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Gerald Flury



Churchill Vs. the Media

IN 1933, ADOLF HITLER WAS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN POWER. He had written *Mein Kampf* in 1924, while in prison. This book proclaimed to the world his dangerous and barbaric political beliefs. In it he also outlined his plan to dominate Europe and beyond. But it seems almost nobody believed him.

The free media were dangerously deceived and manipulated by Hitler. The media have probably never been more deceived—until today!

Members of the media (and the ruling classes of Britain and America) should have learned some critically important lessons. But most of them did not. There has been no repentance for their extremely shameful failure in the decade leading up to World War II. That is why most of them are such abject failures today. They lack the will to win our war against terrorism. It is essentially the same problem that Churchill faced.

Here is what William Manchester wrote in his biography of Winston Churchill titled *Last Lion: Alone*: “President Roosevelt had tried to free the conferees from their gridlock by suggesting a ban on all offensive weapons. Privately, Hitler was furious. Nevertheless, he saw great political possibilities in the message from the White House, and on May 17, 1933, he exploited them in a deeply moving, breathtakingly meretricious speech before the Reichstag. FDR, he said, had earned the ‘*Warmem Dank*’ of the Reich. He accepted the president’s proposals and stood ready to scrap the Reich’s offensive weapons the moment other powers did the same. Germany was indeed prepared to disband her entire military establishment, together with uniforms, weapons and ammunition, under the same circumstances, and would sign any nonaggression treaty, ‘BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT THINK OF ATTACKING BUT ONLY OF ACQUIRING SECURITY.’ ...

“His reply to Roosevelt was a fraud, of course, but it was the work of a master swindler, AND IT TOOK ALMOST EVERYONE IN. London’s *Daily Herald*, the official organ of the Labor Party, declared that Hitler, as a trustworthy statesman, should be taken at his word. The conservative weekly *Spectator* CALLED HIM THE HOPE OF A TORMENTED WORLD; to the *Times* his claim was ‘irrefutable’” (emphasis mine throughout).

One week earlier, the Germans had organized a massive public book burning! Here is what Martin Gilbert, another Churchill biographer, wrote: “Throughout the summer of 1933

the news from Germany continued to bode ill for European peace, and for civilized life. On May 10 the Nazis organized a mass bonfire of books of which they disapproved: books by socialists, communists, liberals and Jews, books on philosophy and psychology, books of protest and dissent. That same month, all trade unions were banned, and trade union leaders sent to prison and concentration camps. On July 1 German airplanes flew on the first of a series of propaganda raids across the border into Austria, where they dropped leaflets extolling Nazism and abusing the Austrian government. On July 15 a special decree established the Nazi Party as the sole legal German political party, the coalition of January 1933 was formally ended, and HITLER RULED SUPREME, TERROR IN THE STREETS PROVIDING A CONTINUAL AND FEARFUL STIMULANT TO OBEDIENCE. Leading German politicians of the Weimar Republic were arrested, marched through the streets and sent off to concentration camps; all property and funds of the former political parties were confiscated; civilian outrages against Jews were encouraged and condoned.

“THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE WERE KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY, as well as of a secret and ominous development. On June 21 the British air attaché in Berlin, Group Captain [Justin Howard] Herring, wrote a secret memorandum giving clear evidence that Germany had begun to build military aircraft in violation of the Treaty of Versailles.”



FINALLY

Churchill speaks through a BBC microphone.

“Nothing can save England if she will not save herself. If we lose faith in ourselves, in our capacity to guide and govern, if we lose our will to live, then indeed our story is told.”

Churchill’s Will to Win Before any of these events were written or spoken about, Winston Churchill was delivering a very different and extremely unpopular message.

“On April 24 [1933], St. George’s Day, Churchill spoke at the annual meeting

of the Royal Society of St. George. In his speech, which was broadcast, he took the opportunity to reassert his faith in the British way of life, and in the parliamentary system. And yet, he added, Britain’s difficulties always arose from ‘THE MOOD OF UNWARRANTABLE SELF-ABASEMENT into which we have been cast by a powerful section of our own intellectuals [many of them writing in the media then—and today].’ THESE ‘DEFEATIST DOCTRINES,’ HE WENT ON, HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY A LARGE PROPORTION OF POLITICIANS. But, he asked, ‘what have they to offer but a vague internationalism, a squalid material-

ism, and the promise of impossible Utopias?’ His speech continued: ‘Nothing can save England if she will not save herself. If we lose faith in ourselves, in our capacity to guide and govern, IF WE LOSE OUR WILL TO LIVE, THEN INDEED OUR STORY IS TOLD’ (ibid.).

This is the same problem many of our journalists and people have today. But *why* do we lack the will to fight our deadly enemies? We have degenerated into unparalleled selfishness and fear. And it is a far more serious problem than we can even imagine.

Military power is of little value if we lack the will to use it. America and Britain are again in grave danger. But this time the danger is far worse than it was in World War II!

Mr. Churchill hoped he would be invited to join the government in 1935. “When the first list of new ministers was announced, Churchill’s name was not on it. ‘This was to me a pang,’ Churchill wrote in an unpublished note 12 years later, ‘and, in a way, an insult. THERE WAS MUCH MOCKERY IN THE PRESS. I do not pretend that, thirsting to get things on the move, I was not distressed. Lots of people have gone through this before, AND WILL AGAIN’” (ibid.).

A year later, the story was the same: “Although no decision had yet been made about a Ministry of Supply, it was now taken for granted that Churchill would not be invited to join the government in any capacity [1936]. The *Times* was particularly hostile to Churchill’s inclusion” (ibid.).

Yes, such politics would be practiced “again”—like today. We are in a war against terrorism, and yet look how weak and hostile many of our people are toward this war.

The pacifists were *dead wrong* in the 1930s. And if not for Churchill, most of them would have ended up just plain *dead* in World War II!

Are our pacifists today leading us to a similar fate?

It is hard to imagine how pathetic the *Times* had become in its fear of Hitler and war. “[O]n May 23 [1937], the editor of the *Times*, Geoffery Dawson, wrote to Lord Lothian: ‘I should like to get going with the Germans. I simply cannot understand why they should apparently be so much annoyed with the *Times* at this moment. I spend my nights in taking out anything which I think will hurt their susceptibilities and in dropping little things which are intended to soothe them’” (ibid.).

Such reasoning in our media reflects a deep national sickness. THIS IS THE ULTIMATE IN A DEFEATIST ATTITUDE, AND IT LEADS TO THE DEATH OF NATIONS!

But what did members of the media learn from their despicable record in dealing with Hitler and Germany in the decade before World War II?

Most of them today are against America’s war in Iraq and another tyrant, Saddam Hussein. Saddam was clearly leading a terrorist-sponsoring nation, and the nation he hated most of all was America. He tried to assassinate the father of George W. Bush, when he was president. Many nations would have declared war over such an incident, but not the American and British people. Vladimir Putin has recently said his government intelligence knew that Saddam planned terrorist attacks against the U.S. Most of the media virtually ignored those comments or buried the story in the back of their reporting. Mr. Putin’s comments should have made major headlines.

It’s the 1930s all over again. As Churchill said, we never learn from history. And we are going to suffer as no people ever before because of this deadly deception!

Shameful Blindness Here is another statement from Manchester’s biography: “The British left, led by Clement Attlee and pledged to pacifism and disarmament, deeply distrusted [Churchill]. Thus he outraged MPs on both sides of the Commons. ... Afterward he said there had been ‘much mocking in the press’ about his fall from grace. The political cartoonists in *Punch*, the *Daily Herald*, the *Express* and above all David Low in Beaverbrook’s *Evening Standard* were brutal. Public appearances became an ordeal for him. Chosen rector of Edinburgh University, he was unable to deliver his rectorial address; *students hostile to his calls for a strengthened national defense repeatedly shouted him down until he gave up and left the platform.*”

These students had never learned about freedom of speech, and Hitler almost took it away from them forever! Most journalists are educated in such institutions.

More evidence came out after the war that condemns the pacifists even more. “Once Hitler had been sworn in and his *Strassenkämpfer* began unsheathing their long knives, the British government took the remarkable position that the detailed reports from two of its most eminent ambassadors, describing conditions in the Third Reich, were based on misunderstandings, distortions and unconfirmed rumors. ... The prime minister agreed. According to one Wilhelmstrasse document which came into British hands when Berlin fell in May 1945, MacDonald assured Germany’s ambassador to Britain, Leopold von Hösch, that he knew there were no atrocities, no beatings, no desecration of synagogues—that everything England’s own envoys had reported, was, in short, a lie. [They believed the Nazis rather than their own envoys!] MacDonald explained that he understood ‘very well the character of, and the circumstances attending, a revolution.’ According to the *Times*, Baldwin told Hösch that England was ‘entirely willing to work closely ... with a Germany under the new order’—*die Neuordnung*. It is startling to read this Nazi phrase, so freighted with evil, QUOTED BY A ONCE AND FUTURE PRIME MINISTER IN THE COLUMNS OF THE *TIMES*. Doubtless Baldwin had not grasped its implications. But he should have. And he should have spoken out. HIS SILENCE, HIS REFUSAL TO SEE, HEAR AND SPEAK ... EVIL OF THE NAZI CHANCELLOR WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE RESPONSE AMONG ENGLAND’S RULING CLASSES [LED BY THE MEDIA]. If they offended him, they told one another, he would become hostile, and his hostility would blind him to reason” (ibid.).

How extremely repugnant and shameful! This is how quintessentially passive Britain (and America) had become in the 1930s. The media led the way.

There should have been a massive changing and turning from such dangerous thinking after World War II. But it is far worse today, and we are going to pay an unparalleled penalty for *refusing* to seek the truth!

We should start the process by learning from history.

“Hitler, deciding that Europe needed more reassurance, summoned the Reichstag on May 21 and delivered another *Friedensrede*, declaring that Germany would never dream of

The pacifists were dead wrong in the 1930s, and if not for Churchill, most of them would have ended up just plain dead in World War II! Are our pacifists today leading us to a similar fate?

threatening other countries, that the Reich ‘has solemnly recognized and guaranteed France her frontiers,’ including the renunciation of ‘all claims to Alsace-Lorraine,’ and—AT A TIME WHEN NAZI STRASSENKÄMPFER WERE STORMING THROUGH THE STREETS OF VIENNA, CLUBBING AUSTRIAN PEDESTRIANS WHO HAD FAILED TO GREET THEM WITH THE STIFF-ARMED HITLERGRUSS—that ‘Germany neither intends nor wishes to interfere in the internal affairs of Austria, to annex Austria, or to conclude an Anschluss.’ [One of the first and most alarming statements Hitler made in *Mein Kampf* was that Austria would be forced into the Reich.]

“In London the *Times* rejoiced. The Führer’s speech was ‘reasonable, straightforward and comprehensive. No one who reads it with an impartial mind can doubt that the points of policy laid down by Herr Hitler may fairly constitute the basis of a complete settlement with Germany—a free, equal and strong Germany instead of the prostrate Germany upon whom peace was imposed 16 years ago’” (ibid.).

Churchill Warns Churchill gave a powerful message about the Austrian crisis and Britain’s shamefully pacifist attitude. He spoke to the House of Commons on March 24, 1938. “Churchill went on to warn of the dangers of allowing any momentary easing of tension to lead to complacency. ‘After a boa constrictor has devoured its prey,’ he said, ‘it often has a considerable digestive spell.’ There had been a pause after each German move—after the revelation that a secret air force had been set up, after the proclamation of conscription, and again after the militarization of the Rhineland.

“He went on: ‘Now, AFTER AUSTRIA HAS BEEN STRUCK DOWN, we are all disturbed and alarmed, but in a little while there may be another pause. There may not, we cannot tell. But if there is a pause, then people will be saying, “See how the alarmists have been confuted; Europe has calmed down, it has all blown over, and the war scare has passed away.” The prime minister will perhaps repeat what he said a few weeks ago, that the tension in Europe is greatly relaxed. The *Times* will write a leading article to say how silly people look who on the morrow of the Austrian incorporation raised a clamor for exceptional action in foreign policy and home defense, and how wise the government were not to let themselves be carried away by this passing incident.’

“No such attitude was justified, Churchill argued. Day by day the population of Austria was being reduced ‘to the rigors of Nazi domination.’ ...

“Churchill’s speech ended with a stern warning, and an urgent appeal: ‘For five years I have talked to the House on these matters—not with very great success. I have watched this famous island descending incontinently, fecklessly, the stairway which leads to a dark gulf. It is a fine broad stairway at the beginning, but after a bit the carpet ends. A little farther on there are only flagstones, and a little farther on still these break beneath your feet. ...’

“A few moments later Churchill declared, with foreboding: ‘... if mortal catastrophe should overtake the British nation and the British Empire, HISTORIANS A THOUSAND YEARS HENCE WILL STILL BE BAFFLED BY THE MYSTERY OF OUR AFFAIRS. They will never understand how it was that a victorious nation, with everything in hand, suffered themselves to be brought low, and to cast away all that they had gained by mea-

sureless sacrifice and absolute victory gone with the wind!

“Now the victors are the vanquished, and those who threw down their arms in the field and sued for an armistice are striding on to world mastery.’ ...

“On the day of Churchill’s speech, Lord Beaverbrook’s *Evening Standard* decided to terminate his contract, and bring his fortnightly articles to an immediate end. For two years they had been his main platform in addressing the British public” (ibid.).

This was a syndicated column in over 50 newspapers around the world! It was Churchill’s media platform to warn the world.

As Mr. Churchill worked feverishly to save Western civilization, most of the media worked equally hard to destroy it!

This was a massive criminal act that should never be forgotten! And it should have caused the media to bitterly repent.

The media today are making even bigger mistakes—especially the left-wing media—and so are our politicians, educational institutions and religious leaders. Britain and America responded very slowly to Adolf Hitler. In the age of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, such weakness leads to the death of nations!

In the 1930s many newspapers were *not* seeking the truth as they so often boasted! So who can we trust? The Bible, written thousands of years ago, warns that trusting men will bring us many curses!

“A week later the syndication manager, W.H. Robertson, wrote to

Churchill: ‘I have received expressions of regret from all the papers in England from which we have had to withdraw the series. All the editors are agreed that the articles were unusually highly appreciated by their readers’” (ibid.).

It would be hard to find a more condemning statement for the media and academia, which produced these leaders! The people were much wiser, less biased and far less arrogant than the media.

After the Austrian crisis, Hitler forced the world into another crisis.

Here is what Mr. Gilbert wrote about that time period: “THE DIVISION OF OPINION WAS EXACERBATED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRESS. The *Times* in particular urged the Czechs to make concessions to Germany, and argued that it was Czech obstinacy that was the main obstacle to a peaceful settlement. [The Czechs were obstinate because they didn’t want to give Germany a large portion of their country!] Yet even the factual reports in the *Times* did not give a true picture of the nature of Nazi rule. On March 18 [1938], Churchill was sent a first-hand account of events in Vienna since the German occupation from a young acquaintance, David Hindley-Smith, who had been angered by reports in the *Times* that Hitler had received an enthusiastic welcome from an overwhelming majority of Austrians” (op. cit.).

Horrendous evil was inflicted on Winston Churchill because he was trying to save the world from Nazi tyrants! Whether we realize it or not, God used this man to save us. But no such political watchman will be used to save us today. Many Bible prophecies warn us that only repentance of our many sins can save us now.

God will give His blessings and protection to any individual who will learn that lesson. ■

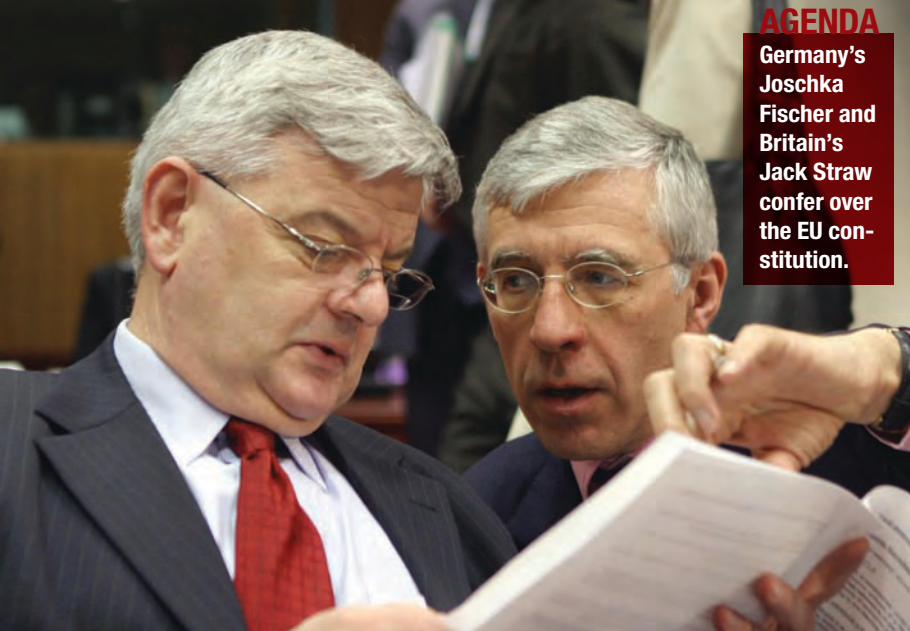
To learn more about this subject, request Mr. Flurry’s booklet ***Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman***.



Europe's True Nature EXPOSED

AGENDA

Germany's
Joschka
Fischer and
Britain's
Jack Straw
confer over
the EU con-
stitution.



APPRETIETY IMAGES

For decades, European leaders have had a secret agenda. Now, with the final draft of the EU's new constitution available, the vision of EU fanatics is clear for all to see. BY RYAN MALONE

IMAGINE A COUNTRY WHERE you didn't elect your president. Imagine a country where the courts had the power not only to judge, but to make and unmake the laws of the land. Imagine a country where the ruling bodies had no real separation of powers, were largely unaccountable to the citizens, and worked together in a hazy bureaucratic process that none but those involved really understood.

Would you describe that country as a DEMOCRACY? You would if you were the European Union.

For some time, a debate about the European Union's recently agreed-upon constitution has been raging. Euroskeptics argue that the text is highly *undemocratic*—that power is being taken away from Europe's sovereign states and vested in the unchecked hands of bu-

reaucrats and politicians who are out of touch with Europe's populace.

Long before the constitution was finished, many were warning about this—especially from Britain. British military historian and author Antony Beevor wrote, in the May 10 *New York Times*, “Most important, a genuinely democratic constitution, like that of the United States, defines the LIMITS OF POWER of the state over the individual. *Yet the draft European Constitution is almost entirely about AMASSING POWER FOR A SUPERSTATE. It is ANTIDEMOCRATIC, dangerous and thoroughly out of date*” (emphasis mine throughout).

Why, since the June 18 agreement, have Euroskeptics been more impassioned in their warnings about it? What's so anti-democratic about it? Is it “*dangerous*”? Does it even matter, since it has yet to be ratified by all 25 EU states before becoming law—which might not even happen?

A False Democracy If you were to take Beevor up on his challenge and contrast the EU constitution with America's, you would be in for an interesting study. The most notable difference is size. You can go online to print both (a free reader-friendly version of the EU constitution is available at www.euabc.com). Make sure you have nearly a ream of paper handy though. The EU constitution is so colossal that if I were to mail my online print-out to a friend within the U.S., it would cost me \$8.50. To ship the U.S. Constitution would only be \$1.25.

The EU constitution is exhaustive and exhausting—covering everything from environmental laws and budgetary standards to treatment of the disabled and even paid maternity leave. The minutiae that the Union's constitution concerns itself with are dazzling and bizarre.

But does its sheer size make it DAN-GEROUS? Again, is it undemocratic?

