regard. This concern is reinforced by, among other things, the facts that, outside the court case, neither Mr.

Tkach nor anyone else has renounced WCG’s avowed ‘Christian duty’ to keep Mr. Armstrong’s works out of print; and that WCG does not (to our knowledge) ‘e-publish’ any other work in which it claims to hold a copyright. I look forward to receiving your response to PCG’s offer to license these works.”

In all the posturing WCG had made before the court—acting as if they were more than happy to license—they had actually *never even made an offer to license the works*. And NOW WE HAD.

Here is how Matthew Morgan responded on April 8: “As an initial matter, Mr. Flurry, with all due respect, I feel it is necessary to mention that your letter, after 12 years of silence, is belated and fraught with self-serving comments. Its obvious purpose is to gain some type of legal advantage. Nevertheless, we will afford the courtesy of a response regarding your inquiry about a license. So there is no misunderstanding, and although we do not address each one of your self-serving comments, they should be considered as denied.”

The bottom line, however, is this: They are the ones who brought the subject of licensing before the court, even though they never made an offer. They are the ones who tried to gain the upper hand in litigation. And no matter how “belated” our offer might have been, it was, nevertheless, a reasonable offer. And they rejected it flatly.

Morgan went on to explain how “valuable” Mr. Armstrong’s writings were to the WCG, which is why they were now moving forward on the e-publishing front. “Therefore,” Morgan wrote, “no need exists to engage in complicated negotiations over the terms of a license. Your church will now be able to purchase as many legal copies of the 19 works as it desires and finds necessary to fulfill all its *alleged* spiritual needs.” (The WCG had since added *Mystery of the Ages* to the list of works they intended to e-publish, after we assailed their ini-

tial offer to publish everything *except* the one book the Ninth Circuit had allowed them to suppress.)

After all their harping, *Make us an offer! Make us an offer!*, they now said flatly—no need for “complicated negotiations.”

### ■ THE DEAL THAT ALMOST HAPPENED

Not long after my father sent the letter offering to license the works, he gave a sermon in Edmond in which he said it was impossible to make peace with a terrorist, using the example of Yasser Arafat. He said, “[I]f you give Yasser Arafat what he wants, he is *still* going to be trying to destroy Jerusalem and drive the Jews into the sea. That’s his goal.” In tying this in with the court case, he went on to say, “Now we’re not going to make a deal with the devil—we’ll have to fight through courts and go through a lot of problems like that, but we’re *not going to make a deal* with the devil . . .”

By not making a deal, he meant that he wasn’t about to make one concession after another in hopes that we would somehow fall back into the WCG’s good graces. He didn’t want the PCG to be put in a compromising position where the WCG could then turn around and pistol-whip us into submission.

That said, however, it did not mean his conscience prevented him from ever paying the WCG money. He had, after all, offered to license Mr. Armstrong’s works just three weeks before the sermon quoted above. And a month before that, Dennis Leap told our *Trumpet* readers, “Unless the case is settled out of court, a damages trial must take place.” So we hadn’t ruled out settling, it just had to be according to ironclad terms that would prevent WCG from jerking the rug out from under us later on, *after* litigation.

Soon after our court case began, we seriously considered buying the WCG’s former college campus in Big Sandy, Texas. In May 1998, a little over a year after our lawsuit began, we anonymously offered them \$5 million for the property, which they rejected. A year and a half later, with the property still on the market, we upped our offer to \$6.5 million. A few days later, the realtor got back to our attorney and said that the WCG still considered the offer much too low and they didn’t like the fact that we were concealing our identity. But they were listening.

In February 2000, the WCG opted to use an auction firm to sell off the property and all the materials inside the structures. In sensing that they might be getting desperate to unload the campus, we worked furiously the next few weeks, trying to arrange financing that would allow us to make a \$7 million offer. We hadn’t planned on attending the auction, but we felt that if we could give them an offer high enough to prevent them from having to auction off everything over the course of five days, that maybe we could sneak in and make a last-minute transaction.

As it turns out, that’s exactly what happened—except Hobby Lobby is the group that swooped in with an \$8.5 million bid on the eve of the auction. *We missed it by \$1.5 million.*

Of course, a lot has happened since our initial disappointment after Big Sandy fell through. Using the benefit of hindsight, we now see that God didn’t want us to have that campus.

But that’s not the point. The *point* is that *we were prepared to pay the Worldwide Church of God \$7 million for the Big Sandy campus*. So it’s not like we were averse to giving them money in exchange for property. It just had to be a clear-cut deal, with no strings attached.

The same was true with Mr. Armstrong’s literature. Paying them for Mr. Armstrong’s works did not violate our conscience. But the circumstances for any such deal had to be just right.

