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AMERICA**

Washington's new civil war

GAS PRICES SOAR

The allure of alternative fuel sources is growing.
Will ethanol solve America's oil dependency?

**LESSON FROM
VIRGINIA TECH**

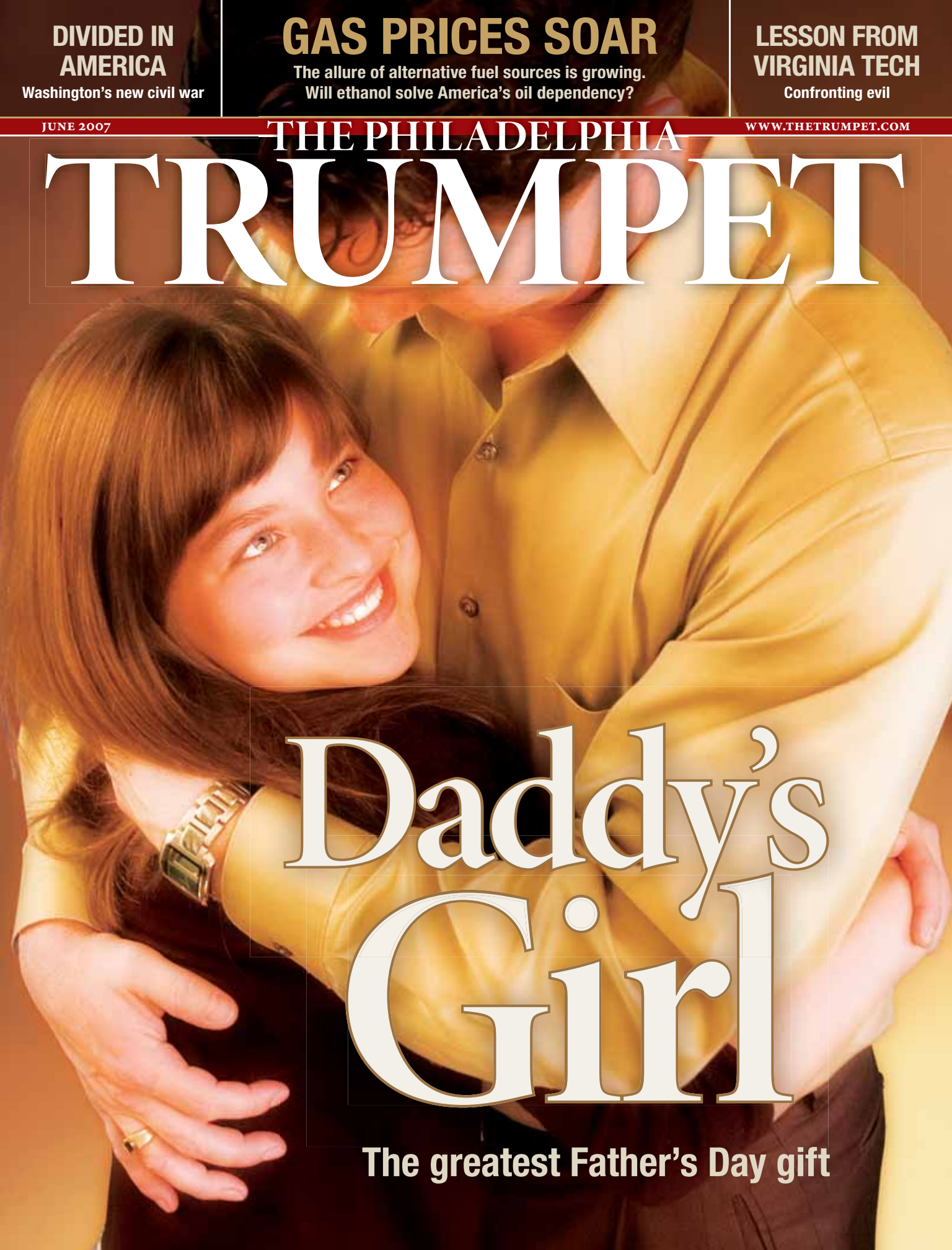
Confronting evil

JUNE 2007

THE PHILADELPHIA

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Girl**

The greatest Father's Day gift



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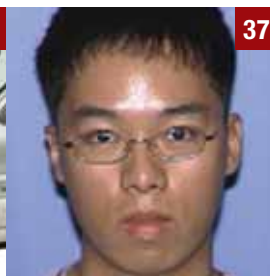
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Gerald Flurry

The Missing Dimension in Sex

ONE OF OUR MOST REQUESTED BOOKS IS *THE MISSING Dimension in Sex* by Herbert W. Armstrong.

Write or call for your free copy.

This book and other writings of Mr. Armstrong cost us several million dollars to win in court. If we hadn't won, outside of a few used book stores you would *not* be able to find a copy anywhere on Earth.

The people we fought against in court also spent a few million dollars. However, they did it to prevent you from ever reading *Missing Dimension* and other writings of Mr. Armstrong. They said it was their "Christian duty" to keep those writings out of print. We strongly disagreed.

Why would they spend millions of dollars to prevent you from reading this book and other writings?

I believe it is one of the most fascinating events you will ever read about. The court case is explained in our free booklet on *Habakkuk*. I believe you will be stunned, even electrified, by this amazing booklet. It shows how we won a miraculous victory when it appeared that all was lost. The court case ended Jan. 16, 2003.

In the discovery process of the lawsuit, we received access to many internal documents of the Worldwide Church of God, which previously held the copyright to this book. Here is something it wrote on Sept. 20, 1989, *after* Mr. Armstrong died: "Attitudes towards sex have changed radically since the mid-1960s and *Missing Dimension* is becoming less effective as a result of these changes. In addition, the cost of producing even a paperback version is several times more expensive than a normal booklet."

Our opponent, the WCG, said *Missing Dimension* was outdated. But Mr. Armstrong and our Church have always gotten an outstanding response from this book. This book has never been more up-to-date than today.

We hope you will request a free copy and judge for yourself.

Our opponents also said the book was too expensive for them to print. Mr. Armstrong thought it was well worth the expense and so do we.

Our court battle with the Worldwide Church of God, *after* Mr. Armstrong died, was not the first time some people tried to destroy that book. Why?

A WCG memo dated Oct. 17, 1977, about 22 years earlier, said this: "Our inventory of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* has been exhausted. It will be discontinued and the code will send a lit-out notice. Perhaps if Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's health permits, it will be updated and reprinted someday."

At that time, Mr. Armstrong was leading the Worldwide Church of God, but he was gravely ill. It looked as though he would never recover, but he did.

His own son had led an effort to destroy this book and some other writings of his father.

When Mr. Armstrong recovered, he restored all those writings and again freely gave them away.

So there have been two massive attempts to destroy *Missing Dimension*. Why?

This book tells you the purpose of sex—and of man. There are evil forces in this world that don't want to read that message! And they don't want *you* to read it either. I hope you want to understand *why*.

There are more beings involved in this cover-up than just human beings. I hope you will prove this for yourself. This book and *Habakkuk* will explain the mystery to you.

Our society is glutted with sex information and entertainment. No other age has come close to proliferating X-rated movies and pornography as our people do today through our unparalleled technology.

And if people can't get this perverted sex through our technology, they have unparalleled transportation to go and get it!

Never have we seen so much twisted, destructive sex information and entertainment. But **NONE OF IT**

TELLS YOU THE PURPOSE OF SEX! There is the missing dimension in all of it. Sick sex is playing a major role in destroying the Western world—led by America and Britain.

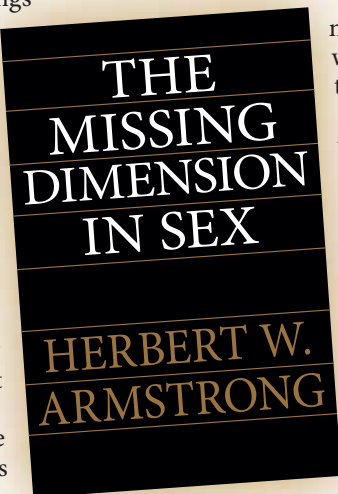
Families are the backbone of any strong nation. And families are being destroyed by turning what God intended to be a blessing into something vile and twisted.

THIS PROBLEM IS EVEN MORE DEADLY THAN NUCLEAR BOMBS! Marriages are broken. Children are left with one parent or with no parents in some cases. There is often extreme sexual abuse. Unlawful sex leaves emotional, mental and spiritual scars.

The Missing Dimension in Sex shows us how to solve our gigantic sex problems. Request this wonderful book and see how.

This book is changing lives in a miraculous way. I hope you will accept my challenge. Study this book and see why.

Here is what Mr. Armstrong wrote about this book: "This missing dimension in knowledge has not been revealed by religion, by the medical fraternity, by the 'authorities' on the subject nor by higher education. You will find it only in this book. **DO NOT GLANCE OVER** and past that portion of this book. It is a million times more valuable than the technical-physical knowledge. The latter, without the former can be, ultimately, disastrously fatal. For this is, in true fact, the most important and necessary book ever published on sex!" ■





Daddy's Girl

Fathers! Here is how to help your daughter
become a real beauty. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

WHILE WE WERE DRIVING HOME FROM A family campout, my 7-year-old daughter asked, “Why do girls at school always talk about having boyfriends?”

I wasn’t quite prepared for a question like that at the end of a wonderful, five-day family outing. But I wasn’t shocked by it either—not with the sexually charged culture our children are growing up in.

“It’s because of what they see and hear all around them,” I finally answered. “But just because our society says it is okay doesn’t make it right. What matters is what God says.”

The conversation made me mad—at my daughter—at *this world*. It reminded me of what Paul wrote to his congregation at Ephesus, where he referred to Satan as “the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:2). As Herbert W. Armstrong often said, Satan has SURCHARGED the air with attitudes of rebellion, self-centeredness and vanity—a spirit now at work even in the minds of our children. Left to herself, my daughter will gravitate in the direction of those attitudes and moods.

As her father, I MUST counteract that influence, or else she will be victimized by an evil world intent on hurting her.

Fathers, we are up against the world. But be of good cheer—so was Jesus Christ (John 16:33). He overcame the world. With His help and support, so can we (Philippians 4:13).

“Cool Hunting”

Back in 2001, a PBS *Frontline* special, titled “The Merchants of Cool,” examined the link between corporate America and our “hottest consumer demographic”—*teenagers*. To get at the \$150 billion teenagers spend annually, marketers are always on the prowl for what’s “cool.” They call it “cool hunting.” One researcher described it like this: “We look for kids who are ahead of the pack because they’re going to influence what all the other kids do. We look for the 20 percent—the trendsetters—that are going to influence the other 80 percent.”

So researchers interview these teen correspondents, searching for cool, and then produce and market the latest new craze in hopes of luring the 80 percent to their product. For boys, marketers

focus on the crass, obnoxious, reckless, in-your-face menace to society—they call him “the mook.” For girls, it’s “the midriff”—highly sexualized adolescents who dress and act like grown women.

The documentary explained the gender difference this way: “The midriff is no more true to life than the mook. If he is arrested in adolescence, she is prematurely adult. If he doesn’t care what people think of him, she is consumed by appearances. If his thing is crudeness,

The entertainment-driven media get their message across to our daughters loud and clear. They don’t care about your daughter’s well-being. But you do.

hers is sex.” What we are left with, then, is a teen-driven, media-saturated environment that caters to boorish boys and hyper-sexualized girls.

Of course, media moguls justify their unjustifiably depraved “entertainment” by arguing that it’s merely a reflection of our societal mores. And in a way, they’re right. If parents were vigilant in refusing to allow the garbage into their homes—if they restricted their children’s spending to wholesome products—THERE WOULD BE NO MARKET FOR SMUT. But media outlets are not without their share of blame. “It’s a giant feedback loop,” said the *Frontline* correspondent. “The media watches kids and then sells them an image of themselves. Then kids watch those images and aspire to be that mook or midriff in the TV set. And the media is there watching them do that in order to craft new images for them, and so on.”

Talk about vigilance! Cool hunters are lurking in our midst, spying on our children, appealing to their carnal and lustful desires, packaging vile products, and then preying on the spending habits of young people they desperately hope *you* AREN’T SUPERVISING.

Let’s examine the devastating impact this has had on our girls in particular.

Sexualization Report

In February, the American Psychological Association (APA) released a report on the “Sexualization of Girls.” According to the report, there is no question that girls “grow up in a cultural milieu saturated with sexualizing messages.” On television and the Internet, in movies, magazines and music—besides all being rife with sexually explicit content—girls are often represented as sex objects. Even programs aimed at small children have sexually charged content. Animated characters, the study noted, “have more cleavage, fewer clothes, and are depicted as ‘sexier’ than those of yesteryear.”

In the world of advertising, female sexualization is everywhere. Young girls are made to look and dress like adults, while women are constantly “youthified.” Whether it’s the clothes your 7-year-old wears or the ones she dresses her impossibly curvy Barbie doll with, SEXY is in. Fashion designers know well that in order to get a piece of the *teenage* consumer pie, they must first target the “tween” demographic, ages 7 to 12.

Add to that the billions that girls spend each year on beauty products and cosmetic surgeries like breast implants, liposuction, tummy tucks and face-lifts. Even *teenagers* are joining the ranks of those willing to pay big bucks to alter their looks or to “delay” the aging process. “Whereas girls of earlier eras focused on improving their studies and becoming more well-mannered,” the study pointed out, “girls [today] almost exclusively described changing their bodies and enhancing their physical appearance as the focus of their self-improvement.”

The entertainment-driven media get their message across to our daughters loud and clear. And here’s how it hurts them: According to the report, the sexualization of girls diminishes their cognitive ability, lowers their self-esteem, generates negative thinking and even depression, and is a root cause of eating disorders.

But don’t expect media moguls to alter their message. They don’t care about your daughter’s well-being.

But you do.

You LOVE your daughter. She means everything to you. She is your responsibility. Don’t let the world bring her up. That’s your job: to raise her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

You can do it! Here’s how.

1. SPEND TIME WITH HER

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Be strictly careful then about the life you lead; act like suitable men, not like thoughtless; make the very most of your time, for these are evil days” (Ephesians 5:15-16, Moffatt). It’s precisely because of the evil days we live in that we must make the very most of the time spent with our daughters.

Yet, for the past 50 years, fathers have dramatically cut back in this area. One study conducted in 1985 found that fathers in England, compared to other nations, spend the least amount of time with their children. The United States was second worst on the list. *And that was a generation ago.* More recent studies have found that the amount of time fathers devote to their children has decreased by 10 to 20 hours per week over the past two generations.

Nothing is more selfish and irresponsible than siring children without regard to the responsibilities of fatherhood. YOUR DAUGHTER is *your* responsibility.

In *As the Twig is Bent*, Leslie Hohman wrote, “Most fathers and mothers—especially fathers—do not devote many hours enthusiastically to their daughters and sons after the first novelty of babyhood is past. They listen to

the troubles of middle childhood when they have to, and occasionally come swooping off their perches for sudden reprimands.

By the time children are old enough to be really interesting as companions to the average parent, it is too late. The children have been forced to establish other interests, pleasures, and affection relations.” That’s what happens when you ignore her. You FORCE her to fill that void with other interests and pleasures—like boys and popular culture.

One of the conclusions Mary Eberstadt drew in her 2004 book *Home-Along America* is that teenagers are far more likely to engage in sex and experiment with drugs and alcohol when their parents are absent. On the other hand, a father’s involvement in his daughter’s life puts her at tremendous advantage over her peers, as Meg Meeker wrote in *Strong Fathers, Strong Daughters*: “With overwhelming evidence, the [studies show] that kids who feel connected to their parents (and who spend more time with them) fare much better than kids who don’t. Parents keep kids out of trouble;

parental influence can be more important than pressure; and specifically, daughters who spend more time with their fathers are less likely to drink, take drugs, have sex as teenagers, or have out-of-wedlock babies. Your time with her matters.”

Don’t make the tragic mistake of substituting physical things for the one gift your daughter really wants from you: *your time*. That’s *all* that really matters. True love is expressed by giving your TIME and your ENERGY—not your money. Make *personal* sacrifices for her welfare and well-being.

She’ll love you for that—and look to you for guidance and direction the rest of her life.

2. RESTRICT MEDIA INFLUENCE

Entertainment media’s frequent response to critics is, *If you don’t like it, turn it off*. Michael Medved compared that to saying, “If you don’t like the smog, then stop breathing” (*Saving Childhood*). He makes a good point. The influence of television goes far beyond just what our children see for themselves on the tube. But there’s still a lot you can do as a father to curb its negative influence and counteract its deceptive and false messages.

True love is expressed by giving your time and your energy—not your money.

American television churns out more than 65,000 references to sexual activity every year. And since most young people spend more than three hours per day watching television, and much of that without parental supervision, you can be sure they are getting a steady diet of sexual content—“classroom” instruction that glamorizes promiscuity while ignoring the consequences of teen sex.

No wonder we have a teen sex epidemic. Children who learn about sex on TV are far more likely to have promiscuous sex. In fact, a September 2004 study found that children who view lots of televised sexual content are *twice as likely* to experiment with sex as those who watch significantly less sexual content. Psychologist Rebecca Collins told the *Washington Post*, “The impact of television viewing is so large that even a moderate shift in the sexual content of adolescent TV watching could have a substantial effect on their sexual behavior” (Sept. 7, 2004).

The restrictions and standards you put in place for your family’s media intake do make a difference. The APA report said

“there is an URGENT need for girls to view media critically.” But in too many cases, fathers are failing to act, as Eberstadt points out in her book. “American parents tell every survey and outlet available about their disgust with popular culture, and yet toddlers watch more hours of television year by year; some 65 percent of kids 8 to 18 have television sets in their bedrooms, and some 58 percent of households watch television during dinner.”

We *know* it’s wrong—we *know* its influence adversely affects adolescent behavior—AND WE DO NOTHING ABOUT IT. That is an absolute shame.

All too often, fathers *rely* on television to keep their children occupied—and then when our daughters turn out bad, we blame television. How convenient.

Your daughter is your responsibility. Don’t allow her to indiscriminately view whatever she wants. Monitor what she watches on the one television you place in the living room of your house. Even during acceptable programming, view it with her. Apply these same standards across the board. Get rid of teen magazines that teach girls how to be “hot” so they can manipulate boys. Check up on the music she downloads, the websites she visits, the people she communicates with through e-mail and instant messenger. Get to know her friends at school—who she hangs out with. Let them know about your standards. They’ll respect you for it.

And your daughter? Well, she might “kick and scream” once in a while—complaining that everyone else gets to do this or that. But just because everyone else is doing it doesn’t make it right. She’ll learn that lesson over time. Don’t be a coward. Stick to your guns. If you do, your daughter will be more concerned about what *you* think than she is about what other people think.

3. ESTABLISH GOD’S MORAL AUTHORITY IN HER LIFE

Ultimately, of course, our objective as fathers is to teach our daughters to be most concerned about what God thinks. It’s not enough for her to merely accept God’s existence. James 2:19 says that the demons believe in God, *but they don’t obey Him*. The same holds true for most human beings. Jesus Christ asked the religious zealots of His day, “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

In John 13:13, Jesus said to His disciples, “Ye call me Master and Lord: and



TRUMPET

“Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Hebrews 12:11). Of course it hurts! It’s supposed to. But it is always for her own good—for her long-term learning and development of godly character. It always brings forth abundant fruit in the long run.

4. DILIGENTLY TEACH

Yes, God rules His creation—He is our Master. But God is also the great Educator! And to fathers everywhere, He gives this charge: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6). This is a proverb for us, fathers. As a *type* of God the Father in our households, *we are the primary educators for our daughters.*

God admonished the ancient Israelites to “diligently” teach their children the laws of God “when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). To teach diligently means to repeat, reiterate, or do something again and again.

Now think about how diligently Satan the devil works to educate our daughters through popular culture. He is prince of the power of the air! He is bombarding our girls with a distorted image and definition of beauty. He is selling them on unlawful sexuality.

Our job is to constantly reinforce God’s truth on these subjects—even if it means repeating it over and over again.