It's important to explain here that this examination of any democratic deficiencies is in no way an advertisement for democracy, nor is it to imply that if only the constitution were more truly “democratic” it would be less menacing. As even our not-so-regular readers might know, we discussed democracy's major shortcomings in our June cover story. As Winston Churchill said, democracy is “the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.” That said, anything exposed as undemocratic—particularly in that it lacks the admirable VIRTUES of democracy—should be cause for concern, especially in a state that touts itself as being democratic.

Think of the democratic airs even the most extreme autocratic governments will put on: the *Democratic People's Republic* of North Korea, the *People's Republic* of China, the *Republic* of Cuba, or the *Republic* of Zimbabwe.

The opening line of the EU constitution's preamble reads: “Drawing inspiration from the cultural, religious and humanist inheritance of Europe, from which have developed the universal values of the inviolable and *inalienable rights of the human person*, DEMOCRACY, *equality, freedom* and the rule of law . . .”

Sounds pretty good, right? In fact, the words *democracy, democratic* or *democratically* appear close to 30 times in the text. Keywords that usually accompany democracy, like *freedom*, occur over 100 times. The word *free* occurs 60 times, *equality* over 30 times, and the words

“In a true democracy, it is the people who decide which powers to lend to their leaders. In a false democracy, it is the leaders who decide which freedoms to lend to the people.” Adrian Hilton

right or rights over 300 times.

We would be wise to remember what British politician Adrian Hilton wrote: “In a true democracy, it is the people who decide which powers to lend to their leaders. In a false democracy, it is the leaders who decide which freedoms to lend to the people” (*The Principality and Power of Europe*).

The EU has never been the paragon of democracy, as was evident to those willing to see even before the constitution was born. The constitution merely confirms this track record.

You may recall the Bernard Connolly case. This British economist argued he was illegally fired from the European Commission’s monetary affairs department in 1995 for writing his book *The Rotten Heart of Europe*. Europe’s supreme court, the European Court of Justice (ECJ), ruled in 2000 that Connolly’s critical book was not protected by free speech, that instead it was a form of blasphemy, and that his employment’s termination was legal and warranted.

We reported on the ECJ’s decision in our July 2001 issue: “The opinion offered a chilling glimpse at the kind of power Europe’s politicians are intent on taking to themselves. The authority to silence criticism is simply a hallmark of fascism.”

In his book, Connolly himself opined, “In Stalinist Russia, dissent was regarded as evidence of lunacy. In the present-day European Community, dissent does not yet warrant incarceration in brutal mental hospitals, but unorthodox thought is still a dissonance.” After the ECJ’s judgment, he responded, “The court is acting as the sinister organ of a tyranny in the making” (*Times*, London, March 7, 2001). In the *Sunday Telegraph*, Christopher Booker wrote that “the future of

free speech under this strange new system we are now living under seems seriously in doubt” (March 25, 2001).

Even the constitution’s Charter of Fundamental Rights (equivalent to America’s Bill of Rights) says that a person’s fundamental rights can have limitations placed on them if those limitations “are necessary and genuinely meet objectives of general interest recognized by the Union ...” What exactly does that mean? Who draws the line between the EU’s interests and its citizens’ rights? Can you imagine the U.S. Bill of Rights saying anything like that?

Connolly was only one of several critics and whistle-blowers brought down by the EU. There was also the Dutch auditor Paul van Buitenen, whose exposure of fraud in the European Commission in 1998 led to his dismissal (not to mention threats on his life). His disclosures were so embarrassing that the European Parliament had to sack the whole Commission. In August 2002, a senior accountant at the Commission, Marta Andreason, lost her job when she warned the EU that its accounting procedures left its nearly \$112 billion budget wide open to fraudulent practices.

The latest example is that of German reporter Hans-Martin Tillack, who has written extensively on the Eurostat scandal—allegations that Commission officials diverted millions of euros from the budget. British MEP (Member of European Parliament) Daniel Hannan wrote for the *Spectator*, “More recently, Mr. Tillack had started to investigate the broader failure of EU authorities to act on tip-offs. It was this that triggered the reaction. Last month police swooped in on his flat. He was questioned for 10 hours without a lawyer, while his laptop, files and address book were confiscated.

Even his private bank statements were ransacked.” According to Hannan, ironically it is “those exposing sleaze, rather than those engaging in it, who find themselves in police custody” (May 8).

As we commented concerning the Andreason case in our November 2002 issue, “[W]here is the *democratic process* in all this? ... Surely a less accountable, less democratic institution could not exist!”

Hannan wrote that the EU’s most worrying tendency is “its belief that its cause is self-evidently right, and that this justifies virtually any action against its critics.” He said that senior Eurocrats “react like spoiled children on the rare occasions when they are checked. But children with unnatural strength ...”

Undemocratic Power Structure Now let’s take a look more specifically at the constitution. Contained therein is the undemocratic, dangerously unchecked nature of the EU government structure. As we’ve said, democracy is a form of government with both negative traits and salvageable virtues. Those virtues are absent from the EU administration—the main virtue being checks and balances intended to prevent abuses of power, such as those checks built into the American system.

Take the Council of Ministers, for example, comprised of ministers and heads of state from member nations. It has been called “an undemocratic institution because it is not effectively answerable either to national parliaments or to the European Parliament” (www.eurolegal.org). This Council appoints the European Commission, the *only* body in the EU that proposes legislation (while the Council also approves that legislation). The Commission also handles the EU’s budget and is the diplomatic representation of the Union’s ideals. This Commission is an unelected body, largely unknown to the public, and unaccountable to the public. It is moderately accountable to the European Parliament—the only body directly voted in by

MUZZLING THE CRITICS



Hans-Martin Tillack

German reporter researched EU failure to respond to tip-offs.

Result: Police barged into his home, questioned him for 10 hours without a lawyer, and ransacked his laptop, address book, and bank statements.



Paul van Buitenen

Dutch auditor exposed fraud in the European Commission.

Result: Dismissed from his position. He also received threats against his life.



Bernard Connolly

British economist on European Commission wrote *The Rotten Heart of Europe*.

Result: Fired from his job. Europe’s supreme court ruled his book was not protected by free speech, but was blasphemy.

UNION

The European Parliament meets in Brussels.



AP/WIDEWORLD

European citizens—which has a limited say in approving legislation.

Of these institutions of government, Parliament is the least powerful. Does it seem very democratic that it is the only directly elected body in the EU power structure?

Consider one of the most significant exercises of undemocratic power: the establishment of the euro. EU officials—commissioners, heads of state and senior ministers—wanted the euro to be established and a eurozone set up, despite lack of support from Europeans. The key leaders—particularly the Germans—pushed this through, and the public had no real way to stop this monumental change.

One of the constitution's controversial points among Euroskeptics involves the European Council president. Right now, the EU presidency rotates every six months among the EU nations' heads of state. The constitution creates an EU president with a more permanent term of 2½ years—renewable once. The president will be elected, yes—but *not directly by the people*. He will be elected by a qualified majority of the Council.

Another new Council position appointed in the constitution is that of foreign minister—one man to represent the foreign policy of the EU. He too will be elected by a qualified majority of the Council, subject to agreement by the Commission president.

As MEP Hannan points out in the June 26 *Spectator*, “[A] skillfully drafted

constitution would include checks and balances to prevent the EU extending its own powers. Wise founding fathers know how to anticipate the power-hunger of politicians.” The EU constitution does no such thing.

Surrendering National Sovereignty What many argue, in Britain especially, is that the EU constitution takes too much power away from the states. The EU's constitution, laws and courts trump national constitutions, laws and courts. This sounds like it would be a given—for how else could a union of nations really function as a union if nations could pick and choose which fundamental laws they wanted to abide by and which they didn't?

But, as Hannan notes, the EU constitution could have confined its powers to cross-border matters and left national issues up to the states. As it is, the EU has control over a host of what could be considered national issues: agriculture, immigration, health care and many others “which are not truly necessary for the functioning of the single market” (ibid.).

Another comparison to the U.S. is in order. The founders' main idea was to keep the U.S. federal government small and bestow much of the power to the states—such as control over certain taxes, education, and whether to retain the death penalty. The EU is far from being a “federal” government, as Hannan explains. “In federations, there is a clear demarcation between central and

state authority. Under the proposed constitution, by contrast, the EU can itself extend its jurisdiction without reference back to the nations. ... [T]his is the constitution, not of a federal state, but of a unitary one” (ibid.).

What we see from the constitution is a supranational government—a state in its own right. The EU has a flag, an anthem (Beethoven's “Ode to Joy” with slight alterations to the pagan text to exemplify the uniting of nations once divided), its own sovereign currency and Europe Day (May 9—the day in 1950 when French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman put forth his vision of a united Europe). Soon it may have a binding constitution.

This has been the agenda of EU visionaries for years—though they have never been up front about it. They always sold it to the people as a harmless economic community. British politicians foisted it off on an unsuspecting public that is just now awakening to reality. They downplayed any political implications, especially any loss of national sovereignty. But the constitution, *now available for all to see*, shows what EU framers have had in mind for years. Its creators knew that the only way Europe—divided and at war for centuries—could regain strength was if nations surrendered sovereignty to a great superstate, an economic, political and military union of nations that spoke with one voice on the world stage.

These grand, and notably *hidden*, ideals are exposed now more than ever!

The Latin Link Revives

Following two decades of fiddling with Western-style democracy, Latin America is reverting to populist leadership. This presents fertile ground for revival of the enduring relationship between Europe and South America.

So What? If you have never read the *Trumpet* before, you may wonder why we are spending so much energy pointing out these deficiencies in the EU constitution. After all, the constitution may not be signed by all 25 nations when the leaders meet in Rome this fall—nor ratified by all 25 nations through either parliamentary vote or national referenda before the deadline at the end of 2006.

Whether this happens or not, the constitution's contents EXPOSE the *real nature* of this Union—and loudly confirm what the Bible has prophesied for millennia!

The Bible predicts that a union of 10 nations, or groups of nations, will unite to form the most dreadful superpower this world has seen yet (Revelation 13:1). This political “beast” is merely a revival of the Holy Roman Empire—a cause that united Europe on several occasions over past centuries.

The final resurrection of this historic union is building right now—under the guise of the European Union. It will definitely NOT be a democracy! It will be ruled by one tyrannical leader, who will hijack the Union through flattery, manipulation and fraud! (see Daniel 11:21-24; Habakkuk 1:6-11). Ten kings, or 10 rulers, will give their power to this conglomerate (Revelation 17:12)—in other words, it will be a small handful of leaders at the top making the decisions, not rule by the people! The people of Europe will be brought under the strong iron fist of this dark empire.

And what does this matter to you? The Bible shows how this tyrannical regime will set off the worst time of suffering ever on our planet. In fact, God will use this empire as a tool to correct and punish the increasingly godless nations of America, Britain and others comprising the modern descendants of Israel.

What you are seeing in Europe *today* is PROPHECY BEING FULFILLED! The veracity of the Bible is being proven through the actions of those steering the EU.

For more on the future of Europe and these Earth-shaking prophecies, please request a free copy of our booklets *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. Then you can watch as these dramatic events in Europe unfold, heed

the warnings of God, and be spared from the dark times ahead! ■



COMMON GROUND

EU Commissioner Romano Prodi speaks at the III Latin America and Caribbean-European Union Summit in May, a gathering of 33 Latin American countries and 25 EU nations.

BY RON FRASER

THE LOVE AFFAIR BETWEEN EUROPE and South America is advancing. In May, all 25 heads of state of the European Union and the leaders of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries met in Guadalajara, Mexico, for the third summit in five years between these two national blocs. The primary goals of the summit were to progress social and cultural cohesion and to move forward transatlantic integration.

This first foreign-policy summit of the newly expanded EU reeked of the old European-Catholic heritage that historically has linked these two continental regions together. What was its real significance? The answer is bound within the pages of history and biblical prophecy.

Failure of Democracy Following decolonization in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Latin America endured decades of rule by dictatorial regimes. But during the closing decades of the 20th century, Latin America underwent a startling change. The whole continent began flirting with Western-style democracy.

A resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, Mark Falcoff, described this unusual phenomenon thus: “The shift was drastic and in many ways historically unprecedented. With

the notable exception of Castro’s Cuba, every country in the [Latin American] region has now been governed by civilians chosen through universal suffrage” (*Commentary*, July-August 2004). All of the 21 mainland countries within South and Central America and Mexico, by popular demand, changed their systems of governance from classic post-colonial dictatorships to systems modeled on Western-style democracy. Yet this “democracy” had shallow roots.

That the proximity of the massive First World market of the United States to the north had significant bearing on this move goes without question. That the populations of these countries saw the promise of more equitable distribution of income, of heightened standards of living, of a lot in life far better than that enjoyed under former, often rapaciously self-serving dictators was most evident in influencing the popular swing to government by elected officials. The problem is, after two decades of the leaders in this region paying lip service to democracy, the rich are still rich and getting richer, and the poor often still poor and getting poorer.

Last June, the World Bank’s chief economist for Latin America, Guillermo Perry, presented a report that revealed some of the startling results of deeply entrenched

inefficiencies in the Latino economies. The figures revealed that Latin America exhibits the greatest social inequality in the world. Perry's report demonstrated that Latin America is 20 percent more unequal in terms of the distribution of income than the developed nations and 15 percent more unequal than Asia.

The fact is, Latin America, under the past two decades of "democratic" government, has simply lacked the political will to undertake the difficult structural reforms necessary to change the course of its endemically weak economies.

Set Up for Disappointment To be sure, the region had been given false hopes by some on both sides of the Rio Grande. There was a lot of hoopla about a new era for U.S. and Latin American relations following the collapse of the Soviet Union. This bred a whole generation of Latino political leaders, economists and bureaucrats schooled at U.S. universities, wedded to the ways of the free market.

The main idea was to attach Latino economies to the great U.S. freight train via free-trade agreements. Thus, negotiated by the U.S. with Canada and Mexico in the early 1990s, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was born. Soon after, following the December 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida, 34 countries committed to creating a Free Trade Area of the Americas. U.S. President Bill Clinton promised that Chile would be included in NAFTA within a year of the conclusion of that summit. Optimism abounded, the assumption being that, following Chile's entrance into NAFTA, other Latino countries would be granted speedy entrance. It didn't happen.

Only one week after the Latin American heads of state left the Miami summit with a spring in their step, the Mexican peso collapsed. The result was disastrous for U.S.-Latin American trade relations. Texas-based think tank Stratfor summed up the resultant situation: "The Mexican peso crisis of 1995 rocked Latin America. Then came the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the 1998 Russian crisis, the 1999 Brazilian crisis and Argentina's default on close to \$100 billion in government bonds at the end of 2001. From 1997 through 2003, economic growth stagnated in most Latin American countries. Poverty and unemployment rose to 20-year highs. Social inequality worsened, per capita incomes plummeted and corruption spread with pandemic



UNHAPPY NEIGHBORS
Protesters in Mexico demonstrate against NAFTA.

speed. By the time Argentina defaulted in 2001, most Latin Americans were disenchanted with the economic policies Washington endorsed during the preceding decade" (March 12).

The upshot of all this was more political change. Anti-U.S. populist leaders in Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil and Ecuador replaced reformist regimes.

In the meantime, seemingly pro-U.S. *presidentes* in countries like Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay, Guatemala and El Salvador are even now confronting spreading discontent that restricts any initiatives to implement more free-market reforms.

Winds of Change All this portends a sea change in relationships between the U.S. and its closest continental neighbors. "Latin American rhetoric is growing shriller, and recent surveys show a steep rise in anti-U.S. sentiment and flagging support for democracy. These are good times for populist leaders. They can blame their countries' woes on free-market policies, globalization and the United States" (ibid.).

Beyond the anti-U.S. rhetoric, the reality that confronts most Latin American countries, with the possible exception of Chile, is economics. New populist governments have shown little ability to confront the deep structural problems attached to their rotten economic foundations. The combined indebtedness of the entire hemispheric region of Latin America and the Caribbean exceeds

\$775 billion. Studies indicate that the region requires somewhere between \$500 billion and \$1 trillion of investment in basic economic infrastructure over the next 15 years. Where will the required investment come from? Obviously not the United States.

At a congressional hearing on February 11, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the administration would trim its foreign-policy budget in Latin America because the U.S. has "greater priorities of a more serious nature" (ibid.). It's true that the prime concern of U.S. foreign policy is the global war on terror. It is biting deep into the administration's budgets. But one could be forgiven for theorizing another more fundamental reason for the Bush administration going cold on America's Latino

neighbors: NAFTA has simply not worked. It was never really going to work. Matching the historical perspective with inerrant biblical prophecy not only proves the inevitability of its failure—but of the rise of the trade regime that is prophesied to replace it! (Revelation 18:1-3).

NAFTA's Failure—EU's Opportunity NAFTA has been a flop on almost every count. The U.S. failure to address numerous issues among NAFTA's three existing members (Canada, Mexico and the U.S.) has stalled any efforts to expand NAFTA into anything like the Free Trade Area of the Americas once envisioned.

Enter the European Union. The EU, already having a free-trade agreement (FTA) with Mexico, has been negotiating an FTA with the South American Mercosur customs union (comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) over the past five years. This is but the thin edge of a wedge that is destined to powerfully fracture U.S.-Latin American relations. In fact, the EU even admits that this is its clear aim. The driving forces at the moment are Brazil and Berlin. Though not widely publicized, the German attitude toward undermining U.S. policy toward Latin America has been evident for some time.

Taking the lead, Germany has wormed its way increasingly into positions of influence in Latin America. Playing the role of mediator between separatist organiza-

EU's Four Latin Cards

tions, it is able to influence the replacement of governments that are not attuned to the EU's aims. Various front organizations aid the implementation of the German-led EU. These include the European Center for Minority Issues, departments of the Bertelsmann Institute and the Institute for Human Rights.

A prime example of Germany's interference in domestic affairs of Latino countries, contrary to U.S. foreign policy initiatives, is its relationship with Colombia. The Web-based German Foreign Policy group reported a year ago that the German parliament had approved an 18-point plan to insert Berlin's influence within Colombia's domestic policies. Germany's goal in the short term is to penetrate the country via the establishment and development of German corporate interests. Germany has been at work on this front for some time: "The German care for 'human rights' in Central and South America is flanked by a steadily advancing economic penetration of the subcontinent. Large German corporations use the cheap labor force ... to create competition for the U.S. along its southern border" (*www.german-foreign-policy.com*, Sept. 6, 2001).

German Foreign Policy reported in May 2002 that, in a move seen by U.S. analysts as a new "solidarity" against Washington's interests in Latin America, the ruling coalition in Germany brought a resolution before the Bundestag seeking intensified cooperation between Germany and the region. During the debate, German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder demanded "a markedly enlarged exchange of trade with the markets of the future in South America" (*ibid.*, May 30, 2002). This source further reported that spokesmen of all parties during the debate agreed that "German foreign policy must urge the other EU states to free the Latin American continent from economic dependency and the political and military dominance of the United States"

Since German unification in 1990, Germany's trade with Latin America has doubled. European Union investment has doubled over the same period. The EU ranks currently as the most important investor in South America, having forged way ahead of the U.S. The EU imports five times more from Mercosur than from the U.S. In the 1990s, trade between these two blocs grew at a whopping 125 percent right under North America's nose!

So what is really happening in the region of Latin America?

THE EU ALREADY HAS FOUR CARDS UP ITS SLEEVE READY TO PLAY IN THE free-trade war with the U.S. over Latin American markets. Four countries stand out, despite their existing structural weaknesses, as having the potential to offer real attraction to EU investment. Of all EU member nations, Germany in particular has already significantly penetrated these four nations both economically and politically.