### ■ THE “HOOK”

Matthew Morgan concluded his April 8 rejection letter by saying, “[T]he WCG is extremely pleased that it’s [sic] decision to publish, not only serves as the best means for the church to capitalize on its literary copyrighted assets, but also has the additional benefit of fulfilling your church’s alleged spiritual needs as well.” They were now *extremely* pleased to be able

to serve our ALLEGED spiritual needs! Several weeks later, we found out *why* they were willing to make the literature available online (besides to gain a litigation advantage): Every e-published work would include a treacherous preface written by Joe Jr.’s childhood buddy, Michael Feazell. This was exactly the kind of “deal” we wanted no part of.

Feazell began the preface by saying Mr. Armstrong was a “gifted communicator” who, after years of personal study, began teaching religious doctrines that were “at odds with traditional Christianity.” But because of his “enthusiastic preaching,” he attracted millions of followers, Feazell concluded—as if *what* he taught was of little or no consequence. He was just enthusiastic.

After Mr. Armstrong’s death, the church “carefully reviewed” his doctrines and replaced them with “theologically sound ones.” Here again, we’re not talking about *review, reform, modify* or even *replace*. *More like an unprecedented repudiation of foundational beliefs, the likes of which had never been seen in the history of religion!*

Mr. Armstrong developed his unique body of beliefs because of a “personal bias against traditional orthodoxy,” Feazell wrote. That bias was imbedded into the “church’s culture” and it gave Mr. Armstrong a “unique advertising hook that captured many people’s interest.” According to *Webster*, “bias” is “a highly personal and unreasoned distortion of judgment.” Feazell was saying that Mr. Armstrong’s *unreasoned distortion of judgment* was the “hook” that caught people like fish. He just *hooked* people and reeled them in by his own craftiness and distortion of judgment. Of course, Feazell is entitled to his own opinion, but how vain and arrogant to utterly disregard the opinions of 80,000 others who were either forced out of the WCG or left in disgust.

By not making a deal, he meant that he wasn’t about to make one concession after another in hopes that we would somehow fall back into the WCG’s good graces. He didn’t want the PCG to be put in a compromising position.

Most of them don't believe they were duped by an advertising hook. If anything, they were duped and deceived by Tkachism.

Fezell continued, "In conducting his studies, however, Armstrong had no seminary training and lacked any disciplined study of church history, biblical interpretation and original languages of Scripture." Of course, neither did Joseph Tkach Sr., as we noted in Chapter 4.

Fezell went on to say that Mr. Armstrong viewed the adherents of other churches as "children of the devil." Talk about a personal bias! This is the preface to be included at the beginning of all the literature we were seeking, and its whole point was to make us look like a hate-filled cult. Yes, the Bible says Satan is "the god of this world" and that the whole world is deceived. To say otherwise is to reject the Bible as God's inspired Word. But the Bible also speaks of *all* deceived people and churches eventually being given a chance for salvation. We believe that too. Jesus Christ died for this world—not for one church only.

We look upon all peoples of this world as potential sons of God, whether they are presently Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Buddhist or atheist. Where else is there a Christian denomination with teachings that offer hope for all peoples everywhere—even those who die without ever having known Jesus?

Fezell continued in his preface, "Armstrong also had many unusual ideas about prophecy, and for some these may have been the most attractive doctrines of all. He taught that the United States and Britain are the modern descendants of the lost 10 tribes of Israel, and that most biblical prophecies therefore apply to the Anglo-Saxon peoples."

As if God were only concerned about the Anglo-Saxon peoples. In his book, Tkach Jr. said church members used *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* as an *excuse* not to repent of racism. Quoting from a study paper on the subject, Tkach wrote in his book, "In the church, non-Anglo-Saxons sometimes found fellow Christians looking down on them simply because they were not 'Israelites.' To these people, being German, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Ukrainian, Italian, Polish (or a member of any other ethnic group) was to be inferior. Perhaps as a form of psychological self-defense, a few of Eastern or Southern European descent would speculate that, perhaps due to Israel's wanderings, they were Israelite, not Gentile. It somehow seemed inferior to be 100 percent Gentile. Obviously, such views do not belong among God's people."

*How sad. We had racism in the church all those years—and all because of Mr. Armstrong's literature.*

Yet, one of Mr. Armstrong's final acts as pastor general in the WCG was to appoint, as his successor, a Gentile man of Russian descent whose parents were both born in Czechoslovakia.

■ AND ON IT GOES

Fezell wrote, "Armstrong had complete authority doctrinally and administratively. Disloyalty among ministers was dealt with by firing and expulsion from the church fellowship." He described Mr. Armstrong as a harsh dictator. And yet, when you look at how the WCG's transformation was brought about, it could not have happened without authoritarian rule from the Tkaches *forcing* their new religion down our throats—or else forcing us out of the Worldwide Church of God. Tkach

Jr. (and his father before him) has driven out nearly 75 percent of the church's membership, including even his own sister and brother-in-law.

Ralph Helge threatened my sister with jail time in 1989 because she retrieved a partial list of WCG ministers from a garbage can. No authoritative threats there! The night Joe Jr. fired Gerald Flurry on the spot, my father pleaded with Tkach to at least discuss the items in question with a group of 15 ministers or so who were also dissatisfied with the church's direction. He wouldn't even consider the request.