In his masterful textbook for life, *The Missing Dimension in Sex* (free upon request), Mr. Armstrong wrote, “If teenagers had been properly taught what they needed to know about sex, *from the very first and second years of their lives*, by informed and loving parents, the frightful tragedies of teenage and premarital sex would have been reduced to the barest minimum” (emphasis mine). Begin teaching early—and do it often. Don’t wait until a crisis before you reach out to your daughter. Don’t expect Mom to handle all the teaching while you make the money.

Don’t rely on schools to do your job. Even if schools get the instruction right, *which they most often don’t*, they are still poor substitutes for a loving father who is diligently teaching his daughter how to live.

Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Of course you cannot tell a 2- or 3-year-old more than a

See **DADDY’S GIRL** page 17 ▶

ye say well; for so I am.” They were right to refer to Him as their Master—that’s what He was! And if they accepted Him as their Master, Christ went on to say, then they needed to follow in His steps—to DO as their Master said.

This principle is a fundamental building block for life: In every human endeavor, *there will always be a teacher-student relationship*, whether it’s PARENT-CHILD, TEACHER-PUPIL, BOSS-EMPLOYEE, MINISTER-MEMBER, or LORD-SERVANT. Fathers who won’t reinforce this principle with their daughters are not properly preparing them for their future.

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole *duty* of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). That last part should actually read “for this is the whole man” (“duty” was added by translators). True education begins with fearing God—which means we submit to His moral authority with honor and reverence.

Notice Psalm 111:10: “The fear of the

Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.” Even before understanding, children should be made to fear God’s loving authority.

“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly” (Proverbs 13:24, New King James Version). Loving discipline is the greatest key there is to learning, because a disciplined mind will be an attentive learner. It will be more responsive to instructions; more discerning of good and evil. That’s why God says the rod and reproof actually give wisdom (Proverbs 29:15).

New Testament theology is based on the same principle (Ephesians 6:1-4; Hebrews 12:6-8), so just ignore what detractors say about this subject. God’s Word is what matters. God punishes His children because He loves them. Shouldn’t we follow His lead and do the same with our daughters?

ETHANOL: Is It the Answer?

Gas prices are shooting through the roof. Are alternative fuels the solution we're looking for?

BY ROBERT MORLEY

IN THE UNITED STATES, GASOLINE now costs about \$3 per gallon nationwide. And that is for regular grade, not the fancy stuff. In San Francisco, motorists pay about \$3.50. With summer on the way, gas prices look set to soar even further.

It is no wonder many drivers are examining the benefits of hybrid vehicles.

But America's unquenchable gasoline thirst has created two big problems besides high gas prices: foreign oil dependency and environmental pollution. The solution? According to many people, it is corn-based ethanol. But is corn-ethanol really a homegrown, crystal-clear cure for both dilemmas?

Many politicians think so. Since 2001, for example, in each of President Bush's State of the Union speeches, he has called attention to the importance of energy independence and a clean environment. "For too long our nation has been dependent on foreign oil," he said in this year's address. "And this dependence leaves us more vulnerable to hostile regimes, and to terrorists—who could cause huge disruptions of oil shipments, and raise the price of oil, and do great harm to our economy. It's in our vital interest to diversify America's energy supply" He pointed to the need for more hybrid vehicles, and encouraged and promoted the development of alternative forms of energy, such as ethanol.

America has responded valiantly to such calls to action. Over the past three years, farmers have harvested record crops, sending billions of bushels of maize to the 113 ethanol refineries that have sprouted up across the country—resulting in billions of gallons of fuel. Ten million additional acres devoted to corn are expected to be planted this year to meet demand. Detroit's giant automobile manufacturers have also stepped up to the plate, churning out cars, trucks, and SUVs that can run on the alternative fuel. Politicians have done their part too, approving subsidies for ethanol fermenting and distilling companies while slapping taxes on imported ethanol.

"It's coming on dramatically; more rapidly than anyone had expected," said Nathanael Greene, a senior policy analyst at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

In fact, ethanol production is growing even faster than farmers can plant and grow additional corn. Ethanol production doubled in three years to almost 5 billion gallons in 2006. Last year's production alone would fill one sixth of America's strategic petroleum reserve. With 78 more corn ethanol plants under construction, the country's ethanol output will likely double again over the next two years.

Corn ethanol may certainly seem like the perfect so-

lution to America's energy needs. What could be more ideal than turning America's thousands of acres of cropland into a giant energy source? Ethanol is cleaner burning, plus it reduces dependence on foreign oil, we are told.

But what you may not have been told is that increased corn ethanol production is pushing three of our most fundamental needs—food, secure energy, and a clean, sustainable environment—on course for a head-on collision. So, before you run out and purchase that new environmentally friendly hybrid car, or slap on your "Corn Fed" bumper sticker, you might want to consider the other side of the story.

Solution to Oil Addiction?

If corn ethanol could meaningfully reduce America's dependence upon foreign oil, it would be hugely beneficial. America would be far more immune to widely fluctuating oil prices, not to mention the threat of oil supply interruptions or oil blackmail by unfriendly nations. Better still, instead of paying tens of billions of dollars each year to hostile or even terrorist-sponsoring nations, America would be sending those billions to American farmers and ethanol refiners. The ramifications associated with U.S. energy self-sufficiency are massive. Oil prices would plummet, and consequently, much of Russia's and the OPEC cartel's power would be severely handicapped, if not broken.

However, some significant factors will most likely prevent that scenario from coming about.

Perhaps the biggest complication with the corn ethanol solution is that, as it is currently produced, America simply doesn't have enough farmland to break its oil addiction. Corn ethanol production requires

3.20
\$3.00
2.80
2.60
2.40
2.20
\$2.00
1.80
1.60
1.40
1.20
\$1.00
0.80
0.60
0.40
0.20

GOING UP ↑

Average weekly U.S. gas prices from November 2006 to May 2007. The current average price is over \$3 per gallon. With summer on the way, prices look set to rise even higher.

DEC.'06 JAN.'07 FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY



massive amounts of land. If America's entire 2006 corn harvest of 70 million acres was used for ethanol, it would displace just 12 percent of U.S. gasoline consumption.

Then there is the matter of cost. Our oil-based society, fueled by cheap oil, is accustomed to investing relatively small amounts of energy to get big energy returns. Less than 1 gallon of oil will produce 10 gallons of energy. In contrast, it currently takes approximately 3 gallons of invested energy to produce 4 gallons of corn ethanol energy. That includes energy to make the fertilizer, fuel to run the tractors and swathers, and fuel to transport the corn to the ethanol plants. Ethanol cannot be transported in traditional oil pipelines because it corrodes the seals. Until new pipelines able to cope with this challenge are built, ethanol must be shipped from factory to destination by trains, barges or trucks, all of which are fuel intensive. Energy, of course, is also required to transform the corn itself into ethanol.

This energy-intensive process makes corn ethanol more expensive than oil—and is why ethanol refineries themselves use fossil fuels to transform the corn into ethanol.

To make corn ethanol competitive, the government directly subsidizes every gallon of domestically produced ethanol by 51 cents. All told, federal and state governments spent about \$6 billion subsidizing ethanol in 2006.

Ethanol supporters rightly point out that once some of the "one time" costs associated with large-scale ethanol con-

version are made, ethanol prices would probably come down. As new ethanol pipeline grids are constructed, for example, transportation costs would level off. In addition, future advances in technology may significantly increase ethanol yields per bushel and therefore also reduce the economic costs of ethanol.

And in any case, at least America would reap benefits from a more environmentally friendly fuel by switching to corn ethanol—right? The answer may not be as green as you think.

Environmentally Friendly?

The primary argument of those who espouse the environmental benefits of corn ethanol over oil involves CO₂, the so-called greenhouse gas carbon dioxide. When corn ethanol is burned, the CO₂ released is composed of carbon that was already pulled out of the atmosphere by the corn plant. In contrast, when gasoline is burned, it releases carbon that was previously locked away deep within the Earth, thereby resulting in a net increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Most agree that, in and of itself, ethanol adds less CO₂ to the atmosphere than gasoline does.

Just how beneficial this is environmentally, however, is questionable. In any case, according to *Wall Street Journal* sources, employing ethanol to reduce greenhouse gasses is "fantastically inefficient," and costs probably as much as 16 times the optimal abatement cost for removing carbon from the atmosphere (January 27).

It is also true that, as a fuel, ethanol produces less overall

pollution on a per-gallon basis than gasoline. However, much of this advantage is negated since a gallon of ethanol contains less energy than a gallon of gasoline. This results in lower vehicle mileage per gallon and means that cars and trucks must burn more ethanol compared to gasoline to travel the same distance. On a per-unit-of-energy basis, ethanol is actually not much cleaner than gasoline. One study from the University of Minnesota reported that emissions of five major air pollutants are actually higher with E85, the ethanol-gasoline blend used in many hybrid vehicles, than with just gasoline. Similarly, some studies have found that although ethanol lowers some smog-causing pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, it actually increases others.

Not only have doubts arisen over the environmental benefits of replacing gasoline consumption with ethanol, but other side effects are also coming to light.

For one, as the demand and consequently supply of corn ethanol increases (due to governmental legislation and subsidies), additional cropland is cultivated and dedicated to corn production. However, today's corn hybrids require more fertilizer, herbicides and insecticides than almost any other crop. In fact, corn farming substantially tops all crops in total application of pesticides, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The intensive farming methods employed to grow corn often require massive amounts of water and contribute heavily to soil erosion, which results in chemicals leaching into rivers, lakes and drinking water.

Scientists have shown that the widespread use of fertilizers throughout the Mississippi watershed area has largely created the Gulf of Mexico's "dead zone" that appears annually each summer. Fertilizer runoff is said to produce widespread algal blooms in the ocean, which deprive aquatic life of oxygen as they decay; as a result, whole sections of the Gulf become virtual underwater deserts deprived of plant and animal life. Additional farmland devoted to corn crops would worsen this problem.

What's more, because of the high energy input required to produce ethanol and the methods used, the processing plants themselves are spewing out massive amounts of pollutants into the atmosphere. For example, the federal government recorded that a single corn-processing plant in Iowa produced nearly 20,000 tons of pollutants in 2004, including chemicals that contribute



POWERED BY CORN The Ford Escape hybrid can operate on a blend of gasoline and up to 85 percent corn ethanol.

to respiratory problems, acid rain and cancer (CorpWatch, June 1, 2006). The agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland, the U.S.'s largest producer of ethanol, ranks as the country's 10th-worst corporate air polluter, according to the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts. It has been charged with violating the Clean Air Act at more than 50 of its plants by the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Impact on Food Costs

Increased corn ethanol production also has serious implications relating to the nation's food supply.

Corn is used in an amazing percentage of the food Americans put in their mouths each day. Corn chips, corn bread, corn flakes and cornmeal are just a start. Thousands of products contain corn syrup, including soda pop, ketchup, jam, licorice, and a litany of baked goods and sugared treats. Bourbon whiskey and other fermented products, including some beers, also contain corn products. The biggest use of corn in America,

though all are affected, those usually hurt the worst are those whose food costs take up a larger share of their disposable income—that is, the poor. In Mexico, the price of corn tortillas has risen so much that widespread protests have hit the nation, prompting the government to institute tortilla price controls. In China, the government halted additional construction of ethanol plants for the threat they pose to its food supply.

Never before have we experienced this dilemma between food and fuel. But now that edible material is being used as an alternative to oil on a grand and growing scale, the food landscape has changed forever. "Corn is caught in a tug-of-war between ethanol plants and food," says *Business Week*. "A host of unintended consequences could appear" (February 5).

Case Study

Unfortunately, unintended consequences seem to be the norm rather than the exception when it comes to human and scientific advancement. Take the example of Europe's, and especially the Netherlands', push to use "environmentally

world's third-largest producer of what are termed greenhouse gasses—one of the very things the environmentally minded Netherlands was trying to reduce in the first place. The environmental damage caused by palm oil plantations is so great that Dutch Member of Parliament Krista van Velzen says her country should pay reparations to Indonesia.

Similarly, according to a study cited in the *Washington Post*, when factoring in the extra pollution caused by clearing forests to make room for sugar cane ethanol plantations, it takes at least 20 years of ethanol use to offset the pollution caused by the deforestation in order for the ethanol to become cleaner than gasoline usage (March 25).

The Cause

Why does mankind have so much trouble finding side-effect-free solutions to its troubles? Seemingly good ideas, like growing the fuel to power our society, end up creating more problems than they fix. Why?

Cut off from God and His revealed foundational knowledge, society operates on the wrong principle, and has done so ever since Adam and Eve partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3). Society is built upon the way of get as opposed to the way of give. In large part, it is greed and lust that lead to improper farming techniques such as mono-cropping, chemical fertilizer and pesticide use, and forcing the land by not observing land rests. And what else is it but greed and selfishness when people clear-cut forests, or burn peat bogs and rain forests, sending up thousands of tons of thick black pollution into the atmosphere, forcing millions to breathe polluted air?

Competition is often looked upon as a stimulant to scientific advancement. But it is also a huge impediment. Think of all the technology and knowledge that has been repressed or hidden for fear that someone else would steal it or because it would cause corporations to lose money. Think of how much better off mankind could be if we truly and unselfishly, free from political maneuvering, came together to solve the world's problems.

Unfortunately, this is not possible; mankind, on its own, cannot solve its problems. As long as Satan is the "god of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 12:9), who, as "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2), broadcasts his

See **ETHANOL** page 34 ▶

Competition is often looked upon as a stimulant to scientific advancement. But it is also a huge impediment.

however, is as feed for livestock, which means every time you eat that fillet mignon or chicken burger, you are also munching good old corn on the cob.

"People had grown accustomed to \$2-per-bushel corn. That's not going to happen anymore," says Bob Dinneen, president of the Renewable Fuels Association. Why? One fifth of the entire U.S. corn crop is now devoted to ethanol, up from just 3 percent five years ago. At present yields, reaching the president's stated goal of 35 billion gallons of renewable and alternative fuels by 2017 would require the *entire U.S. corn harvest*. If just the currently planned ethanol factories are built, by as early as next year *one half of America's corn harvest* will be going toward corn ethanol.

It's no wonder the price of corn rose nearly 80 percent in 2006 alone. Although good news for farmers and big grain agribusiness, this is obviously not good news for consumers. Higher food prices are already beginning to ripple through the economy. According to the International Monetary Fund, corn ethanol production is largely responsible for the 10 percent surge in food prices last year.

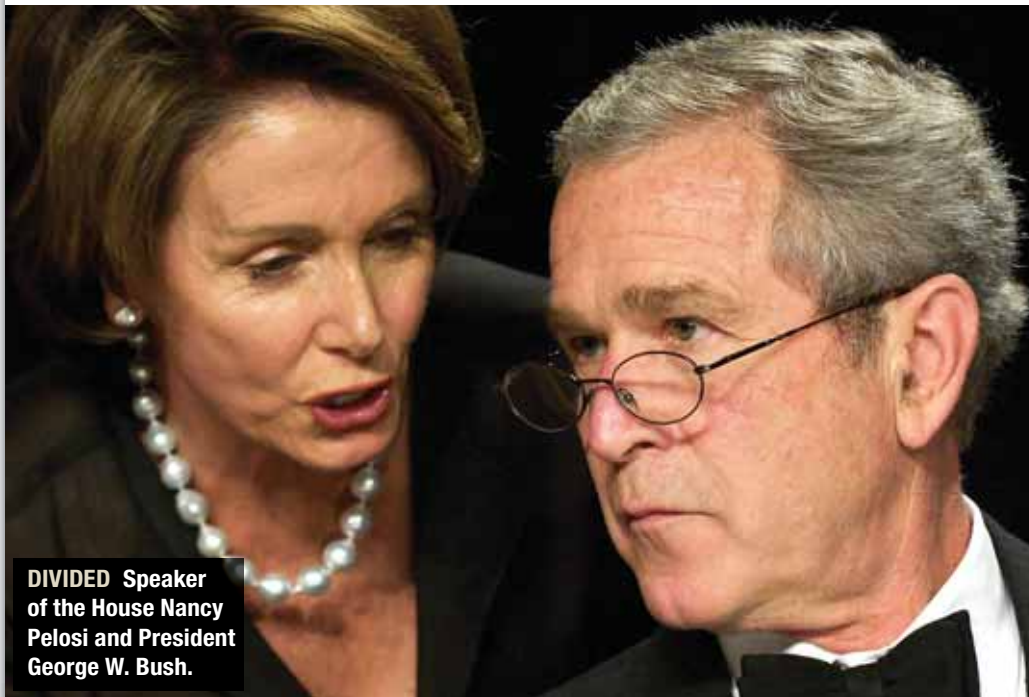
Of course, when food prices rise, even

friendly" palm oil as an alternative fuel.

Just a few years ago, politicians and environmental groups praised the Netherlands for its rapid adoption of palm oil as a major component of its strategy for "sustainable energy." Power plants were built to run off it, and vehicles used it as a substitute for diesel. Like corn ethanol, this bio-fuel was cleaner than oil because it is derived from plants—or so people and legislators were told.

However, when scientists and government regulators began to study palm plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia last year, this "green fairy tale began to look more like an environmental nightmare" (*International Herald Tribune*, January 31). To supply the rising demand for palm oil in Europe, Southeast Asian farmers cleared huge swaths of rainforest. Since slash-and-burn agriculture and deforestation quickly depleted soils of their fertility, farmers began using massive amounts of fertilizer to maintain productivity. Additionally, space for the expanding palm plantations was often created by draining and burning peat land, which released enormous amounts of carbon into the atmosphere. Factoring in these emissions, Indonesia quickly became the

Uncivil War



DIVIDED Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and President George W. Bush.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Deep division is sparking deadly political battles that are destroying American greatness. BY BRAD MACDONALD

IN 1858, AS WAR CLOUDS GATHERED, Abraham Lincoln warned that “a house divided against itself cannot stand.” These immortal words have never been more relevant.

Civil war grips the American government. The White House has become a political Gettysburg. Animosity and suspicion have eroded the unity of mind and purpose of national leadership. Politicians are soldiers dressed in suits and ties. Press releases, filibusters and vetoes replace guns and cannons as weapons.

The damage that such political division can inflict cannot be overestimated. This brother vs. brother struggle is undermining America’s reputation abroad and leaving the nation as prey awaiting the claws of its enemies.

The war within the American government took a sharp turn when the Democrats secured majorities in both cham-

bers of Congress in last year’s midterm elections. Those elections, wrote *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry at the time, “changed American politics forever.”

Prior to those elections, Democrats waged war from a defensive position; now they are on an offensive warpath, making intense and regular strikes on their Republican enemies—especially President George W. Bush. Presidential power and authority now butts against a wall of resistance at every turn. Every key decision, particularly in foreign policy, gets criticized, ridiculed and slammed. Intense division is driving the devolution of the United States from one of the world’s strongest governments into one of the most inefficient and deadlocked.

The most damaging single instance of the Democrats’ strategy of opposition occurred at the beginning of April, when Nancy Pelosi, the new speaker of the

House and a leading general in the Democratic army, visited the Middle East, against the express wishes of President Bush, to conduct foreign-policy discussions with the leader of Syria, Bashar Assad. By engaging Assad in direct discussions, Ms. Pelosi rejected the elected president’s established policy intended to isolate tyrants, and assumed a posture of negotiation with dictatorial, terrorist-loving leaders.

Recognize the importance of this event.

Naturally, in an open, democratic nation like America, opposition and dissent is allowed and encouraged. But the Pelosi trip represented a new level of warfare within America’s governing bodies: the Democrats’ complete rejection of the current democratically elected administration.

By intentionally assuming responsibilities that were not legally hers and virtually launching a separate, Democrat-led U.S. foreign policy—trampling on the presidential office and the Constitution in the process—Ms. Pelosi inflicted deep wounds on more than just the Republican Party; she struck the entire government and nation a deadly blow.