FOX

Mexico The EU is the largest single investor in Mexico. Between 1999 and 2003, Mexico's exports to the EU increased by 19 percent. This was exceeded by the EU's exports to Mexico, revealing an increase of 28 percent over the same period. In July, Mexico's President Vicente Fox announced that he was turning his sights south. He is seeking membership within the Latin trading combine Mercosur, itself due to join with the EU in a trade pact of unprecedented scope in October.

Chile Chile's primary trading partner is the EU, representing 21 percent of Chile's trade. It is also Chile's main provider of foreign direct investment. The EU-Chile Association Agreement, announced at the 2002 EU-Latin America Summit in Madrid, was described by the European Commission as being the most innovative and ambitious ever negotiated by the EU. And no wonder. In an interview with German daily newspaper *Die Welt*, Chile's Foreign Affairs minister, Soledad Alvear, commented, "We in Chile would like to closely coordinate our foreign policy issues with Europe" (*Santiago Times*, May 18). She then struck a chord on a note about which we are destined to hear more in the future: "We definitely share more values with Europe There is a strong European influence all over Latin America—not the least because of German immigrants. We simply feel very close to Europe" (*ibid.*). Many of those German immigrants fled the Allied occupation of Germany as World War II drew to a close. In the mid-1940s, they "migrated" via the Vatican ratlines, an underground network established by Rome, in collaboration with the German authorities, to spirit Nazis, and much of their loot, out of Germany and to enable their resettlement in Latin America and other New World countries. Many of the sons of these escaped Nazis are firmly ensconced in positions of influence in Latino countries. One such is Nestor Kirchner, president of Argentina.



ALVEAR



KIRCHNER

Argentina Kirchner, the German son of a Nazi father, was elected last year as the popular choice of the electorate following Argentina's catastrophic flirtation with free-market economics. Stacking his administration with his Catholic-Germanic/Hispanic family connections, Kirchner is proving a fairly shrewd dealer. He is very conscious of his European heritage. In fact, he elected to unveil his inaugural economic policy *in Europe* rather than in his home country.

This is a strong indicator of where he sees Argentina's future benefactors coming from. Kirchner has allied with European Commission President Romano Prodi to accelerate efforts to conclude a free-trade deal with the Latino Mercosur trade group, known as the Common Market of the South. If this group is successful in signing a free-trade agreement with the EU, similar to that already enjoyed by Mexico and Brazil, it will become the largest single trade bloc in the world!

Brazil Brazil is proving to be the real mover and shaker in efforts to align with the EU. In Brazil, over 15 percent of industrial production is vested in German subsidiaries. This is set to escalate even more under the aggressively anti-U.S., pro-EU populist leadership of Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. After having run a current-account deficit in excess of \$33 billion in 1998, Brazil turned its economy around to the point where it achieved a trade surplus of \$13 billion in 2002. Yet it is Brazil's coziness with Germany where the real political pay-off lies.

Brazil acquired German assistance with its nuclear program back in 1975 through a German-Brazilian nuclear treaty. Shortly after, Brazil produced enriched uranium, a component necessary for nuclear weaponry. Recently, Berlin advanced the prospect of closer cooperation with the upper echelon of Brazilian military authorities, armaments manufacturers and procurers. This has raised suspicions that both powers intend to pool resources to produce nuclear arms. Such a prospect changes the status quo of the entire region.



LULA DA SILVA

Cycle of History Mexico and Central and South America are the closest southern neighbors to the United States. Yet in so many ways, this is the most neglected of regions within U.S. foreign policy. How is it that an economic and political union of nation-states clear across the Atlantic can exert such positive influence on Latin America that it stands ready to conclude the greatest free-trade association on the globe? That is what is on the cards for this October. What is the EU up to?

The *Economist* claims that the EU has a Machiavellian ambition. "If the EU's gambit pays off, it will have stolen a march ... on the United States, which has been trying to launch a Free Trade Area of the Americas for years, without much success" (April 19). If the EU, pushed by the consistent and careful penetration of Latin American industry and institutions by Germany over the decades since World War II, succeeds in concluding its deal with Mercosur in October, it will have achieved, as EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy has claimed, "nothing less than the biggest free-trade area between two regional entities in the world" (*European Report*, June 16).

The issues of historical heritage and culture run deep within all negotiations that are building the connection between the EU and Latin America. German leadership is very conscious of this fact. European Commissioner Dr. Franz Fischler, addressing a seminar on EU-Mercosur relations in Buenos Aires in April, declared, "This opportunity to boost our historical and cultural trade ties might last a few months; the benefits that we could secure with a deal however, would last many years ..." (Commission of the European Communities, RAPID, April 29).

The Chilean Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear has claimed, "We definitely share more values with Europe. ... [T]here is a strong European influence all over Latin America—not the least because of German immigrants. We simply feel very close to Europe" (see sidebar, page 9; emphasis mine).

What is emerging as a result of the EU's trade and humanitarian efforts in Latin America has more to do with the extension of the EU's empire than just a simple free-trade deal. This is a repetition of history. It is simply ancient mother *Europa*, led politically by her old protector Germany and culturally by the religion of Rome, returning to claim her cache of primary resources with which to feed the furnaces of her final resurrec-

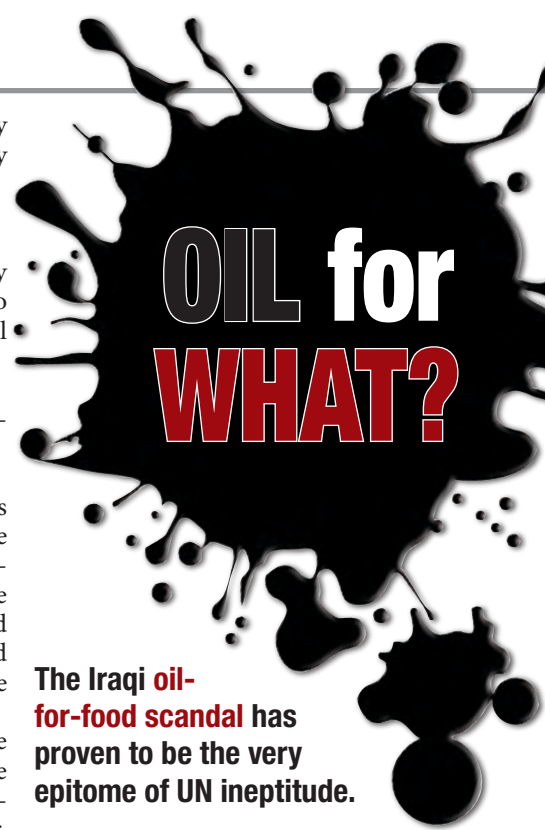
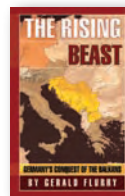
tion to power. Sound far-fetched? Only to those ignorant of the cycles of history and the reality of biblical prophecy.

Remarkable Prediction For decades, from the 1930s through to his death in January 1986, Herbert W. Armstrong pointed to the prophesied inevitability of the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire. We have consistently proven through the pages of this magazine that the European Union is that final resurrection in process of occurring. In the book of Revelation, the prophetic Scripture reveals that this old empire will once again trade in slaves (Revelation 18:13). With remarkable foresight, Mr. Armstrong was able to see the present linkage of Europe and Latin America and predict what it would mean for the Anglo-Americans in the not-too-distant future.

Pointing to Ezekiel's prophecy of the destruction of America and Britain due to their moral depravity and mass rebellion against God in these days, Mr. Armstrong highlighted the prophecy that barely a third of the populations of these nations would remain (Ezekiel 5:1-2). But of that third he then showed what is revealed in prophecy through Ezekiel, and related it to events happening in our day: "And that surviving third will be uprooted from their homes—transported like cattle as slaves to Europe, and probably some to SOUTH AMERICA (the Germans are fast gaining dominance and control in SOUTH AMERICA)."

Mr. Armstrong wrote that clear back in 1956! That was almost 50 years ago! Today we see the move afoot to weld together the *greatest trading entity on the planet* joining the European Union to the region of Latin America, of which South America is the major component. That connection is founded upon a historic political and economic relationship born of a strong cultural and religious affiliation. You need to know much more about this phenomenon. It could become reality by October this year should the projected joining of the EU and Mercosur countries go forward as planned.

One thing is for sure. *It will happen!* The old imperial Roman connection with Latin America *will revive!* You need to be aware of the huge impact that this is destined to have on your life! Write now for your free copy of *The Rising Beast* and begin to prepare to avoid the horrendous consequences of that event. ■



The Iraqi oil-for-food scandal has proven to be the very epitome of UN ineptitude.

BY MARK JENKINS

EVERYONE WANTS TO LIVE IN A peaceful society—but keeping the peace is not easy. During the 20th century, worldwide organizations were formed in the hope that war would be halted.

Consider the United Nations. It was established as an institution of honor, its mission one of peace, one that was to bring real hope to the world's poor and hungry—a model of government carried out properly that students in cities around the world could emulate with pride.

At least, that's what it was supposed to be. In reality, the United Nations has a history of ineptitude that reached its peak this year in a scandal involving the now-defunct oil-for-food program that amounted to billions of dollars in graft and corruption at the highest levels of the organization. The Iraqi official in charge of auditing the scandal is now dead, courtesy of a bomb strapped to his car. Evidence indicates the UN may have in the process even unwittingly supported al Qaeda.

Oil for Food After the 1990 Gulf War, sanctions against Iraq restricted international trade. Although these sanctions did not prevent the import of food and medicine, the Iraqi people did not have the money to purchase what they needed under then-President Saddam Hussein's rule. The oil-for-food program began in

1996 as a humanitarian effort to feed the Iraqi people. It was entirely unique, being the first UN humanitarian program ever to be financed by the resources of those it was serving; it was funded entirely by the sale of Iraqi oil. This was a laudable idea loaded with potential.

The Iraqi people were in genuine need of humanitarian aid, and oil-for-food was a way of providing that aid without drawing on the resources of other countries.

It also, however, tightened Saddam's grip on the Iraqi people. The UN said that 60 percent of the Iraqi population was receiving rations through this program; in other words, 60 percent of the population was now dependent on Saddam just to have enough to eat. The only commodity that could be exported or imported legally was oil, which was solely controlled by Saddam. This also meant that the UN itself was on Saddam Hussein's payroll to the tune of billions of dollars because the UN collected a commission on every barrel of oil sold. Many countries were receiving Iraqi oil at discount prices through this program—not surprisingly, some of the same countries that opposed the war on Iraq so vehemently. So the result of oil-for-food was that the Iraqi people became even more dependent on Saddam, a tyrant whom the UN was helping to fund; meanwhile, the world community received oil at bargain prices while indebting themselves to Saddam. As humanitarian programs go, this one was questionable at best, even if the program had been run properly. But the structural setup, unfortunately, left the door wide open for corruption on a massive scale.

Things Fall Apart First of all, while the UN may have started oil-for-food, Saddam Hussein was allowed to run it himself. He picked his own clients and handled distribution; beginning in 1998, records of all transactions were kept secret, a change that was implemented by Benon Sevan, the UN official serving as executive director of the program, reporting directly to Kofi Annan.

Also, evidence suggests that in 1998, Sevan himself may have begun receiving gifts of oil from Saddam personally through a Panamanian firm. Saddam threw the UN weapons inspectors out of Iraq that year. Meanwhile, the cap for oil-for-food was raised from \$4 billion to \$10 billion a year. The limit was set aside altogether in 1999.

Saddam was also pocketing money outside of the bounds of the program: “Saddam would sell at below-market prices to his hand-picked customers—the Russians and the French were special favorites—and they could then sell the oil to third parties at a fat profit. Part of this profit they would keep, part they would kick back to Saddam as a ‘surcharge,’ paid into bank accounts outside the UN program, in violation of UN sanctions” (*Commentary*, May 1). Saddam also demanded, over UN objections, an extra 50-cent premium on every barrel. Complaints about kickbacks were buried by Sevan. Although the U.S. and the UK objected to the kickbacks, Sevan stated that he had “no mandate” to stop it (*ibid.*).

“... Saddam extracted, by conservative estimates of the General Accounting Office, at least \$4.4 billion in graft, plus an additional \$5.7 billion on oil smuggled out of Iraq. Meanwhile, Mr. Annan's Secretariat shrugged and rang up its \$1.4 billion in Iraqi oil commissions for supervising the program. Worse, the GAO notes that anywhere from \$10 billion to as much as \$40 billion may have been socked away in secret by Saddam's

money went. The UN, for instance, authorized Saddam to sell oil to at least 70 companies in the United Arab Emirates. “One authorized oil buyer ... was a remnant of the defunct global criminal bank, BCCI. Another was close to the Taliban while Osama bin Laden was on the rise in Afghanistan; a third was linked to a bank in the Bahamas involved in al Qaeda's financial network; a fourth had a close connection to one of Saddam's would-be nuclear-bomb makers” (*ibid.*). In other words, this wasn't just about financing Saddam; it financed other terrorists as well. The idea that a humanitarian program has ties to a global network of terror financially administered by Saddam Hussein with the complicity of UN officials should have been a top news story! But when the evidence began surfacing in April, it was quickly overshadowed by the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

UN Responsibility Stealing money from a welfare program ranks pretty low on Saddam's list of crimes. It can hardly be surprising that someone with his history of murder and terrorism would manipulate a humanitarian program. Neverthe-



MORE OF THE SAME, PLEASE

The Security Council unanimously votes in 2002 to extend the Iraqi oil-for-food program.

regime. The assumption so far has been that most of the illicit money flowed back to Saddam in the form of fancy goods and illicit arms” (*Wall Street Journal*, April 28). Considering the billions of dollars involved, this may have actually been the biggest swindle in history.

Perhaps most disturbing of all is that it may not be possible to trace where the

less, UN officials let him oversee himself and clearly provided little external oversight. While many may be angered at how much money he was able to take through oil-for-food, the real story cannot possibly be about Saddam. Everyone knew full well that he was quite mad.

The question is, who gives a self-seeking tyrant \$100 billion to conduct a hu-

manitarian program? Answer: Only the United Nations.

A three-member panel led by Paul Volcker, the former U.S. Federal Reserve chairman, has said it has evidence that dozens of people, including top UN officials, took kickbacks from the oil-for-food program (Fox News Network, June 28). Secretary Annan himself has been implicated in the scandal. There was even one company that hired Annan's son Kojo as it prepared to bid for an oil-for-food contract (Fox News Network, May 19).

"A UN spokesman says all the internal audit reports on oil-for-food have now been turned over to the UN-authorized inquiry headed by former Fed



Secretary General Kofi Annan meets with Saddam Hussein in 1998 in an effort to reach a peaceful solution to the standoff between the UN and Iraq.

Chairman Paul Volcker. But under terms drawn up by Mr. Annan, Mr. Volcker not only lacks the power of subpoena, but must submit his own report directly to Mr. Annan. And guess who has the final say over what we get to see—or not see. Why, Mr. Annan, of course" (*Wall Street Journal*, May 19).

The United Nations opposed the war in Iraq despite Saddam violating UN resolution after UN resolution. Germany, France and Russia were heavily involved in oil-for-food—and all opposed the war in Iraq. Even though that wasn't the only factor involved, it's impossible to ignore the obvious conflict of interests.

In the *Commentary* article quoted above, Claudia Rosett asked at what point the UN became complicit in Saddam's activities. Some certainly were aware of what was occurring from early on. She pointed out that oil-for-food

Everyone knew Saddam Hussein was mad.

The question is, who gives a self-seeking tyrant \$100 billion to conduct a humanitarian program?

Answer: Only the United Nations.

didn't leave with the weapons inspectors, that reports of kickbacks were dismissed, and that Kofi Annan, the secretary general himself, personally signed off on projects "furnishing Saddam with luxury cars, stadiums and office equipment" before lobbying against the Iraq war along with other clients of Saddam. "We are left to contemplate a UN system that has engendered a secretary general either so dishonest that he should be dismissed or so incompetent that he is truly dangerous—and should be dismissed."

In other words, this scandal isn't exactly a big secret, but in terms of rooting out the problem in the UN, nothing has been accomplished.

A Flawed Institution Such inefficacy has been a hallmark of the UN over the years. Why?

Simply because the UN, while supposedly accountable to everyone, is in reality accountable to no one.

The UN was founded to maintain peace after World War II, or "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," as the UN Charter puts it. While there has not been another world war since its founding, there has been war all over the world—more than 250 armed conflicts since 1945!

Clearly, the UN cannot bring peace. Its failure largely lies in its inability to enforce resolutions. The entire world watched as Saddam ignored resolution after resolution with no end in sight until the U.S. finally took matters into its own hands, also ignoring the UN. Had the U.S. not intervened, the UN would probably still be "punishing" Iraq through strongly worded resolutions—and with billions of dollars through the humanitarian program known as oil-for-food.

How many times would you allow a security service to fail in protecting your home before you found a new one?

And now, when it is time to inspect the damage from the biggest con job in history, the Iraqi in charge of running one of the investigations is blown up!

The amazing thing is that the United States, as the clear loser in this situation, hasn't raised more of a stink about it. Not surprisingly, there were no U.S. customers on Saddam's hand-picked customer list. One would think the obvious implication that other nations opposed the Iraq war because they were benefiting from oil-for-food in both legal and illegal ways would outrage U.S. leaders. Yet, the U.S. continues to provide funding to the UN while receiving little in return. This is a clear example showing that the U.S. has had the pride of its power broken (Leviticus 26:19).



ARMSTRONG

Recognized and respected by leaders around the world, Herbert W. Armstrong attended the San Francisco Conference in 1945 at which the UN was formed. Mr. Armstrong wrote that at this conference, he heard chiefs of state "ring out the warning that this was the world's last chance." He went on to write, in his booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*, "But it has failed. The United Nations has no power over the nations. It has no power to settle disputes, stop wars or prevent wars. ... Man has failed his last chance! Now God must step in—or we perish!" (Contact us to request your free copy of this booklet, which shows the solution to the UN's inadequacy.)

By now, the problem should be obvious: *Mankind simply cannot rule itself!* The choices that even the highest leaders make are generally based on greed and a way of life that cannot bring peace or happiness. The UN, built on a mandate of peace, is still at its core deceitful, greedy, and crippled by the evil influence of by human nature. "The heart of man is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked ..." (Jeremiah 17:9). The UN might be *designed* to keep the peace between national governments as an international authority, but how sickening its failure is! What a powerful demonstration of the complete inability of man to rule successfully over man.

As Mr. Armstrong said, "God must step in—or we perish!"

Bad Company



TIES

Bin Laden aid Ayman al-Zawahiri (R) is a frequent visitor to Iran.

Everyone's arguing over the Iraq connection. But don't overlook al Qaeda's ties to Iran.

BY DONNA GRIEVES

THE NEW DISCOVERY ABOUT Iran's assistance to al Qaeda is among the most surprising new findings" of the September 11 commission, according to *Newsweek* (July 17). But this comes as no surprise to the *Trumpet*. Since the war on terrorism began, editor in chief Gerald Flurry has maintained that the head of the terrorist snake is Iran and that the only successful strategy to solve America's terrorist problem would involve neutralizing this terrorist-sponsoring nation. Now we see some in the general media questioning whether the United States, in its war on terror, has indeed been avoiding the real terrorist threat.

With the release of findings from the 9/11 commission in June and July, strong and long-running connections between Iran and al Qaeda are coming to light. The U.S. federal panel has uncovered evidence of al Qaeda developing alliances with government officials in Iran, in addition to Sudan and Pakistan, throughout the 1990s. Specifically, the commission outlined evidence that Osama bin Laden most likely played a role in the 1996 bombing of the Khobar Towers U.S. military complex in Saudi Arabia—an operation killing 19 U.S. servicemen that was previously blamed solely on Iranian factors.