And my father wasn't the only minister who was mistreated. As David Hulme wrote in his resignation letter to Tkach Sr., "Upwards of 170 ministers are alienated, some terminated *under questionable circumstances.*"

Fezell continued in the preface, "Based on Armstrong's interpretation of biblical passages, WCG members were taught that use of prescription drugs and most forms of surgery constituted a lack of faith in God's power to heal." Yet another classic example of doublespeak. Notice what Tkach Jr. wrote to a member who was leaving the WCG in 1990: "Actually, if you carefully read the latter portion of his [Mr. Armstrong's] own booklet on healing, it will become clear that he was acknowledging that there is much good that doctors can do." Indeed, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "[I]t is true that today most doctors prescribe medicines that are NOT poisons but rather are designed to help nature do its own healing."

Today, of course, their story portrays Mr. Armstrong's teaching as dangerous and fanatical.

The preface concluded with this statement: "The material below is copyrighted and may not be reproduced in any form without this entire preface and without written permission from the Worldwide Church of God."

Thus, as Matthew Morgan said in his rejection letter, due to the "additional benefit" of the WCG's e-publishing offer to help fulfill WCG's "alleged" *spiritual* needs, we could now direct prospective members, who might know nothing about Herbert Armstrong, to download a copy of *Mystery of the Ages* (at a cost of \$25) with a 1,500-word preface denouncing the author as a self-absorbed, racially bigoted, religiously biased, uneducated hack who taught heretical doctrines and bizarre prophecies while wielding dictatorial control over the Worldwide Church of God. ■

We look upon all peoples of this world as potential sons of God, whether they are presently Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Buddhist or atheist. Where else is there a Christian denomination with teachings that offer hope for all peoples everywhere—even those who die without ever having known Jesus?



# Iran's Other Weapon



## NON-NUCLEAR OPTION

One of Tehran's many deadly arms is capable of plunging the Middle East into war in a matter of days.

**Its nuclear project makes headlines, but Iran has another deadly weapon ready to go right now.** BY RICHARD PALMER

### JERUSALEM

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER ALI KHAMENEI openly says his nation wants a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. In fact, one of Iran's long-held goals is to capture that capital city—considered one of the holiest among Muslims.

Intelligence analyst Joseph de Courcy wrote in the *Islamic Affairs Analyst* several years ago, "Subscribers should be in absolutely no doubt about this. From Iran's support for subversion in Bahrain, through its improving ties with Egypt, its support for Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Islamist revolutionaries in Khartoum, to its close strategic alliance with Moscow, everything has the same ultimate purpose: *the liberation of Jerusalem from under the Zionist yoke.*"

Jerusalem is Iran's ultimate goal. Hezbollah's purpose is to help Iran reach it.

Founded in 1982 by Iran's Revolutionary Guard, Hezbollah has a long history of attacks against Western targets, including the two bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983 and 1984, and the October 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks. Today, Hezbollah is more powerful than ever, according to Fred Burton, the former deputy chief of the State Department's

Diplomatic Security Service counterterrorism division. In fact, he says this terrorist group's international capabilities are *greater than al Qaeda's ever were*. "[T]hanks to Iran, Hezbollah has far more—and better-trained—operational cadre than al Qaeda ever had. . . . Iranian state sponsorship provides Hezbollah with a support network that al Qaeda can only dream of," he wrote (*Stratfor*, Oct. 31, 2007).

Many now admit that much of al Qaeda's success lay in its broad connections with sundry state governments. But where al Qaeda is—or was—*tied* to these nations, Hezbollah is welded to its state backer: Iran, one of the West's worst enemies.

"Iran is Hezbollah's real strategic partner," Dr. Jonathan Spyer, senior research fellow at the Global Research in International Affairs Center, told the *Trumpet* recently. Many of the men in charge of Hezbollah have been trained in Iran. They share the Iranians' radical ideology. Iran funds them. It gives them their weapons. Nothing big happens in Hezbollah's world without the group first running the plan past Iran's grand ayatollah, Spyer said. "[U]ltimately *Hezbollah is only possible because of Iranian support; Iranian support is key.*"

If Iran is attacked, it can use Hezbollah in retaliation. "If there is going to be an attack against Iran, even if the United States isn't involved, if it's just done by Israel, I think Iran will try to attack U.S. interests in the region, if not directly, then through their proxies," Meir Javedanfar, author of *The Nuclear Sphinx of Tehran*, said. "They

will want to make Israel a very, very expensive liability for the U.S."

According to Spyer, Hezbollah used help from the Iranian Embassy for its attack on the Jewish Community Center in Argentina. The Hezbollah-Iran relationship works both ways: Iran can use Hezbollah against the West, and Hezbollah can use state-level assets, including Iranian intelligence and embassies, to increase its power and terror.

Hezbollah's international abilities are a formidable terrorist weapon Iran can use in its foreign-policy objectives. And its home base and stronghold in Lebanon, just across Israel's northern border, provides an ideal launching pad for the chief among these objectives: sacking Jerusalem.

