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World
United

... even if only for a moment





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Gerald Flurry

Remembering an inspiring event in recent history that—even if only for a moment—unified the whole world.



Lift Up Your Eyes!

I RECENTLY VIEWED RON HOWARD'S DOCUMENTARY *In the Shadow of the Moon* and left the theater mesmerized. It brought back wonderful memories from nearly 40 years ago. Who can forget Neil Armstrong's magical words as he stepped from the footpad of Eagle onto that soft, powdery dust of the moon's crust: "That's one small step for man—one giant leap for mankind."

I had forgotten about how much that lunar landing impacted all of mankind. As *Time* magazine noted at the time, "Although the Apollo 11 astronauts planted an American flag on the moon, their feat was far more than a national triumph. . . . It was appropriate that the event was watched by ordinary citizens in Prague as well as Paris, Bucharest as well as Boston, Warsaw as well as Wapakoneta, Ohio. In practically every other corner of the Earth, newspapers broke out what pressmen refer to as their 'Second Coming' type to hail the lunar landing" (July 25, 1969). One astronaut interviewed in the documentary remembers the worldwide reaction this way: "Instead of saying, 'Well, you Americans did it'—everywhere they said, 'We did it—we, the human race.'"

Besides planting the U.S. flag on the moon's surface, the astronauts left behind a silicon disk with comments of goodwill and solidarity from four U.S. presidents and 72 other world leaders. Inscribed on the lunar module's platform, left behind after the spacecraft blasted off for its return flight, were these words, printed above President Nixon's signature: "We came in peace."

It was as if the whole world was united for a brief moment in time. Somehow, 3 billion human beings were able to lift up their eyes 250,000 miles above the surface of this Earth and view something that was literally OUT OF THIS WORLD! "The spectacular view might well help [man] place his problems, as well as his world, in a new perspective," *Time* wrote.

But even before Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, mankind's attention had quickly returned to its mounting problems and evils.

Today, those curses have multiplied many times over.

Message of Hope

In many ways, *Time's* coverage of the "Mars rock" in 1996 was every bit as enthusiastic as the lunar landing story from 1969, but for different reasons. News of the rock, *Time* wrote, "landed on the front pages of newspapers around the world and seized the imagination of all mankind" (Aug. 19, 1996). For the most part, though, it only seized the imagination of scientists, academics and media elites who have so much invested in the

unproven, anti-God theory of evolution. "THIS IS THE BIGGEST THING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED," said John Pike, director of space policy for the Federation of American Scientists.

"If that evidence stands up to the intense scientific scrutiny that is certain to follow," said *Time*, "it will confirm for the first time that life is not unique to Earth. That confirmation, in turn, would have staggering philosophical and religious repercussions."

In the end, the rock turned out to be a regular old rock, as we had predicted. I told our *Trumpet* readers at the time, "THE TRUTH IS, THIS DISCOVERY HAS VIRTUALLY NO SIGNIFICANCE WHATSOEVER! That is because the focus is on microfossils in a small rock *assumed* to be from Mars. Our vision should be on the all-powerful God who *created* Mars and the universe!" (September-October 1996).

That is what made the lunar landing in 1969 so inspiring! That is why it captivated the world's attention in a way the so-called Mars rock never did—it projected mankind's vision far beyond this Earth. The moonwalk was a moment that "symbolized man's wondrous capacity for questing, then conquering, then questing yet again for something just beyond his reach," *Time* wrote. "But the black vastness that served as a backdrop for the two astronauts' walk on the moon also was a reminder of something else. Stargazer, now star-reacher, man inhabits a smallish planet of an ordinary sun in a garden-variety galaxy that occupies the tiniest corner of a universe whose scope is *beyond comprehension*" (July 25, 1969; emphasis mine).

How true! And the amazing thing is, to the residents of this tiny corner of the universe, God says, "*Lift up your eyes* on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth" (Isaiah 40:26). The great omnipotent God created and sustains our vast universe, which runs with the precision and order of a great master clock. God calls each one of the virtually infinite number of stars and planets by name.

Why is man so intent on linking us to animals, fossils and rocks, when God wants to bring us into His Family and—His Word reveals—to give us jurisdiction over the entire universe?

The sweet psalmist of Israel, King David, wrote, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?"

See MOON page 34 ▶



When Britain Leaves Europe . . .

The withdrawal of Britain from the European Union will be a watershed event in the annals of Western civilization. Here's why. BY BRAD MACDONALD

SOON, BRITAIN WILL NOT BE a member of the European Union. Many consider that prognosis unfounded, but it's a reality that has come into sharper focus in the past six months.

The *Trumpet* has monitored Britain's relationship with the European Union for more than 15 years, and we have explained why we believe Britain will eventually leave or be banished from the EU.

But even with defection or banishment

becoming a possibility, many scorn the notion of a united Europe without Britain. *It's impossible*, the Europhiles reason. *London needs to remain a member of the EU so as to influence its policies in the interests of Britain.* On the other hand, the Europhobes point to the steady erosion of British sovereignty as regulation after regulation has whittled away at the fundamentals of British common law and increasingly imposed the will of the technocrats in Brussels on British society.

Today the historically testy London-Brussels relationship is nearing combustion point within Britain's populace. The government of Prime Minister Gordon Brown may argue that Britain signing the Lisbon Treaty in December indicates a healthy relationship with Europe. The fact is, the British public clamored for a referendum on the question of Britain's signing that treaty but were rebuffed as the government weakly succumbed to the undemocratic processes of the EU. In

PHOTO: DREAMSTIME

November, the Conservative opposition leader in parliament, David Cameron, threatened to hold out for a referendum even after the treaty is ratified.

Britain's six-month trek to Lisbon was the most recent episode in an arduous, gritty, fiercely and often—in particular during the Thatcher years—personal struggle between British and EU leaders, with each side having distinctly different perceptions of and motivations for Europe's development.

From the time that Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath misled the British public in an effort to convince them that Brussels was only building a cooperative trade zone, with no aspirations to become a federalist power, the British have continued to be tricked into giving away, piece by piece, their own national sovereignty while signing up to a raft of regulations that in the process have decimated their agrarian economy, seen ancient British common law increasingly trumped by EU legislation, and allowed swaths of British industry (including some very strategic industries) to be handed to foreign control.

Now, with Britain signing the Lisbon Treaty on December 13, it has taken one more significant step toward its inevitable divorce from Brussels. The deep political and ideological fissures that have long plagued this relationship are being exposed to a British public, over 70 percent of whom do not want their government's signature on the latest European treaty without a referendum.

It is imperative to consider the significant implications Britain's separation from the EU may prove to have for Europe, and ultimately for all of Western civilization.

Thorn in Europe's Flesh

Grasping the implications of this event is as much an exercise in studying history as it is in forecasting the future.

After Britain tried unsuccessfully for years to join the European Community, Prime Minister Heath finally made his way in on Jan. 1, 1973. Since then, 34 years of history have proven that day hugely significant, obviously for Britain, but particularly for the project of European unification.

On that day, a substantial thorn was inserted into the flesh of the European Community. From the moment it slouched into the EC, Britain has been a burden to the unification process, one never too heavy to tank unification, yet

cumbersome enough to guarantee integration remained a spluttering, controversial process.

"There is little doubt," wrote former European Union Commissioner Peter Sutherland, "that the rest [of Europe] would have advanced with European integration much further in the absence of the UK" (*Financial Times*, Oct. 16, 2007).

What Sutherland omitted was that Britain would have been far better off in the long run sticking with its traditional and vast market of trading partners of the British Commonwealth, particularly Canada, Australia and New Zealand, than contributing millions to a federalist enterprise with which it had no natural attachment in terms of ethnicity, language, law or commercial practice! Given this reality, Britain was bound, once having been accepted as an EC member, to become a thorn in its flesh, given that it had always

London has been able to promote EU policies it sees as favorable and to water down policies that work against its own interests.

seen its role as being the offshore masterful balancer of European power.

Arbiter of Europe

The Latin maxim *cui adhaero praeest*—"he whom I support will prevail"—is attributed to Henry VIII. William Camden shaded it differently when he said that Britain was the tongue in the balance of Europe. The point being, for about 500 years, Britain has been the pivot on which the balance of power on the Continent has swung. When Louis XIV made his play for the Spanish Netherlands in 1701, it was Britain's decision to join the side of the Dutch and Austrians that put an end to the War of the Spanish Succession. One hundred years later, Britain was the deciding factor in the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte. During World Wars I and II, Britain's decision to throw its weight behind France and the Low Countries altered the course of the conflict.

For five centuries, Britain was seen, by the English as well as many of the Continental powers, as the arbiter of Europe—the illustrious island power responsible for checking the ambition of Europe's larger nations and preserving the balance of power on the Continent.

Winston Churchill talked about this role in a speech before the Conservative Members Committee on Foreign Affairs in 1936. As the arbiter of Europe, he said, Britain had "preserved the liberties of Europe, protected the growth of its vi-

vacuous and varied society, and emerged after four terrible struggles with an ever-growing fame and widening empire." Acting as the pivot of power in Europe had been the "unconscious tradition of British foreign policy," he declared.

When Britain entered the EC in 1973, it perpetuated this tradition. For 35 years, it has held a pair of scales in one hand, with pro-unification states on one side and the less-enthused states on the other. In its other hand has been a weight, ready to be placed on whatever side of the scale Britain might choose.

London has been able to promote EU policies it sees as favorable and to water down policies that work against its own interests. In the process, Britain has both frustrated and facilitated Europe's development through cautionary political maneuvering and well-timed bouts of foot-dragging, putting the brake, up to now,

on full-speed European integration.

Britain's resistance toward full-blown unification has been the check on Franco-German ambition and the fuel for controversy surrounding every EU treaty and agreement Britain has ever signed. When London finally signed up to the fateful Treaty on European Union, the Maastricht Treaty, in 1992—after German Chancellor Kohl threatened that Europe may be forced to unite the traditional European way (by war) if it didn't do so by treaty—it was after years of Margaret Thatcher infuriating Europe's leaders with her fierce opposition and staunch demands. After Thatcher was ousted by a cowardly Conservative coup, her replacement, John Major, led the British Parliament into passing the treaty, but only after it had secured concessions including approval to opt out of the Social Charter and the single European currency—and even then, the decision only grazed through Parliament.

The same reality prevails today. As we go to press, it appears Britain will sign the Lisbon Treaty in December, but this only after six grueling months of heated discussion, intense diplomacy and frustrated outbursts by European leaders, some of whom told Britain outright that if it wasn't prepared to support unification, it should leave the project. Prime Minister Brown finally agreed to the treaty after Brussels had ostensibly conceded to his red lines, opt-outs and exemptions. The fact

that these opt-outs will mainly appear as endnotes to the Reform Treaty gives little guarantee to them being treated seriously by EU leaders. In fact, some pundits have termed them “opt-ins,” as they give little protection to Britain in the steamrolling imperialism of the EU monolith.

However, beyond the political trickery designed to fool the British into thinking they got what they wanted in this latest

Britain’s withdrawal from the EU is exactly the kind of event that could transform Europe into a smaller, more streamlined and aggressive power.

of the seemingly endless rounds of treaties upon which this European empire is being constructed, the fact remains that Britain has always been the reluctant member within the circle of EU nations.

That’s the real point. Sooner or later, something is bound to crack in this uncomfortable relationship between a federalist, undemocratic European Union and the very nation that created the system of parliamentary democracy.

Britain’s reticence toward European unification has been the guiding motive behind its playing the role of arbiter within the EU. Yet the signs are that events are building toward a watershed. Either when a British government becomes completely frustrated in balancing British public opinion against further loss of national sovereignty with ongoing EU demands, or when its uneasy European bedfellows get tired of its nagging, Britain will either leave or be thrown out of this unwieldy mixture of iron and clay—this rising United States of Europe. That will be a real watershed in European politics! Without Britain’s foot-dragging holding it back, the Italo-Franco-German threesome will be free to pursue its imperialist agenda.

In her seminal work *Statecraft*, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed the notion of European integration. “That such an unnecessary and irrational project as building a European superstate was ever embarked upon will seem in future years to be perhaps *the greatest folly of the modern era*,” she wrote (emphasis mine).

We believe the Iron Lady’s instincts were right. The irony is, soon, her nation’s *withdrawal* from the EU could actually bring the “greatest folly of the modern era” to its fullest fruition.

Impact on Europe

The lessons of history make forecasting the impact of a British withdrawal

from the EU less challenging. If Britain secedes, or if it is pushed from the corridors of power in Brussels, the balance of power defining European geopolitics for more than a generation will be swiftly overturned.

Freed of the British thorn in the flesh, European unification will blossom.

The absence of a meaningful presence by Britain will lead to a power void inside

the EU. Geopolitics abhors a vacuum. Britain’s absence will be the green light for the Franco-German axis in association with Italy, traditionally the EU’s prime movers, to push ahead with a two-speed unification process, leaving nations of lesser power to either put up or shut up. Given past history and the present dominance of Germany as the Union’s economic and, increasingly, political powerhouse, expect Berlin, situated at the heart of Europe, to take the lead in this process.

To be sure, some European governments will not be thrilled at an Italo-Franco-German axis dominating future efforts to build the EU into a supranational superpower at their cost. Some with a sense of history may even be frightened to their core at this prospect. It is these nations, some of which have relied on Britain in the past as an ally against imperial ambitions in Europe, that stand to lose the most by a British loss of power in the EU.

Not only will the political influence of the Slavic states, such as Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, stand to be diluted without the dissenting voice of Britain slowing the pace of the Brussels steamroller, but a British withdrawal could also send real political tremors through many of Britain’s traditional allies in Europe, including the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Finland and Sweden.

Right now, the EU is a galumphing 27-member behemoth. But it will not remain this way. For decades, Herbert W. Armstrong warned that a German-led European superstate would emerge, and that it would be comprised of 10 nations or groups of nations. Britain’s withdrawal from the EU is exactly the kind of event that could transform Europe into a smaller, more streamlined and aggressive power.

Impact on Britain and America

This event will also have a significant im-

pact on Britain—and will ripple across the Atlantic to affect America as well.

So far, Britain’s marginalization from the EU has been a measured process. This will remain the case as long as the benefits to Europe outweigh the disadvantages caused by Britain’s political roadblocks. Notwithstanding its refusal to sacrifice the British pound sterling to the euro, London remains the financial capital of Europe and a prime source of employment for European citizens.