Assault on the Presidency

It is common for members of Congress or the Senate to visit foreign nations for routine “fact finding” meetings. But as the speaker’s accomplice and House Foreign Affairs Chairman Tom Lantos confirmed, Ms. Pelosi’s pilgrimage was much more than routine. “We have an *alternative Democratic foreign policy*,” said Mr. Lantos just prior to their trip. “I view my job as beginning with restoring overseas credibility and respect for the United States” (*Wall Street Journal*, April 6; emphasis mine throughout). What they were doing, however, was precisely the opposite: *destroying* whatever credibility the U.S. still has.

America faces some desperate problems in the Middle East. Ms. Pelosi, like every other American, has a democratic right to weigh in on, even oppose, the foreign policy decisions of the Bush administration. But the solution is not

the Democrats conducting a renegade foreign policy. Disagreement, frustration and intense emotion do not justify blatant rejection of presidential authority—especially by fellow politicians. Ms. Pelosi’s visit was a direct assault on the credibility and authority of the office of the U.S. president.

The Constitution provides legal procedures by which the speaker and fellow Democrats may voice their discontent. The speaker certainly has no right or responsibility to defy the president by substituting the established policy of the American president with an alternate and contradictory Democratic foreign policy. Disagreement is no cause for treason.

When Ms. Pelosi flew to the Middle East with an “alternative Democratic foreign policy” stashed in her bag, the message she sent to Middle Eastern nations, particularly Syria, was: *There is no reason for you to fear or respect George Bush; the Democratic Party doesn’t. Be assured, the Democrats will soon control the American government, and our foreign policy is radically different.*

Ms. Pelosi sought to paint President Bush as a war-mongering, unreasonable, uncompromising oppressor—and to sell the Democrats as a peace-loving, open-minded political party willing to negotiate and compromise with anyone—even terrorist-sponsoring nations.

Furthermore, her message was one of surrender, conveying the impression to America’s enemies that President Bush is losing control of his government and now lacks the power of influence to follow through on his policies. Support for Mr. Bush is hollowing, and Ms. Pelosi exposed this fact to the world.

Pelosi’s visit to Syria, stated a Lebanese official, “was a godsend to an isolated and beleaguered regime. The Syrian regime, which had been thinking of bowing to international pressure, is now reassured: All it has to do is to wait until Pelosi’s party takes over the White House in 2009” (*New York Post*, April 6). This assault hijacked the authority and power of a president who still has more than 20 months left in office. The speaker undermined the Islamic terrorists’ number-one enemy, the U.S. president. America’s terrorist enemies were surely thrilled.

This attack didn’t simply ridicule, marginalize and undermine President Bush; it undermined the *nation*. It showed

that the most powerful country in the world—with untold enemies wanting to see its undoing—has its hands tied when it comes to global affairs. This assault drained the confidence of America’s allies and fueled the arrogance of the nation’s enemies. The fact that this deadly blow came at the calloused hands of American politicians is diabolical as well as tragic.

Assault on the U.S. Constitution

Ms. Pelosi’s jaunt to the Middle East was also a fierce assault on law and the U.S. Constitution.

In an opinion piece in the *Wall Street*

her discussions with Assad. Instead she was mildly rapped on the wrist by the Bush administration, congratulated by segments of the press, and applauded by many Democrats.

For the same reasons Pelosi’s actions contravened the Logan Act, so they also trampled on the U.S. Constitution. The speaker is a member of the legislative branch of government and is not vested with the authority to pursue an independent foreign policy. The Constitution clearly dictates that the responsibility for formulating and conducting foreign policy lies with the executive branch, headed by the democratically elected president. One might argue that Ms. Pelosi’s actions were justifiable because of her prominent position as speaker of the House. To the contrary, Ms. Pelosi is all the more accountable: She swore an oath to uphold the Constitution!

Though Ms. Pelosi isn’t the first member of Congress to engage in this sort of behavior, “her position as a national leader, the wartime circumstances, the opposition to the trip from the White House, and the character of the regime she has chosen to approach make her behavior particularly inappropriate” (op. cit.). Fact-finding missions or negotiations authorized by the president are within the law for traveling representatives. But when the speaker of the House—the person third in line for the presidency—blatantly defies the president, flouts the law and tramples on the U.S. Constitution—all in an effort to embrace a terrorist-sponsoring state—shouldn’t the American people be alarmed?

“The appalling, astonishing thing about the top-ranked Democrats is their willing embrace of evil—seemingly, any evil—as long [as] the evil opposes whatever Republican is in power” (Human Events, April 9). The speaker *acted treasonably, broke the law and rejected the U.S. Constitution*—for what? Political gain!

The Constitution dictates how government should operate and how laws are to be made. It is the skeleton on which America’s legislative, executive and judicial appendages hang. That document is at the heart of America’s government and law; the nation has thrived under the guidance provided by that legal charter!

What would happen if all Americans began following Ms. Pelosi’s example? Anarchy would reign!



Disagreement, frustration and intense emotion do not justify blatant rejection of presidential authority—especially by fellow politicians.

Journal, lawyer and politician Robert Turner explained how Ms. Pelosi committed a felony by her actions in Damascus. The Logan Act, explained Turner, “makes it a felony and provides for a prison sentence of up to three years for any American, ‘without authority of the United States,’ to communicate with a foreign government in an effort to influence that government’s behavior on any ‘disputes or controversies with the United States’” (April 6). The law was created during the presidency of John Adams after Pennsylvanian citizen and pacifist George Logan traveled to France intending to conduct foreign policy on behalf of the American people.

This law secures the singleness and unity of U.S. foreign policy and helps protect the reputation of the American government. Consider the nightmare of multiple policies being promoted by multiple, independent representatives.

The object of the Logan Act, explained Rep. Roger Grisworld in 1798, was “to punish a crime which goes to the destruction of the executive power of the government.” This law recognizes that the people of the United States invest the executive department with the authority and power to negotiate with foreign governments and that it is therefore a usurpation of that power for an individual, operating outside the executive branch of government, to practice contradictory foreign policy.

Under the Logan Act, Nancy Pelosi could have been jailed for three years for

Assault on Unity

In terms of national wellbeing, the speaker assaulted another pillar of national governance: national unity.

The American government and public, already grappling with the effects of intense political division, were dealt a further fateful injury by the dagger of disunity through Pelosi's backstabbing actions. The speaker's open defiance of President Bush and treasonous advancement of Democratic doctrine thrilled liberals and infuriated conservatives, fueling the disunity and division that already existed in both the political and public spheres.

Worse still, the whole world was audience to this all-American debacle. The speaker displayed "for our enemies the political disunity that weakens our country in time of war, which has to hearten not only Assad but also Iran and all terrorists" (*The Courier*, April 9). Weak,

divided leadership is just one of America's Achilles heels, and Pelosi's trip graphically exposed it to the nation's enemies.

"The Pelosi mission," wrote Amir Taheri in the *New York Post*, "confirms the analysis made by Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that the United States is incapable of developing and implementing a long-term strategy" (op. cit.). Ahmadinejad, Kim Jong Il, Bashar Assad, Osama Bin Laden; these tyrants must be thrilled by the global display of American disunity.

We can be sure that as America's enemies gleefully witness the nation's rabid political and national disunity, they will work to exploit it.

Inward America

After returning to America amid a political brouhaha, Tom Lantos showed no signs of regret for his trip with Ms. Pelosi. During a press conference, he said he would happily return to Syria, and would "get on a plane tomorrow morning" if the opportunity arose to conduct similar talks with Iran. He expressed confidence that Nancy Pelosi would be ready to join him.

This civil war in America shows no signs of letting up. Democrats and Republicans are digging deeper into their respective bunkers. War rages in Washington! Even now, Congress and the president battle over troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan and whether or not the U.S. should quit battling in Iraq.

Immediately after last November's midterm elections, Gerald Flurry warned in the *Trumpet* that the election results prove we are "witnessing the demise of American global leadership." He forewarned that the Democrats' victory and the appointment of Nancy Pelosi would prove to be a curse on the United States. We can see this curse playing out already.

"President Bush will not be able to accomplish anything of substance again," wrote Mr. Flurry. "Internal crisis and division will prevent the U.S. from conducting a respectable foreign policy." The debacle surrounding Pelosi's visit to

ment, and enemies will swoop down and prey on its corpse. This world is moving into what the Bible identifies as "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24; Revelation 11:2)—a time when Anglo-American global dominance gives way to domination by non-English-speaking power blocs, ushering in a time of untold human suffering. America's loss of geopolitical leadership in the world is fueling the rise of forces hostile to the U.S. The civil war raging in American politics has global consequences!

The strength of Abraham Lincoln's leadership in the 19th century was his ability to guide the nation through war and glue the nation back together. Lincoln eventually silenced the forces of disunity. Sadly, there are no leaders of Lincoln's caliber in America today (Isaiah 3).

But the situation is not hopeless. If you understand the Bible, you know that where mankind sees hopelessness, God sees *opportunity!* The disarray besieging the American government should serve to prod you to ask some profound questions.

Ask yourself: *How can true unity be achieved? What is the right form of government? What is the key to national success? How can I achieve unity in my own family?*

Mankind's history proves it is unable to answer these questions. But God can and will, if we seek the answers repentantly and prayerfully.

Millions of people lack understanding because they fail to properly seek God. Jesus Christ said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8). To learn more about the way of unity, and the right form of government, request our free book *Mystery of the Ages*.

As political civil war grips America and hostile foreign powers rise, as worldwide political disorder increases, isn't it time we all followed Christ's admonition and asked why this is all happening?

Go ahead, put God to the test. *Seek, and ye shall find!*



By undermining the office of the president, the speaker undermined the reputation and power of the entire American government.

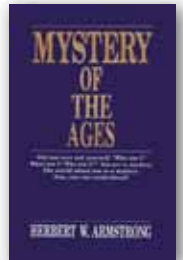
the Middle East earlier this year proves the veracity of that statement: It was anything but respectable; it should embarrass every politician in America—Republican and Democrat!

Civil war is the worst kind of conflict because it forces a nation to turn inward. Not only does the nation then rip itself apart from the inside, but it also fails to see looming threats coming from without. Consider the political civil war in the British government during much of the 1920s and 1930s. Britain's leaders were so distracted by internal crisis and infighting, they failed to recognize the growing threat of Hitler's Germany. Today, many U.S. politicians are so busy dodging bullets and crafting retaliatory attacks on political opponents that they are blind to external threats. Division is causing America's leadership to be dangerously self-centered and preoccupied.

Lincoln's warning about a house divided echoed a biblical principle (Matthew 12:25). "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" wrote the Prophet Amos (3:3). America will soon fall if rampant division continues to strangle the American government. History shows that few things destroy a national government more quickly than division and infighting. Nations consumed by internal crisis become prey to outside forces.

Sadly, this is precisely where America's political civil war is leading.

Division will continue to inflict terrible wounds on the American govern-



Without a F



Iran attacked—and Britain promptly surrendered. What happens when a blatant act of war goes unpunished? **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

The *International Herald Tribune* reported, “[H]e added that the Iranian crews were aggressive

YOU PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT Iran capturing 15 British seamen this past March and then releasing them 13 days later. But your understanding of that event would vary wildly depending on where you got your information.

What really happened? And what lessons can we draw from it?

Ask an Iranian citizen, and he would likely tell you that the Brits trespassed into Iranian waters—probably on a spying mission—and deserved to be captured. He would explain that his president’s decision to release them was a big-hearted goodwill gesture to a chastened British people.

Talk to a member of the mainstream Western press or anti-war public, and you will likely hear that the incident was a textbook example of how to resolve a tense international situation—even with the supposedly radical Islamic Republic of Iran—through peaceful means. He would view it as repudiation of America’s confrontational approach with Iran and of any consideration of the need to resort to violence.

Both of these perspectives ignore key facts. Based on erroneous assumptions and incomplete information, they produce faulty, even dangerous conclusions.

What happened during those 13 days is far more significant than you may realize. It provides an illustration—as clear and stark as any single event in this

generation—of two startling trends that should concern every reader. Both trends are prophesied in the Bible, and both are destined to escalate—so much so, in fact, that they will ignite *world war*. We must grasp the seriousness of this moment.

An Act of War

Widely overlooked is the clear evidence that Iran, with authorization from the highest levels of government, planned this attack in advance.

On March 23, the Brits—on orders from the United Nations—had just finished a routine inspection of a merchant ship within a mile or so of Iranian waters. (Sensitive territory, to be sure, but even Iran, when it publicly announced the GPS coordinates of the incident, said the British were in Iraqi waters; it then quickly issued a second set of coordinates placing the event in Iranian waters, seeking to saddle the Brits with the blame.) Working out of two inflatable, 15 sailors and marines were at least 10 miles from their home ship, the HMS Cornwall, and had no air cover. In other words, they were an easy target.

Captain Chris Air of the Royal Marines later described how two boats from the Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution—Iran’s national security force—approached, hemmed them in and then rammed them. The Iranian crews “trained their heavy machine guns, RPGs and weapons on us,” he said.

Another six boats quickly closed in. Captain Air said he could not calm the Iranians down, and judged that if his crew tried to resist they would both lose the fight and cause a major international incident” (April 6). Air explained, “They had come with a clear purpose, and they were never going to leave without us.”

Such behavior is not spontaneous, and from the Revolutionary Guard it does not happen without orders from the top.

The timing of the attack also reflected its premeditated nature: It occurred the day before the UN Security Council voted to deepen sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program, thus unmistakably signaling Iran’s defiance over this international pressure. In fact, just two days before the kidnapping, Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned that if Western countries “treat us with threats and enforcement of coercion and violence, undoubtedly they must know that the Iranian nation and authorities will use all their capacities to strike enemies that attack.”

Bringing further suspicion upon Iran is the fact that it occurred so soon after the disappearance of a former Revolutionary Guard commander in Turkey, and the capture of five Iranians, believed to be Revolutionary Guard members, in an American raid in northern Iraq. The capture of these Iranian militants added proof to the already mountain-

Flight



CAPTIVES The 15 British sailors imprisoned in Iran pose after returning home.

CARL DE SOUZA/AP/PHOTRY IMAGES

tion—was uppermost in their minds.

One senior official defended their actions by explaining that they were merely following instructions—and those instructions “were not to start a war with Iran.” Reports show that the British Ministry of Defense, contacted during the incident, ordered the Cornwall not to fire on the Iranians.

British politicians also applied the gentlest of touches, taking pains to avoid anything that would appear confrontational. They hoped against hope that Iran would end the matter quickly so they could pretend it never happened. Foreign Secretary Margaret

Beckett appeared on Arab television to express “regret” over the affair. Commodore Nick Lambert, commander of the Cornwall, said he hoped it was just a “simple mistake” on Iran’s part.

Meanwhile, in Tehran, the Iranians stripped and blindfolded the hostages and kept them in small stone cells. Once,

ous evidence that Iran is directly fueling the Iraqi insurgency. Nevertheless, the Revolutionary Guard’s weekly newspaper lashed out against their detention and said that the Guard has “the ability to capture a bunch of blue-eyed, blond-haired officers and feed them to our fighting cocks” (emphasis mine).

Kidnapping military personnel in neutral territory is no accident—it is a calculated, strategic move. And more than that: Under international law, it is an act of war.

Britain’s Soft Response

“Some commentators have languidly observed that in another age this would have been regarded as an act of war,” Melanie Phillips wrote in the *Daily Mail*. “What on Earth are they talking about? It is an act of war. ... What clearly *does* belong to another age is [Britain’s] ability to understand the proper way to respond to an act of war” (March 28).

When confronted by hostile Iranians with guns, the British surrendered immediately. They later said they had no choice. “I believe we made the right decision,” Captain Air said. They certainly made the decision that possibly saved their own lives, whether or not that served the larger cause. This and their subsequent behavior demonstrated that personal survival—not the dignity of their offices or the interests of the na-

Act of War



KIDNAPPED The British sailors were within Iraqi territorial waters when Iranians seized them.

the Brits were lined up blindfolded and facing a wall, and their captors audibly cocked guns behind their backs; when one sailor vomited, the others thought his throat was being slit. For much of the time, they were isolated and each privately interrogated. Sailor Faye Turney—the lone woman of the 15—was stripped to her undergarments, imprisoned in a tiny, freezing cell, and told that all the men

had already been released. “For four days, she thought she was the only one there,” one of the hostages later explained.

It was in these conditions that the Iranians extracted sham apologies from the seamen. Confessing to having been in Iranian waters would mean freedom, the Brits were told; failure to confess would mean seven years of prison. The seamen opted to give in and provide the false confessions.

Meanwhile at home, London turned for help to the United Nations—the organization whose errand the hostages had been carrying out at the time of their capture. It tried to get the UN to issue a statement declaring how it “deplored” Iran taking British hostages. After deliberating, the UN decided it couldn’t endorse such a strong reaction; it decided to officially express “grave concern” over the incident. That is as worked up as the UN allowed itself to get about flagrant piracy on the high seas against a sovereign nation.

Exactly what happened diplomatically at that point is unclear, though London and Tehran were definitely talking. One British senior government source said, “[I]f there is anything to come out of this crisis, it is that we have opened new lines of communications with the Iranians.” Some reports detailed evidence of America also being involved. British Prime Minister Tony Blair flatly denied there being any deal or negotiation, to the doubt of many analysts.

Whatever occurred, after 13 days suddenly the Iranian president freed the Brits. Their release is “an Easter gift to the British people,” he said, boasting of the “Islamic hospitality” they had received. Before shipping them home with gift baskets, Iran staged a photo op where—in what a former British chief of defense staff called “fawning, unimilitary behavior”—elated British sailors and marines shook hands with a smiling President Ahmadinejad and thanked him for their freedom.

A Victory for Diplomacy?

“This was a victory for patient and determined diplomacy,” wrote Foreign Secretary Beckett of the crew’s return. “Hope for More Iran Compromises” read a headline in the *Associated Press*. “The announced release of the British captives shows that the Islamic Republic is

still willing to mitigate its ideology with pragmatism,” crooned the *International Herald Tribune*.

In actuality, the whole shabby affair proved precisely the opposite. This episode reaffirmed the truth—if it needed reaffirming—that taking the diplomatic tack with Iran is doomed to fail. Discussions have done nothing to change Tehran’s confrontational course. This hostage incident occurred amid in-

The view that the affair validates the superiority of pursuing peaceful resolutions with Iran to provocative ones ignores the fact that Iran committed an *act of war* against Britain (and, by extension, the United Nations—and the European Union and NATO—all of which are supposed to help when a member state like Britain is attacked), and paid no price for doing so. It ignores the reality that this terrorist-sponsoring nation, almost three



After kidnapping 15 British sailors and imprisoning them for 13 days, Iran finally released them. Iranian President Ahmadinejad called their release “an Easter gift to the British people.”

decades after the reprehensible 1979 hostage crisis at the U.S. embassy in Tehran, is still using hostage-taking as an instrument of its foreign policy—and this incident showed how easy and risk-free the tactic is. It ignores

creased efforts by the West to engage Iran through diplomacy.

The *Tribune* article chided the White House for its “confrontational” approach—its supposed refusal to talk with Iran and pushing for punishments like economic sanctions. But the fact is, America’s “confrontational” approach throughout these years of its “war on terror”—despite Iran being indisputably the world’s top sponsor of terrorism—has been so mild as to be utterly fruitless. Efforts by America, Britain and Europe to contain Iran—give-and-take discussions, flexible ultimatums, vague threats, modest sanctions, expressions of “grave concern”—have all *failed*. The plain, little-acknowledged truth is that for years, radical Iranian leaders haven’t been given *any* reason to back away from their pushy agenda.

Iran was bold enough to kidnap British sailors and soldiers not *in spite of* the West’s actions against it, but *because* those actions have been so toothless. Iran’s notion that the West is weak and poses little threat, even in the face of audacious provocations, has been reaffirmed time and again by the West’s timidity. The hostage crisis was yet another perfect example: Tehran captured a bunch of blue-eyed, blond-haired officers and brought them to their knees, humbled the “Great Satan’s” chief ally in the war on terror, and in the end received only thanks for it.