Khamenei has made it clear that Hezbollah has an important role in the capture of the capital city. *Kayhan*, a newspaper with close ties to Khamenei, gloated over Hezbollah's success in the Second Lebanon War. In its 2006 Quds (Jerusalem) Day edition, it wrote, "In the 33-day war, the Lebanese Hezbollah destroyed at least 50 percent of Israel [and therefore] half the path to the liberation of Jerusalem." Iran sees Hezbollah's position in Lebanon as clearing the road to *Jerusalem*. Hezbollah shares these views; it too wants to "liberate" Jerusalem.

Since the Second Lebanon War, Hezbollah has been rebuilding and rearming. After the war, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon was notionally there to prevent that from happening—but unfortunately for Israel, it hasn't done its job. As a result, right under the UN's nose, Hezbollah has more than recovered its prewar strength.

Radical Islam lusts after Jerusalem, and it will soon make a grab for it, Bible prophecy indicates. The Bible says that radical Islam will in fact violently conquer half of the city. Jerusalem will be the trigger for the worst war in history.

Yet Jerusalem has a future unlike anywhere else. Though it will soon be the flashpoint for the world's greatest suffering, soon after it will become the seed of the world's greatest hope. It will be the location from which Christ will rule the Earth, and eventually, from which God Himself will rule the universe! There is no city on Earth like it.

For a dire warning—and for unparalleled hope in the ultimate future—*watch Jerusalem.* ■

**For more information, request a free copy of *Jerusalem in Prophecy.***



**P**AKISTANIS CELEBRATED, BUT their nation remains on the edge of an abyss.

Eighty-three percent of them wanted Pervez Musharraf gone. On August 18 he obliged them by resigning from the presidency. It was a final, decisive step in a months-long process that has taken the nation from being a wobbly ally in America's "war on terror" to facing an uncertain and possibly catastrophic future.

Musharraf's support for the United States never went over well among his people. Facing intense public disapproval in the world's second-most-populous Muslim country, he allowed the U.S. to conduct military operations and air strikes against terrorist targets in Pakistan and provided intelligence and operational assistance. For his efforts, the U.S. looked past his warts—and rewarded his country with billions of dollars.

From an American perspective, Musharraf wasn't without his problems. His efforts to confront extremists were half-hearted; the military over which he long ruled harbors Islamist elements; he pardoned Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan for selling sensitive nuclear secrets to nations such as Iran. But at least he wasn't openly acting in direct contradiction to U.S. interests.

At some point last year, however, key American officials began to complain about the lack of democracy in Pakistan. They decided that it was time for Musharraf—with his military credentials and anti-democratic habits—to go. "Washington, keen to burnish its credentials as a harbinger of global democracy, had set its key ally in the 'war on terror' an almost impossible task last year: to step down as army chief, hold free and fair elections and to remain in power," the *Telegraph* said (August 18).

That is a horrible mistake, *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry wrote at the time. "American leaders are telling Musharraf to take off his military uniform and give real freedom to that country. However, the military is the only institution that gives stability to that extremely divided country! This is another example of how little our leaders know about Pakistan" (January 2008).

Mr. Flurry compared the situation to how the U.S. abandoned the shah of Iran in the late 1970s and paved the way for Ayatollah Khomeini to overthrow him. "America's ignorance and weakness helped to push Iran into the arms of radical Islam. It could very well do the same to Pakistan—unless we learn from our history with Iran," he wrote. "We can't afford to make the same mistake twice. If we do, it will become a nightmare for the whole world!"

# Pakistan's Ominous Future

**Musharraf's decline and fall leaves a dangerous void in this nuclear-armed Muslim country and brings relations with the U.S. to a crisis point.** BY JOEL HILLIKER

American pressure continued. Musharraf caved, and Pakistanis seized their opportunity. In elections on February 18, they dealt a deadly blow to Musharraf with his billions in American money, empowering a collection of opposition parties that formed a coalition government. The alliance with Washington—which had only existed because of an autocratic military leader's willingness to defy the public—was dealt a deadly blow. The new government quickly made clear its disdain for Musharraf's dealings with Washington. The president's role was reduced to nothing; finally he was threatened with impeachment and forced from office.

Now, we are seeing just how prescient Mr. Flurry's statements were.

## A New President's Challenges

Pakistan's new president, sworn in on September 9, is Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. To say that his reign will be a rocky one is to put it mildly.

A highly controversial figure for his tainted past (spending 11½ years in jail on corruption charges) and lack of governing experience, the new president faces political resistance from former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) withdrew from the coalition government just days after Musharraf's forced resignation, accusing Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of trashing a promise to reinstate judges that Musharraf had ousted. Clearly, a common dislike of Musharraf was the only thing holding the fragile coalition together.

A crumpled government is the last thing troubled Pakistan needs right now.