But make no mistake: Britain will continue to grow politically and ideologically isolated from the EU.

Two assets that Brussels lusts after are British nuclear technology and North Sea oil. It is unlikely to give up its quest for these without a fight. If Brussels detects the prospect of acquiring favored assets from Britain slipping from its grasp, relations between the two entities could become acrimonious very quickly.

But there are other more significant implications to Britain’s inevitable divorce from the EU. The one Britain will feel the most, of course, will be the loss of geopolitical influence on the Continent. The leverage over mainland states it has enjoyed for 500 years as the arbiter of Europe will be lost. Britain will forfeit much of its ability to intervene in European affairs and to counter Italo-Franco-German ambition.

This will also directly impact the United States, which since the First World War has used Britain as a proxy in its own foreign policy in relation to Europe. It could certainly sound the death knell for that bastion of European security, NATO.

Considered against the backdrop of European history—which is a tale of imperialist belligerence, religious turmoil and war—the sidelining of Britain from European affairs could produce a strategic and geopolitical nightmare. Without Britain’s presence and influence, that history, as Chancellor Kohl famously implied, may well be repeated.

Today, a few are beginning to recognize the ghastly potential of an imperialist EU. Analysts at the Heritage Foundation, for example, recently wrote that the EU “is morphing into a gigantic political entity with ambitions of becoming the world’s first supranational superstate” (Oct. 22, 2007). Up to now, those ambitions have largely been checked by Britain’s membership in the EU. But that will soon change; Europe’s transformation into a “supranational superstate” will intensify.

The one thing that Europe currently lacks, which was a major contributor

to its repeated history of imperialism over time, is a strong, decisive, ambitious leader. Throughout the history of similar configurations of European unity (termed the Holy Roman Empire), it was Germany that provided such leadership. With a federalizing Europe of multiple highly industrialized states at its beckoning—including the most powerful currency in the world, a population of 430 million people and a combined military force of over 2 million personnel—can the German powerhouse resist the urge to once again assert its leadership over all of Europe? That is a consideration on the minds of the deepest thinkers in the foreign-policy arena. The “German Question” is returning, yet again, to center stage in geopolitics.

Divine Forecasting

By now, surely we can grasp the sheer magnitude of a future British withdrawal from the EU. Yet there is an even more spectacular, more fascinating, more personal angle to this event.

Prior to his death in 1986, Herbert W. Armstrong spent 50 years using biblical prophecy to forecast world events. For anyone familiar with his teachings, one prophecy stands out above the others; it could be considered his keynote prophecy.

That is the prophecy about a colossal religio-political superstate that would emerge from Europe as the central power in end-time events. This empire, explained Mr. Armstrong based on a prophecy in Daniel, would include five nations, or “kings,” from Eastern Europe, and five from Western Europe.

In 1956, with European unification gaining traction and Germany rising from the ashes of World War II, he warned that a European superpower was emerging. “The stage is all set!” he wrote. “All that’s lacking now is the strong LEADER Germany is the economic and military heart of Europe. Probably Germany will lead and dominate the coming United States of Europe.”

“But Britain,” he wrote, “will be no part of it!”

Year after year, decade upon decade, this man explained, in the face of all who mocked, that Britain would never

be a part of this final European power. So confident was he in the source of his insight that he refused to budge even as Britain’s relations with the European Community seemed to improve.



CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE
Gordon Brown is stuck between pressure from the EU and a Euroskeptical British public.

NICOLA SASSI/FOUR/ARND BRONKHORST/IMAGES

for years, even decades, that Britain would eventually be sidelined from this European superstate.

Then ask yourself: How could Herbert Armstrong have figured this out? Can you recognize this as more than a mere coincidence, a lucky prediction, or an act of profound intellect and foresight? The plain truth is, a higher power was at work behind the scenes, revealing through the pages of the Bible how the future would unfold.

If we can look beyond the geopolitical machinations of this imminent event, we will see an overwhelmingly positive, hope-filled vision that has everything to do with the future of mankind! We will see wonderful proof that the Eternal God is deeply involved with mankind’s affairs!

Herbert Armstrong’s forecast that Britain would never be a part of the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire is set to become a spectacular proof of an Almighty God, who declares “the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand!” (Isaiah 46:10).

The fulfillment of this prophecy will also testify to the veracity of the message Herbert Armstrong preached, as he forecast this event more than 50 years ago. This should stir us to want to explore his work more. *Who was Herbert Armstrong? What were his teachings? What other prophecies did he talk about, and are they also coming to fruition?*

The *Trumpet* can help you answer these questions, for, as we walk in the footsteps of Mr. Armstrong, we continue his tradition of analyzing current news against the backdrop of Bible prophecy. To learn more about this history, and Herbert Armstrong himself—including his global work and the stunning, hope-filled, God-inspired forecasts about world events that are even now coming to pass—request our special Sample issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet*, “He Was Right!” ■



WORLD



ALL IN THE FAMILY
(L-R) Celino, Pepe,
Celin and Lito
Romerros

Family Strings

The renowned guitarists of the Romero family have a secret to their success that families the world over would do well to mimic. **BY RYAN MALONE**

“THE MOST IMPORTANT thing my father taught me was how to be a father.”

That may sound a bit peculiar for a guitar legend like Celin Romero to say about the man who taught him to play the way he does. Celin is one of the original members of the Romeros quartet, world-renowned as the “Royal Family of the Guitar”—which has played together for 50 years. The other three original members were his two brothers, Pepe and Angel, and their father, Celedonio.

Nevertheless, even considering their prodigious musical accomplishments, perhaps the greatest strength of the Romeros is their strong family unit.

To say Celedonio was loved by his children would be an understatement. Celin’s eyes sparkle with fondness when he speaks of his Papa. “His children were the most important thing to him,” he says.

In the mid-1990s, Celedonio contracted a small cough. When he had it diagnosed, doctors told the family he had only months to live. The children moved into their parents’ large home in Del Mar, California, a wealthy suburb of San Diego. When Celedonio died in 1996, the brothers stayed in the house with their mother. She lived three more years. To this day, Pepe and Celin haven’t had the heart to move out. These mature men still call it Mama and Papa’s house.

There they remain along with their wives, who themselves are both beautiful and multitalented—managing the family business, teaching music, shopping for the best organic foods, and sharing their kitchen that overlooks the Pacific.

Pepe and Celin still honor their father and his memory, and not just in the house they continue to inhabit. Their biographies mention Celedonio first. You can’t speak to them about music or family for more than a couple minutes without hearing about Celedonio.

When they’re not talking about their father, they’re telling stories about their grandchildren. Pepe, who loves to paint but has little time for it, says he makes time to do so with his 8-year-old granddaughter—one of four grandchildren from his three daughters.

Now the quartet is made up of Pepe, Celin, Celin’s son Celino, and Lito (Angel’s son). The two younger ones have been in the group about a decade. They and their families live within a short jaunt of the original Romero residence.

You can often find their families enjoy-

ing a day on the beach. Celin and his wife, Claudia, get their exercise by walking up and down it as often as they can. Celino says he gets there about once a week. His two youngest children play fetch with the dog while his oldest (a 9-year-old named after his great-grandfather, nicknamed Nino) practices surfing.

The sons of the musical giants received their musical training in an unconventional, but very Romeros-like way—not at a conservatory, but from their fathers and uncles. “Romero University,” Lito says.

Nearly all the men in the family are guitarists. Pepe’s only son, Pepe Jr., doesn’t perform with the quartet but still makes his mark on their performances, constructing guitars for the family in a workshop attached to Celedonio’s house. This artisan’s atelier is remarkably absent of modern technology. That’s because he makes each piece of each guitar by hand—his tools are a few chisels, clamps and a frame bestowed on his family by a world-renowned guitar maker. The dozen guitars he makes each year are in high demand from as far away as Tokyo—and requests sit on a four-year waiting list.

The strength of the Romero family is electrifying when they perform: the unspoken bond, the similarities of hand motions, facial mannerisms—all an expression of a half-century-old musical dynasty.

To be in the presence of such a family bond—threaded tighter than the strings they strum—is a refreshing strain in a society where family harmony is all too rare.

THE VERSE CLOSING THE BOOK OF Malachi comes to mind where God says He will “turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers.” In our anti-family world, few examples remain that fulfill this.

Of course, no family is perfect; but what *hope* there is in a family where the father is honored to the extent Celedonio is. His children’s hearts are turned to him. It is no surprise why: Celedonio’s heart was toward his children first—even more than it was toward his illustrious career.

The remainder of that verse in Malachi says that if the hearts of the fathers and children are not turned toward each other, then curses come. Many have experienced firsthand what a devastating CURSE it can be when the father’s heart isn’t toward his children or vice versa.

The reason God so lovingly directs us to live this way is that HE IS A FAM-

ILY, and He wants to teach us about the divine family relationship we can enter into. (Our booklet *God Is a Family* explains this in detail; request a free copy.) Scripture shows how God the Father literally begot Jesus in the womb of the virgin Mary as His Son. It describes how everything Jesus Christ did honored His Father. And what a Father He had—one deeply invested in every facet of His life.

The Bible also contains numerous references to God spiritually begetting human beings: We can be His very sons, attaining the incredible human potential of being BORN INTO the literal *Family* of God (see Romans 8 and 1 John 3).

Is it any wonder God places such a high priority on the family?

The curses in our families today can be reversed—by simply applying the laws God has put in place that safeguard their success. For example, God says, “Honour thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12)—a biblical charge that the Apostle Paul called “the first commandment with promise” (Ephesians 6:2). What promises we can receive if we turn our hearts to our children and inspire and teach them to turn their hearts back to us!

WE FIRST MET THE ROMEROS IN APRIL 2007. The organization that sponsors this magazine has a humanitarian arm—the Armstrong International Cultural Foundation. Its centerpiece is a concert series dedicated to showcasing the best achievements in music mankind has to offer. When we hosted the Romeros in Edmond, Oklahoma, we noticed something special about them—beyond their phenomenal musical performance.

Celin Romero, talking about his family and progeny, says he has been “very blessed.” Truly, blessings do come to those who are devoted to their children and to children who honor and deeply respect their parents.

But the hope goes beyond that. The Scriptures foretell a time to come when the world over will surge with strong families. People will be taught God’s way of happiness and brought right into His family plan! (Request a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.)

May our families today achieve these blessings and foreshadow the time when all families will live in harmony. May our families orient our minds toward the fantastic potential that awaits us TOMORROW, when all will reap the blessings of keeping God’s perfect, benevolent law! ■

WHEN COLIN POWELL OUTLINED America's case for invading Iraq before the United Nations Security Council in February 2003, he relied on an eyewitness account from an Iraqi chemical engineer who knew about Iraq's mobile production program—a WMD factory on wheels, so to speak. On Nov. 4, 2007, CBS's *60 Minutes* exposed Powell's source, code-named "Curve Ball," as a fraud.

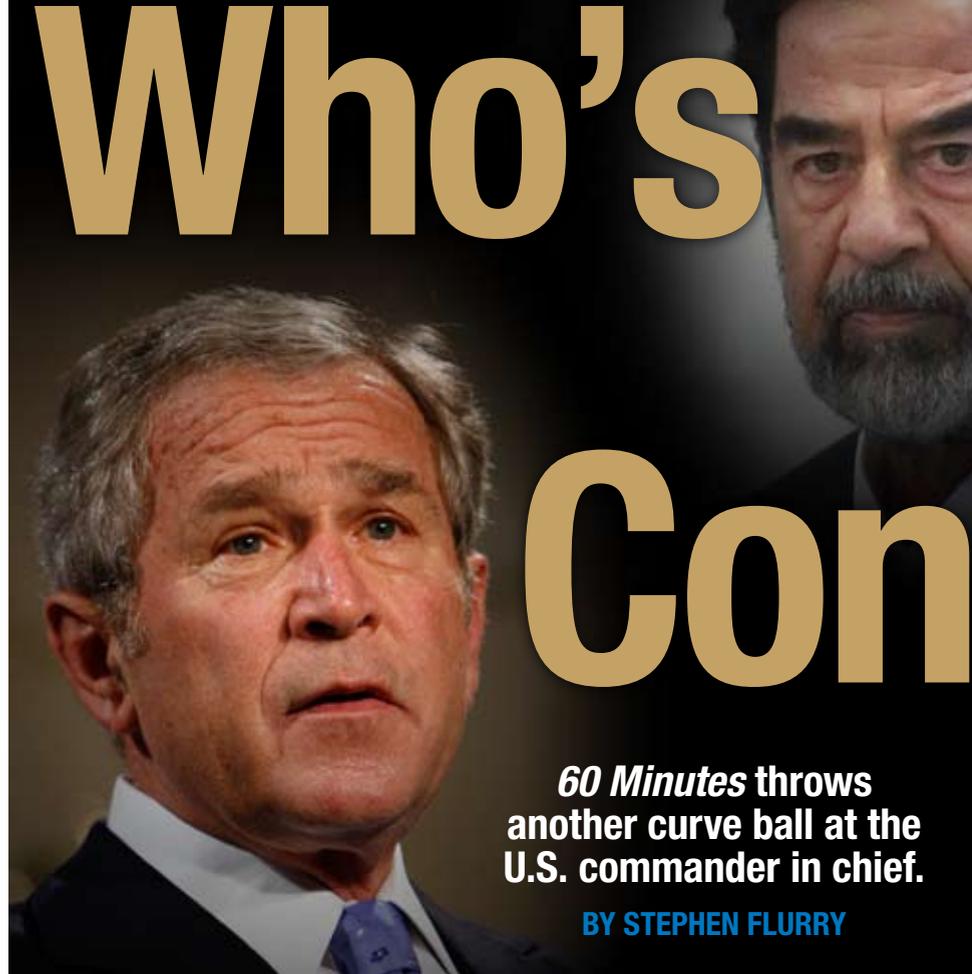
"Did Saddam Hussein have weapons of mass destruction?" correspondent Bob Simon asked at the top of the program. "No, he did not. We've known that for some time now. So where did the intelligence come from that he was building up his arsenal? Fantastically, the most compelling part came from one obscure Iraqi defector who came in and out of history like a comet." Then, at the end of the segment, Simon said the bogus witness pulled off "one of the *deadliest* CON JOBS of our time."