Because of the historical animosity between the Sunni and Shiite factions of Islam, the U.S. had assumed that the Sunni Bin Laden wouldn't cooperate with Iranian Shiites. A common enemy, however,

proved motivation enough. Reportedly, after discussions concerning Shia-Sunni cooperation in the mid-1990s, al Qaeda terror operatives traveled to Iran and Hezbollah camps in Lebanon for training in explosives, intelligence and security.

Then, the commission reported, there are "strong indications" that during the late 1990s, elements of the Iranian government "frequently turned a blind eye" to the stream of recruiters, travel facilitators and document forgers who flew in and out of al Qaeda training camps in Afghanistan (*Newsweek*, June 16). During the Afghanistan campaign, al Qaeda militants allegedly sought refuge in Iran. Top al Qaeda operatives the U.S. believes are still being protected inside Iran include senior Bin Laden lieutenant Saif al-Adel and one of Osama's sons, Saad bin Laden.

Not only is al Qaeda clearly linked with Iran and its Lebanon-based terrorist organization Hezbollah, U.S. intelligence officials said there is evidence specifically linking the September 11 attacks to Iran. According to these officials, two of the hijackers had visited the Iranian ambassador in Malaysia before going to America in January 2001 (Geostrategy-Direct.com, June 26). What is more, as *Time* magazine and *Newsweek* recently reported, the 9/11 commission has uncovered evidence suggesting Iranian officials helped facilitate the entry into the U.S. of 8 to 10 of the 14 "muscle" hijackers (those who helped take control of the four 9/11 aircraft) by allowing them unhindered travel to and from Afghanistan through Iran during the year leading up

to 9/11. A recently discovered National Security Agency memo from December 2001 states that "Iranian border inspectors were instructed not to place stamps in the passports of al Qaeda fighters from Saudi Arabia who were traveling from Bin Laden's camps through Iran ..." (*Newsweek*, July 17). Also, the London-based Arabic-language daily *al-Sharq al-Awsat* of July 19 cited a source from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard saying that an Iranian general worked with al Qaeda's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri to provide safe passage through Iran for nine of the hijackers (Stratfor, July 19).

These reports are going public at the same time Iran is becoming increasingly bold in its support of various other terrorist organizations, in its pursuit of a nuclear program and in its threats against the West. "They are in a global war against us," said Michael Ledeen, an American Enterprise Institute resident scholar (*New York Sun*, July 2). He reports that Iran is a frequent host of Zawahiri and also other high-ranking terror masterminds.

"We have identified some 29 weak points for attacks in the U.S. and in the West. ... We have shared our intelligence with other guerrilla groups and we shall utilize them as well." These statements made by a top Iranian Revolutionary Guards cleric, Hassan Abbasi, at the Technical College of Tehran in June (*Wall Street Journal*, July 7), become particularly chilling in light of the fact that two Iranian security guards working for the UN were that same month expelled from the U.S. essentially for spying. Hardliners back in Iran hailed these men as heroes upon their return after being caught for surreptitiously surveying and taking photographs of New York landmarks, infrastructure and transport systems in a suspected reconnaissance mission.

All this merely confirms what the *Trumpet* has been saying for years: that Iran, the "most active state-sponsor of terrorism in 2003," according to the State Department—is indeed the head of the terrorist snake.

But America is too weak-willed to effectively deal with this clear threat. As its track record and prophecy reveal, it will *not* be the U.S. that will solve the Islamic terrorist problem. Write for our free booklet *The King of the South* to prove to yourself that it will instead be a *European* force that will deal with Iran and its terrorist connections. ■



TURKEY

Changing the Middle East

SEVEN YEARS AGO, THE *Trumpet* said relative peace would likely prevail between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East for as long as Turkey was prepared to stand by Israel—but that this situation *would not last* (“Turkey: An Act of Revenge,” December 1997; you can view this article online at www.theTrumpet.com under Editors Choice).

Turkey’s actions in recent months indicate a change in its orientation and a distancing of itself from Israel. The partnership between Israel and Turkey, which the *Jerusalem Post* describes as “one of the Middle East’s most important geopolitical alliances,” is showing signs of weakness (June 15). This heralds disruption for the region.

In 1996, Turkey and Israel signed a military cooperation accord, to the chagrin of Arab countries and Iran. In the years that followed, Turkey became Israel’s closest military ally in the Middle East. At the time, Syria—the main reason Turkey and Israel had common strategic interests—was regarded as an enemy by Turkey due to its protection of Kurdish rebels.

But since then, Turkey has not only resolved its differences with Syria, but also



CHUMMY The Syrian PM (right) reviews Turkey’s honor guard in a July visit to Ankara. Turkey has made recent overtures to Syria—meaning a decline in Turkish support for Israel.

moved toward rapprochement with other Arab countries and Iran in addition to strongly supporting the Palestinians.

Ilan Berman, vice president for policy at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, D.C., said that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan “appears to have begun a unilateral roll-back of strategic cooperation with Jerusalem” (*ibid.*). In 2002, his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), which sprang from a banned Islamist movement, became the first exclusively Islamic government in republican Turkey. Since then, Turkey’s foreign policy has aligned more with historical rivals Syria and Iran and further from Israel and, by extension, America. In recent months, Erdogan has spoken out publicly against Israel, even accusing it of *state terrorism*.

What’s more, Turkish policymakers are making moves to strengthen the government’s control over the secularist military, which has been the major advocate of strategic alliance with Israel since the Cold War and referred to as the “guardian of secularism” in Turkey. In May, Turkey’s parliament approved numerous laws limiting the military’s power, and the nation’s influential national security council can now have a civilian as general secretary, allowing the Islamic government to have more involvement in the military’s leadership in the future.

Another factor exacerbating the tension between Israel and Turkey is the Kurdish situation in Iraq. In a *New Yorker* article, reputable investigative journalist Seymour Hersh cited numerous Israeli, Turkish and U.S.

sources who maintained that Israel is providing military support and training to Kurdish forces in northern Iraq (June 28). Turkey, home to 13 million Kurds, is strongly opposed to any support given to Iraqi Kurds, which could encourage them to secede—a situation that would surely spill over to involve Kurds on its own soil. Not only does this make Turkey distrustful of Israel, it brings the Turks closer in strategic interests to the Syrians and Iranians, who also have concerns with their own Kurd populations.

All this does not bode well for Israel. Alone among mostly hostile Muslim states, Israel has placed great value on its strategic partnership with influential Turkey. Turkey’s absence of support for Israel will change the balance of power in the Middle East, allowing circumstances to prevail that will in the near future lead to an Arab-Israeli conflagration, initiated by the *Arabs*, who will have a new confidence that Turkey won’t come to Israel’s aid.

As it pulls away from Israel, Turkey is starting to show its true colors. Though tensions between the two countries will no doubt be publicly smoothed over in the short term, watch for a continuing deterioration in their shaky relationship—a trend that prophecy reveals will eventually lead to a vulnerable Israel being besieged by Arab forces and the beginning of World War III.

Turkey, Israel: Recent Relationship Recap

MARCH Turkey’s PM repeatedly condemns Israel’s assassination of Hamas leader Ahmed Yassin as amounting to state terrorism.

MAY Turkey temporarily recalls its ambassador to Israel and consul general in Jerusalem as a vote of disapproval against Israeli operations in Gaza. Turkey also announces plans for an embassy for Yasser Arafat’s Palestinian Authority. Reports emerge that Turkey may be

severing some of its Israeli defense contract links—“a new policy aimed at ending strategic and military cooperation with Israel” (*Courcy’s Intelligence Review*, May 20).

JUNE Israel’s national airline, El Al, cancels flights to and from Turkey for 10 days because of a dispute over security arrangements. The same month, the *Jerusalem Post* speaks of rumors that Ankara has canceled a

long-awaited accord made just months earlier for Turkish water to be brought into Israel because of disputes over the projected route of the pipeline (June 15).

JULY Israel’s deputy PM is refused an audience with Turkey’s PM. The cancellation is the result of “scheduling problems”; however, the Turkish PM meets on the same day with visiting Syrian PM.

Losing the Immunity Challenge

AS OF JUNE 30, U.S. PEACE-keeping personnel are subject to prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Until then, the U.S. was immune from such prosecution. Under intense pressure, the U.S. was forced to withdraw a draft Security Council resolution seeking renewed immunity for American peacekeeping forces.

The ICC, which is based in the Netherlands and came into force in July 2002, is the world's first permanent court capable of trying individuals accused of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The U.S., the largest contributor to international security, refused to fall under jurisdiction of the ICC, fearing it would lead to "politically motivated suits" against its personnel and hinder peacekeeping missions. The ICC also doesn't recognize certain rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution such as trial by jury.

In the wake of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal, the resolution guaranteeing America's exemption faced fierce opposition. Chinese UN Ambassador Wang Guangya, who had supported U.S. immunity for the past two years, said, "Clearly from the very beginning this year, China has been under pressure because of the scandals and the news coverage of the prisoner abuse, and it made it very difficult for my government to support it" (Xinhua News Agency, June 25).

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan also criticized the resolution, stating it would be a "discredit to the council and the United Nations." Germany, France and Spain, devoted supporters of the ICC, also opposed it.

Originally, the UN Security Council adopted a one-year resolution in July 2002 granting the U.S. immunity—mainly because the U.S. threatened to veto UN peacekeeping missions. In 2003, the resolution barely passed because three nations abstained. This year, only Britain openly supported it. Without adequate support, the U.S. withdrew the resolution. It marks the biggest defeat for the U.S. in the UN since the UN refused to back the war in Iraq.

It is rare when the U.S. is unable to get one of its reso-



ROW The ICC inaugural ceremony took place in March 2003.

lutions passed in the UN, but the recent war has shown many nations to be wavering in their support. This resolution's failure provides more evidence of this trend.

For more on where this alarming trend is headed, see our February 2004 article "Superpower Under Siege" under Issue Archives on www.theTrumpet.com.

Major Recession Ahead?

INTEREST RATES ARE LOW. THE ECONOMY is growing! All's well on the economic front ... right? Well, not exactly. Troubling signs lurk not far under the surface that America—and the rest of the world with it—is headed for a major recession.

U.S. interest rates have been dropping constantly for the past few years, even since the economy began bouncing back in October 2001. As the economy has kept growing, interest rates have kept going down—at least until now. But though the Federal Reserve raised interest rates in June to 1.25 percent, up from the 1 percent they had been for a year, there are side effects of having left interest rates so low for so long.

One significant side effect is the increase in home values. This has led many Americans to refinance and borrow more money. But now, since the housing market is over-inflated, home prices are likely to drop. If the housing bubble collapses, homes will lose value and people will end up owing much more in proportion to what their home is worth.

The Fed is very aware of the dangers of too much inflation; interest rates are usually raised to curb the problem. But the prolonged low rates now have the Federal Reserve in a bind. If it raises rates quickly, variable mortgage rates will rise, and homeowners will have less to spend, since their monthly home payments will increase. If the Fed does not raise rates,



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan

the bubble will only grow larger. The problem is, the *inevitable has already been delayed too long.*

It looks unlikely that the Fed will raise interest rates quickly, especially in light of the coming presidential elections. Such a move would certainly start a recession.

But of course, keeping interest rates low is no solution either. With inflation rising, prices will soon outstrip demand, just as has occurred historically. Then we would enter a period of deflation, and recession.

In times of economic difficulty in the past, such as during the 2001 mini-recession, America was able to stay afloat largely by lowering interest rates significantly. That option is not available now if the U.S. slips into a recession, because this option to stimulate the economy has already been spent.

So how does this affect the world economy? Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of the U.S. economy (Bloomberg). Other nations depend on American consumers to fuel their economies by buying their exports. If America enters a serious recession, it's certain that most of the world will follow along with it. The bubble is getting bigger and bigger—but the burst cannot be delayed forever.

ASIA

Japan, North Korea Closer

JAPAN IS MOVING AWAY from its reliance on the U.S. Its latest moves toward independence from Washington and consolidation of regional power have been driven forward by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. In early July, the prime minister announced that he hopes to normalize diplomatic ties with North Korea by September 2006.

What does North Korea stand to gain from a deal with Japan? Plenty. Normalizing ties with one of the region's economic leaders will lead to Japanese aid and investment in the wealth-deprived Communist state. Such relations would also make North Korea less dependent on China, which has maintained a fair bit of influence over North Korea. Although they are drawing out talks (e.g., Koizumi's latest visit in May), it appears that Pyongyang simply wants to squeeze as many concessions as possible from its rich and able-bodied neighbor.

Most important, however, is what Japan stands to gain. It seems crazy to snuggle up to the knavish and bomb-happy Kim Jong-Il; such an affiliation is begging for trouble. So why warm up to Pyongyang?

Koizumi and his Liberal Democratic Party face decreasing popularity due to recent pension reforms and the deployment of troops to Iraq. Securing normal relations with the region's wild card (and continuing to bring home Japanese who have been held by the Communist regime) will improve Koizumi's ratings.

More importantly, Stratfor wrote, "Geopolitically Tokyo wants to reduce its reliance

on the U.S. security role in northeast Asia ..." (July 4). One way to do that is by normalizing its relations with North Korea.

In the long run, Tokyo's weight in regional affairs could multiply, as it will hold the North Korean chain, reduce China's control of the nation and grow more independent. Check the June issue of the *Trumpet* for more on Japan's political strategy.



SHAKING Korea's Kim (left) meets with Japan's Koizumi.

Asia's Dire Straits

THE MALACCA STRAIT IS ONE OF THE most important sea lanes in the world. It is also the most dangerous. More than 50 percent of the world's oil supply passes through this waterway and more than 50,000 cargo ships travel these waters each year. With its 600 miles of waterway littered with countless coves, tributaries and dense thickets, the strait is extremely difficult to police. Little security is provided to protect vessels. Opportunities abound for terrorists and pirates to attack and destroy important cargo ships—a more foreboding threat since Sept. 11, 2001. Leading regional powers such as Japan and China are vulnerable if cargo and oil transportation through this strait is hindered.

This patch of ocean, which connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans, is also critical to America's strategic, military, trade and economic interests. Terrorist groups know this. Earlier this year, aware of the potential for disaster, the U.S. indicated it would deploy American forces to provide security in the waterway. This option was quickly rejected by the largely Muslim nations of Indonesia and Malaysia. Malaysia's defense minister stated that American troops or assets must not be allowed "to set foot" in the waterway. Washington responded by calling on the nations bordering the strait (Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia) to increase their own security and policing of the sea lane.

Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore held a ceremony in July marking the begin-



ning of their coordinated efforts to police the strait. Although the U.S. will provide consultation and strategy, the tangible contribution of ships, troops and hardware will be provided by Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. This plan received support from other Asian nations.

Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia will all receive benefits from their efforts to secure this critical sea lane. Each country has the opportunity to increase its funds devoted to military spending. They all will be granted access to important U.S. intelligence concerning the region. Opportunities will arise for the respective nations' militaries to be trained and educated in American security and policing practices. Also, because virtually every other Asian nation has a vested interest in the strait, the countries of Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore will receive support from fellow Asian countries. Leading nations in the region, such as China and Japan, will continue to monitor the policing of the strait and could likely provide financial, political and even military assistance if required.

Although the U.S. will continue to be involved with the security of the Malacca Strait, its influence in this region of the world has been consistently diminishing for some time now. While this is happening, smaller Asian nations are growing in influence and are drawing increasingly closer to the larger Asian countries. Asia is uniting, and the policing of the Malacca Strait is further proof of this trend.



CRACKING DOWN Malaysian special forces practice anti-piracy tactics in June.

Disaster in the Sudan

SUDAN IS IN CRISIS. Sudanese government-backed militias are committing ethnic cleansing, systematic rape and other atrocities in the Darfur region.

The catastrophe began when black rebels started attacking government targets early in 2003, claiming that the Arab-dominated government was neglecting the region (BBC News, July 7). The government and black populations in the Sudan have been at odds for a long time. By attacking government targets, Darfur's rebels invited a government response—and what a horrific response they got!

More than a million people have been forced to leave their homes, many setting up temporary camps on the Chad-Sudan border. About 30,000 have already died. Andrew Natsios, head of the U.S. Agency for International Aid, expects that number will rise to at least 300,000 even if conditions do improve because so many are malnourished beyond help (Stratfor, June 29).

At the African Union summit in July, UN Secretary General Kofi

Annan warned some 40 African leaders, “Without action, the brutalities already inflicted on the civilian population of Darfur could be a prelude to even greater humanitarian catastrophe—a catastrophe that could destabilize the region” (Associated Press, July 6).

Yet, at this point, the UN won't declare this as genocide. Why?

Because the international community does not want to get involved militarily. Under a 1948 UN convention, *genocide* in any country requires other member countries to intervene; it would be illegal not to act. Even the 53-nation African Union (AU) has committed only 300 troops to protect its military observers. While there has been diplomatic pressure from the U.S., the AU and the UN, it is too little, too late.



Meanwhile, the Darfur rebel groups have set six conditions for peace talks. By the time these conditions are met, the 1.2 million refugees may already be cut off from food supplies by Darfur's rainy season. As of this writing, early rounds of peace talks have collapsed completely.

Africa cannot get the type of world attention it needs today. In the future though, the African people will receive the attention of the world's great powers, which will come not as saviors but to exploit African resources.

After the European “king of the north” overcomes the Islamic “king of the south” (Daniel 11:40), the natural wealth of these African nations will be at Europe's disposal. “But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps” (verse 43). This is a major reason the many problems in Africa can only be solved in one way: by the return of Jesus Christ to Earth.

IN BRIEF

AFRICA

AIDS Rampant

BBC News, June 21

A NEW UN REPORT shows that HIV infection is spreading more rapidly than ever, with over 5 million people contracting the disease last year alone. It is spreading most quickly in Eastern Europe and Asia. The report warns that 10 million could be infected in China by 2010. The disease is also spreading unchecked through Africa. HIV infection is now the leading cause of death among military personnel, accounting for more than half the deaths in some African countries' military or police forces.

Africa is also suffering from a polio outbreak; at least 22 countries are affected, 10 of which were polio-free just a year ago.

Hungry in Zimbabwe

Washington Post, July 20

REPORTS INDICATE that more than 2 million Zimbabweans will suffer from food shortages this year. President Robert Mugabe disagrees. Referring to international food aid, he asked Britain's Sky News, “Why foist this food upon us? We don't want to be choked.”

Because the UN World Food Program operates only at government request, officials “have little choice but to ignore the evidence around them . . .” With this and other international aid groups in retreat, the situation is dire, especially considering how many Zimbabweans depend on the aid. At the peak in 2003, “UN facilities fed more than 6.5 million people, more than half the nation's population of 12 million.”



ONLY A “PRELUDE”? UN's Kofi Annan visits refugees who have fled from violence in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

FAMILY MATTERS

AMERICAN POLITICS is bound to get ugly the next couple months as both sides exchange blows on foreign policy and the economy ahead of November elections. But besides the occasional skirmish over same-sex “marriage,” the subject of *family* will be largely ignored.

Here’s why the subject ought to be front and center: *America leads the world in dysfunctional family relationships*. One third of American children are born out of wedlock. Sixty-five percent of new marriages will end in divorce—the highest divorce rate *in the world* among major countries. As a result, nearly 40 percent of our children are growing up without their biological father. (In 1960, it was just 7 percent.)

For black Americans, the figures are *twice that bad*. Yet, how rare it is for an African-American politician or opinion shaper to speak plainly about these appalling conditions. Actor-comedian Bill Cosby did a few months ago. And after many African-American critics up-braided him for it, he fired back by saying his detractors were trying to hide the black community’s “dirty laundry.”

Even as our leaders steer clear of the debate, average Americans know something is terribly wrong. According to a 1999 Shell poll, three fourths of Americans say they are dissatisfied with the honesty and standards of behavior in people, and two thirds think the standard of what is acceptable is getting worse. And the primary cause? Eighty-eight percent of those polled think *families failing to teach children* has been a major cause of moral decline. Seventy-two percent said parents have the biggest influence on a child’s moral standards and values—more than friends, teachers, religious leaders and television. Could this be why the crowds who witnessed Bill Cosby’s remarks actually cheered him on?