The collapse of this five-month-old administration did more than just intensify the country's perennial political crisis. With the PML-N now sitting on the opposition benches, the government will find itself all the more enfeebled in its fight against a worsening Islamist insurgency. Sharif's party had been pushing for negotiated settlements with militants, and it controls the provincial government of Punjab, the country's most populous province. As the *Far Eastern Economic Review* commented, the PML-N "will now aim to check the political moves of the PPP government in the center and in the provinces" (September 5).

Meanwhile, the Taliban is getting bolder, claiming responsibility for a wave of suicide attacks in Pakistan. In two weeks in August, several suicide bombings killed more than 100 people. An August 21 suicide attack on Pakistan's biggest weapons factory, killing at least 67 people and wounding more than 200, was one of the most violent incidents in the country's history. On September 20, the biggest terrorist bomb ever in Pakistan exploded in Islamabad, killing 53 people—including two U.S. Defense Department employees and the Czech ambassador—and wounding more than 250. A suicide bomber rammed a truck containing the 1,300-pound bomb into the security gates of the Marriott Hotel, leaving a 24-foot crater and destroying the entire front section of the hotel.

While Zardari is under increasing pressure from the U.S. to crack down on Islamist insurgents, he risks further turning public opinion against the state and its use of force against the Taliban. Offensives by Pakistani security forces in the Swat valley of the Northwest Frontier Province in August and September, for example, displaced hundreds of thousands, stirring up greater resistance to Pakistan's cooperation with the U.S.

Then there is the army. If Zardari pushes it too much, he might face a revolt. Pakistan's army and especially its intelligence agency have long been infiltrated by Islamist sympathizers. Thus, even with 110,000 troops deployed in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, "the Pakistani Army remains unable or unwilling to counter effectively the resurgent Taliban," said the International Institute for Strategic Studies (Strategic Survey 2008, September 18).

At the same time, the new president must deal with a growing economic crisis in his country and the domestic dissatisfaction that creates. Inflation is at over

25 percent, foreign exchange reserves are dwindling and industry is grinding to a halt. The economy is in virtual meltdown. “Proverbially listed as a failing state, this precariously poised country could now be in a downward spiral towards becoming a failed state” (BBC News, September 18).

Meanwhile, tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan are reaching a crisis point.

### America's Dilemma

In our May issue, we drew attention to the fact that the alliance between the U.S. and Pakistan was “in serious jeopardy.” Increasingly, we are seeing that statement borne out.

Pakistan hosts Taliban training camps and lines of supply to terrorists in Afghanistan. The success of allied efforts in Afghanistan depends in large measure on the U.S.'s ability to seal that nation's border with Pakistan. As long as the Afghani

political capital. This only strengthened the Taliban both within Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan—where coalition forces are feeling the effects.

Although the U.S. Special Operations Command has reportedly conducted operations on Pakistani soil for years, the White House has recently chosen to make public that it is doing so without Pakistani permission. When the news became public, the flames of anti-American sentiment in Pakistan roared hotter than ever.

Pakistani Army chief Gen. Ashfaq Kayani responded with a strongly worded statement September 10: “No external force is allowed to conduct operations inside of Pakistan.” The following day, a Pakistani military spokesman said the army was under instructions to treat U.S. troops as enemy invaders and to fire on them.

Zardari is finding it difficult to stay on the tightrope between cooperating with

the army—and thus, any attacks against it are politically very difficult for Islamabad. “This moment was bound to come,” Stratfor wrote. “The United States could not manage Afghanistan so long as the Taliban had sanctuary in Pakistan. The Pakistanis were not going to fight a war in Pakistan to solve the American problem. So we are now down to the final crisis of the war that began seven years ago. ... Afghanistan is coming apart. The key to Afghanistan is Pakistan. Pakistan is unable, by itself, to deal with the Taliban. The United States has little choice but to abandon Afghanistan or go into Pakistan. Thus the crisis” (September 12).

Just as Zardari faces conflicting challenges, so does the United States.

U.S. military actions within Pakistan could exacerbate the already deteriorating political, security and economic situation within that country. This in turn would only provide further fertile ground for Islamists to take root and gain power within Pakistan. America, it appears, has no good options.

### What Next?

Yes, the Pakistan that Musharraf left behind is a mess.

And the more fragmented, disunited and gridlocked the government becomes, the greater is the extremists' opportunity to wax strong. Yet that is exactly what the post-Musharraf government is: a political tangle of competing parliamentarians, judges and military men.

The decline and fall of the Musharraf government was accompanied by and gave rise to the increasingly clamorous and powerful forces of democracy and Islamism—a volatile mix made worse by runaway inflation and other economic problems.

“As a result, for the first time in the history of the country the army is no longer in a position to step in and impose order as before,” Stratfor wrote. “Recognizing that any attempt to impose order military style to a growing crisis of governance would only further destabilize the country, the army's new leadership has put its weight behind the civilian government. But since Pakistani civilian institutions historically have never really functioned properly, serious doubts about the viability of the newly democratic Pakistan arise” (August 19).