This is a victory for Britain? This is a triumph of diplomacy? A conquest for the forces of peace?

the inconceivable truth that 5½ years into the “war on terror,” while Britain and the United States are growing weaker and more divided, Iran is by every measure more powerful and influential, more confident and self-assured, stronger militarily and strategically. And it fails to acknowledge just how much momentum such an event gives to the forces of radicalism sweeping the Middle East and beyond.

Thus we clearly see the two prophetically significant trends exposed by this shocking incident.

What Are the Two Trends?

The first trend is the deep and growing weakness of what was, not long ago, the indomitable Great Britain.

Iran’s affronting the Royal Navy with a brash kidnapping is a remarkable symbol of the decimation of what was once the pride of British power. As Melanie Phillips asked: “What on Earth has happened to this country of ours, for so many centuries a byword for defending itself against attack, not least against piracy or acts of war on the high seas?” (op. cit.).

Only 25 years ago, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, faced with enemy attack from the sea on the tiny British island outpost of the Falkland Islands, immediately dispatched a naval task force and blew the invading enemy out of the water! Such Nelsonian courage helped build the Royal Navy into a force that ruled the waves for four centuries. It has taken a mere quarter-century since then to reduce that power into white-flagged

appeasement and abject surrender.

Perhaps the most stunning evidence of Britain’s decimated pride and honor in its once-formidable navy is the fact that the nation treated the released seamen like heroes. Astonishingly, these individuals were offered huge sums by media outlets hungry to tell their stories—a request they initially accepted and which the military approved. These are not stories of heroism, but of cowardice and humiliation—stories that will circulate for years to come within those nations most hostile to Britain—embarrassing stories the British should be eager to bury at sea.

Biblical prophecy specifically describes a curse God would send upon a disobedient Britain during the times in which we live—that of breaking the pride in its power (Leviticus 26:19). This prophecy, thoroughly explained in Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, was prominently displayed in Britain’s weak, fearful response to Iran’s brazen challenge.

The second trend is what the Bible describes as a foreign-policy “push” on the part of the increasingly radical Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a bold prophecy, Daniel described an end-time “king of the south”—every indication about which points to Iran—that will “push” at a world superpower in an act that provokes World War III (Daniel 11:40). The *Trumpet’s* editor in chief has indicated that, in addition to being a single bold act, this “push” transpires over a period of time, and has in fact already begun. Iran kidnapping British military personnel without fear of repercussion powerfully illustrates that present “push” and demonstrates the mindset of the power behind that future, even greater provocation.

Considering Iran’s stated ambitions—to become a nuclear power and to eliminate the State of Israel, for starters—the Islamic Republic, unless it is stopped, is on course to start a war. The prophecy in Daniel 11:40 also shows, however, that there is coming a point when Iran’s push *will* provoke a decisive response—but not from Britain or America.

Read our booklet *The King of the South* to understand how these extraordinary recent events point toward a prophesied explosive war in the near future.

It can be difficult to grasp the significance of events as they occur, but be assured: We are witnessing the steps that will actually ignite an unparalleled *world war!*

M IDWESTERN STATES MAY BE the reddest in the Union, but academia is neon blue from sea to shining sea.

For instance, in my college geology class (in Oklahoma), our professor stated that evolution is only considered a theory because it isn't a scientific law like gravity; given the overwhelming nature of the evidence, he explained, evolution should be taught as simple fact. He then explained the origins of the universe, which, in his view, required no Creator. I especially remember his explanation of how the Earth formed: Innumerable asteroids slammed into each other and became super-heated; heavy elements settled, lighter elements rose, and the Earth literally burped out a breathable atmosphere, a process he identified as "outgassing." This breathable atmosphere would prove critical when life spontaneously generated and evolved into living organisms, ultimately resulting in mankind and the present "greenhouse gas"-belching society we see today.

The most interesting part came in the next class when he explained that plate tectonics (the idea that the movement of the Earth's plates causes earthquakes, volcanoes, and many other geological phenomena) is a theory, and we needed to realize as we studied it that the *theory* of plate tectonics **COULD BE WRONG**—quite a contrast to his dogma on evolutionary theory and the origin of the universe.

A student's college experience today is saturated with evolution, moral relativism, Marxist thinking, hatred for the United States, secularism and political correctness. For some years, the leftist world view has dominated university culture. Today, however, it is no longer enough to simply drown conservatives out; the liberal, anti-God establishment is trying to silence the conservative voice altogether.

This intellectual blackout is nothing less than a form of tyranny in our universities.

Only One Voice Permitted

One of the main reasons we can identify Robert Mugabe, president of Zimbabwe, as a tyrant is his manipulation of the press and his refusal to allow his oppo-

the response even knowing Mrs. Bush would likely never accept the invitation.

Conservative columnist John Derbyshire was fortunate. Although liberal students did attempt to have his invitation cancelled, a department head sent e-mails out, in the words of Derbyshire, "telling students and faculty that, basically, although I was a nutty crypto-fascist hyena, the university's tradition of hospitality and open-mindedness could just about be stretched to include me, and people shouldn't try to shout me down." Derbyshire reported on an event at Columbia University where "the leader of a group agitating for enforcement of our country's immigration laws was howled down and pushed off stage by gangs of leftist storm troopers. The guy wants the people's laws enforced, that's all; but such a person may not speak at an American university."

TRUMPET

TYRANNY in Universities



**Higher education tolerates everybody
(as long as you think like them).**

BY MARK JENKINS

nents to speak their mind. His opposition has been denied access to state-controlled media outlets, and independent outlets have been blocked.

Astonishingly, the difference in Mugabe's behavior and that of the liberal establishment in universities is of an exceedingly small degree.

Ben Shapiro, author of *Brainwashed*, observed that a professor can teach anything from homosexuality to Marxism, but "mention God and you're out of a job." Conservative speakers are unwelcome to speak on college campuses and protested when they do.

For example, when the University of California–Los Angeles (UCLA) invited First Lady Laura Bush to speak at its commencement, students protested: "We will not stand by and allow her presence to go uncontested," said Estela Zarate, a doctoral student in education. This was

the staged protest's leader condemned Pipes for hate speech and declared: "It's just a matter of time before the State of Israel will be wiped off the face of the map." Pipes often experiences such protests when he lectures at universities. Walid Shoebat, a former Palestinian Liberation Organization member who now supports Israel, has faced similar opposition and walkouts.

Conservative columnist and author Ann Coulter is currently scheduled to appear at Cleary College in Michigan this October, and the bloggers have already launched into action—thus far, unsuccessfully. But consider the mentality behind it: "I, for one, will not rest until I hear that Ann Coulter is not going to appear in October," Julielyn Gibbons, one leader of the opposition, said. Coulter is often deliberately controversial, making it somewhat less shocking when she is publicly

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confronted. But the censorship of conservative speakers is general in nature.

Shapiro showed how widespread the trend is: “The Center for the Study of Popular Culture researched the political views of graduation speakers over a 10-year period, covering 32 colleges, including all Ivy League schools. Speakers with liberal ideas outnumbered speakers with conservative ideas by a margin of 226-15. Twenty-two of the 32 schools surveyed did not invite a single conservative to speak; during the same period, they invited 173 liberals.” Shapiro himself has faced similar censorship. In his time as a columnist for the campus newspaper *UCLA Daily Bruin*—the only conservative voice the paper had—his articles about the extreme Muslim sect at the university were consistently rejected. After a final attempt to print one of his articles exposing the extremism—largely by quoting the school’s Muslim publications—a frustrated Shapiro reported the censorship to local media and was consequently fired from the school newspaper: “In my time at UCLA, I had seen columns comparing Ariel Sharon to Adolf Eichmann; columns justifying suicide bombings; editorials ripping Israel; news articles openly issuing calls to ‘Free Palestine.’ But the *Bruin* could not bear to

print a column merely quoting the Muslim student media on UCLA campus.”

It is worth noting that this extreme one-sidedness has become far more pronounced in the last generation. Over a 15-year period between 1984 and 1999, self-described liberals on college faculties increased from only a slight majority to a 5 to 1 majority. In a 1984 Carnegie study, 39 percent of professors identified themselves as liberals. In a 1999 North American Academic Study survey, this

IN MANY CASES, THIS BLACKBALLING OF CONSERVATIVE COMMENTARY MEANS SUPPRESSING THE TRUTH.

number had grown to 72 percent; only 15 percent of the faculty members classified themselves as conservatives, down from 34 percent in 1984.

Even courts have gotten into the business of supporting liberal views in universities. In November 2004, the Third Circuit in Philadelphia ruled that colleges can ban military recruiters in order to protest the exclusion of homosexuals from military service with the support of the First Amendment. The dissenting opinion noted that the military’s policy against homosexuality had already been judged by a number of courts as constitutional. Thus, to prevent the military from recruiting on campus is tantamount to saying that the military itself is a violation of education policy in the United States!

This opposition to conservative ideology in universities is a form of tyranny—a deliberate blocking of the free speech that the Bill of Rights guarantees.

Of course, we shouldn’t expect liberal professors in universities to espouse conservative ideology; each has his or her viewpoint and, at least in the United States, a right to express those views. But such freedom is simply not being extended to conservative voices. When my geology professor attributed our breathable atmosphere to random chance, I may have scratched my head in per-

plexity, but it never occurred to me to try to mute his commentary as liberal activists now regularly do to conservatives.

In many cases, this blackballing of conservative commentary means *suppressing the truth*. Consider a few of the examples above: Pipes was speaking out against terrorism against Israelis; Shapiro was trying to expose an element on campus that supported the most extreme form of Islam; a man was prevented from speaking because he supports upholding

U.S. immigration law rather than allowing it to be violated without penalty; the U.S. military itself is barred from speaking in some universities. This is a deliberate suppression of truth—of exposing evil and honoring what is honorable—in favor of things that are against truth and against God.

Suppressing the Truth

As ugly as this trend is, it shouldn’t shock us: End-time biblical prophecies said it would happen.

The evolutionary basis for much of university teaching—when God Himself is barred from the classroom under the guise of “separation of church and state”—is a perfect example of changing the truth of God into a lie and worshipping God’s creation rather than the all-powerful Creator Himself—which the Bible itself tells us to expect (Romans 1:25). Rather than guiding and nurturing the young, preparing them to live uprightly, the professors entrusted with their education pollute their minds with anti-God thinking.

The crux of the problem is this: Man exalts his own flawed, human reasoning above the truth of God. Because men do “not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind ...” (verse 28). These professors—and their students in turn—have cut themselves off from the source of true education—revelation from our Creator God about how to live.

Schools don’t—and can’t—offer their students true education in right living because God has been forcibly shut out of our universities. The precept of separating church and state, intended to protect freedom of religion, has been used to eliminate religion as part of America’s national identity.

UNWELCOME

Conservative voices are often ridiculed and suppressed on college campuses. A couple examples:



DANIEL PIPES, a columnist, was giving a lecture supporting Israel’s right to exist at the University of California-Irvine, when dozens of students stood up and began yelling, temporarily halting the lecture. The leader of the protest condemned Pipes for hate speech.



BEN SHAPIRO, conservative author, while a columnist for the UCLA campus newspaper, repeatedly tried to publish an article about the extreme Muslim sect at the university—largely by quoting the school’s Muslim publications. It was rejected, and led to Shapiro getting fired.

The phenomenon is not new. The choice to reject godly education is as old as man himself!

Bible history reveals that when the first man, Adam, chose to eat of the forbidden fruit, he rejected God as the true Revealer of knowledge. He observed his situation, used his own human reasoning to determine that he could eat of that fruit, and then conducted the first-ever human “scientific” experiment to see what would happen. Adam’s offspring have been doing the same thing ever since—relying on observation, experimentation and human reasoning for the acquisition of material knowledge.

As any university student should realize, the educational system needs a profound adjustment.

In 1947, Herbert W. Armstrong established a college. He later wrote: “It definitely was NOT because this world needed another college. There were too many of this world’s institutions of higher education already!” Even at that time, most college students were not filled with hope by their education—not learning how to practically apply right, biblical principles in order to truly succeed in life. Mr. Armstrong succinctly evaluated the cause of the education crisis and why this new college was necessary: “The most essential knowledge is the purpose and meaning of life—the true values as distinguished from the false—and the way to peace, happiness and abundant well-being. But this basic and most important dimension in education is entirely missing from traditional curricula.”

The problem is far worse today, when the very notion of right and wrong is no longer part of our university system. Society views absolutism as the greatest crime of all! That is one reason the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, established a college in 2001.

As he observed previous to the college’s opening: “Educators should spend their main effort in opening young people’s minds to the *truth*. Instead, they work extremely hard to *close* young people’s minds to the truth of God. THAT IS NOT TRUE EDUCATION—IT IS INEXCUSABLE IGNORANCE!” Opening young people’s minds to truth—not simply liberal ideology or conservative ideology, but the irrefutable TRUTH of the living God—is the cure for all of mankind’s troubles. That is the brand of true, God-oriented education Jesus Christ will establish at His return. ■

small part of sex knowledge. But as the child grows older, explain more from time to time. Keep ahead of the ‘gutter.’” This is the basic rule to remember in teaching your daughter about sexuality: *Stay ahead of the gutter*. It requires vigilance to do that! It means you establish God’s standard of conduct in your home and enforce those rules. It means you’re in regular communication with your daughter, making sure you’re well ahead of the gutter knowledge she absorbs from worldly influences.

Giving her God’s perspective on sex education goes well beyond just teaching abstinence. If she is told to put off sex until marriage, she must understand *why*. She needs to know that God’s law forbids fornication because of the automatic harm it brings—and because it will steal future happiness and joy from her marriage.

Beyond that, constantly reinforce what God says about true beauty in the Bible. God doesn’t view beauty the way this world does—He looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). Teach your daughter to adorn her heart with spiritual strength, wisdom, honor and humility (Proverbs 31:25; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:3-4). Of course, she needs to take care of her physical appearance too, but not by wearing provocative clothing. God says she should dress in “modest apparel” (1 Timothy 2:9). She should learn to combine a modest physical appearance with genuine spiritual beauty.

God offers so much in the way of valuable instruction for our daughters. Few people have ever realized just how practical and applicable God’s instructions are for our daily living. The Holy Bible is God’s Instruction Manual for mankind. It provides the laws of human conduct we need for happy, abundant living!

Pull it off the shelf and start using it.

5. SET THE RIGHT EXAMPLE

No human father is perfect, but before we set out to shape the life of our daughters, we had better get our own act together first. *Teaching is administered most effectively by simply setting the right example*. As Hohman put it in his book, “Parental example is probably the greatest single factor in training. What you yourself do is of greater influence than anything you

can say, especially if your actions belie your words. Your children will inevitably desire to be like you and to act like you” (op. cit.). And when your daughter grows up, we might add, she will most likely marry someone *just like you*.

Be the kind of man you hope she will marry someday—a sincerely humble man who submits to God’s law. One with the spiritual courage and determination needed to lead his family the way Jesus Christ leads His Church. A man who loves his wife and flees from sexual lust. A man of sacrifice and service. A hard worker and good provider who makes time for his wife and children—a good family man. A discerning man of wisdom and understanding who leans on God’s counsel—and who takes the time to teach. A good communica-

.....
Be the kind of man you hope she will marry someday—a sincerely humble man who submits to God’s law.

tor—one who talks to God, his wife and his children.

Your daughter desperately needs you to be THAT man. Spend time with her, restrict

the world’s evil influences in her life, be authoritative and decisive—lovingly lead—and teach her from God’s Instruction Manual. But above all, **BE THE MAN YOU WANT HER TO BE WITH FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.**

Be Vigilant!

We’ve got our work cut out for us! It’ll be a real struggle at times. In fact, we must wake up every day prepared for battle! “Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil,” Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:11. We must **STAND AGAINST** the evil we see at every turn in this world and give our daughters a rock solid foundation to grab hold of.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,” Paul continued, “that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and *having done all, to stand*” (verse 13). Note that! *Having done all TO STAND.*

Give it everything you have. She is, after all, **YOUR DAUGHTER**. She’s your responsibility. You have to be sober and vigilant in your role at home or else Satan will devour her (1 Peter 5:8). *Satan* is vigilant in his determination to destroy your little girl.

Shouldn’t we be just as determined to keep our daughters on the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life in the Family of God? ■



GETTY IMAGES

SHINING EXAMPLE Merkel shows off German industrial prowess to Turkey's prime minister at the Hanover fair April 16.

Germany Moves Full Speed Ahead

GERMAN BUSINESS IS booming, investor confidence is climbing, and productivity is up—all good signs for Germany's economy. "Germany has finally found its role again as the motor for growth in the eurozone," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel during an opening speech at a technology fair in Hanover.

Exports, along with corporate investment and increased global demand for German-engineered products, are responsible for this sudden economic rise. The world's largest exporter experienced a 2.7 percent growth in gross domestic product in 2006—its highest in six years—and higher than the average growth in the eurozone. Exports grew 12.5 percent in 2006; the nation shipped almost 25 percent more goods to Russia and China alone.

Germany's export business is driven largely by its global niche products—highly sophisticated technological tools that enjoy booming worldwide demand. Businesses that offer these specialized products don't compete with nations such as China, which produces many less-sophisticated goods at much cheaper costs than its Western counterparts can.

The demand for these higher-end products is growing, even though the goods have become more expensive as the euro increases in value.

The European Union's success as a dominant global superstate that can compete with the United States hinges

on Europe becoming less dependent upon the U.S. economy and more competitive in the world economy. Germany, the engine of the European economy, is proving itself to be just that.

Its unemployment rate, for instance, is in the single digits for the first time since 2002. "The simple fact that the German labor market is turning ... shows that this is a genuine German renaissance, one that is independent of the U.S.," said Nicolas Sobczak, senior European economist at Goldman Sachs in Paris (*International Herald Tribune*, April 11).

Germany now exports more to the nations of the former Soviet Union than it does to the U.S. It ships five times more goods to nations within Europe than to the U.S.

Already other EU nations are benefiting from

Germany's booming economy. In 2006, Germany's exports to Poland rose 29 percent while imports from Poland rose 23 percent. Other countries in Europe need an economy like Germany's to fuel their own growth.

Germany is still modestly dependent on the U.S. economy. If America's economy takes a turn for the worse, which we expect it to do, Germany will still have to endure the effects. However, its success in turning a stagnant economy into the world's third-largest provides a hint of its likely resiliency in case of an American collapse, and all the more quickly as it becomes less dependent on it.

For more on how Germany's revived economy will affect the entire world, request our free full-color booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

Rising U.S. Mortgage Defaults Forecasts Danger

U.S. MORTGAGE DEFAULT RATES HIT AN all-time high in the first quarter of 2007, which is sure to add additional pressure to a slowing housing market and cause lenders to tighten their credit conditions.

According to Equifax, the percentage of mortgages in default rose to 2.87 percent—eclipsing the worst levels following the 2001 recession. Defaults in many categories—first mortgages, second mortgages and home equity loans—were significantly up (CNBC, April 10).

Mississippi and Texas led a nationwide increase in the number of defaults; conditions deteriorated in all but six of the nation's 50 states.

"The news is unremittably bad," said CNBC's senior economic correspondent.

So far, most of the carnage has been confined to sub-prime borrowers. As long as defaults do not spread to the general mortgage market, many economists feel the economy should be able to weather the storm.

However, the biggest threat to the hous-

ing market—and subsequently the economy—is not the rising number of sub-prime defaults. The real threat to the economy is the tightening of credit conditions that are in large part a result of those sub-prime mortgage losses. With rising default rates and soaring investment losses, sub-prime lenders have tightened up their loan standards. The days of "anyone and his dog" being able to walk in off the street and receive a no-documentation, self-certified income loan are just about over.

Over the past few years, sub-prime loans have grown to take up one quarter of the U.S. mortgage market. In other words, a quarter of the nation's home demand may be about to evaporate as sub-prime mortgage lenders continue to go bankrupt and lending standards are tightened.

Without that demand, housing prices, along with new construction, will probably continue to fall—two big challenges for an economy that has become dependent on a rising housing market.



DREAMTIME



ARTVILLE

Sharia-friendly UK Treasury

BRITAIN IS TO ISSUE its first ever Islamic (Sharia)-compliant government bonds.