This issue of the *Trumpet* takes a hard look at the *most important subject there is*—the institution of family. Most of our readers are aware of the *Trumpet*’s unique perspective on the news. But perhaps you didn’t know how strong the family ties are behind the organization that produces this magazine. Long-time subscribers have undoubtedly noted several father-son surnames that have appeared in these pages (Flurry, Fraser, Hilliker, Malone). Many sons who have followed in the steps of their fathers to help produce the *Trumpet* now have children of their own. Not one married member of our staff has gone through a divorce. Only a few from our staff were victimized by divorce as a child.

This is not to say we are perfect fathers and mothers, or that we have perfect marriages with perfect children. But we are a *family* organization. And that adds to the uniqueness of what you are about to read.

God is a Family. He institutionalized family on the *physical* level so that we might better understand our role—*along with that of every man, woman and child on Earth*—within the God Family. In order to model our physical families after the perfect God Family example, we must live according to the laws of family revealed in Scripture.

The articles in this issue are based on that revealed truth. But the information is of absolutely no value unless you take it and begin to apply it in your own life—in your marriage—in your family.

We believe in this way of life. It really does work.



Motherhood

THE UNTOLD STORY

Why mothers have fled the home, what it's doing to our children—and why you almost never hear about it. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

A POPULAR MOVIE ONCE TOLD the story of an 8-year-old child who was accidentally left home alone by his vacationing parents. Audiences everywhere cackled at the wild antics of this amazing little boy, watching him repeatedly outsmart two would-be thieves. Being left alone turned out to be a blessing in disguise for the boy's family.

But for *real* families, children DO NOT benefit from being left alone. Yet numerous studies have found that parents are doing just that—leaving their children to fend for themselves. It's not just fathers—*mothers* too. And unlike the Hollywood version, there's nothing accidental about it.

The Unworkable Solution In June, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress's Child Online Protection Act violated free-speech rights protected by the First Amendment. Free-speech advocates who attacked the 1998 bill have long argued that privately used filtering software and parental supervision are more effective means to control adolescent behavior on the Internet. Indeed, all nine justices unanimously agreed that parental supervision is the surest protection against children becoming addicted to pornography.

Yet, in writing for the dissenting minority, Justice Stephen Breyer pointed out the most significant flaw in relying on parental supervision: "As to millions of American families, that is not a reasonable possibility. More than 28 million school-age children have both parents or their sole parent in the workforce, at

least 5 million children are left alone at home without supervision each week, and many of those children will spend afternoons and evenings with friends who may well have access to computers and more lenient parents."

Parental supervision is the solution, the justices agree—problem is, parental supervision is fast becoming obsolete! And so what does the judicial branch of American government do to help protect unsupervised youth? *Reject a law that would have simply restricted access to pornographic websites. Why? Because it would have unfairly encumbered access that adults have to Internet pornography.*

So parents still have unfettered access to smut on the Internet. And so do children. And as a result, CHILDREN have become *the largest group of porn consumers on the Net*. Approximately 11 million American kids ages 12 to 17 visit porn sites *every week*. And the average age for first-time viewers has now dropped to 8 years old (Fox News).

It would be impossible to break down all the specific causes for this problem, statistically speaking. Many children stumble upon Internet porn quite by accident. Others try to find it on computers outside the home—at school, in the library, at a friend's house.

But how many become addicted simply because they are home alone—left without any parental supervision whatsoever?

Dwindling Family Time In the May *Trumpet*, we referred to a story in the *Wall Street Journal* highlighting a new trend in modern home design. Instead of fea-



turing “great rooms” in the middle of the house, some architects are designing labyrinthine layouts with more walls to satisfy the antisocial behavior of the modern family. One father said his two daughters “fight less, because their new house gives them so many ways to avoid each other” (March 26). Added to this trend, the typical American home—twice the size of what it was 50 years ago—averages two rooms per person.

These living space modifications highlight a much more disturbing trend about the traditional family: We’re not spending enough time *together*. According to one study, between 1965 and the late 1980s, the amount of time children spent interacting with parents dropped 43 percent. A 1992 study conducted at Stanford University found that parents were spending 10 to 12 hours less time with children each week, comparing statistics from 1960 and 1986.

Another 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. With the growing number of single-parent households in society, it’s no wonder parental interaction with children is dwindling. Yet, incredibly, the *chief* cause of

shrinking family time is *not* the fractured family. *It’s women entering the workforce.*

The Working Mom The typical response for most women, when asked why they work, is that they *have* to. And in situations where the father is absent, that might be justifiable. But as much as divorce and illegitimacy have devastated the traditional family, the fact remains that *more than half* of females in America are married. There are a lot of broken families, to be sure. But there are also lots of families intact, even if patched together through remarriage after divorce.

Within these families, the exodus of mothers from the home has been massive. In 1950, 26 percent of *married* women between the ages of 25 and 44 were employed outside the home. By the mid-’80s, the number of married women in the workforce rocketed to 67 percent. Today the figure is about 72 percent. While it is true that many employed women might work part-time or seasonally, studies show that the hours they invest in work outside the home continue to increase. According to the *Economist*, “[I]n the past half-century the average weekly hours worked by married women have tripled, while hours worked by men and single women have stayed about constant” (March 13).

Having small children at home has not deterred women from continuing their out-of-home careers. In fact, *seven out of ten* married women with children under the age of 6 are employed. Again, while a significant percentage of these women might only be employed part-time, this trend clearly points to a radical transformation in the mother’s role over the past 50 years. *Caring for children while dad is at work is no longer the primary responsibility for most mothers.*

And consider this: Among working mothers who believe they “have to” work, more than half admit they would continue working *even if they didn’t need the money* (Andrew Hacker, *The Case Against Kids*). Think about that for a minute. *Half the working mothers in America freely admit they would rather be at work all day than at home with children.* As Arlie Russell Hochschild wrote in her book *The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work*, “The emotional magnets beneath home and workplace are in the process of being reversed.”

For her book, Hochschild spent three summers studying a Fortune 500 company, interviewing executives, factory workers, and all those in between. She found that the company’s “family friendly” policies, set in motion to enable moth-

ers (and fathers) to spend more time with children, generally flopped. On the other hand, she wrote, "Programs that allowed parents to work undistracted by family concerns were endlessly in demand."

Based on the "have to" excuse, you would expect the percentage of single moms in the workforce to far exceed that of marrieds. In fact, they are virtually identical, with the percentage of single moms only slightly higher. In Britain, however, the figures heavily tilt in the *direction of married moms*—60 percent of whom work, as compared to just 31 percent for single moms. The figures are similarly lopsided in Canada.

These statistics don't lie. Some couples might tell themselves they *need* two incomes to survive, but these "needs" often fall into the category of luxuries, not necessities. As David Gelernter wrote in *Commentary* magazine, "[A]s a nation we used to be a lot poorer, and women used to stay home" (February 1996). Today, studies have found that the wealthier the family, the *more likely* mothers are to leave home for work. For many wives and mothers, a career over children is simply a *choice* they have made.

Consider this candid admission by Marjorie Williams in a *Washington Post* editorial: "After my first child, my son, was born, I thought that one day I would figure out The Answer: that once I had found the perfect child-care provider, and worked out the perfect schedule, and then got used to the perfect strangeness of this new life, it would all stop looking like conflict and begin to feel like fullness. It took me about two years to give up on finding the holy grail of perfect balance; for as long as I had both work and children, I finally realized, my task was not to figure out the one answer but to learn how to live with the knowledge that in pursuing my work, I am in some degree acting selfishly" (April 25, 2001).

At least she's honest. As Stanley Kurtz wrote for *National Review*, in response to the editorial, "It's not that Williams has decided to give up her work. She's simply acknowledged the fact that there's an inescapable trade-off between the fulfillment she gets from her work, and the happiness of her children" (May 12, 2001).

Child Pathologies In 2001, Mary Eberstadt wrote an alarming, 9,000-word essay for *Policy Review* titled "Home-Alone America." Citing numerous studies, she drew attention to a number of child pathologies that have increased significantly in

recent decades. For example, the teen-suicide rate tripled between 1960 and 1990. Eberstadt wrote, "What makes this bleak development the more baffling, of course, is that there is no corresponding rise in poverty over these periods—quite the opposite ..." (June-July 2001).

Between 1980 and 1997, reported incidents of sexual abuse in America rose by 350 percent. Many studies have shown that teens are much more likely to be sexually abused by a cohabiting male than by biological parents. Connecting the dots, Eberstadt explained that predatory males must first have *access* to vulnerable teens—and when mom works, at the very least, that access increases.

Another study reported by Hochschild in her book examined the weekly routine of nearly 5,000 eighth-graders and their parents. It found that "children who were home alone for 11 or more hours a week were three times more likely than other children to abuse alcohol, tobacco or marijuana."

Teens who spend a lot of time alone are also more likely to engage in sexual activity. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, **ONE THIRD** of girls *age 14 and under* have had sex. That compares to 5 percent in 1970. Approximately 3 million teens contract a sexually transmitted disease *every year*. Eberstadt wrote, "There is also the related question of what those hours of uninterrupted access to the violence and pornography of the Internet are doing to adolescents nationwide—a question only beginning to be studied, but whose seriousness is attested to by swelling ranks of school officials and therapists, in particular."

Then there is the effect of absentee parental supervision on a child's studies. In a book by Harvard School of Public Health researcher Jody Heymann, an examination of more than 1,600 children revealed that "parental absence between 6 and 9 p.m. was particularly harmful. For every hour a parent worked during that interval, a child was 16 percent more likely to score in the bottom quarter of a standardized math test. ... The results held true even after taking into account family income, parental education, marital status, the child's gender and the total number of hours the parents worked" (*The Widening Gap*). These findings are especially interesting in light of a more recent study

referred to in the *Christian Science Monitor* (June 2). It found that 40 percent of American employees now work evening hours or on the weekend—or *both*.

When you step back and compare the academic performance of American children with *other nations*, it tells the same story—American children are not receiving enough supervision and guidance. Commenting on the higher academic performance of Korean and Japanese children in school, Francis Fukuyama concluded, "Part of the reason that children in both societies do so well on international tests has to do with the investments their mothers make in their educations" (*The Great Disruption*).

Pressure From Feminists In a *Commentary* article written in May 1995, Mary Eberstadt revealed how the most recent versions of popular books on childcare and development have been significantly revised on the subject of working moms. For example, the 1969 edition of the well-known *Infants and Mothers*, by T. Berry Brazelton, said that early separation between mothers and infants should be avoided. In another book, written in 1974, Brazelton suggested that such separation could be harmful to the child's development. "In recent years, however—years in which Brazelton became a target of criticism—he has largely dropped his admonitions."

Another example is Penelope Leach, formerly a strong proponent for one-on-one motherly care for children. Yet, in her more recent work, Eberstadt quoted her as saying, "The necessity for full-time exclusive mothering has been exposed as a myth of the postwar West."

Half the WORKING MOTHERS in America admit they would RATHER BE AT WORK all day than with children.

Even the famous Benjamin Spock caved in to the pressure of modern feminism. Throughout the 1960s and '70s, Dr. Spock's strong recommendation was for mothers to stay at home with their young children. In 1977, he said this was *more important than earning extra money*. In 1992, however, he amended his previous views considerably: "Parents who know that they need a career or a certain kind of work for fulfillment *should not give it up for the sake of their children*. Instead, I think such parents should work out

some kind of compromise between their two jobs and the needs of their children, usually with the help of other caregivers ...” (*Baby and Child Care*; emphasis mine throughout).

Why are these so-called experts in parenting and child development revising their own work so dramatically? For one, it makes their messages more palatable for the ever-growing number of working moms. The revised texts are much less likely to make mothers feel guilty about working. It also protects the authors from being attacked and ridiculed by feminists who insist that mothers should not give up their careers for children, that working outside the home actually makes you a better mother, and

loud something ... we know intuitively: that the Motherhood Revolution has been a disaster for our children.” This mass exodus, and its effect on children, according to Eberstadt, is “off-limits for public debate” because “there are the letter-writers and reporters and opinion leaders who will rise in opposition to any study that impinges on parental (i.e., maternal) autonomy” (*Policy Review*, op. cit.).

Three years ago, researchers for the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development released data showing that kindergartners who had spent their early childhood in day-care facilities were three times more likely to be aggressive and disobedient than those who had stayed home with their mothers. While the study did receive abundant news coverage, *the way* mainstream media covered the story is revealing. All three big news networks featured the story on

ories in his syndicated column.”

On that point, Reimer is absolutely correct. The *Washington Times* excerpted portions of Eberstadt’s essay. A columnist who writes for the *Sydney Morning Herald* referred to the article, as did Stanley Kurtz in the *National Review*. Besides that, however, the media ignored it. It was not featured on network newscasts, nor reported on by wire services. If not for George Will’s column, *most people never would have heard about it*.

There are several reasons why the media usually avoid such topics. For one, the opinion leaders who decide upon what stories to report are afraid of feminists. In fact, most of those responsible for reporting the news are themselves highly educated feminists—or else married to one. Realistically, we *can’t expect* them to hold up stay-at-home motherhood as the ideal model for moms to strive for. We shouldn’t expect them to denigrate child-care services when many of them *rely* on child care themselves. If anything, we should expect them to repeat stories that portray child-care services and working mothers in the best possible light.

But if the press truly wanted what was best for our children, then it would be advising mothers to quit their jobs and go home, if at all possible. As columnist Betsy Hart wrote, “[M]oms who have any choice at all about the matter *should feel guilty* about dumping their little ones into institutionalized care” (May 3, 2001). Instead, she went on to say, those who don’t really need to work are the ones who most often defend child-care services. “All these other centers are awful, don’t you know, but theirs, well theirs is terrific. It’s filled with loving providers, and high-tech equipment, and state-of-the-art blah blah blah and ‘Johnny just LOVES it.’ I’ve heard more mothers than I can count say ‘they take better care of him than I could.’”

Here is what the debate should really be about, she concluded: “Why, as a culture, do we put blinders on as we pursue the unobtainable goal of ‘providing quality child care,’ an oxymoron if ever there was one, instead of making our goal ‘more kids at home with their moms and fewer in child care.’ The deep, dark secret that few in polite society dare mention is that that’s where young kids—and the vast majority of moms once they listen to their hearts instead of elite culture—want to be anyway. So why not make what is just about everyone’s first choice the most socially acceptable one?”

Studies have found that the WEALTHIER the family, the MORE LIKELY mothers are to work.

that child-care facilities are a totally acceptable means for raising young children. Some have even argued that child care is *good* for the children.

Thus, most of the popular information out there for modern mothers has been purged of these old “attachment theory” ideas that many writings were grounded in a generation or two ago. Today, psychologists, feminists, politicians, professors and journalists choose more working-mom-friendly language, like “bonding” in place of “attachment.” And, not surprisingly, “experts” *continue* to discover less demanding, less time-consuming ways for mothers to “bond” with small children.

What the experts won’t tell you is the effect all of this is having on our children. The alternative to loving, motherly supervision is to be watched by someone paid to do so (and usually at a very low wage)—or to simply be left alone.

Not Up for Debate Fukuyama blames America’s family meltdown on two factors primarily: the birth control pill and the *entry of women into the workforce*. Author Robert Putnam called this flight of women out of the home “the most portentous social change of the last century.” Bernard Goldberg said this movement was “arguably one of the biggest stories of our time” (*Bias*).

Yet, as Gelernter noted in his *Commentary* piece, “What is surprising is that virtually no one is willing to say out

the nightly news April 19, 2001. Peter Jennings complained about lack of government funding for new mothers. On CBS, Dan Rather turned to an “expert” who made a similar point—more “choices” for mothers. On NBC, another “expert” said the real issue behind the new study is that we must improve the quality of day-care. All the suggested solutions were aimed at making it easier for moms to work.

Yet the networks *completely ignored* the most obvious and practical solution of all: *That mothers should set aside career goals, forget the extra money and instead spend time at home with the children*.

At other times, the media will just ignore an important story altogether, like in the case of Eberstadt’s *Policy Review* piece, quoted above. In an editorial response to Eberstadt’s essay, columnist Susan Reimer said the article “suggests every ill that afflicts children can be laid at the feet of working mothers like kindling for St. Joan’s execution.” Of course, Eberstadt wasn’t blaming everything on working mothers, but that’s beside the point. Reimer was deeply offended by Eberstadt’s essay, considering it a direct assault on women’s rights. “I’d love to spill my drink down Mary Eberstadt’s dress,” she wrote.

Here is what I found to be the most interesting in Reimer’s column: “Eberstadt’s essay might have died a dusty death in a library graveyard if the bow-tied pundit George Will hadn’t picked up her banner and regurgitated her the-



Bringing Shame on Mothers Let's conclude by getting God's perspective on this all-important subject. In Genesis 2:18, after creating the man, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." God didn't want the man to be alone—it wasn't good. He knew the man would need help. But why did the man need help? How did God intend for the woman to help man the most? The Hebrew word for "meet" in verse 18 means opposite. In the same way men and women are altogether different physically, their roles within the family are profoundly different. Absolutely equal in importance, God meant for both roles to perfectly complement each other, not to compete with one another. Each role enables the other to accomplish much more than either could alone. But again, how can a wife best support and assist her husband?

The Apostle Paul answers that in Titus 2. He admonished the older women in the Church to teach the younger women "good things" (verse 3). In verse 4, he explains—teach the younger ones

TO LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS AND TO LOVE THEIR CHILDREN! Verse 5 continues the thought: "To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." This is how she can best help her husband and family, and women would be wise to heed it: Love your husband, love your children and keep the home, or as it says in 1 Timothy 5:14, "guide the house." This is a woman's highest calling in life.

Feminists cringe at the thought. They are not satisfied with their God-ordained role. Instead of teaching young girls about it, they ridicule and mock the way God organized the family. They view any attempt to persuade working moms to return home as an attack on women's rights. They would rather compete with men to prove they are every bit as capable of holding a successful career.

And while they have proven that, it has come at considerable cost. Our children have suffered immeasurably.

Commenting further on Eberstadt's article, Reimer wrote, "Her essay is in-

furiating, first and foremost, because fathers are as absent from it as they are from many of the households she criticizes." Yes, fatherlessness has done more to destroy the institution of family than any other single factor. But what about the households where fathers are present? What about a household where a father, fulfilling his God-given obligation to love, lead and provide for his family, DETERMINES that his wife will not work so that she can stay home with the children? Would this satisfy Ms. Reimer?

It would infuriate her more.

Proverbs 29:15 says, "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." I've often wondered why God would single out mothers in this instance. Generally speaking, of course, a child left to himself brings shame on both parents.

But maybe God gets specific in this proverb for a reason. After all, one of a man's God-given responsibilities requires that he work—usually outside the home. Paul said that if a man won't provide for his family, he is worse than an infidel (1 Timothy 5:8). And if a mother is to be the "keeper at home" while the husband is away at work, she obviously will spend more time with the children. It doesn't mean the father is without responsibility at home. Not at all! He's the head—he's an involved father who hurries home after work to spend time with the family. He's in charge while at home. He's not a workaholic, but when he is at work during the day, MOM IS IN CHARGE. And because of the time spent with the children, she is more directly involved in their training and development—especially when they are young. Perhaps this is why God singles out the mother in the proverb.

If a father abdicates his responsibilities as loving head and provider, if he abandons his wife and family, forcing mom to go it alone and to step outside her role as a woman, it brings on him the greatest possible shame.

In like manner, when a mother chooses to abandon her children—leaving them alone—it brings great shame on her.