“The most likely possible dangers are these,” wrote Frederick W. Kagan and Michael O'Hanlon in the *New York Times*: “a complete collapse of Pakistani government rule that allows an extreme Islamist movement to fill the vacuum; a total loss



Taliban can find sanctuary and support in Pakistan, efforts to knock it out will come up short. The Taliban will live to fight another day.

This is the last thing the U.S. and allied forces need in an area they had at one time considered all but won. Afghanistan is quickly becoming an even greater problem than Iraq. And the destabilization within Pakistan's government bears no small part of the blame.

Pakistan has always dragged its feet cooperating with Washington in taking action against al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists. But when it came to power in March, the nation's new government was even less helpful, largely taking the approach of appeasement toward the Taliban, making peace deals in return for temporary reprieves and

the U.S. and maintaining public support among a population sympathetic to the Taliban. If he stands up to Washington too much, he risks halting the flow of billions of dollars of aid that has entered the country in the years since Musharraf backed the U.S. after September 11. If he cooperates too much, it is politically dangerous for him, in a country where the U.S.-led fight against Islamist extremists is deeply unpopular among the public.

The situation has put Pakistan and the United States on what Stratfor calls “a collision course.” The Taliban's strength in Afghanistan has grown great enough that the U.S. can no longer afford to ignore their supply lines from and base camps in Pakistan. But sympathy for the Taliban is strong within Pakistan—including within



of federal control over outlying provinces, which splinter along ethnic and tribal lines; or a struggle within the Pakistani military in which the minority sympathetic to the Taliban and al Qaeda try to establish Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism” (Nov. 18, 2007).

These are exactly the sorts of nightmares that Musharraf, while he maintained control of the military, was able to hold at bay. At that time, the White House could make its requests known with a single phone call to a sympathetic and powerful ear. No longer.

“Almost every day the U.S. seems to learn something new about the limits to its capacity as the world’s one remaining superpower,” the *Middle East Times* wrote (August 14).

America has itself to blame for its loss of influence in this volatile situation. As Mr. Flurry wrote in January, “America’s problem is even worse than a weak will. We even help *push* our allies into the hands of radical Islam. That is a dangerous kind of ignorance.

“We helped get rid of Iran’s ‘corrupt’ shah in 1979. He was replaced by Ayatollah Khomeini, who began state-sponsored terrorism in the Middle East. Are we about to see another ayatollah rise to power? This time in *nuclear* Pakistan? And will America be mostly to blame?”

Meanwhile, the implications for the U.S. in its war on terror are severe. Half a century ago, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote that America would increasingly find itself in a position where it had no good option for victory. In 1961, referring to the Bay of Pigs debacle, he wrote: “[U]nless or until the United States as a whole repents and returns to what has become a hollow slogan on its dollars: ‘In God we trust,’ the United States of America has won its last war!”

“I said that when we failed to win in Korea! ... I say it again now that the United States government endorsed this Cuban fiasco—its president gave the ‘go ahead’—and God, the God America has deserted, gave it its most humiliating defeat! What does the Cuban debacle mean?”

“It means, Mr. and Mrs. United States, that the handwriting is on your wall!” (*Plain Truth*, October 1961).

Because of disobedience to God, America has been cursed by a loss of national will (Leviticus 26:19). The jam it finds itself in in Afghanistan and Pakistan is a result of that loss of will. ■

**For more on what is prophesied to befall the U.S., request Mr. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.**

## 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** KPXX 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** KPXX 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** WXPX 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** KTVI-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



**North Carolina, Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greensboro** WGFX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greenville** WEPX 6:00 am, Fri;  
 WNCT-DT 9:30 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, Cincinnati**WSTR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Lima** WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Steubenville** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Zanesville** WBZV 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Lawton** KAUZ 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** WCBF-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** WPXK 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** KQWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Odessa** KQWT 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** KTEN-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 KVOS 8:30am, Sun**  
**Washington, Spokane** KGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kenne-  
 wick** 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

**Michigan, Cadillac** WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Detroit** WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL  
 10:00 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Grand Rapids** WZPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Michigan, Lansing** WLAI-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** KMTE-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  
**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

**AUSTRALIA**

**Australia** Nationwide Network 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  
**Quebec, Montreal** WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

**LATIN AMERICA**

**Regional satellite** Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,  
 Tue/Thu  
**Colombia** WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias  
 TV 47 11:00 am, Fri  
**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

## Russia Attacks Georgia

GOOD PERSPECTIVE BY THE *TRUMPET* ON the Russia-Georgia showdown (“Russia’s Attack Signals Dangerous New Era,” October). I genuinely wonder where I would be had I not started reading the *Trumpet* in February 2000. One of the best decisions in my life. It has calmed me down, and given me the ability to remain unfazed in the face of political turmoil and uncertainty in world affairs. Most of all, it has made God and His hand in human affairs so clear to me.

*Timothy Kalyegira*—UGANDA



group .... And most importantly, we have freedom that has come at a high price. We should fight for this and never give up. If we don’t, the world will be run by ruthless dictators like Putin and Ahmadinejad with mindsets on power, greed and destruction.