London estimates that Islamic financial assets worldwide exceed \$250 billion and are quickly mounting. Tapping into that is tempting for a country that will need to borrow almost \$120 billion this year to cover its deficits and due bonds.

However, borrowing from those practicing Sharia law comes with strings attached. Receiving interest payments or investing in items like pork, gambling and pornography are strictly prohibited. But the limitations go far beyond that. Sharia law “stipulates that money must not be used for a purpose incompatible with Islam” (*Financial Times*, April 26).

This could have a wide range of effects on government spending. This money “could not be used in the furtherance of many individual freedoms, or in the promotion of any idealistic or political worldview other than Islam,” including secular democracy, says Andrea Williams, from the Lawyers’ Christian Fellowship (ibid.). As Williams asks, “Is the government prepared to be bound to the decisions of Islamic scholars on the practicalities of these bonds?”

Consider the wisdom in Proverbs 22:7: “[T]he borrower is servant to the lender.”

Dollars Not Paying for Iran’s Oil

IRAN IS PRESSURING ITS oil customers to pay in currencies other than U.S. dollars. The fact that many nations are giving in does not portend well for the dollar.

Officials from the Iranian oil ministry have stated that 60 percent of their oil transactions are conducted in non-dollar currencies, but now for the first time there is outside confirmation of this shift.

Officials from the Chinese-owned Zhuhai Zhenrong Trading—Iran’s biggest crude oil customer—confirmed that they began paying for Iranian oil in euros starting late last year.

In addition, Japanese officials have indicated they are willing to pay for Iranian crude in yen if necessary. Japanese buyers, including Nippon Oil, said Iran had signaled it wanted them to switch their oil purchases out of dollars but were waiting for a formal request (*International Herald Tribune*, March 27).

All told, Iranian officials claim over half their customers now pay in non-dollar currencies. This trend is a worrying sign for the future of the U.S. economy.

The dollar, as the world’s reserve currency, is the monetary unit used in the majority of global transactions. Most commodities traded on the world market, including oil, are priced and traded in dollars, meaning nations must hold large dollar-denominated reserves to conduct global trade.

This extra demand for the dollar has allowed the U.S. to overspend and run up massive trade deficits without experiencing the normal negative consequences such as currency devaluation, higher interest rates and price inflation.

Iran is, of course, only one nation, and its oil sales are only a fraction of total dollar-denominated trade. However, this precedent widens the crack in the dollar’s reserve currency status. The danger lies in other nations shifting away from the greenback—and already this is the clear trend in global trade.

The U.S. economy—weakening under massive debt loads, trade imbalances and ongoing wars—is vul-



DREAMSTIME

nerable to a currency attack. Time will tell how quickly other nations break away from the dollar.

China Less Reliant on U.S.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND COMPANIES ACROSS China have come to realize the danger of overdependence on the U.S. market. Although overall exports to the United States continue to grow, Chinese sales to other nations are growing much quicker, reducing America’s importance as a trade partner.

Chinese business representatives present at China’s main trade fair held mid-April gave several reasons for the move to other markets, such as weaker growth in the American economy, trade barriers Washington imposes to protect its market and, most significantly, the decline of the dollar against China’s currency, making it more expensive for Americans to buy Chinese products (*New York Times*, April 16). Officials in Beijing raised their currency by 2.1 percent against the dollar in July 2005, and since then it has drifted up 5 percent more.

Meanwhile, the euro’s rising value is making the European Union attractive for Chinese exporters. China’s exports to the EU exceeded its exports to the U.S. for the first time in February.

According to a Goldman Sachs tabulation, China sent more than 31 percent of its exports to the U.S. in 2000, but by February of this year, that figure had dropped to 22.7 percent. The percentage of Chinese exports going to the EU rose slightly, while exports to India, Brazil and Russia have doubled over the last seven years to 32 percent this past winter.

China is working hard to wean itself off its dependency on the American market.

BILLS The Chinese yuan’s rising value against the dollar is good news for China, meaning less dependence on the U.S. economy.



FREDERIC J. BROWN/AP/GETTY IMAGES

U.S.

Military Could Be “Paralyzed”

IT’S “LIKE THE ULTIMATE video game made real,” United Press International reported about former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s technologically innovative Future Combat Systems (FCS). The programs, however, could be a “crippling weakness,” the report said.

Though still in the works, the government has already spent \$160 billion on the programs, and the total amount could accumulate to over \$300 billion over the next decade.

Making the U.S. military more dependent on technol-



PLUGGED IN A U.S. soldier tests a crew station.

ogy will arguably make it stronger and more effective, but it will also open U.S. forces up to significant vulnerabilities. This is a “far less discussed danger,” UPI’s Martin Sieff says, but one that makes the U.S. military “vulnerable to being paralyzed by asymmetrical cyber-

warfare attacks” (March 16, emphasis ours throughout).

This is a trend the *Trumpet* has been watching for some time. Back in June 1999, editor in chief Gerald Flurry called

technological dependence, and the susceptibility to hackers severely crippling America militarily, “the Western world’s Achilles heel.”

Hackers have long been hard at work trying to neutralize American might through cyber-attacks on the U.S. military. The Pentagon

acknowledged 79,000 such attacks on U.S. armed forces websites from mid-2004 to mid-2005. The attacks have not been entirely ineffective. “Even in peacetime,” Sieff wrote, “recent electronic viruses have shown a disturbing ability to disrupt U.S. military electronic systems and bases.”

Sieff concluded: “What cannot be in doubt is that by the time FCS is up and running—if it ever is—potential U.S. adversaries will also be far advanced in their efforts to turn what is intended as a *decisive global military advantage* into a *crippling weakness*.”

Cyber-warfare could take a predominant role in the violence prophesied to befall America and Britain.

NORTH KOREA

Nuking U.S. Diplomacy

NORTH KOREA HAS gained yet another concession from the United States in exchange for a promise Pyongyang has completely failed to fulfill.

April 14 was the deadline for North Korea to shut down its Yongbyon nuclear reactor and invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors back in; as of this writing, North Korea still has not complied.

In a February 13 agreement signed by the U.S., the two Koreas, Japan, China and Russia, North Korea agreed to shut down and seal its Yongbyon nuclear reactor within 60 days in return for aid. North Korea made it clear, however, that no progress would be made until the U.S. released \$25 million of its money frozen in a Macau bank, Banco Delta Asia (BDA). The money was frozen back in 2005 after Washington accused

the bank of helping North Korea launder money and circulate counterfeit bills.

North Korea’s economy is largely built on criminal activities such as selling narcotics and gun-running. Hard currency is needed to pay off the cronies that carry out the illicit activity and to pursue its nuclear and other weapons programs. In fact, the need for cash motivated the North Koreans to become experts at counterfeiting U.S. money; some of their counterfeits are so hard to detect, it is impossible to estimate how much counterfeiting they have done.

The BDA sanctions, therefore, were a blow for North Korea’s economy. Moreover, they were a diplomatic slap in the face. They showed that the U.S. was willing to use its last remaining form of punishment short of military action.



UPPER HAND North Korea’s Kim Jong Il, seen here with his generals, has again outfoxed Western diplomats.

Since that time, however, the Bush administration—burdened by Iran and Iraq and, since January, political pressure from a Democrat-led Congress—has moved from a policy of isolation and punishment to one of re-engagement with North Korea.

Pyongyang is fully aware of the shift. Last July, it launched a provocative series of missile tests; in October came a nuclear test. Both times, the reaction of the U.S. and the West was restrained,

even weak. This emboldened the North Korean regime in demanding its \$25 million back. And this time, Washington caved.

The U.S. position had been that it would not unfreeze the money because of the illicit activity for which it would be used, and because it would set a bad precedent. By completely reversing its stance, the U.S. lost the only leverage it had other than the threat of military action.

And after Pyongyang got the approval for the funds to be released, it blew the deadline to shut its plant down. It got what it wanted and still hasn’t fulfilled its end of the agreement.

According to present arrangements, even if North Korea does shut down its nuclear plant, not a single bit of plutonium has to leave the nation. This means that this unpredictable regime, after exacting the concessions it has sought, could feasibly restart its nuclear program and once again take more aid for nothing.

Hezbollah: Iran Calls Our Shots

A HEZBOLLAH OFFICIAL has admitted on Iranian television that his organization receives approval for its terrorist attacks from spiritual leaders in Iran.

April 15, on an Iranian TV station, the deputy secretary-general of Lebanon-based Hezbollah, Naim Kassem, revealed to an interviewer that Tehran's ayatollahs must approve acts of violence—including suicide bombings and rocket attacks. The admission provided frank public confirmation of a reality long understood in intelligence circles.

The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (IMFA) released excerpts of the interview, translated from the original Arabic. Kassem stated, "The religious doctrine which dictates Hezbollah's actions ... is based on the rulings of the spiritual leader in Tehran." He "has the power to permit our actions, and [he] can forbid them."

He continued, "Even with regard to the suicide bombings, no one is allowed to kill himself without religious authorization. Even the rocket attacks on Israel, against the civilian population [in August 2006] ... in order to apply pressure, even this required overall religious authorization."

That last statement, while it comes as no shock, has enormous implications. Iran, of course, denied any involvement with last summer's Hezbollah-Israel war—a clear lie. Nevertheless, the lie was officially accepted by American, European and Israeli governments, which chose to leave Iran out and confront Hezbollah as an independent entity. (Some

officials, including President Bush, did complain about Iran's involvement but did nothing about it.) Kassem's statement reveals the truth: that it was an Iranian war against Israel, waged via its

Lebanese proxy as a means of maintaining (barely) plausible deniability regarding its own involvement. The ruse worked, simply because



REUTERS/GRACE KASSAB

KASSEM

are purposely pursuing a policy by which Tehran hopes to engulf the region in jihadist violence."

Again, Kassem's state-

no Western government actually wants to fight Iran.

The IMFA report drew the obvious conclusion, "[T]hese newest revelations leave little doubt that Ahmadinejad and his cleric regime

ments come as no shock, though they do represent a break from Hezbollah's typical efforts to avoid implicating Iran. Considering that this information has long been known, we expect that Israel, the U.S., and, for the time being, even Europe will continue to play the game of treating Hezbollah as a separate entity rather than responding to its actions as what they truly are: expressions, often violent, of Iranian foreign policy.

ENVIRONMENT

Crop Disease Portends Famine for Asia, Africa

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE face starvation following an outbreak of a new strain of wheat fungus in Africa and Asia, scientists say. This deadly strain of crop disease, known as black stem rust, can destroy entire wheat fields. "This thing has immense potential for social and human destruction," said international agriculture expert and Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug (*The Observer*, April 22).

Black stem rust has already laid waste to wheat harvests in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia—though it hasn't yet contributed to major food or social problems in these countries because wheat isn't a staple crop for most of East Africa.

Unfortunately for the rest of the world, however, the fungus can spread easily. Wind carries the spores over long distances: They have already blown across the Red Sea into the Arabian Peninsula and infected wheat fields in Yemen. Some observers warn that the wheat fungus could reach Egypt, which depends heavily on wheat, by the end of this year. Experts believe the spores will continue to spread into the Middle East,



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Pakistan and India, destroying a major source of food for more than a billion people.

Rick Ward, coordinator of the Global Rust Initiative, fears that if new rust-resistant wheat varieties aren't developed soon, then devastating losses of wheat production in places like Egypt will "trigger all sorts of destabilizing effects, ones that could have profound implications for the West" (Reuters, April 23).

The director general of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization says the wheat fungus has potential to cause a global crop epidemic, leading to "increased wheat prices and local or regional food shortages."

Black stem rust has plagued wheat fields throughout the centuries, causing destruction of biblical proportions. Ward believes that when the "Bible talks about plagues afflicting crops" that

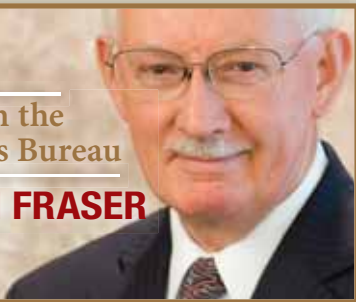
these "are almost certainly references to stem rust." In the past, an outbreak would wipe out entire harvests every few years, transforming ripening wheat into a mass of blackened vegetation and spreading throughout continents in a matter of months.

Scientists developed resistant varieties of wheat during the 1960s, causing the wheat fungus to disappear from most farms. But the new strain of fungus, known as Ug99, is resistant to these defensive measures. Up to 80 percent of all wheat varieties planted in Asia and Africa are estimated to be susceptible to Ug99.

Bible prophecy tells us the world will soon be afflicted by worldwide famine. Although scientists are capable of developing disease-resistant varieties of grain, Ug99 proves that the world is not immune to crop epidemics. There is only one sure way to prevent the destruction that these epidemics are destined to create. To find out what that 100 percent reliable countermeasure is, and to learn more about the prophesied global famine and food shortages, request our free booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*.

From the
News Bureau

RON FRASER



EU Anniversary— Crisis Before Solution?

“LET THEM EAT CAKE,” Marie-Therese, wife of Louis XIV of France, is reputed to have declared as the peasants clamored for a say in their future. In what appeared to be a rerun of the Marie-Therese approach to the masses, German Chancellor Angela Merkel threw a hugely expensive birthday bash for the public in Berlin, turning on the beer and bratwurst and flinging open the doors of Berlin’s infamous discos to an all-night rage on the eve of March 25, the 50th anniversary of the European Union.

If the idea was to keep the masses occupied so they wouldn’t notice what was occurring down the road at the German Historical Museum with the signing of the vacuous Berlin Declaration, then she needn’t have bothered. The public’s attitude toward the much-touted occasion was decidedly ho-hum.

Public and Political Dissent

It seems the German people at large are fairly cynical about the bloated EU bureaucracy that rules their lives from Brussels. They balk at its constantly passing regulations that place ever-greater constraints on their lives, ruled by representatives in whose election to power they have no real say, who hold regular meetings at great cost to the taxpayer, during which much is discussed but little ever concluded.

A dwindling number of Europeans support their home countries’ EU membership, Reuters reported, “because of fears the EU is failing to protect workers from globalization, eroding national identities and meddling excessively in national affairs” (March 24). A poll reported on by think tank Open Europe found that within eurozone nations, nearly half the people wish they could go back to the national currencies they gave up for the common European currency.

Under a rising cloud of such public dissent and of increasing rifts on EU policy between various members, Chancellor Merkel brought the 27 leaders of the EU nations together over the last weekend in March to witness the

signing of what has become known as the Berlin Declaration.

From the rumbles that emerged from concerned EU member nations, it became clear that a battle royal was waged behind the scenes that weekend in Berlin. Once again, Germany was

As Germany’s latest term in the rotational presidency of the European Union reaches its conclusion, what legacy will it leave behind?

seeking to bully its fellow EU members into signing a document that Germany may well interpret as fulfilling its *own* EU agenda but that falls short of meeting others’ requirements.

As one source commented, “[B]eneath the veneer, and despite serving as a model of integration to the world, EU leaders [battled] to conclude a declaration that can mark past achievements and reassure citizens about the future” (EUbusiness, March 20).

All of this makes last year’s declaration by EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso seem rather hollow. He said that “EU leaders must agree [on] a ringing political statement of Europe’s values and priorities for a Berlin declaration next year.” But far from producing such a ringing and unanimous statement, it seems the EU has yet to even agree on just what those “values and priorities” are!

A year ago, Barroso declared his desire for all 27 EU member nations to sign the Berlin Declaration “together as a collective act of will. The European Parliament will sign alongside the member states and Commission as proof the EU and institutions are working together” (TheParliament.com, June 20, 2006).

On March 25, the Union’s 50th anniversary, Barroso simply had to eat humble pie.

Merkel’s Machinations

In a complete about-face that caused an outcry across Europe, instead of the

heads of all EU member states signing in agreement to the declaration, Chancellor Merkel ruled that only she, European Commission President Barroso and the president of the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Pöttering, would sign the text on behalf of all the leaders!

What has since emerged is of even greater concern. It appears that the very wording of the Berlin Declaration was manipulated so as to offer specific appeal to those

EU member nations that are leery of certain aspects of EU governance.

EUobserver.com posted this analysis of the text: “The declaration ... says in German that ‘We, the citizens in the European Union, are united *zu unserem Glück*’—which means ‘united in our fortune/happiness.’ However, in the other versions of the text, the word *Glück* has been given a less solemn treatment. ‘We, the citizens of the European Union, have united for the better,’ the more down-to-earth English version says.

“The word has also disappeared from the Danish version, where *Glück* has been replaced with ‘vor fælles bedste,’ meaning ‘for the best,’ and further down the declaration the word has been lost in translation.

“There are so many deviations in the Danish version that it cannot possibly be a coincidence, Henning Kock—a professor in constitutional law at Copenhagen University—told Danish daily *Politiken* on [March 26]. ‘[I]t’s a political translation,’ he said about the Danish version” (March 27).

The Berlin Declaration consists of two pages of prose that have been painfully constructed to ensure that the most burning issues that currently lie in the EU president’s too-hard basket are not mentioned. The document’s drafters avoided two in particular like the plague. No specific reference is made to the *European Constitution*, already signed by all member nations but not yet ratified by some, and no reference is

made to the *religion* that has provided the EU with its system of values from its inception by its Roman Catholic founding fathers.

This latter omission brought the Bavarian Pope Benedict XVI out of his Vatican cloisters like a raging bull!

Papal Ire Aroused

When informed of the omission of any reference to the Catholic and Christian roots of Europe in the very document that was to espouse the European Union's fundamental values, Benedict rounded on EU leaders with a stream of criticism unprecedented in 50 years of Vatican/EU relations.

"In a speech to European bishops on Saturday, Pope Benedict accused the EU of apostasy for refusing to mention Christianity in the Berlin Declaration. Asking how leaders could hope to get closer to their citizens if they denied such an essential part of European identity, the head of the Roman Catholic Church said: 'Does not this unique form of apostasy of itself, even before God, lead it (Europe) to doubt its very identity?'" (Reuters, *op. cit.*)

No pope has ever issued such a stinging criticism of those charged with the project of uniting Europe since it began 50 years ago at the signing of the Treaty of Rome. Then, Rome was chosen for the signing ceremony for its close identity with the foundational Roman Catholic values that had united Europe so often in the past under the institution of the Holy Roman Empire. Fifty years later, the Berlin Declaration gives the appearance of a European Union that has deliberately distanced itself from its very own religious roots.

This has the pope hopping mad!

To accuse European leaders of *apostasy* is the ultimate insult from the most powerful religious leader in the world.



CELEBRATION Fireworks explode over Berlin as leaders from the 27 EU nations gather to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

This is bound to get the attention of European national presidents, prime ministers, politicians and the boffins of the Brussels bureaucracy. And that is just what this pope wants.

EU officials know that the Vatican, under Benedict's leadership, has *real* clout—*real political* clout. They cannot afford to get this powerfully influential religious leader offside.

But that is where Benedict stands right now: *offside the whole EU governing apparatus*, with spiritual sword drawn.

The pope's blood is up for a mighty crusading effort to sweep Europe back into Rome's fold—and he's not going to back down. Benedict deliberately rained on the EU's 50th anniversary parade. His remarks were a real downer

on the occasion. They could hardly have been timed better for maximum effect.

But look a little closer. Something is definitely afoot!

Creating the Crisis— Posing the Solution

We have often quoted British political economist Rodney Atkinson's claim that German politicians are expert at creating a crisis and then posing the most ideal solution in their nation's own best interests.

There may indeed be a method to what appeared to be Merkel's madness in drafting this Berlin Declaration behind closed doors, a tactic that gained her a degree of criticism from some EU member states.

Remember Merkel telling Pope Benedict, during his visit to Bavaria last year, that she believed the European Constitution should make reference to God and the EU's Christian values? We believe she still holds to that position.

It so happened that Pöttering, president of the European Parliament and, at the time, leader of its influential Catholic center-right movement, also told the pope last year that his group was determined to see the spiritual dimension of the European project written into the European Constitution. At the time, Pöttering described the European Constitution to the pope as "holy text."