God never meant for us to be alone, whether father, mother or child. He organized the family so that no one would be left alone, so long as everyone willingly accepted their roles. In the case of mothers, the best way by far they can help their children is to stay at home with them, providing constant care and loving supervision. ■

The Plight of the Children

REUTERS

up in. They are victims of all kinds of crime, abuse and neglect. Sometimes they themselves perpetrate evil. Whether victims or perpetrators, reports from around the world show that our children are in trouble. And they are being affected at a younger and younger age. *What's happening to our children?* Let's take a look.

Asia In Japan, recent brutal child crimes have shocked the nation. In June, an 11-year-old girl carefully planned an execution. She led a classmate into a deserted schoolroom, tried to blindfold her, then slashed the girl's throat from behind with a craft knife. The Japanese media reported that the killer loved a controversial but popular movie called *Battle Royale*, which depicts a society of children dangerously out of control.

There are other gruesome cases. For many in Japan, it is the *types* of crimes being committed that are very disturbing. Some experts talk of a youth crisis brewing. After the Second World War, the crime rate for youth ages 14 to 19 in Japan was the same as the crime rate for adults. Now, for every adult who commits a crime, *eight* juveniles do. In just the past year, *the number of children charged with murder or attempted murder has tripled* (ABC Online, June 13).

On the little island of Sri Lanka, thousands of children are victims of sexual violence and incest. Around 900,000 Sri Lankan women (about 85 percent of them married) have taken up overseas employment, mostly in the Middle East (OneWorld.net). What happens in most of the incest cases is that once the wife starts sending money from abroad, the husband gives up his job and starts drinking. With the man spending most of his time at home, the girl child becomes his victim. According to the Center for Women's Research, in families where the mother works overseas, about 10,000 girls in Sri Lanka face sexual abuse by their fathers or other relatives! Most of the victims are girls between 10 and 14 years old.

In the beleaguered nation of Israel, almost *a third* of the children—618,000—live below the poverty line. With all the geopolitical news in this part of the world, the status of this very large group of children is often overlooked. *Last year, the number of Israeli children living*

ROBBED

A Congolese child soldier holds up his weapon in a militia camp near Bunia.

A frank look at the state of the world—as it treats its youth. Brace yourself. BY FRED DATTOLO

OUR PLANET SUPPORTS over 6 billion people. But how are they faring? Look closely at the face of the children—the young ones. Too often, tears are flowing. There is crying, sorrow and pain. Children are suffering terribly.

Every year, nearly 11 million children—about 30,000 a day—die before they are 5 years old, mostly from famine and disease. That's over 20 children not even old enough to go to school who die an awful death *every single minute* of every single day. Think about that! Even for the children who survive, the world is an ever more hostile place for them to grow

in poverty increased by 16 percent.

In general, the Asian continent is home to most of the children who are exploited for labor. According to the International Labor Organization, at least 120 million children in developing countries between the ages of 5 and 17 work *full time*. Sixty-one percent are in Asia, 32 percent in Africa and 7 percent in Latin America. Not all of these children work in dangerous or unhealthy conditions, but obviously their work prevents them from going to school. Those who do work in dangerous conditions are often maimed. The Human Rights Watch states that “Working at looms, for example, has left children disabled with eye damage, lung disease, stunted growth and a susceptibility to arthritis as they grow older” (*www.hrw.org*). In India, “Children making silk thread dip their hands in boiling water that burns and blisters them. They breathe smoke and fumes from machinery, handle dead worms that cause infections, and guide twisting threads that cut their fingers” (*ibid.*). Some of these children are abducted and forced to work. Some are confined, beaten and treated as slaves—not allowed to go home to their families. *All* of them are deprived of their childhood.

Callous and appalling treatment of children is not limited, of course, to certain areas of Asia.

Africa Some 300,000 children in 30 countries around the world participate directly in the front lines of war. About 40 percent of them live in Africa—mostly in Burundi, Cote d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. Children as young as 8 are abducted while playing in the neighborhood or walking along the road, or they are taken from classrooms and refugee camps. Many are taken from their homes at gunpoint. Some join armed groups voluntarily out of desperation, perceiving them to be their best chance for survival.

Once “recruited,” some children are indoctrinated and subjected to violent treatment in preparation for war. Some don’t survive the training. Those who do are deployed to the front lines. Combat duties include serving as decoys, human trig-

gers to clear land mines, detectors of enemy positions, bodyguards or sex slaves. Children are also used to cook and carry supplies.

“In Sierra Leone, thousands of children abducted by rebel forces witnessed and participated in horrible atrocities against civilians, including beheadings, amputations, rape and burning people alive. Children forced to take part in atrocities were often given drugs to overcome their fear or reluctance to fight” (*ibid.*). Former child soldiers who have been demobilized are often afraid to return home because the locals saw them take part in the crimes.

In Uganda, girls impregnated by rebel commanders have been forced to strap their babies on their backs while fighting against Ugandan security forces.

Needless to say, child soldiers are deeply brutalized and traumatized by such horrific experiences. Those who survive are haunted by the memories of what they saw or were forced to commit. Worldwide, children who have been killed by war in the last decade or so—many while combatants themselves—number about 2 million.

Africa is wracked with disease too, including HIV/AIDS, which is now the fourth-largest cause of death worldwide. About two thirds of all people living with HIV/AIDS—between 25 and 28 million adults and children—live in sub-Saharan Africa. That region also had the largest populace last year of people *newly* infected with HIV—between 3 and 3.4 million. Multiple *hundreds of thousands* of children there are orphaned by AIDS every year. Currently, 10 percent of all sub-Saharan African children are orphans. It’s a tragedy of staggering proportions.

These children—deprived of family and of hope—wander the streets looking for a handout or looking for work, with sickly bodies and empty minds except for the worry of how to survive another day. Many of them will be exploited. In some African cities, two thirds of the child prostitutes are AIDS orphans. Worldwide, about 610,000 children under 15 years of age died from AIDS last year.

Europe Germany has been the location of such crimes as the beating and murder

of a 3-year-old girl whose father planned to crucify her, the torture of the high-school student, which was videotaped for 17 weeks, and the bludgeoning to death of a 17-year-old male after he was forced to confess that the clothes he was wearing made him look like a Jew. These

Worldwide, about 500,000 CHILDREN under 15 years of age DIED FROM AIDS last year.

recent “episodes of sadistic violence and murder ... seem to mix elements [of] ethnic alienation, youthful hopelessness [and] violent, technology-inspired fantasy lives that suggest, if not a national pathology, certainly a national problem” in Germany (*New York Times*, February 11).

The *Times* article referred to research demonstrating that nearly two thirds of school violence in Germany is committed by despairing young immigrants or sons of immigrants who feel alienated and unwanted in Germany and who resent their fellow German classmates. Many of these teens go to vocational schools that end at noon, return to homes where there is no adult supervision and feed on a steady diet of horror films and extremely violent video games that are supposedly prohibited to those under 18. The result is a sadistic youth subculture that is encouraged to feel no emotion and show no remorse.

In Eastern European capitals like Moscow and Kiev, young girls are duped by sex-trafficking rings into thinking they have been hired for nanny positions, modeling jobs or to be waitresses in Paris, actresses in the United States or anything else that will get them on a plane—not knowing that the plane is headed to Mexico. From there they are moved into the U.S. and sold as sex slaves. These girls used to be in their late teens and 20s; now it’s not unusual for them to be as young as 13.

Kevin Bales is president of Free the Slaves, America’s largest anti-slavery organization. He estimates that at any given time there are 30,000 to 50,000 sex slaves in captivity in the U.S. and that at least 10,000 per year are trafficked in—many from Eastern Europe. Typically, a young victim suffers two to four years before being either killed or deported.

These hideous and repulsive stories and statistics from around the world

300,000 CHILDREN in 30 countries around the world participate directly in the FRONT LINES OF WAR.

are just *smatterings* of the cruel and heartless conditions that multiple MILLIONS of children, in every country, every day, must contend with. The United States is no exception.

Children Sexually Assaulted

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children states that one out of every five girls and one out of every 10 boys in the U.S. will be sexually exploited before they reach 18 years of age! The threats to these children come not so much from criminals on parole but from an older sibling, a relative, a step-dad, a mother's boyfriend, a baby-sitter, a day-care provider, a teacher, a coach, a school bus driver, a youth leader, a counselor, a priest, a minister, a neighbor and, occasionally, from a parent. According to one report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education in compliance with the 2002 "No Child Left Behind" act, between 6 and 10 percent of public school children have been sexually abused or harassed by school employees or teachers. The U.S. Department of Justice confirms that 93 percent of sexually assaulted children *know* their assailant! The point is that the offender is usually an authority figure whom the child trusts or loves.

Sexual abuse toward children is usually not confined to an act. It's about a *relationship*. Pedophiles are skilled at gaining trust. They prey on lonely or vulnerable children. They *manipulate* the child's vulnerability—whether it is poor grades or an absent father—to their own advantage. The child goes through a "grooming" process of getting to know the adult better until this person becomes the respected and beloved father-figure. In time, touching begins, with the offender desensitizing the child to his unusual touching. This desensitizing may eventually lead to sex. That's how insidious this crime is! The child is not only brutally violated but also becomes deeply confused because he or she has grown to love the offender and knows that the family approves of him.

Imagine the impact on the child. Young victims of sexual abuse often have a pronounced inability to trust other people. Imagine the *burden* on the child's mind. These children may develop feelings of guilt that something is wrong with them or that the abuse was their fault. They may feel different from their

76 percent of
adult child
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BEFORE THEY
WERE 14.

peers or harbor vengeful and angry feelings toward their parents. They may also feel guilty about possibly bringing disruption to the family or being disloyal—often torn between reporting the crime and keeping silent.

They may be ashamed, embarrassed or reluctant to answer any questions about the encounter.

Remember, these are *children* we're talking about! According to the National Incident-Based Reporting System, a girl's year of greatest risk for sexual assault is age 14; that's also the age when the most forcible rapes occur. And a boy's year of greatest risk is age 4. No, that's not a misprint. The risk of being the victim of forcible sodomy *peaks* at age 4! The extent to which a mind has to be perverted to perpetrate such acts is unimaginable. Yet 76 percent of adult child molesters began offending *before they were 14*. What a disaster we have wrought!

The Center for Behavioral Intervention in Oregon explains that contrary to popular belief, only 25 to 30 percent of child molesters were themselves molested as children. They say that experts now believe that child molesters go after children in part because of sexual play with other children that continued as they got older and because they were *exposed to pornography* at an early age. And studies they reference indicate that 25 percent of children between the ages of 10 and 13 are being exposed to pornography on the Internet! (*Herald and News*, Klamath Falls, Oreg., February 15). Is it not logical to make a connection between that and the fact that most offenders begin before they are 14? Yet the purveyors of porn dare to insist that they harm no one! Tell that to the children whose lives have been shattered!

A New World In the world tonight, a little girl cries herself to sleep. She's deeply hurt and confused. She feels guilty but can't find the words to tell her mommy what happened. Mommy's boyfriend did something to her she can't even explain.

In the world tonight, a family screams as henchmen break down their front door and abduct their only son. They need him for the army. His parents have no idea where they took him.

In the world tonight, a mother watches her daughter waste away from malnourishment and disease. She has no food, no

clean water, and her baby is dying. There is nothing she can do.

In the world tonight, a beautiful young girl is excited about her future. She's always wanted to be a nanny. But she was duped. They want her to be a sex slave. She craves her dad's loving embrace. He'll never know why she disappeared.

In the world tonight, *millions* of children are begging for help. But the adults either can't or don't know how to help them. They have lost their way.

God the Father has the **POWER** to end the suffering, and very soon He's going to use it. He is about to intervene in world affairs by sending His Son Jesus Christ back to Earth! (Acts 1:11). That is our **ONLY** realistic hope. This world will then be transformed!

In the World Tomorrow, Jesus Christ is going to rule all nations and deal with the underlying cause of this world's evils—human nature. Man can't change it, but God can! Jesus Christ **WILL!** (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

In the World Tomorrow, husbands, fathers, wives and mothers will be taught *true* education. The way to happiness, joy and blissful marriages will be revealed. Parents will be empowered and committed to teach their children God's ways. There won't be any more religious apathy or confusion (Ephesians 4:4-5).

In the World Tomorrow, proper upbringing will lead to the elimination of **ALL** crime! There will be no evil influences that warp our children's minds. No more child abuse of ANY kind! Even sickness and disease will disappear.

In the World Tomorrow, the **GREATEST** social triumph will be the restoration of the father as the head of the family. Fathers will be taught how to be effective, loving leaders of the family and how to be inspiring role models for the children. "Thus saith the Lord; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: ... And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children shall come again to their own border" (Jeremiah 31:16-17).

In the World Tomorrow, the world will **FINALLY** be fit for our children. And a world fit for the children is a world fit for everyone!

For a detailed preview of this soon-coming new world, write for Herbert W. Armstrong's tremendously inspiring book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.



Fatherhood 101

The basics
every dad
needs to know.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

SO—YOU'RE A DAD.

Many would have you believe your job isn't all that necessary—that the principal part of your role ended once you supplied your seed to the process. (And plenty of people are trying to find ways around a man's personal involvement on even that level.) We've reported before about the 1999 American Psychological Association (APA) study called "Deconstruction of the Essential Father," which asserted that kids don't need dads to ensure their well-being.

Don't believe it!

It's true that a growing number of children lack the positive influence of an involved father, or any father. The United States now leads the world in fatherless families. About a *third* of American children are born to unmarried women. In two thirds of these cases, the father is never identified; his name on the birth certificate is left blank. *Four out of ten* kids in America—over 25 million children—live without their biological fathers. Among blacks, it's almost *three out of four*.

Apparently those figures wouldn't alarm the APA. And many fathers, whether consumed by a career or lost in their beer, would rather not feel any pressure of obligation toward the children they've sired.

But we must not be under any delusion that the children don't suffer as a result. In

reality, this is a CATASTROPHIC PROBLEM.

Like it or not, *your children need you*.

Let's step back and consider it.

Our reproductive systems as God created them guarantee that each child will have a father and a mother. Scripture shows that God intended both parents to be very involved with the child's upbringing (e.g. Exodus 20:12). It also shows that God is intensely protective of fatherless children (Exodus 22:22-24). The Bible calls Him a "helper of the fatherless" and a "father of the fatherless" (Psalms 10:14; 68:5).

Clearly, God believes fatherhood is a role that must be fulfilled in a child's life.

A Father's Influence Contrary to the APA's findings, numerous studies show how critical a father's contribution to a family really is. He is far more than an extra adult helper. Involved fathers—especially biological fathers—bring positive and unique benefits to their children that no one else is as likely to provide.

One of the most potent ways for children to learn is by example, and fathers provide a significant role model, especially for boys. Studies have shown that children (particularly sons) gain a sense of responsibility and duty, a drive for achievement and self-fulfillment, and a balanced level of assertiveness and independence from their dads. Fathers tend to instill within children a sense of

judgment, justice and fairness. The rough-and-tumble play of a father helps children learn to control their behavior—realizing quickly, for example, that biting, kicking and other physical violence is unacceptable. Children also learn to manage their emotions and to recognize others' emotional signals. In short, dad is a critical stabilizing influence in the life of a child.

Some may balk at such findings. But additional proof can be found in the stunning statistics of the problems that tend to occur among children deprived of daily fatherly influence.

On average, fatherlessness makes a child two to three times more likely to experience a variety of educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems and to be ensnared in poverty and drug use (Fatherhood Online). Fatherless children make up almost two thirds of youth suicides, more than 70 percent of teen pregnancies and large percentages of homeless and runaway children. Research also shows that the percentage of fatherless families in a community more reliably predicts that community's rate of violent crime than any other factor, including race and income.

History demonstrates that stable families are the foundation of stable societies. By the same token, unstable families are simply the herald of societal breakdown.

Dr. Kyle Pruett is a clinical professor of

psychiatry at Yale Medical School and the Yale Child Study Center. He calls fathers “the single greatest untapped resource” in the lives of America’s children.

But what is a dad supposed to *do*? What is your role? What does it mean to be a father? How do you actually help your kids? There may be as many answers to these questions as there are dads.

To provide solid answers, let’s cut through the fog and consult the Designer of fatherhood.

God Is a Father Human beings have concocted a variety of ideas of what makes a family. By using the Bible as our anchor, we can eliminate the confusion and come to understand the bedrock principles governing our jobs as dads.

God reveals Himself in the Bible as a Father. Several scriptures talk about God being a Father to ancient Israel (e.g. Deuteronomy 32:4-6; Isaiah 63:16; 64:8; Jeremiah 3:19). He is a Father to Jesus Christ (e.g. Matthew 11:25-27) and to those whom He calls (John 6:44; to take just one example among hundreds, read Luke 11:13). One day soon, He will intervene to be an authoritative, active Father for all people who will submit to Him (1 Corinthians 15:22-24).

This fact has awesome implications. The institution of fatherhood came straight from God’s mind as a means of *helping us better understand and relate to Him*.

God created family. He divided humanity into two groups—male and female—one built to lead, the other to help (Genesis 2:18). That is the simple truth, and it should not be a source of shame, nor of the mistreatment of anyone. God created emotional and sexual attraction to bring a man and woman together. He fashioned marriage, and the roles of husband and wife. He formed our bodies so we could reproduce ourselves through children.

Here is a critical truth: Within the family, God placed a type of Himself—a man who is supposed to fulfill for his children, in *type*, the role that God fulfills within His Family. As Luke 11:13 suggests, *the human father pictures God the Father*.

That is the essence of your role. If you and I do our job, we provide stability for our children and, ultimately, make it easier for them to relate to God the Father! It may seem like a difficult concept, but the fact that God gave us physical family demonstrates how practical and real He wants to make it for us.

So what a dad is supposed to do comes down to this essential question: *What does God do for His Family?*

Protecting the Family

FIRST, BEING A FATHER MEANS PROTECTING your family.

God certainly protected His first-born Israel: He defended the Israelites against the enemy nations surrounding them, often in spectacular, miraculous fashion. He never even wanted them to have to fight. “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord,” He told them through Moses. “The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace” (Exodus 14:13-14).

Think about how long it takes for a little child to become self-reliant. That child is utterly defenseless and helpless at the beginning. God designed it this way—and then created a natural protective inclination into parents—to reinforce this lesson: A father is to protect his children.

It is sad to note that fatherless children—those who lack that protection—are two to three times more likely to become victims of child abuse.

Fathers should protect their families not only from physical dangers, but also mental and spiritual dangers. That is, we should keep wrong influences from entering the home and into their lives.

Providing for the Family

GOD IS A PROVIDER. FOR THE ISRAELITES God provided food and water in the wilderness; He led them to a land flowing with milk and honey. As James 1:17 says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights”

God supplies the needs of His children. Jesus Christ taught, “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:31-33). He generously answers our prayers (Matthew 7:7-8), granting not only our necessities, but even our desires (Psalms 37:4).

We are to follow that example with our children. “[W]hat man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts

unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:9-11). Christ, in relating this lesson, makes a direct comparison between God’s providence and a father’s provision for his family.

Remember this clear warning from the Apostle Paul: “[I]f any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel” (1 Timothy 5:8). Failing at his responsibility to provide renders a man’s religion worthless. The importance of a father’s provision is demonstrated by statistics showing that fatherless children are much likelier to be poor.

A father should hold down a job that provides for the family’s needs: food, clothing, shelter and some comforts. But he shouldn’t allow the job of providing materially pull him away from his other responsibilities to the family.

Leading the Family

GOD LED ISRAEL BY WAY OF THE PILLAR cloud and the pillar of fire in the wilderness. He also provided leadership through His specially chosen servants. There is also a clear line of command in place within the God Family, which our families are to emulate. Jesus Christ demonstrated throughout His earthly ministry who was in charge between His Father and Himself. He always did exactly what the Father asked Him to do.