AUSTRALIA

## Nukes in Germany

YOU ESSENTIALLY ASSUME that German politicians are waiting for an opportunity to get control of U.S. nukes in Germany (“The Next Nuclear Superpower,” October). The truth is that we Germans

have no control over them. Moreover, Germany is coerced by the U.S. to accept and finance the presence of U.S. troops on our land. There is a U.S. installation in Bavaria that serves the U.S. to spy on all the Internet, telephone and e-mail conversations in Europe. This is an open secret. The German government is doing nothing about this—why? If we Germans had any sovereignty, we would kick your troops out of our land! Germany had to ask other countries such as France, Britain and the U.S. for permission to reunite in 1990. Since World War II, the U.S. had the power to coerce the Bundesbank (our former central bank) to buy U.S. dollars and hold them as currency reserves even though this was not in our national interest. How our highly indebted country—which is totally dependent on the U.S.—should ever be a threat to Americans remains a mystery to me. *Thomas Pfefferle*—GERMANY

## Point of No Return

I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR THE CLEAR and realistic perspective that you always bring to God’s Word and to world events as they unfold. I was reading the letter from the editor in the September 2008 *Trumpet* magazine in which you mention how this magazine is about to change from putting forth a call of repentance to one of proclaiming God’s judgment on this world and its idolatrous humanity, societies and cultures as a testimony against them. I had hoped that this would be a bit further into the immediate future (having loved ones who do not yet believe in our true and Eternal God). ... But I do agree, although with sadness and heaviness of heart, ... that this world has come to and passed the point of no return in this lifetime. Although a hopeful expectation and end still awaits them through

the mercy and grace of God, it will sadly come at a high cost of life and suffering before many repent .... I thank you for speaking the truth straightforwardly and, at times, bluntly—yet always putting forth that marvelous living hope of God’s plan and, more immediately, the soon return of Jesus Christ our Lord and King to save mankind from total self-destruction ....

*Manuel Guerrero*—BEEVILLE, TEX.

## Iran Conquered Lebanon

I WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE YOU ON your article “Iran Conquered Lebanon ... Now What?” (August). Your analysis is 100 percent accurate. You offered a great description of the political situation in Lebanon (my beloved homeland) and the region. The whole world knows that Iran’s main goal is to take over Jerusalem. I have many things to say, but I promised myself I would not discuss politics. ... Politics of this world are extremely complicated and confusing. No wonder the devil is the ruler of this world. I am just writing to say thank you for your good work ....

*Paulette El Khoury*—GATINEAU, QUE.

... WE FIND IT HARD TO GET THE REAL news here in the so-called media capital of the world (New York City), and we appreciate your tireless work to educate the masses about what’s really happening in our restless world. ... We love receiving the *Trumpet* and read it cover to cover. God bless you and all the hard work you guys do to prepare such a comprehensive, formative publication. You have truly followed the footsteps of Mr. Armstrong. Please keep up the good work.

*John Abbott*—WOODSIDE, N.Y.

I WAS FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE BEEN referred to the *Trumpet* earlier in the year and wish to express my gratitude to the *Trumpet* team, and [Robert Morley] in particular, in regards to your conscientious and thorough analysis of world events. I find your paper a welcome respite from the mainstream media, which is primarily consumed with sports, entertainment and generic financial reporting, and as such, I am constantly referring you to friends and colleagues who I believe will appreciate what you have to say .... *Andrew Elmer*

WELL SAID! (“EUROPE’S GREATEST NEED—Exposed!,” October). You have outlined in detail all the reasons why Europe must unite under one leader. Anyone who ever heard Herbert W. Armstrong cannot deny in truth that he fully predicted these events we have the privilege of seeing fulfilled before our eyes! *J. Rush*—CANADA

WHAT WE SEE WITH RUSSIA IS A TRAIN no one is willing to stop. It’s incredible the amount of attention America and allies cop from media and cop on Iraq and Afghanistan. Then we see dictators like Putin preplan an attack at the start of the Olympics to send out an obvious warning to neighboring countries and Europe. And you’re right—it will unite Europe! The media talks about Bush does this and that but then turns a blind eye to Russia, China and Iran. The media is bringing the Anglo-Saxon people down. Everyone thinks that when America falls the world will be a better place. But the truth is, with people like Putin and the Iranian leader, the world will become more violent, hostile and dangerous. People should see the dangers that lurk outside their back doors. The Anglo-Saxon people are a special

## Correction

Our September issue (page 33) stated that Brüning strengthened Germany to the point where it was more powerful 10 years after World War I than it was at the beginning of the war. While it is true that Germany was more powerful by 1928 than in 1914, this was prior to Brüning coming to power. Brüning, however, continued to elevate Germany’s power and wealth during his chancellorship of Germany.