Blinded by anti-war bias, *60 Minutes* identifies one crooked witness as America's most persuasive proof of Saddam's WMD build-up, all the while ignoring perhaps the most compelling evidence of all: the *60 Minutes* archive.

The Gulf War

A week and a half after the Gulf War began in 1991, Ed Bradley spotlighted Saddam's nuclear bomb program on *60 Minutes* (Jan. 27, 1991). According to Bradley, Saddam had visited the Gara Mountains in northern Iraq seven or eight times to inspect a top secret uranium mine. Bradley relied on satellite photos taken by Moscow to identify the mine's location. According to the report, Kurdish guerillas in the region said the uranium mine had been targeted by allied sorties during the Gulf War.

The winter after the Gulf War, after spending several days in Iraq, Bradley began another *60 Minutes* segment by comparing Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler. "What we saw were detailed records like the Nazis used to keep, extensive files of murders and destroyed villages. Even videotapes of Iraqi soldiers carrying out these atrocities" (Feb. 23, 1992). In an act of revenge against Kurdish support for Iran in the Iran-Iraq war, Saddam destroyed more than 4,000 villages. Some of the destruction was "proudly recorded" by the Iraqi Army, Bradley noted. "Drive down any road in this part of Iraq, and you see what used to be village after village now reduced to rubble. These villages used to



***60 Minutes* throws another curve ball at the U.S. commander in chief.**

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

be home to at least a half-million people. *Tens of thousands of them*—the Kurds say almost 200,000—are still missing and presumed dead."

Bradley concluded his 1992 investigation by saying, "Earlier this week, a United Nations investigator released a report concluding that the scale of Iraqi human rights violations is almost *without parallel* since the atrocities committed by the Nazis during World War II. And yet not a single official Arab voice has been raised to protest what Saddam Hussein has done to the Kurds."

Today, the same could be said about many Americans who now believe the Bush administration is morally equivalent to Saddam's.

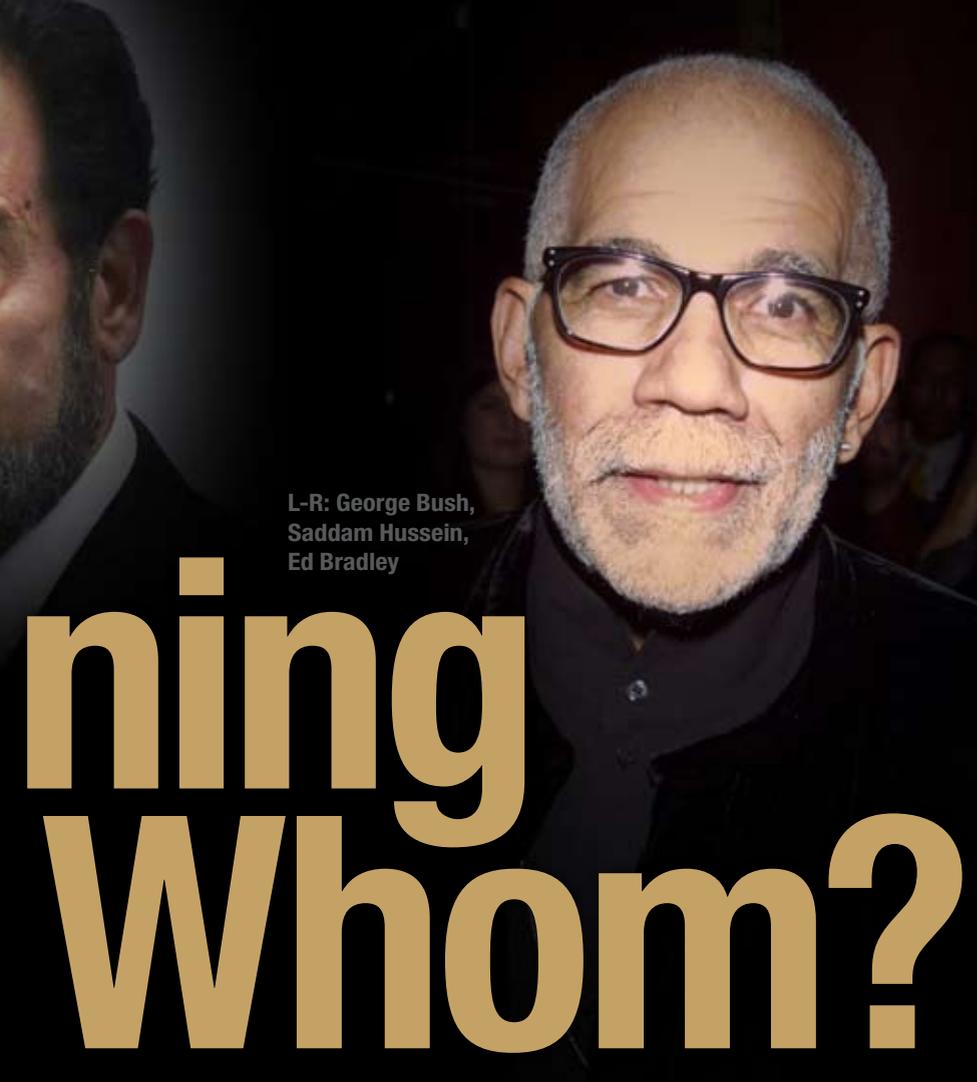
Cheerleading Bill Clinton

In 1996, correspondent Mike Wallace blamed Saddam Hussein for letting the biological genie out of the bottle. Since Saddam's defeat in the Gulf War, Wallace intoned, "[E]xperts from the special UN commission who have been searching Iraq for all weapons of mass destruction have discovered that Saddam's biological

weapons hoard was *much more extensive than anyone had believed*." That's what the *United Nations* said—FIVE YEARS after the Gulf War.

Later in 1996, after President Clinton began bombing Iraq, *60 Minutes* rushed to the president's defense. Five days after Clinton's surprise attack, CBS blew the dust off its archival shelves and re-packaged Ed Bradley's 1992 report on Saddam's massacre of the Kurds. "For decades," Lesley Stahl said at the top of the program, "whenever he's had the opportunity, Saddam has waged war on the Kurds. He has seemed bent on more than simple domination; he often seemed bent on annihilation" (Sept. 8, 1996). Then, after airing Bradley's original report, Stahl concluded, "Whether Saddam is hiding any poison gas is still an open question. He says he isn't, but he has spent the last five years playing cat and mouse with the UN inspectors trying to find and destroy chemical weapons stocks. *The Kurds can be forgiven if they don't believe anything Saddam Hussein says*."

In 1998, tensions between Iraq and the United States once again boiled over. Pres-



L-R: George Bush,
Saddam Hussein,
Ed Bradley

ning Whom?

ident Clinton stated his case for war by saying Saddam had used chemical weapons “not once, but many times.” During his nationally televised speech, he said Iraq even admitted to developing chemical weapons in 1995 after its chief organizer of weapons (Saddam’s son-in-law) defected to Jordan and spilled the beans. (Later, after coaxing him to return to Iraq, Saddam murdered him.) The president then made this stunning proclamation: “Some day, some way, I guarantee you, he’ll use the [WMD] arsenal. And I think *every one of you* who has really worked on this for any length of time believes that too.”

CBS certainly believed it—and *long before* “Curve Ball” came along. Taking the president’s case for war as their cue, *60 Minutes* recruited Ed Bradley to assemble yet *another* report on the Kurdish genocide and then aired the segment a week and a half later. What happened in the Kurdish town of Halabja in 1988, Bradley began, “has become Exhibit A in President Clinton’s case against Saddam Hussein.”

It does make for compelling evidence. Whenever world leaders, intelligence services and reporters wanted hard evi-

dence of Saddam’s WMD stockpiles, they often pointed to the villages and towns on which they were “tested.” In the case of Halabja, Saddam used a mixture of mustard gas and the nerve agents sarin, tabun and vx during a three-day bombing campaign. Of the 70,000 residents, 5,000 died instantly. “Like the dead of Pompeii,” Bradley intoned, “their corpses were frozen in a moment in time. The bodies of dead children littered the streets like discarded dolls.”

Three-and-a-half months after the Halabja program, Mike Wallace warned Americans about the immanency of biological and chemical terrorism. He said the strike could come from terrorists obtaining germ weapons or—note this—“by nations like Iraq which have amassed secret biological weapon stockpiles” (June 14, 1998). At the end of the segment, he said, “As for Iraq’s stockpile, both the UN and an independent team called for by the Iraqi government have concluded that Iraq still has not come clean about the scope of its biological arsenal.”

So the UN *and* an independent team—not Curve Ball, or the Bush Ad-

ministration, or the CIA—concluded that Iraq had something to hide.

Media Throws a Curve Ball

When U.S. troops didn’t locate large stockpiles of WMDs in Iraq in 2003, you would have thought, judging by media coverage, that President Bush had nuked six dozen Halabjas. After the Iraq Survey Group’s David Kay concluded in January 2004 that weapons of mass destruction would probably not be found in Iraq, Bush-bashing hit fever pitch. Search Nexis for stories that month containing “Iraq” and “weapons of mass destruction” and you get 9,323 hits. *Nearly 10,000 stories* about Iraq’s WMDs, or lack thereof, in just ONE MONTH.

One week after David Kay’s resignation, having undoubtedly exiled its numerous Halabja tapes to the recycle bin, *60 Minutes II* audaciously declared, “*Long before the war, there was plenty of doubt among intelligence analysts about Saddam’s weapons.*” The segment was highly critical of George Bush, Dick Cheney and Colin Powell, but certainly not of Ed Bradley, Mike Wallace or Lesley Stahl.

Even after Kay’s comments, Secretary Powell defended the Iraqi invasion: “The bottom line is this: The president made the right decision . . . based on the history of this regime, the intention that this leader—terrible, despotic leader—had, and the capabilities at a variety of levels: the delivery systems that were there and there’s nobody debating that, the infrastructure that was there, the technical know-how that was there. The only thing we’re debating is the stockpile.”

The major media’s response was much narrower in its focus: “The *only* thing we’re debating is the stockpile.” Forget about Halabja. Ten years after the WMD massacre, it made perfect sense for President Clinton to make a distinction between Iraq and other rogue states. Saddam had used WMDs “not once, but *many times.*”

But *fifteen* years after the fact, the Bush administration might as well forget about that history. Halabja, after all, was bombed with “old” WMDs. And it doesn’t matter that Saddam confessed to having chemical weapons in 1995. He must have destroyed them after that, even though there hasn’t been one shred of evidence indicating that Saddam ever dismantled *anything*. He had the weapons, then *poof*—he didn’t have them.

As to the pre-war intelligence that Iraq transferred WMDs to Syria—a claim made

See CON page 13 ▶



BIBLE HISTORY Eilat Mazar (lower right) stands at the eastern wall of King David's palace. Under a tower adjacent to this wall, Dr. Mazar and her crew discovered pottery (inset) that helped date the tower to Nehemiah's time.

DR. EILAT MAZAR/PHOTO BY YIFTAH SHALEV

DR. EILAT MAZAR/PHOTO BY YATIR PELAG

Nehemiah's Wall Found

At a conference in Tel Aviv, an archaeological discovery is unveiled that proves biblical history true.

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

ARCHAEOLOGISTS WHO REJECT the Bible or who believe its historical account is, at best, grossly exaggerated sometimes point to the wall Nehemiah is said to have built around Jerusalem during the 5th century B.C. and ask why none of its remains have ever been discovered.

Now those remains are beginning to turn up.

Nov. 8, 2007, at an archaeological conference at Bar Ilan University near Tel Aviv, Dr. Eilat Mazar told 500 attendees that she had discovered Nehe-

miah's wall. The discovery comes, as our regular readers know, just two years after Mazar uncovered a small section of King David's royal palace. Last winter, during the second phase of her ongoing palace excavation, she uncovered a massive wall on the eastern side of the royal complex, measuring 5 meters *in width*.

Adjacent to the palace wall stood a large stone tower archaeologists believed to be built during the Hasmonean dynasty (142-37 B.C.). Early last summer, a section of that tower, which was built on a steep slope just outside the palace, began to give way, indicating it was on

the verge of collapse. What started as a simple task of repairing a collapsing tower turned into a six-week dig—and a fascinating new discovery.

"Under the tower," Dr. Mazar said at the conference, "we found the bones of two large dogs—and under those bones a rich assemblage of pottery and finds from the Persian period [6th to 5th centuries B.C.]. *No later finds from that period were found under the tower.*" The pottery is what clearly dates the time period for the tower's construction. Had the tower been built during the 2nd or 1st century B.C., Dr. Mazar explained, 6th-century pottery underneath the wall would leave a chronological gap of several hundred years. Therefore we know, based on the pottery dating, that the tower would

The Jerusalem Excavations

have been built three to four centuries *earlier* than previously thought, during the Persian Empire's heyday, which is precisely when the Bible says Nehemiah rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem.

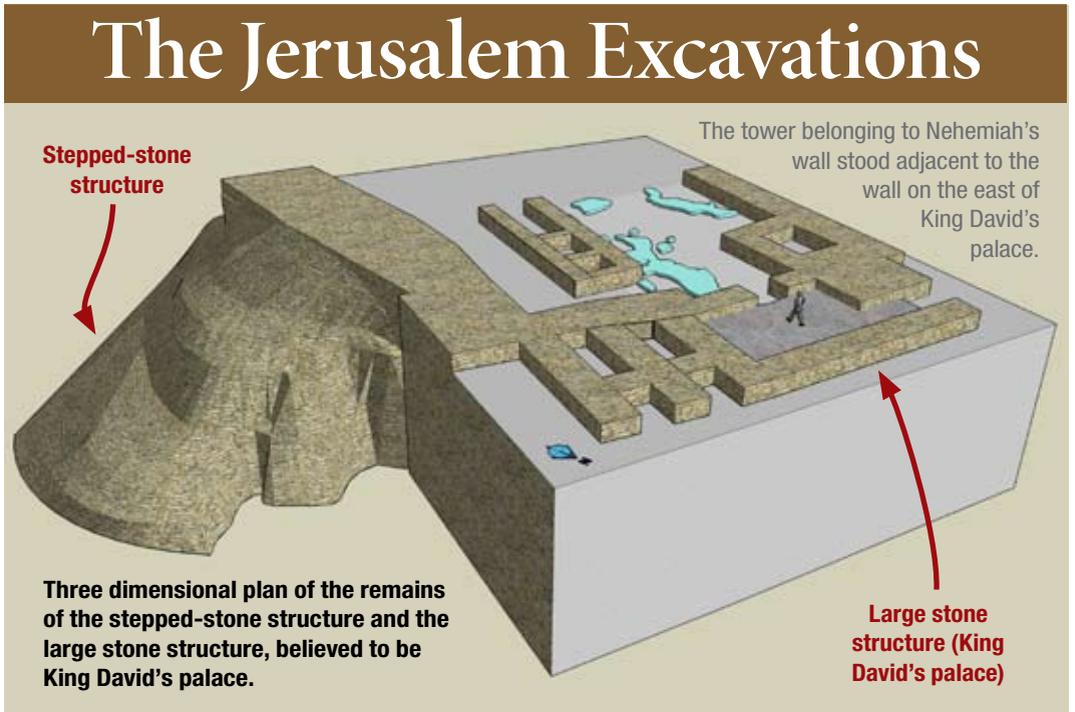
Nehemiah's Construction

After hearing about the great affliction of the Jews in Jerusalem, that the city walls were broken down and the gates burned, Nehemiah appealed to God for intervention. At the time, he was serving in the court of Artaxerxes as a cupbearer, an officer whose main job was to protect the king. When the king inquired about his distress, Nehemiah said he had a heavy heart because "the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire" (Nehemiah 2:3). He asked the king for a leave of absence so that he might coordinate several construction projects in Jerusalem. Nehemiah made this request in the 20th year of Artaxerxes, or about 445 B.C. (see Nehemiah 2:1).