We as fathers need to inspire similar respect within our families. Is the government right in your home? In this feminized society, far too often the man has largely or even completely abdicated this towering responsibility within his home.

Do your wife and children respond favorably and cheerfully to your direction? Do they try to make your decisions work? Answering these questions can require tough honesty.

Leading your family is difficult. It requires self-sacrifice and sometimes making unpopular decisions. But hard as it is, the long-term benefits are incomparable. Our children need, actually *crave*, strong fatherly leadership.

Remember, the best leadership comes from your *example*. There is simply no substitute for the head of the house providing a strong example of righteousness for the family to follow.

Educating the Family

GOD EDUCATED THE ISRAELITES by explaining His law and detailing exactly what He expected from them. When Christ came to Earth, He taught the disciples day and night. Today God reveals His truth to us (Matthew 11:25-26) and educates us through His Word and His servants.

And not only does He provide “book learning” education. God provides opportunities for His children to develop their potential. A good example of this is His putting us in this father role within our families—a tremendous responsibility, and one that pushes us to develop and grow quickly. We ought to follow this pattern with our children as they mature and become capable of taking on more responsibility. We are training them for the future.

Many scriptures show how fathers and parents are to teach their children. Look at Deuteronomy 6:7, for example: “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” Educating our children, particularly in God’s truth, should be a dominant theme in our family life.

Correcting the Family

GOD CORRECTED ANCIENT ISRAEL personally and through His servants. As a Father, He corrected the kings of Israel through the prophets of Israel. Notice how He spoke of correcting King Solomon: “I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men” (2 Samuel 7:14).

God treats His children today the same way. “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?” (Hebrews 12:5-7).

Notice: Paul assumes as a basic fact of family life that a father corrects—as if it would be ridiculous for him not to do so (verses 8-9). Sadly,



this is not the case in many families today, and those families are the poorer for it.

“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Proverbs 29:15). Even if you live with your children, neglecting them in this regard will produce shameful results.

As the primary law-enforcer for the family, the father commands respect and reverence, and in so doing he actually teaches his children a vital spiritual principle—that of respecting and reverencing God the Father.

Loving the Family

WE CAN HAVE NO DOUBT HOW MUCH God *loves* His children. All creation testifies to it. God is love (1 John 4:8, 16). Christ was “in the bosom of the Father” (John 1:18)—a very close, loving, Father-Son relationship. The Father demonstrated deep love for Christ, saying, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). God was rightfully proud of His Son and told Him so.

Those who have a strong relationship with their heavenly Father enjoy immense stability in their lives because of His genuine goodness, His rock-solid character, His uncompromising love for His Family. God is supremely trustworthy; He keeps every promise; His concern is unfailingly outflowing; He is always there to listen; He always acts in His children’s best interests. And He has demon-

strated the ultimate sacrifice for His Family in giving up His Son for the sake of many more potential sons.

Fathers should strive for that standard of perfection in fatherhood (Matthew 5:48).

Realize this: All the elements of the father’s role we have covered are manifestations of your love for your family. Protection, provision, leadership, education, correction—these roles all require sacrificial love. But giving your children all these gifts could amount to nothing if they are not steeped in and heavily fortified with daily doses of positive, loving attention.

Truly, children should be a man’s joy! And those children need to know they are loved.

Consider these facts. Studies have shown that daughters learn from their fathers how to relate to men—how to be trusting within a close heterosexual relationship. They learn to appreciate their own femininity. They learn that they are worthy of a man’s love by loving and being loved by their fathers. Thus it should be no surprise that daughters without fathers have a void in their lives that they often try to fill with sex. If a girl stops living with dad after age 6, she is twice as likely to have sex by age 16—and if deprived of dad’s presence before age 6, five times as likely. Often a fatherless girl’s ability to remain adjusted sexually and emotionally with one male is notably impaired throughout life.

Think about how much you demonstrate your love to your children. Are you teaching your daughter that she is lovable? That she is worthy of being loved and cherished and treated with tender, selfless devotion?

We cannot overestimate the value to our children of our consistent demonstration of unconditional love.

Our Challenge More and more fathers are failing in these fundamental aspects of their God-given role. Nearly all problems of modern life can be traced back to an epidemic neglect of these responsibilities. Our civilization is in peril as a result.

Our children, and this whole world, desperately need strong, dedicated fathers. Your children need *you*.

It is a daunting job, but we have the perfect example in God the Father. The path to success is to submit to God’s direction and design in fatherhood.

Embrace the challenge. ■

The First Commandment With Promise

Stable families are the foundation of strong nations.

The Fifth Commandment shows us how to keep our families and nations strong. BY DENNIS LEAP

LET'S REALIZE IT! NEWS HEADLINES show that our Western society is *confused* about what makes up a family. Some are working mightily to convince the public that there should be a *new* definition of family. Let's not sleep through this vital issue. Ask yourself: Can there actually be a new definition of family?

The homosexual lobby has made strategic moves to redefine the family by using the courts to legally approve same-sex marriages. Some homosexual couples have adopted children. Others have brought children into this world through artificial means. These couples desperately want recognition as *family*.

In the United States, Massachusetts is the first state to recognize same-sex marriages. The city of San Francisco, Calif., has done the same. Seven other states have court cases pending. Same-sex marriage is legal in three provinces of Canada, as well as in the Netherlands and Belgium. Strong movements are pushing same-sex marriages in the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Switzerland, Luxemburg and Spain. The *fight* is on. Homosexuals are calling their recent legal moves a real victory. We must recognize that there is much more going on here than concerns about insurance or tax benefits.

Here is the truth of the matter. The time-honored institutions of *marriage* and *family* are under vicious attack. In fact, these institutions have been under assault for decades. Informed people, including educators, journalists and newscasters, know there is a well-organized conspiracy against traditional family. Do we see that traditional family life is threatened? Since the 1960s, the new morality, rampant divorce and feminism have severely weakened the family. Now, the homosexual movement wants to deliver traditional family its final death blow. Who is willing to stand up and fight for family?

We must come to recognize that to redefine the family is to *destroy* the family. Stable traditional families are the backbone of any strong nation. History shows that when family life—husband, wife, children—falls apart, so does the nation.

Questions are being asked and answered in the media: Is a family a husband and wife and biological children? Is it two men or two women in a *so-called* committed relationship and adopted children? Is it two men or two women with children conceived by artificial means? Yet, a more important question never considered is: Do human beings even have the *authority* to define what a family is?

Fifth Commandment Stated In our series on the Ten Commandments, we have been showing you that the Ten Commandments are a law of love. People are confused about how to love God and how to love each other. The commandments teach us how to do both. The Apostle John wrote, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3). God gave man the commandments to help us truly love and experience real love in all of our relationships. The commandments are not a dreadful curse as so many believe.

The first four commandments define how to have the right relationship with God. Keeping these commandments preserves that relationship. The remaining six show us how to have the correct relationships with other human beings. The Fifth Commandment is the first and *most important* of the final six. In fact, the Fifth Commandment, when understood in all of its depth, defines and safeguards the most basic of all human relationships—the family!

From Mount Sinai, God spoke this command to the newly forming nation of Israel: "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God

giveth thee" (Exodus 20:12). It is easy to recognize at first glance that this commandment requires children to both *honor* and *obey* their father and mother. Honor and obedience reflect true love. But when we stop and meditate on it, the commandment says a lot about *family*!

Notice that the commandment does not say honor your *father and father*, or your *mother and mother*. It states clearly honor your *father* and *mother*. This statement clears up all confusion about what constitutes a family. Here, and along with the Seventh and Tenth Commandments, is the great Creator God's definition of family—a man and a woman bound in holy wedlock, and children. There are no other alternatives! When obeyed, these three commandments protect the *God-designed* institutions of marriage and family. We'll cover the seventh and tenth in detail in future articles.

Stable Families—Strong Nations The Fifth Commandment doesn't stop with a definition of family. There is much more. God also explains *why* all children must honor their parents. There is a serious *life-and-death* reason.

At the time of the giving of the Ten Commandments, Israel was at its very beginning as a nation. It was to be different than any other nation ever begun on Earth. It was to be *God's* nation. He was to be its sole ruler. God gave the Fifth Commandment to the people of Israel so they could live *long upon the land*. Do we see the incredible knowledge here? Many other nations had already come and gone before Israel's birth. God considered respect for *parental authority* as the key to its longevity!

The Fifth Commandment carries both a fantastic *promise* and a severe warning. That promise and warning are not *solely* for Israel. Remember that the Ten Commandments are binding on *all* mankind. God simply made Israel aware

of them first. God gave the Fifth Commandment to *mankind* so we could *live long* upon the Earth.

The Apostle Paul confirms these truths. He taught the Ephesians, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on *the earth*” (Ephesians 6:1-3). Notice Paul’s in-depth teaching. He was the apostle to the Gentiles. He was a natural-born Israelite who knew the tragic history of his ancestors’ failure as a nation. The Assyrians had removed the northern 10 tribes from their land more than 700 years before. Even though the tiny nation of Judah had come back from Babylonian captivity, the Romans held the people of Judah underfoot. There were causes behind these historic events. Disregard of the Fifth Commandment was a major factor. Paul understood that no one need repeat such history.

Here Paul instructs the children of Gentile converts to keep the Fifth Commandment and then goes on to explain why. Paul takes special effort to show that the Fifth Commandment is the first commandment with the *promise of long life* on the *Earth*. Paul applied this commandment to all people—not just those of his own nation. So must we.

God placed within the Fifth Commandment His *revealed* instruction that stable families make strong nations. When all children honor and obey parental authority, incredible blessings result, including peace, wealth and health. God warns us: Destroy the family unit through dishonor and disobedience, and our nations will suffer the miseries of crime, violence, war and eventual destruction!

A Cause of World Violence We are living in extremely dangerous and violent times. Do we know the causes for the effects we are suffering? God gave Paul a prophetic glimpse into our day. He recorded for us the leading causes for world violence. He stated clearly, “This know also, that *in the last days* perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, *disobedient to parents* ...” (2 Timothy 3:1-2). Are we surprised that one of the leading causes of world violence is children disobeying their parents?

Ours is an extremely selfish age. Men of all nations are full of greed and covetousness. Nations go to war to steal what others have. We have become extremely arrogant and proud. We boast of all our scientific and technical accomplishments. In doing so, we ignore God, who has blessed us with the talent and ability to attain such wealth and power. In addition, we have also allowed our family



life to degenerate. We have built a *permissive* society that has little regard for obedience toward parents or any constituted authority.

Government and military leaders are working feverishly to protect Western society from violent terrorist attacks. Better intelligence, security procedures, armies, police and weapons will not spare us from increased violence. Getting back to building strong, obedient families would solve a majority of our modern violence problems.

Is this an oversimplification? Experts know that most adult violent offenders start out at a very young age.

We must understand what current trends in youth violence mean. During the 2003-2004 school year, 48 people died in school-related violence—more than in any year in the past decade (*USA Today*, June 28). Yet experts seem to give conflicting analysis about youth-violence statistics. Some experts say that crime overall is dropping off. Yet *USA*

Today notes that school-safety advocates see a sharp rise in gang-related activities. Gang watchers know that gang activity is spreading like a plague to hundreds of cities nationwide. This means it is most likely that the coming school year will be even more violent. What can we do? Simply throwing more money at the problem will not solve it.

Let’s admit the truth. The youth violence crisis has its origins in early childhood in the home. A person’s attitudes about authority, property and how to treat others starts in the nursery. To stop world violence caused by adults or youth, we must fix our families.

Focus on Father Remember, the Fifth Commandment is *one* of the magnificent *ten* points of God’s eternal, spiritual law. Thus, it carries great weight in the eyes of God. The commandment opens, “Honor thy father and thy mother ...” The Hebrew word for honor is *kawbad*, meaning *abounding, rich or to promote to honor*. This commandment applies to all of us throughout our lives. God requires us to *abound* with honor for our parents in both words and deeds.

Under the Old Testament dispensation, violations of this commandment were punishable by the death penalty. “And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death. ... And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death” (Exodus 21:15, 17). This shows the high importance that God places on this command.

The First Commandment requires mankind to give honor to God’s high office of authority as Creator. The Fifth Commandment requires all men to honor the highest human office—that of parents. This commandment then forms the bridge between the two great sections of God’s law. We will never attain true spiritual and physical success without giving honor and obedience to God. Do we see that the same is true of our human parents?

The relationship of children to their parents is an exact type of the *spiritual relationship* between converted Christians and God the Father. The lessons of honor, deep respect and obedience learned in the parent-child relationship stay with a child for life—even into eternity! In the eyes of a small child, a parent

stands in the place of God. A parent is the child's provider, protector, love-giver, teacher and law-enforcer.

Effective child rearing and the child's response to such training will determine to a large part his later relationship to society. It most assuredly will affect his relationship with God.

Notice that in the commandment, God mentions the *father* first. This means that fathers should hold the first, or preeminent, position in families. Why? The human father pictures God the Father (see article, page 27). Children should be *rich* in honor and obedience to their fathers. Yet, fatherhood has taken a real beating for decades. There is a real, active conspiracy against fatherhood. Request a free copy of *Conspiracy Against Fatherhood* by Gerald Flurry. This eye-opening booklet will alert you to the war against "the core institution of our society." To truly fix the family, we must put fathers back at the head of our families.

Every father needs to come to understand that he represents God to his children. Knowing this demands that the father make himself honorable. Of course, a mother must do the same. Both must live a life *worthy* of the child's respect. Paul said children were to obey parents "in the Lord." This means that parents must be living up to God's high standards. Certainly, many parents today are living wretched lives unworthy of a child's respect. Some parents even lead little children into sick lifestyles like child pornography. God does not expect any child to submit to such an abuse of authority.

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Blessings for Obedience A father's primary responsibility is to teach his child to obey *all* authority. A child needs to *grow* in the knowledge, wisdom and experience necessary to make wise judgments. It is vital that fathers teach young children to obey immediately, without question. Parents should not *coax* a child into obedience. Certainly, there are times when giving explanations and reasons are appropriate. But in cases of emergencies, there may not be time or opportunity to give reasons. This flies in the face of modern child-rearing philosophy. But it is imperative, for the child's safety, to learn the habit of obeying immediately when a command is given. It may not only spare

your child's life physically, it will also help lead to your child's spiritual success.

The ultimate goal of all child training is to teach children to obey God. As a child matures, fathers and mothers should provide much instruction about God the Father. Wise parents make it known that God is the Almighty Cre-

The relationship of children to their parents is an exact type of the spiritual relationship between converted Christians and God the Father.

ator and Ruler of the Earth and universe. God-fearing parents teach their children to honor and obey their great spiritual Father with even more love than for their earthly parents. Truly understanding parents make it clear that God will richly bless them for obedience.

Think about the blessings that naturally come from the habit of obedience to authority. Young people who hold deep respect and obey those in authority don't become criminals. Never would they consider robbing, beating or murdering another human being. Never

Obedient and respectful children are secure children. Children need to have their boundaries set for them. Children want limits set. They are truly happy with rules and guidelines. Teens need a curfew! Children intuitively know that parents must shoulder the responsibility of being the authority. When parents don't use authority, a child feels unloved, unprotected and insecure.

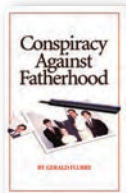
An obedient child does not suffer from frustration. The disobedient child is a frustrated child. Feelings of guilt and rebellion fill his mind. The child who loves, honors and obeys his parents lives a happy, carefree, purposeful life. When matured into adulthood, the child's spiritual life should follow the natural progression from honoring his parents to honoring God.

Do we see how the Fifth Commandment shapes a peaceful human society? Do we see how the Fifth Commandment is necessary for a child's spiritual relationship with God?

Honoring Elderly Parents The time comes for many when it is no longer necessary or right that a person should strictly *obey* his parents. However, there is never a time when people should cease to *honor* their parents—especially elderly parents. To honor parents as we grow into adulthood means that we place a *high value* on their work and effort on our behalf when we were younger. The habit of obedience in youth should naturally grow into the habit of expressing deep and continual *appreciation for parents*. Adult children convey this kind of honor in acts of courtesy, thoughtfulness and kind actions.

What thinking man or woman has not come to realize the magnitude of the effort of parents? It is often only as mature adults that we begin to recognize the countless hours of work it took to raise us. There were sleepless nights dealing with our sicknesses. What young wives and mothers have not considered the numbers of meals prepared and the loads of laundry done by their mothers? What young husbands and fathers have not considered the hours of instruction and play time provided by their fathers? What husband has not remembered the overtime hours his father gladly performed on the job to provide the extras every family desires?

When parents grow old, it is time to return the same depth of love and ser-



ALONE Many of our elderly parents have been shut away in nursing homes without the support of their families.

would they consider getting into drugs, abuse of alcohol and the misuse of sex. Obedience to the Fifth Commandment results in the building of character that leads to a *long life*. A young person with a respectful and obedient nature avoids recklessness, violence, wrong companionship and rebellion against authority, which often lead to death.

vice. Many parents ache for the love, affection and attention of their grown children. Yet, to the shame of many adult children, in many cases this kind of love never comes.

Thousands of elderly parents are shut up in stifling nursing homes simply because their children are unwilling to take the responsibility of caring for them. Some elderly must rely solely on meager government financial support, when their children *are* able to help financially.

Jesus Christ personally dealt with this same sin in His day. The so-called religious men at that time excused themselves from providing for the necessity of their parents. They said that the money necessary to support elderly parents was *Corban*, or dedicated to the service of the temple altar. *Corban* was not a part of God's tithing system, but an additional offering given to gain favor with God. Christ upbraided these hypocrites: "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death" (Mark 7:9-10). Here Jesus Christ gives a powerful application of the Fifth Commandment. These men reasoned around God's commandment. By doing so, they were sinning against God. We must be careful not to water down God's law.

Christ continued, "But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye" (verses 11-13). Jesus Christ's teaching could not be plainer. Adult children must give financial assistance to aged parents if it is possible and the need is there. We must never excuse ourselves by saying something like, "All my extra funds are dedicated to God!"

The Perfect Example Jesus Christ said, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love" (John 15:10). Christ made this comment to the disciples the night before His death. He *kept* the *Father's* commandments. Jesus Christ's entire life is a stunning example of obedience to the Fifth Commandment. He obeyed God the Father implicitly. He also obeyed

His human parents. This obedience produced the greatest blessing for all mankind—our Savior.

Referring to Christ's childhood, Luke records, "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40). Because of obedience, Jesus Christ

The habit of obedience in youth should naturally grow into the habit of expressing deep and continual appreciation for parents.

grew in wisdom and spiritual strength.

In this same chapter, Luke gives us the only detailed account of Christ at a young age. It is an amazing picture of honor, respect and obedience. At age 12, Jesus and His family had been in Jerusalem keeping the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. On the return trip, Joseph and Mary assumed Jesus was with other family members in the caravan (verses 43-44). He was not. He had remained in Jerusalem to gain more information about God the Father and His laws. Of course, this caused His parents concern. They went searching for Him immediately.

Joseph and Mary found Christ in the temple, "sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers" (verses 46-47). Jesus came to an incredible maturity at a young age. Why? Certainly, it was in large part the result of a stable family life. His human parents obviously provided for Him and taught Him. They taught Him much about God from the Scriptures. When asked by His mother why He remained in Jerusalem, He answered, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (verse 49). This was not a disrespectful answer. He was reminding His parents that they had taught Him that He had a commission from God. At 12, He was more than likely letting them know He was coming to a deeper understanding of what God the Father expected of Him.

All parents can learn a deep lesson from this history. Because Jesus Christ

obeyed the Fifth Commandment, He lived a life free of fear, frustration and insecurity. Not being rebellious, He had the mental freedom to really search out and learn God's plan as revealed in Scripture. Obedience brings incredible blessings into a child's life.