## Comments?

[letters@theTrumpet.com](mailto:letters@theTrumpet.com)  
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# The Healing of the Nations

The limits of medical science are about to be conquered. **BY RON FRASER**

**L**EAFING THROUGH A WELL-KNOWN MAGAZINE RECENTLY, I was struck by one advertisement for a patented medicine. It used half a page of text to promote the product—and *two whole pages* of disclaimers for the numerous side effects it might produce in the recipient. A few pages over was another advertisement for a sleeping pill. It used barely a third of a page of text to promote the pill, followed by a page and a half of disclaimer.

There's something wrong with a system that allows for the marketing of costly products that claim to work for the healing of the body when the "cure" has the proven potential to cause a multiplicity of adverse side effects.

A myriad of products line pharmacists' shelves. There are pills and potions said to correct a given ailment, then other pills and potions designed to counteract the effects of any reactions from other pills and potions. Some of these are even habit-forming. Others have been used as the basis for creating illegal drugs on which people get hooked into a harmful habit. Then there are the products designed to aid the suffering of those already hooked on illegal man-made substances.

As science develops more and yet more products designed to ease the sufferings of human beings, yielding massive profit to major drug companies, our hospitals continue to groan with the pressure of being filled to overcapacity. Medical and hospital costs escalate beyond what most people can pay. The high cost of medical insurance leaves many unable to maintain personal coverage.

Is this *really* progress?

The whole medical/pharmaceutical industry has engaged in a self-perpetuating cycle that sucks people into being at the mercy of professionals who spend their time making out drug prescriptions. Many, perhaps most, of these professionals are at the mercy of the pharmaceutical empires that dominate the industry, having little or no real knowledge of the real effect of the products prescribed beyond the marketing information produced by the drug companies in their glossy brochures.

Medical science has created a giant headache for itself. Infective bacteria are growing aggressively resistant to antibiotics as they adapt to the increasing strength of dosage.

Hospitals, once regarded as a haven for cure of the sick and injured, have over the past four decades turned into breeding grounds for infective bacteria. Golden staph, a "superbug" proving remarkably immune to antibiotics, is hitting hospital patients. Then there's the far more aggressive flesh-eating bacteria *staphylococcus aureus*, which ABC News described as "a drug-resistant menace, spreading silently through hospital hallways" (January 23).

Medical science is caught in a trap of its own making. It's on a treadmill going nowhere, unable to offer real hope of any breakthrough to deal with this challenge.

The solution, some are finding, is to jump right off the treadmill and revert back to good old, proven *natural* remedies that are so much more readily available off the supermarket shelf, or at the grocery store, or even in your own backyard.

Take honey for instance.

In that same magazine that I referred to earlier, there is a simple one-page article with a minimum of text enlightening the reader on the simple curative effects of good old, naturally produced *honey*.

Get this: "As bacteria grow increasingly resistant to antibiotics, doctors around the world are rediscovering an old ally: honey. A popular medicine *before the era of modern wonder drugs*, honey fights bacteria in wounds in several ways, including the steady production of hydrogen peroxide, an antiseptic" (*National Geographic*, June 2008). As a result, the article indicates, hospitals in Asia and Europe are now using bandages infused with honey, rather than man-made chemical compounds!

Well, how about that! After all of the "progress" of medical science, we wind the clock back 200 years and return to the simple, God-made *natural* gift of the honey bee to hit back at the problem of virulent bacteria created by the "wonders" of medical science!

Honey is mentioned often in the Bible in association with the richest of blessings bestowed upon ancient Israel. Israel was

promised to inherit a land "flowing with milk and honey ... the glory of all lands" (Ezekiel 20:6; see also Exodus 3:8). Proverbs 24:13 declares, "My son, eat thou honey, because it is *good*; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste." That word *good* is translated from a Hebrew term that can mean *well*—the implication being that honey can aid the wellness of the body.

In the Bible, honey is often mentioned in tandem with wine and oil. The therapeutic powers of these three natural God-given blessings, produced in abundance in the choicest places of the Earth as gifted by God to the descendants of Israel, were once well known to our great-grandparents.

How foolish we human beings are! Convinced that we are an evolving species, ever growing in our knowledge of how to control our universe, dazzled by the "progress" of science, we fail to grasp the reality of the daunting nature of the escalating and increasingly unsolvable problems that parallel our "evolution"!

Science will be forced to increasingly admit defeat by forces outside its control. Mankind will ultimately have to return to the "old paths" (Jeremiah 6:16), to subscribe to the law of God wherein lies the *good way*, the way of abundant, vibrant health, supported by the curative effects of natural God-made products designed for the "healing of the nations"!

Prophecy of that wondrous time yet ahead, Jesus Christ declares this of the new Jerusalem: "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river ... the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for *the healing of the nations*" (Revelation 22:2). ■



Request a free copy of *The Plain Truth About Healing* for more vital information on this subject.



# Meet the organization behind the *Trumpet*



The publisher of the *Trumpet* is happy to announce the completely updated, redesigned website of the Philadelphia Church of God, [www.pcog.org](http://www.pcog.org). The all-new pcog.org offers you loads of text, graphic, video and audio content, including dozens of downloads.

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