Merkel and Pöttering were two of the three EU gurus chosen to sign the Berlin Declaration.

Intriguingly, on the very eve that EU leaders gathered in Berlin to witness the signing of the seemingly irreligious Berlin Declaration, who did we find having an audience with the pope? None other than one of the prospective signatories to the Berlin Declaration, Hans-Gert Pöttering. And what was

Pöttering doing in Rome while the other EU leaders gathered in Berlin? Issuing the pope an official invitation to *personally address the European Parliament*.

Early on in discussions surrounding the planning of the EU anniversary, it was proposed that Pope Benedict might be present in Berlin for the anniversary celebrations. But he could hardly take part in celebrations over the signing of an EU declaration specifically intended to endorse the values of that institution, if his religion was completely ignored in that document. Hence the invitation to come to the European Parliament after the main event—to put things right!

In the pope's present crusading mood, could you see him declining such an opportunity? We think not!

It may yet turn out that, far from being remembered for a Berlin Declaration with all of its religious teeth pulled, the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome will be remembered as the occasion when the pope accepted an invitation to ride his crusading horse into the heart of the main legislating body of the European Union and sell that body, once and for all, on the need to write Rome's religion—the "religious roots" of Europe—into the very heart and core of a revived constitution.

This is the card we think Merkel and Pöttering have now played.

What gives this theory extra credence is hearing that grand old statesman of the European Union, Otto von Habsburg, declare during that late March weekend's EU celebrations that he is convinced Europe faces a *great revival of Christianity!*

Would this 94-year-old Europhile, so deeply embedded in EU political society, having contact with the most influential movers and shakers on the Continent, make such a public statement unless he really knew what was going on behind the scenes? No one has followed the tortuous path of Europe through its postwar revival to become the mightiest trading entity in the world more closely than this wise old man of Europe. We believe his recent public statement has significant credibility in terms of a pending and powerful move by Pope Benedict XVI and his coterie of conservative cardinals to mount the most dramatic crusade for the revival of Catholic Europe since the Middle Ages.

Filling the Religious Void

The fact is, there does exist an aching, gnawing spiritual gap within the European Union. The EU, with its 50th anniversary having come and gone, appeared to miss a golden opportunity to publicly declare its underlying ideology—clearly espoused 50 years ago by its founding Catholic fathers—in unambiguous terms within the Berlin Declaration.

Rome, Berlin and Bavaria could again be drawn together for one final great European power play.

Historically, every movement that has successfully welded the nations of Europe together in unity has declared attachment to an ideology, a *religious* dogma. Religion has repeatedly brought a semblance of unity among the great diversity of the peoples and cultures of the Continent. This has occurred six times in the past, under the various forms of the Holy Roman Empire, since the time of Charlemagne.

The Berlin Declaration is an open challenge to the supremacy of the religion of Rome in Europe. The pope has met that challenge head on, and the EU has responded with an open invitation for him to come to its parliament and fix the problem. This provides the pope with an open door to peddle his spiritual wares directly to the main legislating body of the European Union.

If the Parliament seizes the moment and railroads the endorsing of the religion of Rome into its constitution, then the EU's spiritual gap may well be filled by official recognition of the pope's religion as the state religion of the European Union. And remember, should this occur, the laws the European Parliament makes trump all domestic law within EU member nations.

Might the European Parliament endorse a singular state religion at the behest of this pope?

In crafting the Berlin Declaration, Merkel was careful in her verbiage: Those EU leaders who want *religion* bound up in the European Constitution can easily find justification for doing so in the declaration's prod to renew the issue of declaring European values. The deadline she has set to achieve unanimity on the European

Constitution is the year 2009. The current German presidency of the EU will leave the next holder of the rotational presidency, Portugal, with a clear mandate to pursue agreement by all EU members to commit to that 2009 goal by the end of this year.

Could our German friends be at it again?

In fact, could the legacy of this German presidency of the EU be the creation of the very *crisis*—the raging argument as to whether the EU should remain secular, or finally acknowledge its true religious roots—for which a Bavarian pope has already been invited to pose a *solution*?

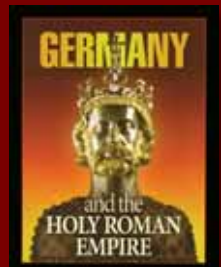
The EU's major crisis, at this point, is a crisis of *values*. This crisis was highlighted in Berlin that early spring weekend in late March by the disappearance of any reference to the EU's religious roots in the Berlin Declaration. Its nature was powerfully dramatized on the same weekend by Pope Benedict himself condemning the EU for this omission. And on that same weekend, an invitation was issued in Rome for the pope to enter the inner sanctum of the European Union to declare the solution to this conundrum.

There's a grand political game being played out here, and it's simply destined to shape the global order of the future, at least for a short moment in time (Revelation 17:12).

It may be evident to few, but mark our words. History was written that March weekend in Berlin *and* Rome. Watch now for the *values crisis* to become a core issue within the EU.

Especially watch for the pope's upcoming address to the European Parliament. It is an event you definitely should not miss! Believe it or not, your very future will be powerfully affected by the outcome. ■

What are Germany's plans for the future? How do they impact you? To find out, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.





Israel's Miracle Victory

This month marks 40 years since the Six Day War. This inspiring history holds a powerful lesson for today.

TRIUMPH Israeli soldiers rejoice after a battle in the Syrian hills during the June 1967 Six Day War.

BY DAVID VEJIL

ONE HUNDRED AND thirty-one hours and fifty minutes. That's all it took for the tiny nation of Israel to devastate the armies of Egypt, Jordan and Syria between June 5 and June 10, 1967. In just six days, Israel changed the course of Middle East history and politics.

At the end of one of the shortest wars in history, more than 10,000 Egyptians, 700 Jordanians and 400 Syrians had died; in addition, more than 20,000 from the three nations were wounded. Israel, on the other hand, claimed fewer than 800 dead, 2,563 wounded. That amounts to Israel killing 25 enemy troops for every one Israeli lost.

The prisoner-of-war rate proved even more lopsided in Israel's favor. Israel captured more than 5,000 Egyptians (of whom 21 were generals), 365 Syrians and 550 Jordanians. Israel's POW number totaled just 15.

The magnitude of Israel's victory is even clearer in view of the disparity in material destruction. Israel destroyed 85 percent of Egypt's military hardware and plundered vast stores of ammunition and tanks. It captured hundreds of both

Jordan's and Syria's tanks and thousands of their military vehicles and guns.

Israel's attacks on its enemies' air forces were even more thorough. Egypt lost all of its bombers and 85 percent of its combat aircraft, most on the first day of war. All of Jordan's airfields and fighters were destroyed in the first day of battle, and Syria's air force was also severely crippled. In all, Israel destroyed more than 400 aircraft while losing only 36 of its 1,800 planes.

Finally, consider how much territory Israel conquered. By the war's end, Israel occupied the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and all of Jerusalem. Israel conquered 42,000 square miles, making the nation 3½ times its original size in one week.

Amazed by Israel's accomplishments, the Western world heaped praise on the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for their audacity and success.

"From the podium of the UN, I proclaimed the glorious triumph of the IDF and the redemption of Jerusalem," said Abba Eban, Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. "Never before has Israel stood more honored and revered by the nations of the world."

Forty years ago, Israel's tenacious military victory astounded the world.

How did it happen?

It can only be explained as a miracle.

Israel's Dire Circumstances

The fledgling nation of Israel was facing extinction. Egypt and Syria, upon signing a defense pact in November 1966, stepped up what had been their ongoing aggression toward Israel. Syria had been increasing its shelling of Israeli villages from the Golan Heights throughout 1965 and 1966, forcing Israelis into bomb shelters. Israel finally responded on April 7, 1966, with a retaliatory attack that destroyed six fighters in Syria's air force. A vengeful Syria, falsely claiming that Israel was amassing forces on its borders, called on Egypt to honor their military pact. On May 15, Egyptian tanks and troops began rolling into the Sinai Peninsula, a demilitarized buffer zone patrolled by UN forces. On May 16, Egypt ordered the UN troops to leave, and within a few days the Egyptian military was deployed near Israel's border. On the north and south, Israel faced hostile nations whose leaders were routinely calling for its destruction.

On May 22, Egypt moved to strangle Israel economically by closing the Straits of Tiran—Israel's only trade route to Asia and its access to oil. This illegal blockade, combined with the Arab nations closing

off their borders with Israel, could have quickly strangled the tiny nation's economy and therefore its means of existence.

Eight days later, Jordan joined the military pact with Egypt and Syria; Israel was now completely surrounded by hostile nations ready to pounce. Iraq was next in line, joining the military alliance on June 4. Iraq's president, Abdur Rahman Aref, proceeded to sum up months of hate-filled rhetoric from the Arab nations by saying, "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear: to wipe Israel off the map."

The Arabs mobilized more than 400,000 troops, 2,000 tanks and 800 aircraft with the intent to crush Israel. Israel was left with one choice: to go on the *offensive*. On June 5, the Israeli prime minister gave orders to attack.

Preemptive Strike

The war started at 7:10 in the morning with Operation Focus. Close to 200 Israeli planes were to bomb Egyptian air bases and runways to cripple the Egyptian Air Force. Half an hour later, the first wave reached its targets and caught the Egyptians by complete surprise. In little more than 30 minutes, half the Egyptian Air Force and six airfields were destroyed. The second wave reached its targets, destroying another 107 planes while losing only nine, all within 100 minutes of the initial strike.

That morning, 286 of the 420 combat aircraft in Egypt's air force and 13 of its air bases were destroyed, with a third of its pilots being killed. "The Egyptian Air Force has ceased to exist," a report to the IDF Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin stated at 10:35 that morning.

Within an hour of the Israeli planes taking off, the ground assault started with Israeli tanks storming toward Egyptian defenses in the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. The IDF planned to surprise Egypt's forces not only in timing but also in location, attacking the Sinai from northern and central routes rather than southern and central routes as Egypt expected. The surprise worked, though Israel suffered high casualties. By the next morning, Egypt's first line of defense was overrun. Egyptian Minister of Defense Abdel Hakim Amer was so panicked by Israel's attack, he ordered a wholesale retreat.

The success of the preemptive strike, especially Operation Focus, gave Israel a



tremendous advantage and momentum in the war.

Ironically, the Egyptians also had their own plan for a preemptive strike, Operation Dawn, on the earlier date of May 30, but called it off 45 minutes before it was due to be launched. The Israelis learned of the plan through intercepted communications, and the Egyptian president aborted the mission against the advice of his staff.

Defense Minister Amer told the president, "By waiting, Egypt loses even before the war starts."

When told to abort, the commander of the strike force asked Amer, "Why? Don't we trust that Allah will aid us?"

"That's not the point," Amer responded.

But that was exactly the point. God was not with the Islamists, He was with Israel.

Momentum Carried Forward

The success of Israel's preemptive attack vindicated a speech that Moshe Dayan, the newly appointed minister of defense at the time, had given to Israel's government on June 2: "Israel's one chance of winning this war is in taking the initiative and fighting according to our own designs," he had stressed. "If we open with an attack and break through with our tanks to Sinai, they have to fight our war. What's more, we have the chance of maintaining our other fronts with limited forces."

That is exactly how it worked for Is-

rael, facing the daunting challenge of fighting a three-front war. After receiving false reports of Egyptian victories from Egypt, Jordan opened up the second front and attacked Israel later that same morning, June 5. Israel's early success freed the Israeli Air Force to wipe out both of Jordan's air bases and its air force, as well as an air base in Iraq being used by Jordan to wage the war.

When Syria opened the third front by starting to bomb Jewish settlements, the Israeli Air Force was able to cripple Syria's air force as well, destroying 60 of its 90 combat aircraft by the afternoon of the first day. This gave Israel command of the skies as its forces on the ground rolled forward.

The momentum of Israel's attack, stemming from the surprise preemptive strikes, appeared unstoppable. By the end of the third day, June 7, Israel had captured Jericho and all of Jerusalem and reduced the strength of Jordan's military by 80 percent. That day, Jordan, with its capital at risk of capture, signed a cease-fire resolution with Israel.

On the western front, Egypt continued its retreat in chaos. Egyptian soldiers were ordered to destroy their bases and retreat even before seeing a single Israeli soldier. The troops fled to the Suez Canal. "I cannot describe to you what we felt during the retreat from Sharm al-Sheikh," said Abd al-Hafiz, an officer of an Egyptian garrison. "We nearly cried, for we could not believe what was happening. We never saw one Israeli soldier."

"Everyone lost their heads," said Dr. Abd al-Fattah al Tarki, a reserve officer of an Egyptian armored brigade. "The army on the roads was in a state of complete collapse. It was a massacre, a disaster. Israel never would have achieved a quarter of its victory if not for the confusion and chaos."

So great was Israel's momentum that its offensive plans were slowed by retreating Egyptian vehicles that were blocking the road.

The IDF's assault was so quick and successful that it stopped taking prisoners, except for officers, and encouraged the Arab soldiers to run to the Canal or, shoeless, into the desert!

Though initially the Israeli generals wanted to restrict the IDF advance to those objectives they had defined from the start of the war, the quick suc-

cess, coupled with the need to prevent any possibility of Egyptian armies regrouping, convinced the IDF to continue steamrolling across the Sinai.

By the end of the fourth day, June 8, Israeli troops had reached the Suez Canal and were in striking range of Cairo. At that point, Egypt gave in and signed a cease-fire with Israel.

By the fifth day, Israel had turned its attention to the north and started its offensive against Syria in order to stop the bombardment from the Golan Heights for good.

By the morning of the sixth day, after all-night fighting, the Syrian Army was in full retreat, the Golan Heights were in Israeli control, and Damascus was wide open for attack. By nightfall, after six days of war, Syria signed a cease-fire.

The war was over.

Pinnacle Moment Proves God's Blessing

None of Israel's accomplishments was as important to the Jews as the capture of East Jerusalem. This most significant event gave them access to their holiest site. When the IDF captured Jerusalem and took control of the remains of Herod's temple, soldiers broke out in songs and prayers.

At that time, the troops and generals knew God had directed the battle and weren't afraid to admit it.

"Apparently someone in heaven was watching over us," said Commander Rafael Eytan, who led the paratroopers of the 35th Brigade. "Every unintended action they took and every unintended action we took always turned to our advantage."

The victory, however, did more than redeem the sacrifices of the people; it proved God blessed Israel in battle because it was His will and purpose for the Jews to take control of Jerusalem.

In a prophecy to occur shortly before Christ's return, God says, "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle ... and half of the city shall go forth into captivity" (Zechariah 14:2). This prophecy could not be fulfilled unless Israel first controlled the *entire city*. God had to give the Jews the city for this end-time prophecy to unfold as God said it would.

What makes this conquest all the more remarkable is that Israel didn't even plan to take Jerusalem at the beginning of the war. In fact, *most* of Israel's achievements weren't planned. Its goal was only to eliminate the Egyptian threat by destroying Egypt's army and air force. The Israeli government and

military generals did not plan to conquer the whole Sinai Peninsula, or take control of the West Bank, or seize the Golan Heights. Even the most celebrated event in the war, the taking of Jerusalem, was achieved based on the decisions of the enemy nations.

**THE FUTURE OF
Jerusalem**

As surely as God's Word says the Jews would conquer Jerusalem, it also says they will soon lose half the city. Read God's detailed prophecies about this city in our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.



If Egypt had not lied to the public and the world about overcoming Israel in the first day of the war, Jordan wouldn't have been inspired to attack Israel, and the map of Israeli-controlled territory would not have changed so drastically.

God tells us in Isaiah 48:9 that He intervenes in nations' affairs not because of their inherent righteousness but for His "name's sake." By giving the victory to the Jews, God made His name great and His prophecies concerning Jerusalem could now be fulfilled. However, God works through men, and He was able to work the miracle because the Jews truly believed that the land was theirs to take and protect.

This magazine has often pointed out that modern-day Israel is actually the biblical tribe of Judah, one of the 12 tribes of Israel (our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* provides thorough proof of this). The Jews, drawing from their rich history of "David and Goliath"-type battles where God repeatedly delivered outnumbered Israelites from a multitude of enemies, acted with a certain amount of faith and determination, and God backed that up with a miraculous victory.

Retreat

The victory and the conviction the Jews had in possessing the territory they gained in the Six Day War was short-lived. Israel gave the Sinai Peninsula—91 percent of the territory it had conquered

in the Six Day War—back to Egypt in 1977. Since then, it has gone even further, giving the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians in 2005 and thus putting itself within rocket-fire range, with not even a promise of peace. Now Israeli politicians are considering giving up the West Bank, the Golan Heights and half of Jerusalem. This is territory that Israel's Arab enemies once used to threaten its existence—territory the Jews paid with blood to capture.

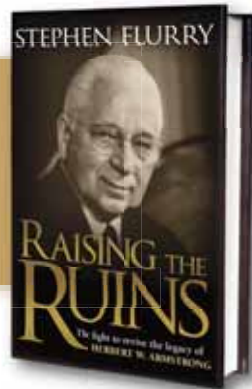
Not only are many Israelis willing to give up their once-precious land, the nation's military no longer fights with the same conviction and strength it once did. What's more, any semblance of strong, decisive national leadership has disappeared.

Last year's Lebanon-Israel conflict is a prime example. The better-armed and -trained IDF was unable to eliminate the threat of a few thousand terrorists in 34 days. This failure—what amounted to a defeat at the hands of a severely out-gunned enemy—demonstrates the difference between a nation blessed by God and one cursed by God.

Israel now faces the consequences of becoming a society totally faithless and unbelieving of its history. Not only does God give victory for His name's sake, but Jeremiah 14:7 reveals that He also punishes for His name's sake. Because of the Jews' disobedience and faithlessness, God is no longer giving them the miraculous victories in battle. The Jews' hands were once "in the neck of their enemies" as God prophesied in Genesis 49:8, but now, once again, Israel's enemies are closing in. Once again, the leading Islamic nation, this time Iran, is calling for Israel to be wiped off the map.

If only the Jews would remember their history with God and believe it! God can deliver His people from their enemies if they turn to Him for protection rather than relying on empty promises and pieces of paper. As with the ancient nation of Israel, God says He is going to allow the Jews to go into captivity in order to bring them to repentance.

Once they look to God, the Jews will once again enjoy the blessings of peace and prosperity that God is eager to bestow upon them—just as He is upon Egypt, Iran, the Arabic nations, and upon every other people that forsakes its own ways and follows God's ways. Very soon, as the Prophet Isaiah wrote, the day will dawn when "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." ■



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

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

Incidental Points

“The fundamental truths of God’s Word are contained in *Mystery of the Ages*. But we must realize that some of the peripheral or incidental points it contains give occasion to critics to fault the whole book, as well as inadvertently misleading readers on a few points.”

—Joseph Tkach Sr. *Pastor General’s Report*, Feb. 14, 1989

NOT SURPRISINGLY, MR. TKACH decided against revising *Mystery of the Ages*. Bernie Schnippert had the honor of making the first official announcement on Dec. 2, 1988—albeit only to church employees involved in producing and distributing literature. He wrote, “Mr. Tkach decided last June to stop distributing *Mystery of the Ages* [actually, he placed the book on hold May 13, then discarded the inventory on June 2] because of sections that no longer properly reflected the church’s teaching on *certain subjects*.” In actuality, the only specific reason offered in those earlier reports was that it needed to be revised “to better reflect the church’s teaching *about healing*.” Now the reasons had broadened to “certain subjects.”

“For now,” Schnippert wrote, “Mr. Tkach has decided not to reprint the book.” And with that, the WCG had finally made it official. The book’s lifespan within the church had lasted from September 1985 to May 1988—a run of only 32 months. Years later, they would spend more than twice that amount of time fighting us in court to *keep* the book out of print!

Mr. Schnippert offered this explanation in his December 1988 report: “When Mr. Armstrong compiled *Mystery*, he drew material from other booklets, booklets that are still in print. In that way, *Mystery* will not actually go out of print since parts of it are already contained in other booklets.” This is one of the first instances where they used the “while we’ve made a change, it’s not really a change” excuse. This tactic would be repeated again and again for three more years, in an effort to hide their massive doctrinal transfor-

mation from the church membership.