The end of this story is that Jesus Christ returned home to Nazareth and was subject to His parents (verse 51). What an incredible example to follow!

Paul also gives us a beautiful summation of Christ's obedient life in Hebrews. Paul writes, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8-9). As a human, Jesus Christ learned about the incredible value of the Fifth Commandment. Paul shows that He *was made perfect* through obedience. Jesus Christ could never have been our Savior if He had not obeyed God and His human parents, Joseph and Mary. We will never attain salvation if we don't learn to honor and obey God and our parents.

Jesus Christ honored His parents to the very end of His life. We know from Bible history that Joseph died some time before Christ's ministry began, because there is no mention of him in any account where Christ is dealing with His family members. Mary had become a widow. But she remained under Christ's care. The most remarkable account of Christ love, concern and care for His aging mother came at the time of the crucifixion. While suffering the most excruciating death, Christ saw to His mother's welfare. John records, "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home" (John 19:26-27). Here Jesus made sure that John would take care of Mary after His death. While most any other man would focus on *self*, Christ focused on obedience to the Fifth Commandment. He remembered the labor, concern and teaching that His mother had given Him since infancy and extended to her the *honor* that she deserved.

Children and adults: Remember to follow the perfect example of Jesus Christ. Let's all obey the Fifth Commandment—the first commandment with promise. ■

EDUCATION

Academia's Critical Minority

IF THE WOMEN DRIVING the feminist movement in the 1960s and '70s could have foreseen the widening gender gap in colleges today, they would have heartily congratulated themselves.

Currently in the U.S., 57 percent of college graduates are women. For the past 20 years, women have been earning more associate, bachelor's and master's degrees than men, and they are rapidly closing in on the M.D. and Ph.D. gap. The American Bar Association reports that the majority of law students will soon be women. There is no sign of the pace slowing down.

The drift is evident not only at secondary and post-secondary education levels, but at primary levels. The National Center for Education Statistics reports that more boys than girls drop out or are expelled from school, and males are three times as likely to be enrolled in special education programs. Girls are 60 percent less likely to drop out of high school than boys. "Educators say that in general, women are more prepared as students, more mature, better writers and readers, and more ambitious," while demographers and labor studies experts say "American men are becoming less literate, less ambitious, less responsible, and less employable than women" (ABC News, July 18, 2002).

This trend affects every major age and race-ethnic group and is happening in every state in America.

As the situation continues,



it will mean more women will have a harder time finding mates with similar educational backgrounds, interests and ambitions. The resulting "marriage squeeze," according to labor market economist Andrew Sum, who published a report on the study last year, will cause economic and cultural problems.

Sum predicted labor shortages in high-skilled occupations, increased unemployment, decline in labor productivity, less men able to financially support their families and a heavier strain on government financing.

The social consequences include increased fatherlessness. "[B]etter-educated

males, especially past age 30, are more likely to be married and living with their spouses and children," concluded Sum in his report. "They are less likely to father out of wedlock. A better-educated male population, thus, should help increase marriage rates, strengthen family life, reduce family poverty and dependency, and improve the future economic prospects of the nation's children." Sum also pointed out that, based on past studies, well-educated men are less likely to be involved in criminal activity, reducing the number of incarcerated adults and lowering overall crime rates.

ARTICLE

LYING

Fraud Spreads

CORPORATE CORRUPTION in Enron, WorldCom, Arthur Andersen and Martha Stewart Living is seeping down, it seems.

In an online survey by executive recruiting firm Korn/Ferry, 45 percent of those polled said resume fraud among executives was increasing. A recent congressional report revealed that 28 high-level federal employees had fake college degrees, some of that number holding sensitive security clearances and overseeing nuclear weapons. Football coaches, *New York Times* reporters, judges and Pulitzer Prize winners have been among high-profile liars to get caught.

Many young Americans are following suit. Surveys show three fourths of high schoolers cheating on exams, and as many as one third admitting to repetitive, serious cheating. A 2002 survey found 13 percent of college students already lying on their resumes. The Society for Human Resource Management estimated that 40 percent to 70 percent of job applicants are guilty of "padding" their credentials to get the job.

OPINION

Evil Empire Next Door

IN FEBRUARY, WE CITED A SURVEY CONDUCTED last year in Europe that found the United States tied for second on a list of nations Europeans considered to be a threat to world peace. We noted another study where scholarly elites representing two thirds of the world population—the Chinese, Russians, Indians, Arabs, Muslims and Africans—looked upon America as the single greatest threat to their societies. While these findings are surprising, at least they came from overseas, representing regions that are increasingly becoming more anti-American.



But coming from *Canadian youths*, it's a little harder to explain.

According to a recent study, 40 percent of Canadian teens consider the United States an "evil" nation. Not just a threat—but *evil*. Among French-Canadians, the figure was even higher—64 percent.

Of course, if they mean evil because of America's immoral culture that glorifies ungodly living, then that's understandable. But we suspect the views of these teens are more reflective of liberal propaganda coming from media elite and educators who look upon the United States as the real terrorist threat in the world.

Over-Stressed Kids

THE WASHINGTON POST recently received a letter from concerned grandparents who felt like their grandchildren were involved in far too many activities. In its response (July 16), the *Post* attributed this overly hectic lifestyle to the entrance of women into the workforce (see article on page 19 of this issue), beginning in the 1970s. Back then, day-care wasn't as readily available, so moms had to find sitters or let kids stay home alone.

Another solution was to give kids a packed activity schedule. "Parents, who had once enrolled their children in one or maybe two after-school classes a week and let them join a team around age 8, were now signing them up for every activity they could, as soon as they could, to keep them safe and supervised.

"By now busyness is such a habit that children are on the go all the time, and if there are any minutes to spare, they usually spend it with a tutor, in front of the tube or with a video game. Unfortunately, this has made many children rely on the imagination of others, instead of their own."

As usual, the media's analysis of the effect was quite good. But addressing the cause of the problem is where they always drop the ball. There was nary a hint of suggestion that perhaps the mother of the children should stay home. Endless activities are no substitution for motherhood.

Author Kay Hymowitz says there is another reason parents might be loading up on scheduling activities for their children—because they want them to be high achievers. While this is a worthy objective, she explains, there

is a danger in going overboard. Putting them on a hyper-schedule can leave little or no playtime and fewer opportunities for creativity. Too many structured activities as a child can actually hurt, not help, their ability to concentrate. It can also just

plain wear a child out.

To be sure, children need structure and discipline, and some activities outside the home can help with this, like music lessons or perhaps a sporting event—but not so much that the activities become a substitute for loving parental supervision during an abundance of playtime.

Children are, after all, *children*.



AP/WIDEWORLD

HEALTH

Babies Making Babies

MOST TEENAGE GIRLS would be horrified to learn they are pregnant. In Britain, however, reports indicate that some teen girls are desperate to get pregnant. "Girls as young as 14 are seeking fertility treatment on the NHS [National Health Service] because they have been unable to become pregnant after up to two years of sexual activity without contraception" (*Daily Telegraph*, London, July 4).

Four 14-year-old girls entered one clinic wanting in vitro fertilization—a treatment that health officials say should be given only to women ages 23 to 39.

The *Sunday Telegraph* explains: "Young girls want babies [and sex] in most cases as a personal solution to the radically chaotic and loveless world in which they have been brought up They want something upon which to confer their unexpressed capacity for love, and they want unconditional love in return" (July 4). Because they aren't getting enough love from their parents, teens are looking for it elsewhere.

RELIGION

Christian in Name Only

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS ARE USING EVERY MEANS available to recruit teenagers into their ranks—modern communication, Christian music, online pastors. You can even find Bible translations tailored to teenage lingo.

On the surface, the strategy appears to be working.



AP/WIDEWORLD

According to a study cited in the *Opinion Journal*, 88 percent of teens say they are Christian, and one third of American teens profess to be "born again." The Barna Research Group, a Protestant research group analyzing

Christian trends, found that 60 percent of teenagers believe the Bible is totally accurate in all of its teaching, and 56 percent feel that faith is important in their life.

Another study cited in the same *Journal* article revealed that 91 percent of "born again" teens *do not believe in absolute truth*. Josh McDowell, an evangelist and author, claims that nearly 60 percent of evangelical Christian teens say ALL religious faiths teach equally valid truths. Many teens believe two contradictory ideas—the Bible is totally accurate and there is no such thing as absolute truth.

Society's message of moral relativism and tolerance—especially prevalent in high school and on college campuses—seems to be having a much stronger influence on teen behavior than religion is. Given society's moral breakdown, that's not exactly shocking. But when this breakdown begins to rub off on Christian theology, it reveals the shallowness of religion in our society.

Jesus said that man should live by every word that proceeds out of God's mouth (Matthew 4:4). Living that way of life is a process of continually striving to overcome sin. The life of a true Christian is one of repentance. Those who refuse to change their behavior—who will not conform to God's way of living—can still call themselves Christian. But they are Christian in name only.

SOCIETYWATCH is compiled and edited by Stephen Flurry, with assistance from the *Trumpet's* editorial team. If you run across items that could be used here, send them to us at SOCIETYWATCH, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mail societywatch@theTrumpet.com. If you e-mail a story from a website, be sure to include the URL address.

Democracy

I APPRECIATED SO MUCH THE ARTICLES you published on the strengths and weaknesses of democracy and your position on the present administration (June). I would like to say, however, that I don't feel President Bush has some kind of divine mandate to be doing what he is doing, almost solely on his own and with what few war hawks are gathered around him. I know some feel all Republicans die and go to heaven and all Democrats die and go to the hell, but I think that is both unfortunate and untrue. When God returns, we will have a theocracy, but until that time, we do have a democracy.

Harold Johnson—BIG RAPIDS, MICH.

I LOVE YOUR MAGAZINE, AND I LOOK forward to receiving every issue, and I read each and every article. But in "The Brink of the Unthinkable," by Ron Fraser (June), I was surprised to see you dump all the blame for the nuclear proliferation on Pakistan and more specifically on Abdul Qadeer Khan (who I'm sure is a selfish and greedy man), when in your own "Timeline of Nuclear Deception," the top three factors of Pakistan getting started on this track are "1953 U.S. invites," "1955 U.S. provides" and "1962 U.S. supplies" the technology to a highly questionable Middle Eastern country.

Tigran Vardapetian—DINUBA, CALIF. It certainly wasn't the *Trumpet's* intention to place blame for Pakistan's nuclear proliferation solely on A.Q. Khan. Indeed, in that same article, we stated, "The great shame is that leading Western democracies, including Britain and America, have been complicit in all this."

Letters From Prisoners

I AM ONE OF THE VERY FIRST OF GEORGIA prison inmates to move into and begin the pilot faith-based dorm. I tell you, we are hungry for the truth, and you are putting it out there for us. I'm thankful that you tell it the way it was meant to be told, straight up, no sugar coating. We need that.

Lori Sue Collins—HAWKINSVILLE, GA.

HISTORY, CURRENT EVENTS, FACTOIDS. The *Trumpet* offers it all with a special emphasis on current events with biblical prophecy. Excellent. It is no secret that a prisoner is in the lowest order of the social ladder. But as a prisoner, I can also carry the greatest of appreciation.

CORRECTIONS

■ On page 7 of the July *Trumpet*, Roman Emperor Justinian I was misidentified as Pope Justinian III.

■ On page 17, we stated that 69 million Chinese citizens log on to the Internet through their cellular phones. Actually, 69 million use the Internet, period.

For all that's happening in the world today, the *Trumpet* is a messenger that speaks of the present as lending to the prophetic future. I constantly share the news of the *Trumpet* with friends and family alike.

Arius Llanos—MADISON, FLA.

Israeli Opinion

IN THE JUNE *TRUMPET*, YOU WROTE, "Though Sharon's own party voted against any withdrawal in a referendum on May 2, over 60 percent of Israelis support the disengagement" ("Unsettling Gaza"). THESE "STATISTICS" LIE! For the TRUTH of what Israelis really think, please see the results from a recent University of Haifa poll, which reveals that "a majority of the Jewish public in Israel—63.7 percent—believes that the government should encourage Israeli Arabs to emigrate from Israel."

Aryeh Gellin—JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

In a Machon Dahaf/Yediot Aharanot poll reprinted in the *Washington Post*, the number supporting Israel's withdrawal from Gaza was actually shown to rise from 62 percent in April to 71 percent in May. In a Maariv/Telesseker Poll, 58 percent said they would vote for the disengagement plan even after it had already been voted against. The statistic you give showing that the Israelis feel the government should encourage Arabs to emigrate from Israel does not necessarily contradict the statistic the *Trumpet* referred to.

God's Name

I HAVE JUST READ DENNIS LEAP'S ARTICLE "Use God's Name Truthfully" (June). I was amazed that you would permit such an article without researching the truth of the name of our heavenly Father. You do a good job of teaching people about the house of Israel and the house of Judah. But when it comes to the name of our heavenly Father, even the Catholics know it is *Yahweh*. The Bible states that He has but one name, and yes, that is *Yahweh*. You are using titles to replace the

name. This has been done before and has caused the name of *Yahweh* to be forgotten.

Ronald Boulware—CAMERON, MO.

God does take special care with His name; Acts 4:12 tells us there is only one name by which we can be saved. But does that mean we should only pronounce the name of God the Father or Jesus Christ in *Hebrew*? In Exodus 6:3, we find, "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name *Jehovah* was I not known to them." Therefore, if the proper use of the name YHWH is required for salvation, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—along with everyone else born in the first 2,500 years of human history—are all condemned! In Psalm 138:2, David wrote, "[F]or thou hast magnified thy word ABOVE all thy name." Man has always focused on the person of Christ, and not on the message that He brought. For more information on this topic, please request our free reprint article "Using God's Sacred Name."

CONGRATULATIONS ON A WELL-WRITTEN and insightful article, "When the Debt Bomb Explodes" (May). It was one of the clearest and most succinct expositions I have read in some time on this subject.

David Greengo—CORONADO, CALIF.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW SHOCKED AND pleased I was to learn *The Key of David* was carrying on Herbert Armstrong's work. He was my hero! I can still see him behind his big desk pounding it with his fists trying to get his messages across to us. I was so sad when he passed away in 1986, and I was shocked the people he appointed to take over the Worldwide Church of God for him didn't carry on his work. About six weeks ago, I ran across the *Key of David* program, and as I listened, something took a hold of me, and when I heard Herbert Armstrong's name mentioned, I knew I was onto some connection. Just last week I received the special issue with Mr. Armstrong's portrait on the front (Sample Issue). I wanted to cry. As you all said in the issue: *He was right*. Thanks for picking up the pieces and carrying on his work.

Darlo Weddle—FREDERICK, MD.

Comments?

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Edmond, OK 73083

The Hearts of the Children

Why Bible-based family instruction is so important to us BY JOEL HILLIKER

THE SUMMER I TURNED 17 WAS SOMEWHAT OF A LOW point in my relationship with my parents. It wasn't terrible, but it seemed we were arguing over more and more inconsequential things. I thought they didn't trust me, and they thought I was drifting away from them.

But something happened that began to turn things around.

That summer I spent three weeks in Orr, Minnesota, at a "Summer Educational Program"—or SEP. It was a camp sponsored by my Church, chockablock with activity—sports, water-skiing, a canoe trip, dorm life, dances—and a lot of time with the ministry of the Church in Bible studies, fireside chats and fellowship. I realized at that camp that I hadn't been honoring my parents as I should have been. I resolved that when I returned home, I would do my part to improve the relationship.

I didn't realize it at the time, but this change in my attitude was a very real fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy.

Read this excerpt from a letter written on Jan. 15, 1984, by the man who founded the Worldwide Church of God (or WCG, which I attended as a teenager), Herbert W. Armstrong, to the members and coworkers of that Church.

"Here in Australia I have visited the SEP summer camp for youths 13 to 18 years of age. ... Words simply cannot describe the IMPORTANCE of these summer camps. These hundreds of young people will be adults being married and having children in just one decade. They will be LEADERS in the WORLD TOMORROW. They are learning God's way of fun, and are being taught God's TRUTH. Their lives are being changed. These camps and the Church's YOU program for youths worldwide [which I'll describe later] are turning THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR PARENTS, and the parents to their children. And in this age when families are being broken up and youths are turning to alcohol, drugs, sex and violence—and becoming strangers to their parents—that is one of the VITAL things God is doing through His Church—as prophesied in Malachi 4:6." That's the prophecy I was talking about.

Later in the same letter Mr. Armstrong wrote, "Not only are these summer camps of such supreme importance but also our program of working with you parents so you may come closer to your children. As God's apostle I call on you, brethren, to have a CLOSER RELATIONSHIP with your children. The last two verses of the Old Testament are a prophecy showing how important that is for YOU, TODAY!"

Here are those verses: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers*, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:5-6). These words beautifully describe Mr. Armstrong's work. Over his 57-year ministry, he labored intensively to build families and turn hearts.

The you program mentioned in that letter was Youth Op-

portunities United. As a teen I attended regular YOU sporting events, dances, talent showcases, fundraisers and socials with my peers and my parents.

In its publications (particularly the *Good News*, which had a circulation of about 1 million, and the *Plain Truth*, over 8 million), the WCG printed regular articles on marriage and family, including dating, sex, childbirth, every aspect of every phase of parenting and child development, even grandparenting. Then, beginning in 1981, it began printing *Youth* magazine for teens, with frequent features on building strong intergenerational relationships.

Mr. Armstrong also founded three campuses of Ambassador College to teach true values to the young people of the Church. The instruction included classes on basic principles of living, on marriage and family. Every effort was made to give graduating students the best possible foundation for a happy, productive marriage. Throughout the Church, couples were required to counsel with the ministry before marriage and given the knowledge on how to build a successful and enduring family.

This was all specifically meant to fulfill Malachi's prophecy, a job Mr. Armstrong took very seriously. At the heart of the issue was the deep and little-understood biblical truth that we are preparing now to enter God's eternal Family (explained in Mr. Armstrong's book *The Incredible Human Potential*, free upon request), a promise that makes success in building our families today a towering necessity.

After Mr. Armstrong's death, the Worldwide Church of God quickly began turning its back on this legacy of Bible-based family instruction. Within four years, the Philadelphia Church of God, which publishes this magazine, was founded and resumed the crucial work of turning the hearts of family members toward one another.

It is the blueprint given us by Mr. Armstrong that guides us in this work.

Royal Vision has taken the place of the *Good News* to provide Church members and coworkers (and anyone else who requests it) with solid scriptural instruction on building strong families, in addition to a multitude of other topics. The *Trumpet*, like the *Plain Truth*, reaches a much wider audience with articles such as those in this issue. Our quarterly *True Education* magazine replaces *Youth* in helping teens navigate life and guiding them toward closer relationships with their parents.

Imperial College has filled the gap left by the now-defunct Ambassador College. Our ministers regularly provide marriage counseling and child-rearing help to our members. This month we have 120 teens coming to Philadelphia Youth Camp here at our headquarters in Edmond, Oklahoma.

If we do our job right, we'll help turn their hearts toward their fathers—just as mine was turned because of the work of Herbert W. Armstrong. ■



"AND HE SHALL TURN"
Herbert W. Armstrong visits children at a Summer Educational Program.

THE KEY OF DAVID

Television Listing



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network DBS WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Northeast cable WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun
California, Los Angeles KCAL 7:00 am, Sun
Hawaii, Oahu Chan. 52 7:30 am, Sat
Hawaii, Maui/Molokai/Lanai Akaku Chan. 52 10:00 pm, Sun; 7:30 am, Mon
Illinois, Chicago WFLD 8:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOCB 9:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPDX 8:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPHL 9:00 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KTWB 9:30 am, Sun
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Brazil WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Chile WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun

Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
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