The king granted his request and provided enough materials for Nehemiah to rebuild the gates of the temple, the wall around the city and a house for himself. A few Bible commentaries speculate that the house Nehemiah built for himself in Jerusalem might have been where David's palace once stood. Even though the Babylonians had left the entire city in ruin early on in the 6th century B.C., Nehemiah knew right where David's palace had been built (see Nehemiah 12:37). Wherever he chose to build his home, it must have been the *size* of a royal palace. While rebuilding, the Bible records, Nehemiah invited 150 construction workers to join him for dinner at *his table* (Nehemiah 5:16-19).

In Nehemiah 3, you can read a detailed account of the wall's reconstruction. Nehemiah refers to 10 gates in the chapter. In verse 1, he mentions the northern entrance to the city—the Sheep Gate, where animals were brought into the temple for sacrifices. After that, Ne-

DR. EILAT MAZAR/ILLUSTRATION BY YIFTAH SHALEV



hemiah describes the rest of the gates on the wall in order, moving around the western side of the city in a counterclockwise direction and then up the eastern side back to the north end of the city.

By the time he gets to the Fountain Gate in verse 15, the passage becomes much more descriptive. "But the gate of the fountain repaired Shallun ... and the wall of the pool of Siloah by the king's garden, and unto the stairs that go down from the city of David." The Fountain Gate, also referred to as the Spring Gate today, was located somewhere near the Gihon Springs, which is a short walk south from where Dr. Mazar's palace excavations are going on.

In verse 16, Nehemiah mentions the tombs of the kings of Judah, which have not yet been discovered today. But putting Nehemiah's description together with what Dr. Mazar keeps finding in the City of David, they must be close by.

Many of the landmarks described in Nehemiah's book can now be clearly identified today thanks in large part to the work of Eilat Mazar. She has been working *hard* and *fast*, just as Nehemiah did 2,500 years ago. Nehemiah's frantic pace resulted in his crew completing the wall in 52 days (Nehemiah 6:15), which

might explain why the tower began to collapse over the summer!

While he was working, Nehemiah had to withstand the attacks of numerous critics who were determined to slow down his progress (Nehemiah 4:8). Yet he kept right on building, working with a hammer in one hand and a weapon in the other (verses 17-18).

Dr. Mazar was introduced on November 8 as the first speaker at the conference. Walking up to the podium without the benefit of any notes, she delivered an impassioned, persuasive 30-minute presentation straight from the heart. She spoke about the fantastic discoveries made at the palace during the last two years: the 5-meter-wide wall, the rooms, the collections of metal industry, the pottery and the bullae. She concluded by revealing the details about her most recent find: a tower from a wall that Nehemiah built. She then left the stage.

For the rest of the morning, Dr. Mazar's colleagues spoke one after another, each of them picking apart her findings, some even rejecting her conclusions. But the entire morning session of perhaps the most important archaeological conference of the year in Israel was devoted to Eilat Mazar's work—not her theories, her *work*.

And that's just the way she likes it. As she has said before, in the end, the stones will speak for themselves.

Nehemiah couldn't have said it any better himself. ■



DR. EILAT MAZAR

COURTESY OF DR. EILAT MAZAR



8, Retirees

AS ANOTHER AMERICAN presidential election approaches, voters are being bombarded by candidates offering a smorgasbord of wondrous benefits, tax cuts, income tax credits and other tasty treats. And as usual, the issue of whether or not the country can afford it is forgotten in all the hoopla.

One of the most blatant recent examples is the many new hundred-billion-dollar-per-year government-subsidized health care plans currently being offered by political candidates.

Haven't they heard? America is broke!

If they haven't, they shouldn't be running for office. And they definitely should talk to David Walker, the nonpartisan comptroller general of the United States—the nation's top auditor. Walker is responsible for certifying the government's books, so he should know exactly what kind of financial shape America is in. According to him, America is in deep trouble.

Politicians simply refuse to acknowledge America's financial reality. David Walker says he has practically given up trying to get elected officials to take up the issue. For two years now, according to CBS News, Walker has been touring the nation like an Old Testament prophet trying to get America and its leaders to wake up to the financial reality facing them—the reality that America is facing bankruptcy (July 8, 2007).

That financial reality has been called the “dirty little secret everyone in Washington knows.” It is a set of facts so inconvenient that most politicians don't even want to acknowledge the problem, let alone fix it.

\$50 Trillion We Don't Have

There is nothing difficult to comprehend about Washington's “dirty little secret.” Even though the numbers involved are fantastically huge, the concept is elementary. Simply put, America has made promises to its citizens, in the form of Medicare, Social Security and government pensions, far beyond the nation's ability to pay. And each year the problem is ignored, the funding shortfall gets worse by the billions.

Just how big is the shortfall? Walker says it now totals approximately \$50 trillion. He calls it the most serious threat facing the nation.

To put \$50 trillion in context, the total 2007 federal budget was only \$2.4 trillion. But that \$2.4 trillion wasn't even enough to cover current expenditures. The government had to borrow hundreds of billions extra just to pay for all the programs.

Where is this additional \$50 trillion going to come from? Even the U.S. gross domestic product, which is the total value of all the goods and services produced in the country for a full year, is only around \$13.5 trillion.

If you think higher taxes will be able

to cover the massive shortfall, think again. Besides being a political no-no that few politicians would have the nerve to tackle, America's tax base when compared to the number of retirees is about to start shrinking rapidly.

80 Million Retirees in the Wings

America's population is aging. Walker calls it a “demographic tsunami” that “will never recede.” The 80 million baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964 are getting set to start retiring—the first ones could retire early in 2008. As they age, it will have a dramatic impact on consumer spending, federal expenditures and tax revenue.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the section of the population most responsible for consumer spending is the 45-to-54-year-olds. These are consumers whose earned incomes are peaking and whose expenditures are greatest. They own the biggest homes, have several family vehicles, send their kids to music lessons, and generally contribute the most to the overall economy. Once beyond this age, children move out on their own, the family holiday cottage is sold, and overall spending drops. Once people reach age 65, spending really plummets as couples retire and shift to living on fixed incomes.

The number of people ages 45 to 54 is about to peak in America, after which it is expected to then drop until after



America is aging, and politicians have squandered the nation's retirement money. Who will provide the cash to pay for all the promises?

BY ROBERT MORLEY

2020. Simultaneously, the number of people retiring and beginning to collect Social Security, Medicare and other government-funded benefits is about to mushroom.

In other words, the economy is about to get double whacked.

The population demographic ramifications are very significant. Seventy percent of all economic activity in the U.S. is

The 45-to-54-year-olds drive the consumer spending so critical to the U.S. economy, but their numbers are about to drop dramatically.

consumer spending. The 45-to-54-year-olds drive that spending, but their numbers are about to drop dramatically.

At the same time, there will be more retirees collecting benefits. With Social Security, for example, there were originally 42 people paying into the system for each person collecting. By 2030 there will be barely more than two workers paying for each retired individual. The Social Security caseload is expected to jump from 50 million people to 84 million by 2030, which will be especially painful for government coffers since the SS trust fund is already empty, cleaned out and holding only government IOUs. Medicare's caseload is predicted to leap from 44 million to 79 million enrollees. *Already* Medicare's hospital insurance fund pays out more than it takes in.

The demographic tsunami is heading our way.

Kathleen Casey-Kirschling was born in Philadelphia on Jan. 1, 1946, at 12:00:01 a.m. Kathleen, who is generally accepted as America's first baby boomer, will take early retirement when she turns 62 on January 1. America's first baby boomer isn't waiting until she is 66 to collect her benefits; she is applying for Social Security right away. Maybe she realizes that the system is approaching insolvency.

The system will go broke. Everyone knows it. No one has the courage to face it.

Instead of preparing for the approaching demographic tsunami, government leaders will probably continue to ignore it. After all, it's not a pretty picture—increased taxes, reduced benefits, reduced consumer spending, and a rapidly slowing economy—who would vote for that kind of a message, no matter how realistic it is?

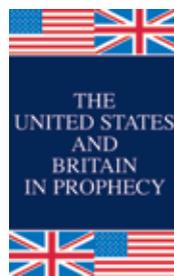
America is facing massive economic trouble. Yet at the time strong leadership is most needed, it is lacking. As Walker has stated many times, "The American people are starved for two things: truth and leadership." Unlike in earlier times, God says that this time leadership would catastrophically fail the modern nations of Israel (Isaiah 3:1-6).

Though the tsunami isn't here just

yet, it is quickly approaching. With elections coming up and big promises hitting the airwaves, conditions may *appear* better. But you can be sure that America's fiscal hole will just get deeper and deeper.

Then, one day soon, the fraud and deceit of today will end in sudden destruction in the form of financial collapse. As Isaiah 30:12-13 say, the collapse will be fast, like a swollen wall "whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant"—kind of like a tsunami.

For proof Isaiah is referring directly to America, and for the underlying causes of this coming collapse, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. ■



by an Israeli prime minister and a UN weapons inspector—this was considered pure speculation. The same is true with post-war intelligence brought forward by an Iraqi air force commander and a U.S. federal agent who was on the ground in Iraq when the U.S. invaded. Their evidence is simply ignored or shoved aside as right-wing propaganda.

And the surveillance tapes with Iraqi officers plotting weapons transfers in late 2002 and early 2003? These poor stooges were duped by Saddam.

And the Saddam tapes leaked in 2006 where he talks openly with top aids about Iraq's chemical and biological programs, as well as Iraq's clandestine operations to conceal weapons from UN inspectors? These discussions are inconclusive.

And the WMDS discovered in northern Iraq, near the border with Iran? This too was *old*, pre-1991 poison, certainly not the kind that would have made Saddam dangerous in 2003.

None of this matters. The *only* item up for debate is the stockpile, which is why *60 Minutes* thinks Curve Ball, *four years after the invasion*, is such an important story.

60 Minutes spent two years and traveled to nine countries in order to solve the "mystery" of an obscure Iraqi defector known as Curve Ball. Prior to that, they spent a full 10 years, relying on numerous witnesses and intelligence sources, warning America that Saddam Hussein had WMDS, *used* them, and was much more dangerous than people generally realized.

But because "there were no WMDS" now fits so nicely into its anti-Bush agenda, *60 Minutes* now turns a strategically blind eye to all these other stories and compelling witnesses that are much more deserving, especially in a post-9/11 world, of CBS's vast investigative resources.

Instead, they spend two whole years and who knows how much money to find Curve Ball in order to make the same tired argument: *Bush trumped up the evidence in order to invade a nation that was not an imminent threat, and it ended up costing thousands of innocent lives.*

If that's all you're interested in, fine, but at least point out that German, Russian and British intelligence also exaggerated the threat. So did the United Nations. So did President Clinton.

And, truth be told, so did *60 Minutes*. ■

Is Sex Meani

SOME PEOPLE THINK UTOPIA IS A place where sex is meaningless.

A group of lawmakers, judges, lawyers and educators in America, Britain, Canada and elsewhere want to engineer a world free from oppression and hate. They want to introduce a golden age of tolerance and understanding. They seek a society where everyone is accepted, where no one is condemned, where everyone feels emotionally validated, where no one's feelings are ever hurt.

That might sound like a noble dream—but their version of it is a nightmare.

It is a world where the line between male and female doesn't exist. Where not only is it just as common to be homosexual or bisexual as heterosexual, but every person has the choice—with society's full, unflinching support—to act, dress or even biologically exist as either male or female, or anything in between. Where a school teacher, police officer, priest or president can be a man who likes wearing dresses and high heels, and anyone who expresses discomfort over the idea can be silenced with the full force of the law.

This utopian world removes pressure on singles to marry, pressure on married people to remain together, pressure on parents to make sacrifices for their children, and pressure on children to view their parents as authorities. In other words, it undermines the pillars of family life.

Proponents of this vision overlook, ignore, dismiss and ridicule any evidence that exposes the flaws in their thinking. And of that, there are mountains. Evidence showing biological, emotional and mental differences between men and women. Evidence showing the benefits of traditional marriage to both husband and wife, as well as society at large—and the high costs associated with its dissolution. Evidence showing the enormous advantages to children—in personal safety, academic performance, financial well-being, emotional stability, self-respect, and assimilation into law-abiding adult life, among other things—of grow-

ing up under the same roof with both biological parents, a living arrangement built upon a strong, stable relationship between a sperm-producing adult male and an egg-producing adult female.

Nevertheless, the reality-challenged individuals who refuse to acknowledge this evidence sit in some of the most powerful offices in Western civilization.

Such is the state of our society after decades of determined chipping away at the foundation of traditional family. Views that once inhabited the shadowy fringes are stomping their way into courtrooms and legislative chambers. Bit by bit, activist leaders are codifying their twisted vision into reality, aggressively introducing new laws and filling the judicial record with new precedent, giving them the legal power to stamp out dissent.