After Schnippert’s December 1988 announcement, Mail Processing updated its staff on procedures regarding the book. “Both versions of the *Mystery of the Ages* book [soft-bound and hardbound] have been out of stock for a few months”—discarded or destroyed, actually. Those requesting the book would now be sent a postcard saying, “This publication is no longer available and there are now no plans to reprint it.”

■ PREPARING THE CHURCH

Almost seven months elapsed from when *Mystery* was put “on hold” to when they said there were “no plans to reprint.” Then, after that, it took Church Administration another 60 days to inform the field ministry about the decision and an additional 20 days to tell the membership. By stark contrast, Joseph Tkach Jr. fired my dad on Dec. 7, 1989, a year after they killed *Mystery*, and news of the disfellowshipment hit the *Pastor General’s Report* just 12 DAYS LATER.

But upon deciding not to reprint Mr. Armstrong’s best and most popular work—even long after destroying all remaining inventory copies of the book—church leaders waited *nearly three months* before telling the membership. The reason they took so long is because they wanted to prepare the church for an announcement this earth-shaking.

At the outset of 1989, Mr. Tkach Sr. wrote to the ministry, “One area that I want to stress is that of putting undue emphasis upon Mr. Herbert Armstrong or upon me. In the church of God, human leaders are never to become objects of reverence or devotion bordering on worship.” Previously, we

have noted Mr. Tkach's attempt to demote Mr. Armstrong post-mortem—even rejecting his prophesied role as the end-time “Elijah.” At the same time, Mr. Tkach wasted little time in assuming the spiritual rank of apostle, just 10 months into his pastor-generalship. What's interesting about the above statement is that Mr. Tkach presents himself as co-equal with Mr. Armstrong. Don't put “undue emphasis upon Mr. Herbert Armstrong or upon me,” he said. From what I remember, he was the only one putting undue emphasis on himself. Mr. Tkach continued, “It is not appropriate, for example, to assign various scriptures to Mr. Armstrong or me personally as though our leadership were specifically prophesied in the Bible. Besides being erroneous and spiritually presumptuous, this kind of thinking only serves to falsely brand God's church as a cultish sect that worships its human leaders.”

I remember Dean Blackwell once delivering a sermon in which he went through Joshua 1, likening Mr. Tkach to Joshua, who succeeded Moses anciently. Outside of general references like that, I certainly don't remember any minister ever assigning *specific* scriptures to Mr. Tkach and his leadership. That Mr. Tkach would now consider this a problem was simply an attempt to de-emphasize Mr. Armstrong's importance while elevating his own, and in a manner that seemed both humble and wise.

On the other hand, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Tkach and just about every minister in the WCG had, for many years, assigned various scriptures to Mr. Armstrong and his leadership. That Mr. Tkach would now equate this with *worshipping* a human being is absurd. Jesus is the one who said that Elijah (not the “church”) “shall first come, and restore all things.” Was it erroneous and spiritually presumptuous for Jesus to say this? Or for the disciples to believe it? They knew that John the Baptist was the first-century fulfillment of this prophecy. In fact, Mr. Tkach even said John the Baptist was the prophesied messenger to prepare the way before Christ's first coming. Was it erroneous and spiritually presumptuous for him to assign various scriptures to *John the Baptist*—a mere human? Was Mr. Tkach worshipping John the Baptist?

Mystery of the Ages has more to say about various scriptures assigned to Mr. Armstrong than any other book or booklet he ever wrote. Mr. Tkach now deemed these sections of the book erroneous and spiritually presumptuous. What members did *not* know at the time was that Mr. Tkach now believed the *WHOLE BOOK* had so many errors that a revised copy couldn't even be printed.

■ MYSTERY OF THE AGES REVISED

Two weeks after his comments about assigning scriptures to names, Mr. Tkach began the PGR by writing, “I am thrilled to announce that our new booklet *Who Was Jesus?*, written by Paul Kroll, is now printed and ready for mailing!” The publicity the church gave this booklet is not unlike that which Mr. Armstrong heaped upon *Mystery of the Ages* when it was first released. All members and co-workers automatically received a copy. The church offered the booklet on television. Mr. Tkach also offered it to all *Plain Truth* subscribers in his semi-annual letter. He went on to write, “I believe this will be one of our most vital and important pieces of literature as we continue to do the job of preaching and teaching the full gospel of Jesus Christ—the unparalleled good news about the salvation of mankind through Jesus, and His prophesied

Second Coming to establish the Kingdom of God.”

The problem with *Who Was Jesus?* wasn't so much the content (although it does contain some unbiblical teachings), it was the new *direction* or *focus* of the message. It was moving away from the message Jesus actually preached to focusing primarily on the messenger.

In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong wrote about a “violent controversy” that erupted in the early years of the first-century Church. The dispute centered on whether the Church should proclaim the gospel of Christ or merely a *gospel* ABOUT Christ. The gospel about Christ won out—leaving only a faithful few to proclaim the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Mr. Armstrong wrote about this false gospel, in some detail, on pages 278–279 of *Mystery of the Ages*.

Our purpose in this volume is not to help you prove which gospel is true. But suffice it to say, had Mr. Armstrong lived long enough to compare *Who Was Jesus?* with *Mystery of the Ages*, he would have made this conclusion in the strongest possible terms: *Who Was Jesus?* is ABOUT Christ, whereas *Mystery of the Ages* contains Christ's message—the gospel *Jesus Christ preached*.

It is not coincidental that Mr. Tkach delayed the *Mystery of the Ages* announcement until AFTER *Who Was Jesus?* was printed. He needed a replacement for *Mystery of the Ages*. He just couldn't, in good conscience, make all the editorial changes necessary to keep *Mystery of the Ages* afloat. And aside from that, the whole focus and intent of the church's work had changed. Nothing reflects this better than comparing *Who Was Jesus?* with *Mystery of the Ages*. So, on the eve of announcing that *Mystery of the Ages* was now dead and buried, Mr. Tkach said he was THRILLED to announce that “one of our most vital and important pieces of literature” was now ready for distribution. In that way, *Who Was Jesus?* served as the revised edition of *Mystery of the Ages*.

■ PASSING THE BUCK

Though Mr. Tkach had personally opened the January 17 PGR with his “thrilling” announcement about *Who Was Jesus?*, in the next issue, he delegated the job of telling the field ministry about *Mystery of the Ages* to Larry Salyer, who wrote, “*Mystery of the Ages* is among the most expensive pieces of literature we have recently published. We have offered this book to the public many times through the telecast, the *Plain Truth*, co-worker letters and semi-annual letters. While it is not completely accurate to say that we have saturated our audience with these offers, we have made more offers for this book and have distributed it more than any other in the past four years.” Actually, the book had been distributed less than three years.

Mr. Salyer then factored in another reason for its removal: “Because *Mystery of the Ages* covers so many doctrinal subjects and is so costly to publish, obviously we want it to be completely accurate theologically. This is important, also, because our literature faces an ever-increasing critical review from outsiders.” To his credit, he at least slips in part of the real reason, indicating it wasn't “completely accurate.” But later, Salyer wrote, “Please do not tell prospective members to request copies of *Mystery of the Ages*, because we do not have any in stock. We do not plan to print more until editorial and budget questions have been resolved.” Actually, they had destroyed all remaining stock and told employees there were no plans to reprint.

Breaking down Salyer's comments, he identified three reasons for *Mystery's* removal: 1) too expensive; 2) distribution had reached *near-saturation* point; and 3) not completely accurate theologically.

Let's look at these three reasons more closely.

■ **TOO EXPENSIVE**

In his 1998 deposition, Mr. Tkach Jr. backed up Larry Salyer's assessment, that the book was too expensive. "It's much easier to give away 10 booklets that cost a dime each to produce than it is to give a book that costs 10 bucks to produce. It's just that simple." But it's not as simple as he made it sound because *Mystery of the Ages* never cost that much to produce. When Dexter Faulkner asked Tkach Sr. about what to do with the 120,000 unusable copies in 1988, he said the replacement cost for the book would be "around one dollar per copy." With that in mind, using Joe Jr.'s hypothetical, sending *Mystery of the Ages* may have been *more* cost-effective than 10 booklets.

Nevertheless, when we asked if printing and distributing the book was a "financial drain" for the church, Mr. Tkach Jr. said, "Absolutely." Why, then, had it not been a huge financial drain for the church before 1988? "Because the income was sufficient to—to go ahead and do that," said Tkach. Later, even after realizing that the income in 1988 was actually one of the "peak years" for the church, Tkach stood by the "too expensive" excuse: "... expense was absolutely an *equivalent reason* to the errors that we first were aware of in '88," he said.

Of course, Tkach HAD to say this or else admit that Larry Salyer misled the ministry in 1989. Yet, a quick look at the figures removes the smoke screen. The cost for printing and distributing *Mystery* was not exorbitant—not when compared to a 10-booklet equivalent—and certainly not for a multi-million-dollar organization at the peak of its income.

■ **NEAR-SATURATION POINT**

Writing in the *Pastor General's Report* nine months before Mr. Armstrong died, Joseph Tkach Sr. referred to a sermon Mr. Armstrong had recently given in which he had mentioned *Mystery of the Ages*. "I know this book," Mr. Tkach wrote, "will prove to be another major step forward for God's Church and the spreading of the gospel *around the world*."

Mr. Armstrong's vision for this book's impact was also worldwide. "I candidly feel it may be the most important book since the Bible! ... We want to reach the largest audience possible with this book."

It is true that the church used nearly every means possible to promote the book once it was completed in September 1985—television, the church's literature, direct mail, newspaper advertisements, bookstores, etc. Never had the church distributed so many copies of a single book so quickly.

But did it reach the "largest audience possible" in its short life span of about 2½ years? Is it fair to say that the church's audience had nearly been saturated with offers for the book? Did it prove to be the major step forward in preaching the gospel *around the world* like Mr. Tkach said it would be in April 1985?

According to Roger Lippross, the WCG's literature production director at the time, the church distributed 1.245 million copies of the hardcover and softcover editions of *Mystery of the Ages*. By comparison, the church distributed

more than 3 million copies of *The Seven Laws of Success* and 6 million copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Mr. Armstrong wanted this to reach the "largest audience possible" and the book only went to less than half the number of people that received *The Seven Laws of Success*.

Yes, distribution of *Mystery* got off to a phenomenal start. Yes, it was the fastest-moving book the church had ever produced. But it certainly had not reached a near-saturation point. In fact, the INCREDIBLE response to the book for 32 months makes the decision to remove it that much more ridiculous!

Nearly a year after *Mystery of the Ages* had been released—after being distributed to all church members, offered on the television program and to *Plain Truth* readers—Richard Rice wrote in the *Pastor General's Report*, "The comments we continue to receive about *Mystery of the Ages* show that it is STILL having a powerful impact on the lives of many. Readers consider this book the apex of Mr. Armstrong's writings. The brethren often say they have never seen God's plan unfold as clearly as in the pages of this book.

"Many people who were never interested in religion before have been moved to ask for ministerial visits after reading it. ... *Mystery of the Ages* continues to be an effective tool in spreading the gospel."

Implying that the book had run its course, nearly saturating the church's audience, while it was still flying off the shelves, is patently dishonest. The reason the Worldwide Church of God retired its most popular piece of literature is because they believed it had so many doctrinal flaws that it simply could not be revised without turning it into a completely different book.

■ **NOT COMPLETELY ACCURATE**

Larry Salyer offered this as an example of why *Mystery of the Ages* wasn't "completely accurate theologically": "In Chapter 2 on page 70 (page 59 of the softbound edition), we find the following statement: 'What was God's ultimate objective for the angels? Beyond question it is that which, now, because of angelic rebellion, has become the transcendent potential of humans.' The impression may be perceived by some to be that God was initially going to reproduce Himself through angels and, since they failed, the opportunity was given to humans."

Actually, Mr. Armstrong was quite clear in his book that *because of angelic rebellion*, God set out to reproduce Himself through man. He wrote, "To fulfill His purpose for the entire vast universe, God saw that nothing less than Himself (as the God Family) could be absolutely relied upon to carry out that supreme purpose in the entire universe. ...

"God then purposed to reproduce Himself, through humans, made in His image and likeness, but made first from material flesh and blood, subject to death if there is sin unrepented of—yet with the possibility of being born into the divine Family begotten by God the Father. God saw how this could be done through Christ, who gave Himself for that purpose."

Mr. Armstrong *repeatedly* made the point, and backed it up with scriptural passages like Hebrews 1:1-8, that God never offered this potential to angels.

What Tkachism had a problem with in the above quote is the fact that God enacted His purpose through man *because of angelic sin*. They had no problem accepting that God initially created a pre-Adamic, animal-like man with architectural skills. But how dare Mr. Armstrong teach that man was created on Earth to succeed where the angels failed!

Mr. Salyer said, “Another area of concern is the sensitivity surrounding any discussion of the races.” Of course, much of what Mr. Armstrong had to say on the subject of race had already been edited out of the softbound version. So this seems picky.

Outside of the above quote and the sensitive statements made regarding race, the only other inaccuracy Salyer addressed was how Mr. Armstrong “quoted freely” from Alexander Hislop’s *Two Babylons*. In actuality, Mr. Armstrong referred to Hislop on two occasions and does not quote him once.

These all, taken at face value, would have to be considered minor points that could have been easily fixed (assuming, of course, that they are even errors in the first place). But remember, *Mystery of the Ages* was “on hold” for more than six months, awaiting the chance to be revised, before Mr. Tkach decided it would be retired permanently.

■ MR. TKACH FINALLY SPEAKS

Nine months after he directed Bernie Schnippert to put the book on hold, Mr. Tkach finally broached the subject of *Mystery*’s status. He addressed the ministers first in the *Pastor General’s Report* and the membership one week later in the *Worldwide News*. Mr. Tkach began his column by saying, “It is critically important that God’s Church never be in a position of continuing to put out what may be misleading or inaccurate material once we have become aware of it. God expects us to continually be growing in understanding and knowledge. Mr. Armstrong often reinforced that concept.” To that point, that’s about as close as any of them got to the real reason for removing the book. It contained “misleading” and “inaccurate” material. But in removing these supposed errors, Mr. Tkach said he was only following Mr. Armstrong’s example. This excuse would be used repeatedly in the years that followed—Mr. Armstrong made changes and so do we—what’s the big deal?

Mr. Tkach then downplayed the significance of the errors in *Mystery*. “The fundamental truths of God’s Word are contained in *Mystery of the Ages*. But we must realize that some of the peripheral or incidental points it contains give occasion to critics to fault the whole book, as well as inadvertently misleading readers on a few points.” But it was the Tkaches who were misleading people! Everyone close to them knew how they felt about *Mystery of the Ages*: IT WAS “RIDDLED WITH ERROR.” Yet, in telling the brethren why it was discontinued, he talked about “incidental” points that could give critics the wrong impression.

Mr. Tkach did not elaborate on any of the “peripheral or incidental points” that needed changing. Instead, he devoted much space to explaining how much of the church’s literature had become “dated.”

■ MYSTERY OF THE AGES—OUTDATED?

“We must ... face the fact,” Mr. Tkach wrote, “that literature written in the early to late 1950s does not always have the same impact today as it surely had then.” He continued, “Mr. Armstrong was explaining the truth to different audiences with different kinds of understanding than we face today on the brink of the 1990s. It behooves us now, as God leads us, to present the truth of His Word in a format that will reach people in a world that has traveled 30 to 35 years down the road of secularism and spiritual ignorance, and that is looking beyond into the last decade of this century.”

Later, after explaining how they had been taking a “serious look” at the church’s body of literature, Mr. Tkach wrote, “A manner of presentation that worked in 1959 may have less impact on a reader in 1989.” Understandably, he continued, this process of updating would be difficult for some church members. “I’m sure you feel, as I do, a certain nostalgic reluctance to revise or retire some of the booklets that the church has used for years and that we have all learned and grown from. But healthy change is a part of growth, something that has long been a vital part of the production of the church’s literature.”

Mr. Tkach concluded by making this unbelievable comparison: “No one would argue that we should still be producing such booklets from the past as *1975 in Prophecy* or *Hippies—Hypocrisy and Happiness*.”

He actually equated the removal of *Mystery of the Ages* with discontinuing *Hippies—Hypocrisy and Happiness*.” Mr. Armstrong finished *Mystery of the Ages* less than three years before Mr. Tkach removed the book. That he could even imply it was outdated in 1989 is truly ridiculous.

■ THE REAL REASON

Putting together comments from Bernie Schnippert, Larry Salyer and Joseph Tkach, we now have these five reasons offered in 1989 for the removal of *Mystery of the Ages*: 1) content available in other literature; 2) too expensive; 3) distribution at near-saturation point; 4) content outdated; and 5) incorrect peripheral or incidental points.

Yet, the documented evidence points to one reason—and one reason only: Tkachism had MAJOR problems with the book’s doctrinal teachings by early 1988. Notice what Church Administration told the field ministry just a few months after all these excuses were given: “Apparently a number of ministers have recommended obsolete literature to prospective members. These recommendations include two books, *The Incredible Human Potential* and *Mystery of the Ages*, and the booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last* [discontinued in December 1988]. It obviously creates an uncomfortable situation when these [prospective members] are told that the recommended literature is not in print.

“Please consult the updated lists of current literature that we publish twice a year before recommending a book or booklet.

“In addition, it is inappropriate to photocopy and distribute obsolete articles. If the literature is not on our current literature index, THEN IT SHOULD NOT BE USED.”

Now please again examine the five reasons they discontinued *Mystery*. You couldn’t logically cite any of those as reasons why someone could not at least obtain a photocopied version—or possibly borrow the book. The reason obsolete literature was not to be used, *under any circumstances*, is because it was doctrinally wrong! It was, as Tkach Jr. stated dogmatically, *in private*, later that year, “riddled with error.”

While working on this chapter, someone forwarded me an e-mail they had sent to the WCG on June 27, 2003, asking this question: “Why did the church really discontinue Herbert Armstrong’s teaching?”

Paul Kroll replied three days later: “[T]he reason the Worldwide Church of God had to discontinue many of them is because they were in error from a biblical perspective, and some were legalistic in nature.”

Would to God they had been that honest in 1989. ■

From Terrorists to Politicians

PARTNERS Ireland's Democratic Unionist leader Ian Paisley (left) meets with IRA leader Gerry Adams.

BY RON FRASER

LIVING IN BRITAIN DURING THE mid-1990s gave me the opportunity to consider both the bloody history and current tactics of the Irish Republican Army. This extreme activist wing of the Roman Catholic minority in Northern Ireland used terrorism to try to force the British government to yield to its perverse will.

From that time, the *Trumpet* has followed developments in Ireland closely. We observed, analyzed and wrote on the period known as “The Troubles” that ended with an IRA/Sinn Fein declared cease-fire in 1997. We followed IRA progress through the 1998 Good Friday Peace Agreement, the questionable path of the IRA disarmament process, the experimenting with local administration in Northern Ireland, on up to the hiatus that Prime Minister Tony Blair declared in 2002, when he suspended local government in Northern Ireland over Irish Republican Army espionage activities. And we have kept a watchful eye on events in Northern Ireland since.

The inevitable end of this process instigated by the anti-British Irish Republican Army in Northern Ireland. The tactics of terror have triumphed in Northern Ireland.

Given the absolute inerrancy of biblical prophecy on the future of the British peoples, we are not surprised at this outcome.

Terror was a reality in Britain decades before it hit the American continent. Over 3,600 souls have died in the terror-

ist warfare in Ireland over the past four decades, more than were slaughtered by Islamic extremist terrorists in the United States on 9/11.

In fact, the Irish Republican Army is perhaps the longest-standing terror group of modern times, being the mentor of many terrorist cells that have evolved from the time of the Indian rebellions during the British Raj to the Islamic extremist terror that has swept the globe since the fall of Suez.