Legally Protecting Gender Confusion

One of their most recent victories occurred last October in California. The Golden State's famous governor signed four bills into law, three of which criminalize behavior deemed discriminatory against cross-dressers, bisexuals and homosexuals (the fourth law enables homosexual couples to share a last name as if they are married). Specifically, one law strips state funding from any program guilty of such discrimination, another mandates that no instruction in public schools "promotes a discriminatory bias," and a third demands that all public schools prominently display anti-discrimination policies.

The "discrimination" in these laws is broadly defined, including any bias against anyone based on "gender." If you are unfamiliar with what this term has come to mean, allow the new California law to explain it to you. "Gender ... includes a person's *gender identity and gender-related appearance and behavior* whether or not stereotypically associated

with the person's *assigned sex at birth*" (emphasis mine). In other words, if Burt wants to wear lipstick and panty hose and call himself Bertha, the law now obligates everyone to pretend as if this is perfectly sane behavior.

Illegal discrimination now includes anything "perceived" as different treatment because of behavior "perceived" as not stereotypically male or female. It includes anything that might suggest that a child living with biological Dad and Mom is advantaged over someone living with a single homosexual man or woman who has multiple partners. It could include a business treating a cross-dressing job applicant different from anyone else. It could include a reference to family in a school textbook that fails to mention it's just fine if it involves a homosexual couple. You can be sure that zealous lawyers are itching to test the new laws by putting such "crimes" on trial.

California is now one of nine states with explicit non-discrimination laws for transgender individuals. By January, similar laws will also be in effect in four other states. Thus, against all common sense, gender confusion is protected by law—placed in the same category as biological realities like race and sex.

The implications of these laws are enormous. Universities nationwide are hosting gender-neutral student housing, bathrooms and locker rooms; transgender law advocates are pushing for student health insurance plans to include hormones and "sex-reassignment surgery." Last year, New York City's homeless shelter system, which segregates men and women, began allowing people to *decide* which shelters to use based on whether they "feel" male or female. Some people are pushing to open women's public toilet facilities and locker rooms to Burts-turned-Berthas everywhere. Thus, to protect the right of a man who says he feels

Why are people male and female? Have you ever thought about that? It is a conundrum that both creationists and evolutionists must wrestle with.

ngless?

California law now protects cross-dressers like it does racial minorities—ignoring biology, reality and common sense. BY JOEL HILLIKER

more comfortable as a woman, the law is preparing to trample on the right of women who feel more comfortable in public bathrooms devoid of perverted men.

That is the truth of the matter. If you think these social engineers are preaching a doctrine of *tolerance*, think again. Theirs is a deeply *intolerant* world view. They *demand* that the world conform to their thinking.

The push for transgender rights is a religious mission, aimed at *converting the hearts of men*. Its missionaries want the nation to repent of its archaic attachment to the traditional family, and to become devotees to the cross-dressing, bisexual and homosexual cause. The only victory is *complete* victory. Until transgender crusaders achieve this utterly impossible goal—*every individual a true believer*—they will continue their battle, using every tool of coercion they can summon.

tion, nor an arbitrary ornament on creation, but a conscious, deliberate choice with design and intent made by a super-intelligent Creator? Are they completely unwilling to consider the reasoning, the logic, in His decision? This God who reveals Himself in the Bible claims that His thoughts are higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). Is it possible

for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.” Our world provides a growing body of testimony to the confusion that results when God-given laws like this are ignored.

On the surface, preventing society from badgering poor, gender-confused individuals may sound like a worthy goal. But this cure is far worse than the disease.

Rather than helping people *overcome* thoughts and tendencies that lead to self-destructive, depressive, anti-social behavior, the transgender crusade encourages and inflames them—and forces everyone else to play along. In purporting to solve a problem, it multiplies it many times over.

Study after study proves that family *as God intended it to be* is the ideal situation for everyone involved—and for society in general. That is reality no matter how much people want to pretend otherwise to try to avoid hurting people’s feelings. True, in our unhappy world, for a variety of reasons, many people do not have that ideal and cannot

attain it. But the fact remains, it is in *everyone’s* best interest to promote the ideal as much as we can.

If you study to understand the biblical view—the God-given reasons for male and female, for marriage and family—you will come to understand a wonderful truth: that *sex is NOT meaningless*. In fact, it has *tremendous meaning—beautiful significance*. The truth about sex, when understood in all its richness, contains a *dynamic hope* that will fill the life of anyone who embraces it with a deep appreciation for our God-given purpose. (If you are interested in such a study, consider as a starting point Herbert W. Armstrong’s slim but profound booklet *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*, free upon request.)

Don’t believe misguided social engineers. Believe the One who engineered sex in the first place. He is about to usher in a *true* utopia—one where strong families are right at the heart. ■

THE MISSING DIMENSION IN SEX
HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

SEX

Is it supposed to be like this?
By now, it's becoming obvious. This is not the way it's supposed to be. For centuries, sex was considered shameful. This ignorance made for millions of unhappy marriages. Today, sex is as casual and purposeless as the next advertisement you see. This "freedom" has made our society indifferent, perverted and unhappy. But there is a dimension to sex that infuses this beautiful creation with joy and meaning. Join over 1.5 million readers and order your **FREE** copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* today!

An Important, Overlooked Question

These relentless efforts—which are only the latest and most extreme in a drive over the past half century in particular to equalize the sexes—have completely obscured an important question.

Why are people male and female?

Have you ever thought about that?

It is a conundrum that both creationists and evolutionists must wrestle with. For the person who doesn't believe in a Creator, it requires explaining how, by natural means—by accident and not by design—humanity (and so many other living creatures) came to exist in two distinct groups, different yet the same, mutually dependent upon the other for procreation. But even for the creationist, the question can be equally puzzling. Why did God make male and female?

Can those who push transgenderism on the public acknowledge the possibility that sex is not an accident of evolu-

tion, many have allowed their mind to be prejudiced against His superior thinking by simple peer pressure—the intellectual bullying of a society that is almost wholly hostile toward its Creator?

Scripture shows that in creating humankind in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26), God made a *conscious decision* to make us male and female (verse 27). Why?

The push to replace biological sex with “gender identity,” and to consider sexual orientation an individual choice, in effect treats this essential component of creation as if it were mere decoration—even a *mistake* on God’s part.

A proper approach to transgender behavior must start with a scriptural understanding of this question. There is a *reason* God says in Deuteronomy 22:5, “The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman’s garment:

GERMANY

Merkel: Must Protect Israel

GERMANY'S CHANCELLOR, in the first week of November, expressed her government's desire to protect Israel and foster close relations between Germans and the Jewish community.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's remarks came after receiving the prestigious Leo Baeck Prize from the Central Council of Jews in Germany. After accepting the award, which recognizes those who contribute to the German Jewish community in an extraordinary manner, Merkel said she felt morally bound to bring Germans and Jews closer together.

"It took more than 40 years for Germany as a whole to accept the responsibility it carries to ensure the safety of Israel," she said on November 6. "Only by accepting Germany's past can we lay the foundation for the future. Only in as far as we acknowledge our responsibility for the moral catastrophe of Germany's history can we build a humane future."

Merkel said she felt responsible for "intervening to protect the safety of Israel today and in the future, as well as our common values of democracy and the rule of law."

The chancellor told her Jewish audience that she would protect Israel from Iran specifically.

"How firmly do we react when the Iranian president wants to destroy Israel and to belittle the Holocaust?" she asked. "I believe that in the face of the threat Iran's nuclear program poses to Israel, our responsibility must be more than empty words. These words must be backed up by deeds. My government will follow its

words with action."

Merkel called for tighter United Nations sanctions against Iran, saying, "We and our partners are working towards a diplomatic solution. Part of this process is a readiness on the part of Germany to agree to wider, stricter sanctions if Iran does not comply."

Germany is one of Iran's largest trading partners.

However, the next day, Merkel indicated in an interview with the *Berliner Zeitung* that Berlin would not impose more sanctions than are already in place, despite U.S. pressure. Washington has asked Germany and the European Union to enforce sanctions of their own against Iran. But Merkel said, "The United Nations is the place where sanctions [against Iran] are negotiated."

The real story is not in Germany blunting American efforts. The real story to watch is Germany's relationship with Israel.

Look for Germany to continue sweet-talking the world Jewish community, even to the point of guaranteeing the national security of the Jewish state. As this continues and assailant-encircled Israelis grow more desperate, Israel will turn more and more to Germany as its last best hope, while in the background the so-called peace process goes down in flames.

But also look for Germany to put self-interest ahead of Israel's welfare and to display Proteus-like qualities.



MARCUS BRANDT/AFPP/GETTY IMAGES

PRIZED BY JEWS Accepting an award for those who contribute to the German Jewish community, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany is responsible for "intervening to protect the safety of Israel."

Endearing itself to Jews, even while undermining them at the same time, will prove to be a means to a deadly end.

Berlin has its own interests in the Middle East, and they are decidedly not common values with Israel.

Preventing Foreign Takeovers

BERLIN IS TIGHTENING its control of German industries in an effort to shield them from foreign takeovers through a proposed law that would take effect at some time before June 2008.

The new legislation presented to Chancellor Angela Merkel's government on Oct. 30, 2007, would allow Germany to veto foreign investment of 25 percent or more in a company if Berlin deemed it a national security threat.

The proposed legislation provides for the government to be notified about such an investment and gives Berlin up to four weeks to veto it. In cases of investments on stock markets, the government would have three months to force a roll-back of the deal, a measure to compel foreign investors to notify of par-

tial takeover bids.

The new law is largely a response to growing takeover attempts by non-European-based companies. It wasn't until a state-owned Russian fund showed interest in acquiring a stake in Deutsche Telekom AG and the Dubai International Financial Center bought a 2.2 percent stake in Deutsche Bank AG that Berlin decided to move more aggressively to shore up business defenses against foreign takeovers.

Germany's protectionist move illustrates growing tension in Europe caused by competition from non-Western neighbors, especially Russia, China and Middle Eastern Muslim nations. Cash-rich and technology-limited, many of these often-state-owned enterprises are seeking to pluck fruit from corporate Europe, putting them in direct competition

Hamas Hopes for West Bank

HAMAS WILL TAKE OVER the West Bank if Israel pulls out of it, a senior Hamas leader said in early November.

“Israel says the party in Ramallah [speaking of Fatah, which controls the Palestinian Authority] serves Israel,” said Mahmoud al-Zahar to a group of Hamas supporters in northern Gaza. “And if Israel quits the West Bank, Hamas will take it over. And we say this is true” (Reuters, Nov. 9, 2007). Zahar co-founded Hamas and is now the foreign minister in Ismail Haniyeh’s government, which exists separately from the Palestinian Authority.

Israeli leaders would do well to accept Zahar’s threat at face value.



READY “If Israel quits the West Bank, Hamas will take it over,” said co-founder of Hamas, Mahmoud al-Zahar.

The West Bank has been one of the major bargaining chips on the table leading up to the peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland. Israeli leaders have expressed a willingness to vacate Jewish settlements in the area just as they did in the Gaza Strip in 2006.

The withdrawal from Gaza turned ugly almost immediately, as terrorists flooded into the gap Israel left, even while it was under Fatah control. The area became a hive of militant activity, hosting thousands of rocket attacks on Israeli soil. Then,

porate landscape, dwarfing many of their European rivals. German companies have been extremely active in acquiring operations in other EU countries. Knowing this, German politicians would be unlikely to use the legislation to instigate an inter-European protectionist revival that would invite political backlash and limit the ability of German corporations to further extend their presence on the Continent.

German corporate influence in Europe is growing rapidly. Not since the days of World War II have German companies been so influential in mainland Europe. For information on why Germany is trying to limit non-European corporate competition in Europe, read “Germany’s Corporate Blitzkrieg” on theTrumpet.com.



PROTECTED Deutsche Bank CEO Josef Ackermann

with German interests. This legislation, if adopted, would be a signal that Germany is more than willing to erect trade barriers to inhibit foreign entities from infringing on its turf, even if it means reciprocal legislative action might be taken against German companies elsewhere in the world.

Conversely, Germany’s new legislation is clearly not aimed at nations within Europe. German companies dominate the European cor-

this past June, Hamas forcibly seized the territory, and today the Gaza Strip is a de facto Palestinian state run entirely by the extremist group.

Zahar’s announcement comes as no surprise, as Hamas has never

tried very hard to disguise its intention to ultimately destroy Israel.

The question is, will it have any impact on the Olmert government?

“We say to those in the West Bank, take a lesson from what happened in Gaza,” Zahar said (*ibid.*). We couldn’t have said it better ourselves.

Putin Continues to Arm Mideast

MOSCOW WILL CONTINUE supplying weaponry to states hostile to the United States, the Russian president announced at the end of October. In response to recent U.S. criticism of Russian arms exports, President Vladimir Putin said the flow of arms to the Middle East would continue.

When the Commission for Military and Technical Cooperation met in Moscow October 31 to discuss 2007’s arms exports, which are expected to reach \$8 billion, up from \$6.5 billion in 2006, President Putin opened the meeting by making a statement pointedly directed at the U.S.

While asserting that Russia would comply with international regulations controlling arms exports, Putin stated: “[W]e cannot and will not take into consideration any attempts to impose any restrictions on us based on unilateral or politicized judgments” (*RFE/RL Newline*, Nov. 1, 2007).

Putin’s statements at the meeting were a direct rebuff of U.S. requests for Russia to curb its arms sales. In the previous couple of weeks, Washington had criticized

Moscow for attempting to destabilize U.S. policy in the Middle East by delivering weapons to Iran and Syria.

In late October, U.S. Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns urged Russia to stop arms deliveries to Iran. Since concluding a

contract in late 2005, Russia has supplied Iran with 29 Tor-M1s, a high-precision anti-aircraft missile system. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice also criticized Russia’s arms sales to Syria.

“Arms sales,” wrote *RFE/RL Newline*, “are one of several tools that Putin uses to demonstrate Russia’s claim to world-power status ...” (*ibid.*).

Izvestia, a daily owned by the Russian state-controlled Gazprom, stated that increased arms sales are a means by which “Russia puts pressure on the Americans” (Nov. 1, 2007).

Arms sales are just one of Russia’s tools to thwart U.S. foreign policy, particularly in the Middle East. Moscow is currently effectively using its relationship with Tehran to gain geopolitical leverage and handicap American power.



PUTIN

IRAQ

Energy Deals Inked With Iran

AS AN ANSWER TO frequent power outages in Baghdad, the Iraqi Electricity Ministry has granted a critical power plant contract to Iran. The deal, announced by the Iraqi electricity minister on Oct. 16, 2007, has caused concern in Washington that Iran will use the project to further penetrate Iraq with its intelligence and spy forces.

The Iranians are to build a 160-megawatt plant in Sadr City, a Shiite enclave inside Baghdad. Tehran has also agreed to provide inexpensive electricity from the Iranian grid to southern Iraq and to build a power plant between Karbala and Najaf.

The Iraqi government has also awarded a contract for a \$940 million, 1,300-megawatt plant to China.

One U.S. military official said that the military was concerned about the expansion of Iranian interests in Iraq. "We are of course carefully watching Iran's overall presence in Iraq. As you know, it's not always what it appears. Their Quds force routinely uses the cover of a business to mask their real purpose as an intelligence operative," the official said, referring to an elite unit Tehran has been using to destabilize Iraq (*New York Times*, Oct. 19, 2007).

According to an international energy expert involved in Iraq's electricity sector, the Sadr City plant was originally Iran's idea and came to fruition despite initial disinterest from Iraq's Electricity Ministry. Iraq's Commission on Public Integrity, responsible for probing corruption, has indicated it will look into the matter.

Iran's influence in Iraq has burgeoned since America

overthrew the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein; Iranian mullahs are mentors to many of Iraq's Shiite leaders, some of whom lead Iraqi terrorist organizations. Iran has been a key facilitator of many of the weapons, intelligence and even militants themselves flowing into Iraq.

The point is, Iran already wields growing influence over Iraqi politics, as well as national security. If Iranian companies build key infrastructure in Iraq, it will only extend Iran's presence



EMPOWERED Plants like this Baghdad facility will go up in Iraq thanks to Iran's help.

in the country and enhance its ability to counter U.S. efforts to construct a stable, pro-Western government in Baghdad.

ECONOMY

Imminent Global Tsunami

A "HUGE TSUNAMI" OF economic instability will engulf the globe's financial markets when China bows to international pressure to switch the yuan to a free-floating currency, warned Australia's treasurer in October. For America: higher interest rates, a falling dollar and soaring inflation may be about to smack home like the biggest wave since the Great Depression.

When China floats the

Bird Flu Spreading Across Europe

BIRD FLU MAY BECOME ENTRENCHED throughout parts of Europe, the United Nations recently reported. The statement came after German scientists discovered the fatal H5N1 strain of the avian influenza virus in seemingly healthy ducks and geese. The fact that German waterfowl may be acting as transmitters of the disease without showing symptoms presents an increased threat to human health, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN reported Oct. 25, 2007.

The spread of avian influenza by birds resistant to the disease has already caused it to become entrenched in some Southeast Asian nations. If the birds do not show symptoms of the disease, infected birds are almost impossible to isolate or eradicate. Because of this, the FAO has warned that Europe should prepare for more outbreaks.

"After Asia and Africa, Europe may become the third continent where the H5N1 strain could become endemic," the FAO warned (Reuters, Oct. 25, 2007).

The H5N1 strain is the most deadly form of bird flu that infects humans. It has been fatal in 204 of the 332 recorded human cases; millions of birds have died or been destroyed. In addition to the destruction that an avian flu epidemic would wreak on the European poultry industry, the risk to human health cannot be ignored.

The 1918 Spanish flu that killed 40 million people was a type of

avian influenza. Health experts fear that the H5N1 strain will mutate to a form that can be transmitted human to human. Lee Jong-Wook, late director general of the World Health Organization, stated that "It is only a matter of time before an avian-flu virus—most likely H5N1—acquires the ability to be transmitted from human to human, sparking the outbreak of human pandemic influenza. We don't know when this will happen. But we do know that it will happen" (Nov. 7, 2005).

"It seems that a new chapter in the evolution of avian influenza may be unfolding silently in the heart of Europe," said Joseph Domenech, chief veterinary officer of FAO in October.

Time will tell, but we can be certain that biblical prophecies of severe pandemics in the end time will be fulfilled soon.



LETHAL A veterinary worker kills a hen infected with bird flu at a poultry farm in the Czech Republic.

yuan, it will be “a wild ride,” Peter Costello, the Australian treasurer, warned October 26 in an interview published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. “That will set off a huge tsunami that will go through world financial markets.”

For years, China has run a massive trade surplus with America—running into the trillions of dollars. Many U.S. officials feel this is at least partly due to the fact that China has kept its currency undervalued in relation to the dollar.

Normally in free-market conditions, when a country has a huge trade surplus its currency would appreciate compared to the country with the trade deficit. In this case, the yuan should have increased and the dollar decreased in value. Thus, the theory goes, Chinese exports would become more expensive and American exports would become more affordable, and consequently the trade relationship would balance out.

However, Chinese officials, realizing a good thing for their export industry, decided to artificially keep the yuan pegged to the dollar—thus, as the dollar’s value dropped, so did the yuan’s. Chinese exporters maintained their advantage, and China continued to collect the billions it gained in trade with the U.S.

What did China do with all its surplus trade dollars? Instead of spending them, which would have allowed the dollar to fall and the yuan to rise, it invested vast amounts of them into U.S. treasuries (which is the primary way they pegged the yuan to the dollar). These purchases, which have gone on for years and years, artificially propped up the value of the dollar. Without Chinese treasury purchases,

the dollar would have fallen in value long ago.

It is true that since 2005, China has moved to a floating-dollar peg, allowing the yuan to *slightly* rise against the dollar (approximately 10 percent). However, when

compared to other currencies such as the euro, the Canadian and Australian dollars, or even the Thai baht, some of which have appreciated in excess of 40 percent during that time frame,



UK’s Worst Deficit Since 1600s

THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS MEASURED ITS GREATEST trade deficit since records began in 1697. The British Office of National Statistics recorded a deficit of £7.8 billion (US\$16.5 billion) for the month of September 2007, up from £6.9 billion the previous month.

Although UK trade deficits aren’t new, they have rapidly worsened. The deteriorating trade gap in 2007 compounds the previous year’s record deficit of £84.3 billion (US\$174.5 billion).

A major cause of the recent deterioration in the UK’s trade position is rapidly changing exchange rates—meaning the U.S. dollar’s slide in value over the past two years.

Although the media constantly report the surge in the pound’s value against the U.S. dollar, don’t be deceived into thinking that the pound represents strength. For example, Bloomberg recently reported that the pound reached \$2.1162, which was “the highest since 1981” (Nov. 9, 2007). In actuality, the pound’s rise is primarily against the U.S. dollar and dollar-linking currencies. When compared to euros, Canadian and Australian dollars, or Norwegian krona, the pound has actually fallen in value.

The falling U.S. dollar impacts British trade in several ways. Demand for British goods in America falls because the weaker dollar makes pound-denominated products more expensive—meaning Britons can import more dollar-priced goods. Also, demand for British goods in countries that link their currencies to the U.S. dollar also falls. Countries like China (which has a loose dollar link), Saudi Arabia, Belize, Venezuela, Jordan and Hong Kong all peg their currencies to the dollar. When the dollar falls, so do their currencies. Thus, as the dollar falls, British trade losses intensify.

Peter Dixon, a London economist, summarized Britain’s trade problem correctly: “It’s a dollar weakness story, rather than a pound strength story” (ibid.).

Ultimately, trade deficits are not sustainable. No economy can continue to lose billions per year in trade and continue to thrive. The gross domestic product of the UK was US\$1.93 trillion in 2006. That means the trade deficit was in excess of 8 percent of GDP (more than 5 percent is considered dangerous). Eventually the trade deficit will weaken the economy, and, sooner or later, the currency.

Herbert W. Armstrong forecasted that a coming crisis in the Western world’s monetary systems—the pound, dollar and shekel—would bring about the collapse of the American and British peoples.

The U.S. dollar has been in a relentless decline for almost two years. As illustrated by Britain’s growing trade deficit, it is starting to take its toll on the UK. Will the dollar eventually drag the pound sterling down with it?

the yuan’s appreciation is insignificant.

The marginal strengthening of the yuan versus the dollar is why many American officials feel that little improvement in Chinese-U.S. trade has occurred, and is why they keep pressuring China to let the yuan float freely.

However, a free-floating yuan will have very serious consequences.

“The day they decide to float their currency you are going to get huge reversals of financial flows around the globe, which will affect all exchange rates, that’s why I compared it to a tsunami,” said Costello (ibid.). “All flows of capital they have been sending to the U.S. might reverse ...” (ibid.).

Those reversals of financial flows would not only work to drive the dollar even lower, but would also have huge consequences on the way of life in America.

Paul Craig Roberts, who was assistant secretary of the Treasury under President Ronald Reagan, put it this way: “When China’s currency ceases to be undervalued, American shoppers in Walmart, where 70 percent of the goods on the shelves are made in China, will think they are in Neiman Marcus. Price increases will cause a dramatic reduction in American real incomes. If this coincides with rising interest rates and a setback in the housing market, American consumers will experience the hardest times since the Great Depression” (*American Conservative*, July 4, 2005).

The approaching wave may be almost ready to break.

War, Peace and Religion

Religion is becoming the most powerful force in international relations. BY RON FRASER

A DISTINCT TREND HAS EMERGED in international relations during this early 21st century. It's a phenomenon as ancient as the Holy Roman Empire, as the Ottoman Empire of old. In fact, it tracks right back to ancient Babylon.

It's the phenomenon of *religion*.

Despite all of the efforts of the post-Enlightenment secularists, of the rabid socialists who swamped our university campuses during the latter half of the 20th century, despite the aggressive efforts of that godless religion—communism—to trample the religious masses underfoot, competing theisms are back with a vengeance, strutting the world stage in a fashion not witnessed since, yet powerfully linked to, the First Crusade launched by Pope Urban II in 1095.

To the historian, the history we are writing today has an all-too-familiar ring to it.

Holy Wars

The *Trumpet* declared, six years before 9/11, that war is “the tool down through history that *religion* has used to gain its satanic conquests” (March 1995, emphasis mine throughout). When al Qaeda hit New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001, that historic reality brought 3,000 souls to their fiery deaths.

Ever since, religion has dramatically escalated its status in international affairs. Jew and Gentile, Christian and pagan, Islamist versus the infidel and “the great Satan”—all of these ideas have triggered movements of zealots who would seek to take over the world to install their version of world peace by imposing their religion.

The tragedy of 9/11 was a powerful witness to the resilience and strength of the undying nature of this zealotry and the hatred it breeds. Indeed, the holy wars of old still roil today.

Religion Is Everywhere!

The Nov. 1, 2007, issue of the *Economist* was devoted to an analysis of the phenomenon of the return of religion influencing world affairs. That edition led with the statement, “Not long ago most politicians, intellectuals and even some clerics assumed religion was fading from public life. *Now it is everywhere.*”

“From Sri Lanka to Baghdad new wars of religion have appeared; from Washington to Delhi there are huge arguments about faith's role in the public square. Religion has returned ... *it is hard to think of a subject that seems more relevant to politics this century.*”

During this present decade of disorder, there appears to be such a dearth of governmental advisers who are truly wise in matters of foreign policy. Practitioners of international relations appear to be in the greatest need of appreciating religion's powerful influence on international relations in the past, and recognizing the extent to which it has revived to once again become a prime influence on this world.

The Road to Rome

By way of example, a recent announcement from Rome, the old spiritual capital of the religion that spawned global Christianity, brought into fuller perspective the link between religion and politics. It came from the mouth of that arch-Europhile, Italian Prime Min-

ister Romano Prodi.

Back in July, Prodi, a devout Catholic and ardent devotee to the great European unification dream, declared: “The pathways of our ancestors are a great heritage *It really makes me angry that we do not have pilgrims walking towards Rome any longer.* To rebuild the great pilgrims' path we do not need great investments, but heart. I am pressing everyone to make it happen” (*Independent*, July 31, 2007). Prodi spoke of the old Canterbury road made famous in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

Then, in October, Prodi declared the dream of restoring that old Canterbury road, the Via Francigena, one step closer to fulfillment. “Premier Romano Prodi on Monday unveiled the first of 1,544 signposts which will soon show modern-day walkers the paths used by medieval pilgrims traveling from Canterbury to Rome. ... *It's about the rediscovery of our identity: We need to revisit the itineraries of the past,*” the premier said at a ceremony held outside the gate of the Monteriggioni castle, which overlooks Sieneese hills” (*Italy Magazine*, Oct. 30, 2007).

Now, let's put this in perspective. The Via Francigena was a pathway used by Roman Catholic pilgrims who trekked from the city of Canterbury in southern England (site of the cathedral of the same name) to Rome, before the Protestant Reformation.

Under Henry VIII, Britain became a Protestant nation, refusing to bow to Rome. Its religion then centered around the Church of *England*, not the Church of *Rome*. Thus Canterbury, long a religious center in Britain, whose Protestant religion calls its head the “archbishop of

Canterbury,” from then on became a focus of the practice of a religion in *opposition* to Rome.

So what is Prodi doing indicating that the revival of this route established by Roman Catholic pilgrims traveling from England to Rome is about the “*rediscovery of our identity*”? And why should this devout Roman Catholic be angered that “we do not have pilgrims [presumably from Britain] walking towards Rome any longer”? Is there a *hidden agenda* here? This is the very man who, during his term as head of the European Commission, oversaw the slicing up of the European Union into regions ignoring national boundaries. On the EU map of Britain, England does not exist as a nation. The United Kingdom is simply carved up on the map into several innocuous regions, having no national identity! It’s just a component part of an empire, that which is progressively morphing into a literal resurrection of the old Holy Roman Empire!

Sooner or later, the British public must become aware that this EU monolith is intent on swallowing their nation whole and reclaiming “Mary’s Dowry,” as the Vatican has traditionally viewed the British Isles.

It is said that all roads lead to Rome. The very fact that the old Via Francigena, which starts in England and ends in Rome, is in process of being revived suggests that Britain is considered part of the European Union’s (Rome’s) imperial heritage. It is one further step toward Rome fulfilling its universalistic agenda to impose its religion from the British Isles to the Ukraine plain; from the Nordic nations to Africa and beyond, and, especially, given the Vatican’s diplomatic overtures to Israel, in *Jerusalem!*

That is an event about which we have been warning since this magazine’s inception, and our mentor, Herbert W. Armstrong, for more than 50 years before that! It’s part of a process that is increasingly bearing on international relationships within the EU and beyond.