Yet for all its mentoring of other multiple terrorist groups around the world, the IRA has been slow in gaining a much-cherished goal accomplished by so many of its international apprentices, often with much less effort over shorter spans of time. That goal is to become a legitimate political force in the mainstream, gaining acceptance by established governments, the international community, and the public within their home states, and thus to win power by *political* means which they started out to gain by the tactics of *terror*. There's no mindset change with these groups. Only a change in tactics.

Africa has been the post-colonial example of the trend to forge publicly acceptable political imagery out of terrorist beginnings, from Jomo Kenyatta's Kenyan Mau Mau to Nelson Mandela's South African ANC/Communist terror cells.

In the Middle East, the Palestinian terrorist enterprise, the Palestinian Liberation Organization, having morphed into the politically acceptable Palestinian National Authority, is a current example of this trend.

Terror groups in Latin America have also been part of the movement to gain political acceptability by timely changes from their terror ploys of perpetrating murder and mayhem to winning—or even buying—political support in the mainstream. The degree to which the IRA has been involved in the drug- and gun-running circles that feed many of these terrorist enterprises is a matter of clearly documented fact.

The Taliban in Afghanistan is another case in point. Achieving their ultimate goal of political power was largely possible because of the evolution of the language employed by the media, by the intelligentsia and by politicians in their description of terrorists, who, by their very nature, are intent on seizing power at *any* cost.

They all start out their dubious political careers as terrorists, fitting the classic description embodied in that term, plain and simple. At some point, “enlightened” members of the terror group garner the support of the most easily influenced members of society, the politically naive within the liberal, socialist left. Often these will be young, impressionable students and youth intent on rebelling against the traditions of the society within which they live. In the West, terrorism is aided and abetted by the politically correct police dictating word usage. The image of many a terror group has changed in the public eye, gaining the sympathy of the masses by being described as “separatists,” “resistance movement,” and, in what is the ultimately appealing title among free de-

PAUL FAITH/FP/GETTY IMAGES

mocracies, “freedom fighters.”

The process by which terror groups increasingly achieve their political goals has become familiar. Kill and maim until sufficient terror has worn down opposition by force. Wear out resistance by unerring application of tactics that consider all—men, women, children, and even some of your own terrorist group’s members—as fair game to be sacrificed in pursuit of perverse political goals. Eventually you will reach the breaking point—the point at which the press, the public, and mainstream politicians yield, brainwashed through mass mind-conditioning into viewing the agents of terror as the oppressed of society that really deserve a break, especially from the “tyranny” of America, Britain and the Jews!

Three classic photographs sum up the effectiveness of this process—and its inevitable results: the May 4, 1990, handshake of Nelson Mandela and President F.W. De Klerk of South Africa that started this once-great nation down the path toward the inevitable status of Robert Mugabe’s neighboring Zimbabwe; the handshake between petty terrorist Yasser Arafat and Israel’s Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn on Sept. 13, 1993, that started the embattled nation of Israel on the road to the ultimate partitioning of its homeland; and now, the most recent infamous photograph to yet hit the front pages in Britain this century, the photographic portrayal, minus handshake, between Ian Paisley and IRA/Sinn Fein terrorist head Gerry Adams, on March 27, that will end with a Catholic takeover of Northern Ireland once Paisley fades from the scene.

Though it has been slow in coming—as it followed the terrorists’ bloody and tortuous path to its ultimate objective—the IRA, via its publicly acceptable political wing, Sinn Fein, has finally gained legitimacy as a recognized political force in Northern Ireland.

On March 27, newspapers in Britain carried front-page photographs of Ireland’s Democratic Unionist leader, the conservative, anti-Catholic Ian Paisley, sitting at a diamond-shaped conference table with Gerry Adams, being interviewed by the media. The occasion was the first-ever meeting between Paisley and Adams following decades of acrimony between the two and their respec-

tive parties. Paisley and Adams agreed to form a joint administration for the province of Northern Ireland, hotbed of hatred between Protestant and Catholic.

If this deal does eventually come off, and a joint administration between Northern Ireland’s largest political party, the protestant Democratic Unionists, and its most militaristic—Catholic Sinn Fein—does survive, it will be a clear victory for IRA/Sinn Fein.

That’s tantamount to another victory for terror! And the Vatican!

Despite the fact that Paisley was sworn in on May 8 as first minister of the Northern Ireland administration with Adams’s underling, Martin McGuinness, as deputy, in reality this represents a huge back-down by the Democratic Unionist leader. There has to be a reason why Adams was grinning like a Cheshire cat in those photographs published on March 27 and his political opponent not even managing a twitch at the corners of his mouth.

Paisley, long the rabidly anti-Vatican voice for a non-Catholic province of Northern Ireland, is now at risk of yielding to a compromise that once was thought an impossibility: not only doing a deal with a terrorist leader, but also creating the avenue for the political and religious entrenchment of the very process against which he has for so long fought, the inevitable catholicization of Northern Ireland.

That Paisley is now reconciled to his capitulation to the tyranny of terror may have well been reflected in the vision portrayed by another front-page photograph that appeared on the occasion of a visit to Northern Ireland on May 1 by EU Commission President Manuel Barroso. In that photograph, sitting with Barroso and McGuinness to his immediate right, the old Protestant war horse is seen absolutely beaming! As the *Times* mused, “[F]or the skeptics there could be no more astonishing evidence than to see ... Paisley and Martin McGuinness beaming genially at one another and laughing at each other’s jokes. The occasion for the first official engagement of these former sworn enemies was a visit by José Manuel Barroso, the European Commission President, to Stormont” (May 2).

Any serious long-time observers of Northern Ireland must have shaken their heads in disbelief at this charade. The *Times* meekly observed, “But perhaps it was first-date nerves which gave

this first public outing a note of hilarity verging on hysteria as the former gunman and the former tub-thumper went out of their way to appreciate one another’s company” (ibid.).

Well, there’s more to it than that. Ian Paisley should have been mindful of Barroso’s Trojan horse. Barroso left his wooden horse at Northern Ireland’s door, pledging EU financial grants should the new Northern Ireland administration actually be made to work. “Barroso got the serious business out of the way with an announcement of a task force to secure European funding for reconciliation in Northern Ireland and a pledge of £683 million in aid” (ibid.). Read between the lines. Northern Ireland, having suffered long as the victim of sectarian violence, is in drastic need of funds to aid its economy—and the EU is only too willing to help!

The Catholic South in the island of Ireland is already a willing member of the European Union, and as a result of the EU’s largesse, sports one of the most vibrant economies within the Union. Sinn Fein knows it has a willing sponsor in the EU and a ready supporter in the Vatican. It will now have a determination to bide its time until the main thorn in its flesh, the aging Protestant Paisley, fades from the scene. Northern Ireland is simply in process of falling into the EU maw. And that is a strategic disaster for the United Kingdom!

By his capitulation to Sinn Fein in its end game of terror in Northern Ireland, Ian Paisley may well have aided the very process that the current archbishop of Canterbury seems so inclined to hasten: the yielding to Rome of the British Isles in matters of both religion and politics, and the resultant subsuming of the British royal crown by the very popery that Paisley has spent his whole political and religious career resisting.

Since Britain fled the clutch of Rome under King Henry VIII, the sceptered isle, long known in Roman Catholic tradition as “Mary’s Dowry,” has been lusted over by a Vatican that has intrigued through the centuries for its return to the Catholic fold.

Bible prophecy strongly indicates that currently unfolding events in Northern Ireland are only serving to hasten the day when Mary’s Dowry will be handed back to the vicar of Rome. Request your own copy, free of charge, of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for more detail on this unfolding story. ■



THE HANDSHAKE
November 1993
Trumpet issue

ideas, moods and emotions and has “blinded the minds” of the world’s inhabitants, mankind will not be able to solve its problems. Man’s problems are beyond him!

There is good news, however! There is a solution.

The Real Solution

But mankind must actively look to God and obey His commandments to be blessed. As Isaiah 29:13 says, people like to just pretend to obey God. If man refuses to listen, God warns, “... I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent” (1 Corinthians 1:19). Continuing on in Isaiah 29:14, the Good News Translation says God “will startle them with one unexpected blow after another. Those who are wise will turn out to be fools, and all their cleverness will be useless.” Until mankind looks to God for solutions, human endeavors will persistently and continually bear that verse out: Startling side effects and unforeseen consequences will be the norm rather than the exception.

The solution to man’s energy needs have stared him in the face since creation. God made the sun, wind and water for human use. But in his greed to get from the earth without giving back to it, man has exploited every other means of energy subject to his own competitive methods rather than devote capital and manpower to the research and development of the use of natural, non-polluting forms of energy. It will take the dramatic intervention of the Creator Himself to turn the world’s addiction to manufactured forms of polluting energy to those natural sources of energy which God created for the benefit of man and his earthly environment.

That intervention will come soon! Vast reforms are about to break out all over the Earth. Satan, the one ultimately responsible for greed and selfishness, is about to be locked up (Revelation 20:1-3). When that happens, your Bible describes a time when God’s government will be set up on Earth. Fighting among nations will end, environmental cleanliness will abound, and abundant cooperation will lead to advances in many areas of human endeavor (see Isaiah 35 and 41). What an amazing future awaits America and the whole world! ■

THE KEY OF DAVID

Broadcasting to a potential worldwide audience of over 400 million people each week, Gerald Flurry discusses world events in the light of Bible prophecy. For over a decade, he has analyzed today’s news from a unique perspective, providing answers to life’s most pressing questions.

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Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

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

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

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

Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

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

Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Terra Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KFPP 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 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 WBAN 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

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

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun



North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am,
 Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00
 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WGWB 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 WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 9:00 am, Fri
Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WBOH 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 KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 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 WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am,
 Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 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 KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBZ 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 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; WPXW
 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun

Washington, Seattle KWXP 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS
 8:30am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPK 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL
 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMC 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 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 WBSP 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 WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KWBM 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KWXB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KWGF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KWHA 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KIDW 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KWBV 9:30 am, Sun
New Mexico KAZQ 6:30 am, Sun; 9:00 pm, Wed
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New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPIX 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 WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
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 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri

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Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

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 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

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Generation Me

I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE THAT IT WAS put upon Generation X responsibility for the narcissism of Generation Y (“Generation Me,” May). I am part of Generation X, just about 40 years old this year. . . . When I was in my early 20s, which is when I suppose many of my generation began having children, I was teaching. *Everything* I was taught about teaching had some aspect of how to raise the child’s self-esteem. Not one course was free from this. Very little was taught about challenging the students and holding the bar higher for them. Much was taught about how to make school *easy* and *fun* for them. My lessons had to be engaging, fun, wonderful and easy. Fluff, fluff, fluff. That’s what got me A’s for my master’s degree. Who taught me? Who molded me? The baby boomers were my college instructors; the baby boomers were my administrators. . . . I was told to praise the children, make them feel good about themselves—they *must* succeed! After about four years, I just couldn’t do it anymore. Teachers left and right were feeding these egos—most did little to deserve praise. And do you know who got the most praise? The kids who were labeled emotionally, behaviorally disturbed! You had to feed them every morsel of praise they could garner. If one boy came into the room and went right to his seat without bothering anyone else along the way, praise, praise, praise be the boy!

I am raising my children differently. We say *please* and *thank you*. Work is required of them in the house, and work isn’t fun. Cleaning up isn’t a fun game—it is something you do as part of the family.

Don’t go blaming this all on Generation X. Many times we only did what we were told to do. . . .

Sarah Pisano—AGUADILLA, P.R.

RSA Crime Epidemic

I AM AN EXPATRIATE BRITON LIVING IN South Africa since 1981. I saw your article in the March 2007 edition concerning crime in New Orleans post-Katrina (“Crime Soaring in New Orleans”). What drew my attention was the number of murders reported in the article: “Nine murders in the first eight days of 2007 . . .” This led me to . . . compare to where I live here in Johannesburg, where the murders per annum are a conservative 25,000 per population of some 40 million South Africans, and

we really live in an atmosphere of terror. Since the democratization of South Africa in 1994, there has been a steady and perceptible disintegration of society here, with human life and community values disappearing by the day. (Over 300,000 murders have occurred since this time.) We sincerely hoped that the new South Africa would embody that which the global village cleaves to in morality/dignity and put an end to human suffering, but it seems to have reinvented itself here in a new modality. The plight here seems to be indicative of an attitude and disregard for the sanctity of human life and the quality of its existence. The answers will not be found in a political (race-based) system The problem here will not be resolved until basic human respect for life asserts itself, as the “same problem” of abuse will reoccur again and again in different formats until people learn to admit to their own failings and flaws, take ownership of themselves and act on their problems effectively. It leaves me to think that the world missed the point of what the evil system of apartheid represented and that we have once again the “same problem” simply reinventing itself here in a new and terrifying evil—excessively violent crime. This in turn breaks the confidence, through hopelessness and abandonment that such intense evil brings. . . .

Neil Tighe—JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

Predatory Islam

ALTHOUGH I HAD SPENT SEVERAL YEARS in North America, I had not heard of the *Philadelphia Trumpet* until recently, and this was only by coincidence when I was given a copy of the March 2007 issue. Nevertheless, what a truly amazing publication. . . . I find it refreshing to know that somebody is prepared to write about facts and truth. In particular, I find it rewarding that somebody has the intelligence, insight and courage to write about the true facts about Islamists. Like the mayor of London, Australian politicians and the Australian public-at-large are sympathetic toward Islamists—and they have no idea what they are doing. Various sources in Australia have suggested that Islamists intend to turn Australia into a Muslim superstate, and while this bounces off the heads of the Australian public-at-large and Australian politicians, I am satisfied that this will eventually become reality. Unfortunately,

most of the population of Australia will refuse to believe or even understand this until it’s too late. . . . Most Islamists complain about racism. However, there is nobody more racist than the average Islamist. In this regard, it is my view that they generally have no real tolerance for anybody who is not one of their own, and it is also my view that their ultimate purpose and goal is to control as much of the world as possible. . . .

Barrie Blake—E-MAIL RESPONSE

Sexual Health

I HAVE JUST FINISHED THE MARCH cover story on “Sexual Health.” This story hit me like a cannonball! I’m only 25 years old, since January, and absolutely know for a fact that the story I just read is more than true! I definitely believe it is imperative that all sex education given throughout our country/world/schools/colleges should apply the teachings of “waiting for marriage before sex.” I myself honestly believe this practice is the answer to a more truly fulfilled life of love and happiness, and no doubt causes long-term benefits. . . .

David Huguin—SOLEDAD, CALIF.

Unfolding Prophecy

IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO I WAS APPROACHED by a gentleman I worked with about the Worldwide Church of God, and he told me about this gentleman named Armstrong. So I listened and even ordered the book *Mystery of the Ages*, and read part of it, but was still a little confused and never returned to it or even told him about being afraid of change. Step forward 25 years: I was in a doctor’s office and I noticed a magazine called the *Trumpet*. I started to read it and everything started to come together as I noticed it mentioned the name Armstrong. That was history being made in my life. Now, I am a loyal reader of the *Trumpet* and all of Mr. Armstrong’s books, along with Mr. Flurry’s. . . . The knowledge that I have been getting is unbelievable. I have signed up for the Bible study course and can’t wait till each new lesson comes. . . .

Terry Sweeney—PARMA, OHIO

Comments?

letters@theTrumpet.com
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
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A Lesson From Virginia Tech

The consequences of failing to confront evil BY JOEL HILLIKER

CHO SEUNG-HUI ALLOWED EVIL TO GROW IN HIS HEART for years. He hid in the back of his classes, silently, sullenly, behind shades; he sometimes, creepily, took pictures of his classmates under his desk with his cell phone; he stalked two female coeds; he set a fire in a dorm room; he wrote nightmarish, violent screenplays for one class. His miserable, lonely life was punctuated by run-ins with campus police and other authorities. After one incident, a district court declared him “mentally ill and in need of hospitalization” and said he posed “an imminent danger.” No correction he ever received, however, caused him to rethink his path. He failed to fight the evil that was swallowing his spirit.

Fellow students found Cho unnerving. Some stopped coming to class to avoid him; some worried he could become a school shooter. Several of his professors regularly communicated among themselves about how to deal with him; one threatened to quit if Cho wasn't removed from her class. Everyone knew he was a time bomb. Still, everyone from student affairs to the dean's office to the campus police said there was nothing they could do if Cho wasn't making overt threats against himself or others. Constrained by politically correct policies and, undoubtedly, a mixture of sympathy and cowardice, school officials allowed this obvious evil to remain in their midst. Cho continued as a student until the day he turned the university into a mortuary, murdering 32 people and then killing himself.

Failing to confront evil—both within ourselves and within our society—can have devastating consequences.

Those who encountered Cho instinctually sensed the evil within him. It frightened and repulsed them, but they simply had no practice at dealing with it. They live in a culture where the line between good and evil is broad and gray, where many believe that the only *real* evil is to brand something as evil. Their culture seeks to *understand* evil, to *accommodate* it—to *explain* it as anything other than what it actually is.

The nature of evil is to spread. Like bacteria in a petri dish, self-absorption and negativity, left unchecked, grow into depression and ruin. Bad habits lead to addictions. Destructive cultural forces like vulgarity, violence and family breakdown fester and multiply. Political tyrants keep conquering territory and people until some stronger force intervenes to stop them.

Our society sits in profound denial of this plain fact—from parents who do not bridle their children, to judges who protect pornography rather than people, to politicians who insist that our enemies will vanish if we simply make nice with them.

A society loath to identify evil as something to be fought—if it is willing to identify evil at all—is helpless to resist it. Am-

bivalence about evil—or worse, fascination with it—invites its presence and encourages its growth. Permitting a profoundly creepy, antisocial, mentally ill arsonist and stalker to remain on a university campus is just one illustration of a whole culture dangerously tolerant of evil, even as its destructive influences seep into our lives.

Remember the biblical story of the first two children in human history. Cain, jealous and embittered, allowed evil to grow in his heart. God confronted him about it. “Why are you angry?” He asked. “Why is your face so dark with rage? It can be bright with joy if you will do what you should! But if you refuse to obey, watch out. Sin is waiting to attack you, longing to destroy you. But you can conquer it!” (Genesis 4:6-7, Living Bible). Surely today's psychiatry would have supplied Cain with a myriad of excuses for his bad temper: family dysfunction, economic deprivation, alienation from authorities, probable chemical imbalance or hormonal deficiency. God, by contrast, went straight to the *true cause* of Cain's misery: SIN. Pointing

Cain toward the *solution* to his problems, God advocated waging a personal battle against sin—kicking evil out of his life. Alas, Cain ignored the advice. Murder ensued.

God is unambivalent about evil. He witnessed its unhappy origin: when the archangel Lucifer, whom God created, began harboring vain thoughts that ultimately drove him to try to usurp God's throne (read Ezekiel 28:14-18). God did not respond with sympathy, and certainly not with cowardice—but with violent force, kicking His adversary, along with all his demons, out of heaven and casting them down to Earth. These events are described in Revelation 12:7-12, a passage that concludes with a chilling warning to us: “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth . . . for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

Yes, the devil is right here among us—even, in some respects, within us. Do you recognize him?

Why would God curse us with the devil's presence? Because He wants us to learn to confront evil. And He wants us to witness firsthand the devastating consequences of failing to do so. (That is why He didn't prevent Cain from murdering his brother, or Cho from murdering his peers.) Anywhere we fail to confront evil—among nations, within communities and schools, in our families, within ourselves—it will spread. As God said, *sin is waiting to attack you, longing to destroy you.*

But don't forget: *You can conquer it.*

For a scriptural look at the source of evil, request a free copy of our booklet *Human Nature—What Is It?*



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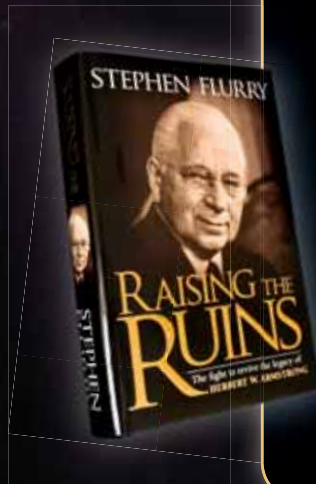




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