The world’s eyes remain fixated on the rhetoric, the bullying and the carnage created by pan-Islamism. Yet the religion possessing the *bloodiest history of all* is resurrecting its power right before our eyes, and few there be that see the danger in it!

Papal Watershed

Under the papacy of John Paul II, the Roman Catholic Church took on a new life not witnessed since John XXIII convened

the council of Vatican II back in 1962.

Karol Wojtyla, elected pope on Oct. 16, 1978, gave the Church of Rome a kindly, human face, one with which the public could readily identify, that of a shepherding patriarch who desired the best for all mankind. It helped that he had experience as an actor on stage in his more youthful years. This pope was schooled in how to project a persona to the media.

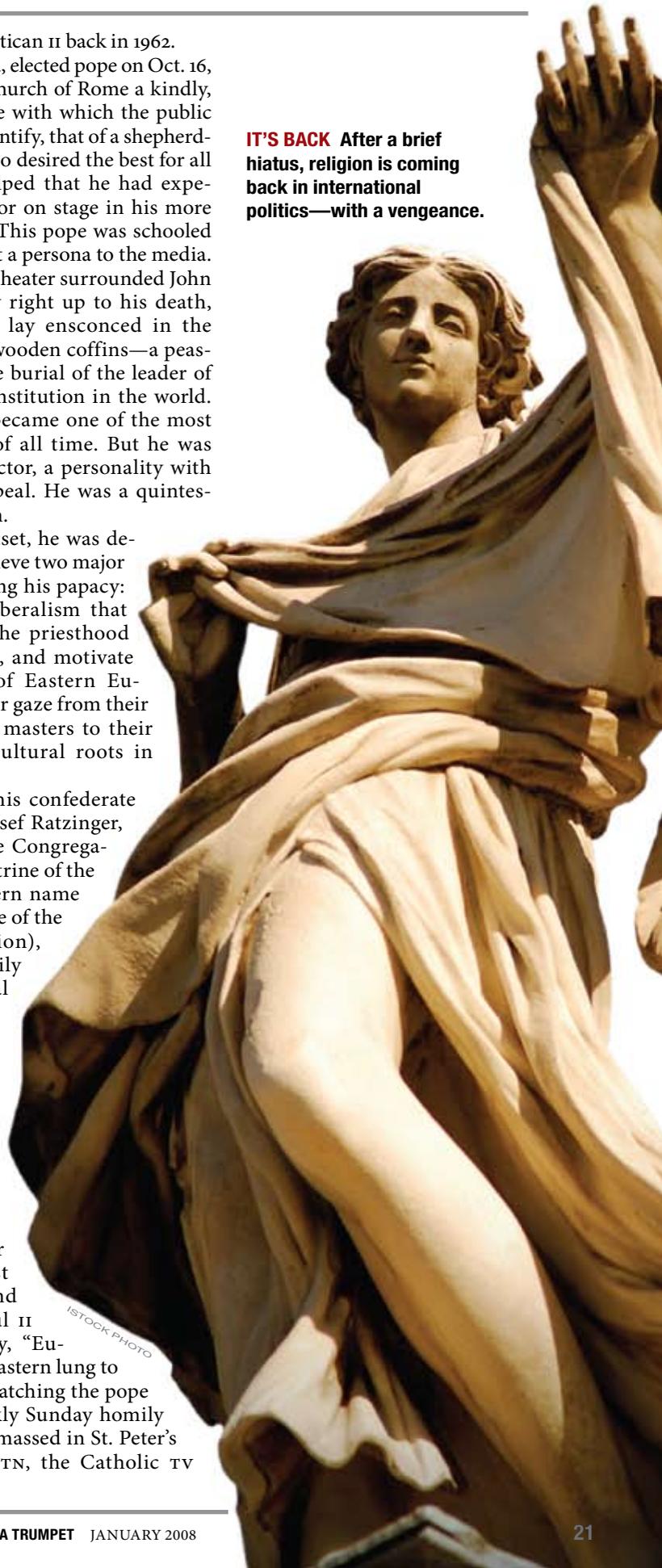
The sense of theater surrounded John Paul II’s papacy right up to his death, when his body lay ensconced in the most simple of wooden coffins—a peasant’s box for the burial of the leader of the wealthiest institution in the world. Karol Wojtyla became one of the most revered popes of all time. But he was more than an actor, a personality with great public appeal. He was a quintessential politician.

From the outset, he was determined to achieve two major milestones during his papacy: Root out the liberalism that had pervaded the priesthood since Vatican II, and motivate the Catholics of Eastern Europe to turn their gaze from their atheistic Soviet masters to their religious and cultural roots in Rome.

Appointing his confederate of Vatican II, Josef Ratzinger, as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (the modern name for the old Office of the Holy Inquisition), John Paul readily achieved his goal of silencing the most influential of liberal voices within the priesthood. That done, he turned his attention to his main political goal.

I shall never forget the first time I saw and heard John Paul II unleash the cry, “Europe needs her eastern lung to breathe!” I was watching the pope deliver his weekly Sunday homily to the faithful amassed in St. Peter’s Square, via EWTN, the Catholic TV channel.

IT’S BACK After a brief hiatus, religion is coming back in international politics—with a vengeance.



That cry sent shivers down my spine. Instantly, the words of Herbert W. Armstrong came ringing in my ears, words he had been broadcasting and publishing for more than half a century by the time of his death on Jan. 16, 1986.

United Europe in Prophecy

Just one year before his death, Herbert Armstrong reiterated those words: “For more than 40 years now the *Plain Truth* [magazine] has been proclaiming an outstanding series of *Bible prophecies of something due soon to occur in Europe that will change the whole world* and shake up the lives of every one of us. Daniel’s prophecy in chapter 2 pictures 10 nations in Europe in our time right now as the 10 toes on the two feet of the great symbolic image. Five of those toes picture *five nations in Western Europe and five in Eastern Europe*. ...This is further explained in the 17th chapter of Revelation, depicting those *10 nations of Europe uniting under the Roman Catholic Church*. In the last decade certain leaders in Europe have been working

feverishly to bring about such a *reuniting of Europe*. I have personally spoken to the principal leaders in this struggle, and to leaders in Spain, Greece and Austria” (co-worker letter, Feb. 25, 1985).

John Paul II first used this “two lung” analogy in reference to the Roman church regaining its eastern lung during a speech in his native country, Poland, in 1991. He declared at that time, in reference to the Soviet Union’s collapse, that “the church in Europe can now breathe freely with both lungs!”

Herbert Armstrong had, during his 50-year broadcasting of the *World Tomorrow* radio and TV program, consistently publicized the prophecy of Daniel 2, declaring, even as Europe lay in the ashes of World War II, that a united European power would arise through the joining of the eastern and western blocs that prevailed on the Continent following that war.

Consistently, during the 40 years of Cold War, as the U.S. and Russia stared at each other over the Berlin Wall, Herbert Armstrong broadcast and published the message that a great European su-

perpower, standing on a western and an eastern leg (the western and eastern blocs of Europe joined in union), would arise to dominate the globe economically, politically and, in the end, militarily. He further declared that the mother church of Rome would garner back her wayward eastern daughters, and provide the spiritual glue to hold together the disparate nation-states of Europe in a great, though brief, final resurrection of the old Holy Roman Empire.

To John Paul II, Europe could not function as a united entity without its “eastern lung.” To students of Bible prophecy, the prophesied superpower of the north could not march forward in its quest for global conquest without its “eastern leg.” The fall of the Berlin Wall on Nov. 9, 1989, and the subsequent dissolution of the Soviet Union on Dec. 31, 1991, paved the way for that eastern leg to be joined to its already functioning western counterpart.

The key to this becoming a reality was clearly seen, decades ahead of the event, by Herbert W. Armstrong. The two legs could not be joined unless the rising European power colonized the Balkan Peninsula.

Anglicans Turning Catholic

A FORECAST MADE in the 1930s is making its way into today’s headlines.

Those headlines would be easy enough to pass over, but they are worth taking a moment to think about. They represent a dangerous weakening of British sovereignty that first glance wouldn’t suggest. Not only that, they confirm just how far ahead of his time was the man making the forecast.

Historically, England has been distinct from mainland Europe in a number of ways besides just the geographic separation provided by the English Channel. One of the most crucial, in terms of establishing and maintaining British sovereignty and independence, has been the existence of the Church of England. From the time of England’s break from Rome in the 16th century, the British monarch has been the titular head of the church, heading an ecclesiastical structure entirely separate from the pope-centered Roman Catholicism that has dominated continental history. The Act of Settlement, passed in 1701 and still in effect, preserves this independence by requiring that the person assuming the throne be Anglican and specifically excluding a Catholic or anyone who has married a Catholic. The present queen, when she was crowned in 1953, swore an oath “to maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant Reformed religion established by law.” Upholding this oath factors heavily in Britain’s independence from Europe because, since the pope claims authority over all Roman Catholics, a Catholic British monarch would owe primary allegiance to Rome over and above that owed the British crown.

And Rome would like nothing more. “The Protestant constitution of the United Kingdom has long been a strong defense against Rome’s desires for the ‘evangelization’ of Britain, which the pope refers to as ‘Mary’s dowry’—hers by right,” explained Adrian Hilton in *The Principality and Power of Europe*. “The Vatican recognizes that the defeat of Protestantism here would weaken it throughout all Europe, and this has been its aim since the Reformation.”

Of course, to many Brits today, this is all nonsense. Secularism

has Britain by the throat; the percentage of practicing Christians there is in the single digits. The Church of England has lost moral authority, loosening its standards on issues such as the ordination of women as priests, premarital cohabitation and homosexuality. In the meantime, in conflict with her coronation oath Queen Elizabeth II has made unprecedented moves to reconcile with the Vatican: among them, visiting Pope John Paul II in Rome; hosting his visit to Britain in 1982—the first pope to do so since the Reformation; allowing him to hold joint services with the archbishop of Canterbury; and appointing a Roman Catholic as her chaplain. Unsurprisingly, debate within Britain roils over whether the Act of Settlement should be trashed.

In other words, the historic fortifications safeguarding Britain’s national strength and sovereignty have been significantly compromised. What is left in this nation is a spiritual vacuum—a vacuum that provides the Church of Rome the perfect opportunity to move in. For as Britain has become more liberal, Roman Catholicism has grown more conservative, increasingly presenting itself as a rock of stability in an uncertain world.

It is against this backdrop that this headline appeared in late October: “Traditional Anglicans ask for full communion with Catholics.”

The Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC) is a group of churches with a worldwide membership approaching half a million people. It formed in 1990 from a dozen Anglican churches that broke away from the 80-million-strong Anglican Communion (of which the Church of England is the heart), mostly to protest the liberalism creeping into that organization.

From its beginning, the TAC has had a spiritual affinity with Roman Catholics. Shortly after it formed, it began informal consultations with the Vatican on how to gain formal recognition as part of the Catholic Church. The primate of the group, Archbishop John Hepworth, has said, “We have no doctrinal difference with Rome.”

This is quite a stunning statement coming from an Anglican archbishop. Set aside the many smaller differences the Protestant Reformed

The Crucial Balkans

Fully a decade before it happened, Herbert Armstrong indicated the probability of the Balkan Peninsula falling into EU hands. Not only that, but he fully expected Vatican involvement in the process! In a letter to those who were assisting him financially in his efforts to publicize the fulfillment of Bible prophecy through world events, Mr. Armstrong declared: “There will now be an effort to bring Yugoslavia into the Holy Roman Empire alliance! There will be strong pressure from the Vatican, in view of the pope’s visit to his native Poland, to bring Poland into the new United States of Europe. If Yugoslavia and Poland go

in, then expect at least Romania also to go in. Prophecy says there will be TEN NATIONS ...” (Feb. 18, 1980).

That the Vatican and Germany deliberately moved in 1991, through the recognition of *Croatia* and *Slovenia* as nation-states separate from greater Yugoslavia, to trigger a domino effect of Balkan states falling into the EU grasp is now a matter of documented history. (Request a free copy of *The Rising Beast* for some of that documentation.)

Yet fully 20 years earlier, the magazine that Herbert Armstrong helmed, the *Plain Truth*, forecast this very event! “There is strong feeling in Yugoslavia today for the need to integrate that country into a strong Europe in order to offset the Soviet threat.

“This is especially true in the northern republics of *Croatia* and *Slovenia* [which are] Roman Catholic by religion There is certainly the likelihood that Yugoslavia could eventually be-

come part of a powerful, united Europe, whose nucleus today is the European Common Market” (November 1971).

Further reinforcing the prospect of an eastern and western division to the European Union, Herbert Armstrong wrote in a co-worker letter dated Aug. 27, 1980: “Will Poland free itself from Soviet domination and join with Yugoslavia, Romania and possibly Czechoslovakia—and with Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Austria—in a resurrected medieval ‘Holy Roman Empire’ to dominate Europe and equal the USSR and the USA in world power?”

Plain Truth News Bureau director Gene Hogberg, referring to this letter, commented, “The original Roman Empire was broken into two ‘legs’—the eastern empire in Byzantium (later Constantinople, today Istanbul) and the empire in the West in Rome. Thus it is very possible that the restored end-time system will be composed of two distinct yet cooperative parts: the first comprising some of the present Common Market nations of Western Europe, the second from Central and Eastern Europe ...” (February 1981).

What vision Herbert Armstrong had

JOINING UP Tens of thousands of Anglicans want to come back under the pope’s authority.



religion traditionally has with Roman Catholicism, and still there remains a very large elephant in the middle of the room: *government*.

The churches of the Anglican Communion are resolutely decentralized; each is independently governed. Though the most visible religious head of the Anglicans, the archbishop of Canterbury (who, under the monarch, presides over the Church of England), symbolizes the unity of the communion, he is still considered merely a “first among equals.” His authority does not extend outside his own diocese. Individual synods interpret matters differently, and as a result, as one Episcopal bishop put it, “the Anglican churches are messy and often disagree with each other.”

Authority within the Roman Catholic Church, by stark contrast, emanates from *one man*, traditionally called “the Vicar of Christ,” the one and only “Successor of the Prince of the Apostles”—the pope.

The TAC is willing to swallow that pill. Archbishop Hepworth says, “Unity with Peter is a biblical imperative,” referring to the pope’s claim to be the rightful successor to the Apostle Peter. “What is important, and we are having to learn as a community,” he says, “is to ask not what we think, but what the church says, and five centuries of bad habits are going to die hard.”

Thus, in October, the TAC sent a letter, the text of which was unanimously agreed upon by the communion’s bishops and vicars-general, formally requesting “full, corporate and sacramental union” with the Roman Catholic Church.

It is now the Vatican’s call. If Rome accepts the proposal, it will open the way for hundreds of thousands of Anglicans to return to the Roman Catholic fold *en masse*—the largest such move since the Reformation. Half a million instant converts.

And those in the Traditional Anglican Church (England) will thus formalize the transfer of their allegiance from the sovereign of England to the bishop of Rome.

The significance of this event is destined to grow with time. The TAC, though now separate from the Anglican Communion, appears to be in the vanguard of a movement among many Anglicans who view the liberalization in the church as heading in the opposite direction from where they want to go. The Anglo-Catholicism that found earlier expression in the present queen’s overtures to a former pope is coming into fuller and fuller flower.

This extraordinary move puts the Vatican in the position not of converting people through force, as it often has in the past, but of coolly arbitrating and deciding upon the precise terms by which this half a million souls may consider themselves officially part of the world’s largest organized religious body.

This is the situation as it stands. A statement in the British newspaper *Catholic Herald* in December 1993 appears more and more true: “The days of the Anglican Church are numbered, and most of its worshipers will return to the true faith of their distant medieval forebears.”

Should that prediction occur, it would fully vindicate a similar, far earlier forecast.

For half a century, Herbert W. Armstrong served as editor in chief of what was, during its apex in the 1980s, the world’s most popular news-magazine, the *Plain Truth*. Its pages often prophesied of an event that for decades many considered an impossibility—the unification of Protestants with their Roman Catholic mother church. Mr. Armstrong foretold the event as far back as 1934, the year the magazine began.

A sample, from the October 1961 *Plain Truth* edition: “The pope will step in as the supreme unifying authority—the only one that can finally unite the differing nations of Europe. ... Europe will go Roman Catholic! Protestantism will be absorbed into the ‘mother’ church—and totally abolished.”

It is because of statements such as these that the *Trumpet*, which follows the *Plain Truth*’s pattern of Bible-based news analysis, has closely watched efforts by religious leaders to bring Protestant churches back into communion with the Vatican. These latest moves among Anglicans fit the mold in an astonishing way.

JOEL HILLIKER

to be able to predict so accurately the outcome of affairs in Europe! Under his guidance, the *Plain Truth* was able to see that the papacy had a political goal to fulfill closely adjoined to its perpetual religious goal: “The Vatican’s renewed desire to unite the Roman Catholic with the Orthodox churches—even extending overtures to the Muslim world—in a united front against atheistic communism could have a particularly interesting application in Yugoslavia, given its religious makeup.

“Europe—both in its eastern and western halves—could be in for tumultuous change” (April 1980).

Pope Goes on the Offensive

Tumultuous change indeed!

John Paul II’s *political* goal was fulfilled through the unification of Europe’s eastern and western “lungs.” Since his death, his successor has launched a religious blitzkrieg to draw the Orthodox churches back into union with Rome and to unite Europe *religiously*. Rapid progress is being made on that front, as we have reported in past issues.

As to Benedict’s overtures to the Muslim world, that is a two-edged sword. He knows that the two religions, Roman Catholicism and Islam, are incompatible. Indeed, his speech given at his old university at Regensburg in September 2006 contained condemning words against Islam to the point that Islamic leaders were highly offended. The pope was careful in his response to the offended to not apologize for the words that created the offense. He only stated that he was sorry they had caused offense.

The most discerning Muslim clerics are reading this pope’s clever diplomacy. They know he meant what he said. Hence the letter that a collection of 138 Islamic clerics and academics sent to Pope Benedict in October seeking inter-religious dialogue, a dialogue that in fact they know cannot effectively take place. Notwithstanding the statements in their letter as to common beliefs and teachings that each of these proselytizing, universalistic religions share, there is, by clear admission of Islam’s central book, the Koran, simply no platform for dialogue.

But these Muslims know full well the history of crusading Rome. The most astute can already deduce the globalist crusading vision that was shared by Karol Wojtyla and his chief confidant, now Pope Benedict. They have seen the power of that vision drawing a host of Eastern European nations back into the very im-

perial configuration that threatened Islam at the time of the Crusades of old.

The Islamic clerics are simply playing for time, and time is all that their efforts to court Rome are likely to gain them. They run a high risk of going too far in taunting this rising superpower, an emerging united European power that possesses nuclear technology and already has the capacity to field the world’s second-largest combined military force against any enemy that provokes it to aggression.

The Power of Papal Authority

The fact is that since John Paul II’s election in 1978, the papacy has elevated its political profile dramatically. Over the past almost 30 years, statesmen and community and religious leaders have flocked to visit the occupant of the papal throne as at no other time in history.

Speaking of John Paul II’s adroit international diplomacy and its powerful effects in changing the world balance of power, former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev declared, “I think that there has never been such an outstanding defender of the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden in various cases and in various situations, either historically speaking or in terms of ongoing conflicts.” He also said of John Paul II, “[H]e did a lot to prepare for the end of the Cold War, for the coming together of peoples. He was a man who used his high position” (*RVE/RL Newsline*, April 8, 2005).

Reviewing the brief history of Pope Benedict XVI, if ever there was a man who is demonstrating the power to use his “high position,” it’s this pope. The plethora of writings he has produced since gaining office—let alone before—leaves one breathless. Benedict’s vision is well advanced in its rhetorical form. All that remains is the action to follow the words. That will come once Benedict deduces that united Europe is in a mood to hear and respond, yet once more, with the collective voice of the crusader. And the very thing that is prophesied to cause that great reaction is Islamic provocation from south of Europe.

In this magazine we have written much warning of this coming lightning offensive by a combined European force against a provocative Islamic power and of the terrible consequences that strike shall inflict upon the free Western democracies, in particular the English-speaking nations.

It’s about time we sat up and truly listened to the rhetoric of Rome. Increasingly, it carries a political edge. It’s an edge that

history has witnessed before—the edge of the crusading sword, most recently seen in the Balkan wars and honing itself right now for a future whirlwind reaction to the major thorn in its side, pan-Islamism.

A Coming Crusade

Truly, religion is back with a vengeance on the world scene! A formidable force is gathering to the north. An ancient crusading empire is rising steadily to power into a position of global dominance economically, militarily and religiously. When this power is challenged to *Jihad* by the collective force of the Muslim nations in the future, it will not draw back as America has. That prophesied push by the king of the south will attract a retaliatory crusade that will thrust all previous crusades by the Holy Roman Empire into pallid insignificance (read Daniel 11:40).

And it will all consummate in Jerusalem—the “glorious land” of Daniel 11:41—that troubled, strife-torn city over which Muslim, Orthodox, Christian and Jew have fought for so long.

As our editor in chief has written, “We can see that *religion* is shaping both the king of the south and the king of the north. ...

“These prophecies are exploding on the world scene right now at a dizzying pace. THIS WORLD IS ABOUT TO BE PLUNGED INTO ITS GREATEST SUFFERING EVER! ... It will all begin in the Middle East.

“Still, there is great hope” (*The King of the South*, 1996).

In 1994, Pope John Paul II expressed the hope that at the dawn of the 21st century, “Jerusalem will become the city of peace for the entire world and that all the people will be able to meet there, in particular the believers in the religions that find their birthright in the faith of Abraham” (*Parade*, April 3, 1994).

Gerald Flurry commented in *The King of the South* on that statement: “The pope was very accurate in this statement: ‘Jerusalem will become the city of peace for the entire world,’ but *not* the way he believes. ... The Bible says we are about to see a religious clash that will stagger the world! This prophecy is yet to be fulfilled. ... Jesus Christ will be here in the very near future. And He will bring peace to the entire world! ... What a glorious future man has. And all of that glory is going to emanate from Jerusalem!”



FREE UPON REQUEST



TRUMPET RETROSPECTIVE

Right on the Money

**Do you remember the following words?
They are coming true before your eyes today!** BY ROBERT MORLEY

“CAN YOU REALIZE HOW FAST events are happening in the world?

“You have seen that the U.S. dollar—long thought of as the stablest currency in the world—is in immediate jeopardy of being DEVALUED!

“That means that it will take you MORE DOLLARS to buy the SAME amount of imported goods. If the dollar is devalued, INFLATION will almost surely result—and eventual economic COLLAPSE for the United States.

“Those of you who truly BELIEVE the prophecies of your Bible KNOW such economic collapse is prophesied to happen!

“And now, in almost daily news, comes

the frightening development of a rush on GOLD What does this all mean? It means that AT ANY TIME NOW, you could suddenly awake to find you have only about HALF the ‘money’ you thought you possessed—or that your purchasing power has been DRASTICALLY reduced, overnight!

“SHOULD the dollar collapse, it could well mean a repetition of the disastrous DEPRESSION that strangled the economic world in 1929!

“The final crisis is fast descending upon us.”

Those words sound like they could have been printed this month. The dollar is dropping to all-time lows. America

is, in fact, experiencing the early stages of a dollar collapse.

But Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the globally circulated *Plain Truth* newsmagazine up until his death in 1986, wrote those words almost 30 years ago.

Following Mr. Armstrong’s lead, and interpreting current events in light of Bible prophecy, the *Trumpet* has continued, from its earliest editions, to warn that the age of the dollar is almost over—and warn readers that this is a precursor to the biblically prophesied downfall of the United States.

Now, that prophecy is coming to pass. America’s economy truly is on a downward slope, sliding toward a cliff.

DREAMSTIME

Billowing Debt

The most visible sign that America is heading toward collapse is probably the decline of the dollar. But why is the dollar falling? One big reason is billowing debt.

American society is critically reliant upon borrowed money to maintain its standard of living. Federal, state and municipal governments borrow to finance budget deficits and spending; consumers increasingly borrow for daily needs as well as wants; and now, recent headlines reveal that America's biggest banks, such as Citi Group, Washington Mutual and Charles Schwab, are borrowing billions from the Federal Reserve Bank to stay afloat. The whole economy is propped up by ever greater amounts of debt.

Total U.S. debt now stands at approximately \$48 trillion. If future liabilities such as Social Security, Medicare and government pensions are included, America's total debt would double to around \$100 trillion.

Warning signs of too much debt have been evident for many years, although it is only now, with the falling dollar, that many other news sources are emphasizing it. The *Trumpet* has highlighted this unsustainable trend for more than a decade, but even before us, Herbert W. Armstrong warned of the same. In a letter dated Oct. 25, 1985, Mr. Armstrong wrote that "the U.S. and the entire world face a grave economic future from the burden of mounting debts."

This is what the *Trumpet* said in 1997 concerning the danger that America's debt, especially foreign debt, posed to the economy: "The inherent dangers for a country operating in this way should be obvious to any clear-thinking person. Countries, just like individuals, can become ADDICTED to credit! In order to maintain a high standard of living, America has become increasingly dependent upon foreign credit to pay its bills, piling debt upon debt, until it has mortgaged itself to the hilt!" ("America's Economy—Hanging From a Thread," August 1997).

America's foreign debt load has more than doubled in the decade since that was written.

The article went on to explain why this situation is so hazardous. "The primary danger is that addiction to foreign credit finally gives foreigners complete control over the debtor nation! A variation of the 'Golden Rule' says, 'He who has the gold, rules.' Or as Almighty God, the master economist of the universe, tells us in Proverbs 22:7, 'The borrower is servant to the lender.'"

In that 1997 article, author Tim Thompson compared America's debt-dependent society to the whitewashed tomb of Matthew 23:27. "It is beautiful on the outside—it has the appearance

of wealth and wellbeing—but inside it is 'full of dead men's bones, and all uncleanness'—it is a financial nightmare built by hypocrites and filled with all rottenness!"

As Mr. Thompson pointed out, borrowed money can give the appearance of prosperity—but appearances don't mean much. Just because you drive a Mercedes or wear a Rolex doesn't mean you are rich—it may mean that all your credit cards are maxed out and you have a second mortgage.

America's wealth illusion is becoming transparent. The debt has grown so massive that the nation's international trade partners are beginning to question America's creditworthiness, a trend the *Trumpet* foresaw in 1995. At that time, we wrote that confidence in America could be seen in the value that foreign nations place on the dollar. "CONFIDENCE IN AMERICA IS FALLING," we warned ("Decline of a Dollar, Decline of a Nation," May 1995).

"Countries, just like individuals, can become addicted to credit!"

—TRUMPET, AUGUST 1997



Foreign Capital Flight

But what happens if America loses the confidence of the world—if it becomes regarded as a credit risk with the potential to renege on its debts? A November 1998 *Trumpet* article answers the question. "America has long been the safest place on Earth for foreign investors' money. But what happens if they take their money elsewhere?" ("Financial Destruction of America").

The article continued: "On the international level, strength of character is equated with strength of economy, and both are extremely lacking today in America! Regardless of the 'full faith and credit' of the U.S. government, global investors are becoming increasingly aware that an investment in America is no longer an investment in strength. There is only an illusion of strength being propped up by foreign capital.

"Once a loss of confidence occurs, the reaction is similar to the effect of adultery in many marriages today—victims of such a breach of trust start looking for a way out, and many times they take every financial advantage they can on their way out the door. Through such devices as credibility-destroying scandals, a mountainous and expanding national debt, a hugely overvalued stock market, record-low-yielding bonds and other 'confidence shakers,' America is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the devastating effects of foreign capital flight. ...

"Foreign capital flight is on the horizon for America, yet Americans, in all their haughtiness, refuse to see it coming. America is going to be blind-sided and totally shocked when she is rejected by the investors of the world. In fact, foreign capital flight is one of the primary mechanisms whereby America will be abandoned by her former 'lovers' [trade partners]" (Jeremiah 4:30; 30:14, 24).

This past August, America got a taste of foreign capital flight. Its lenders decided to take their money elsewhere. Investments totaling a record-breaking \$163 billion fled the U.S. that month, according to Treasury Department figures. And for the first time since 1998, foreigners on balance sold U.S. govern-



ment treasuries. Asian investors alone, including Japan (\$23 billion) and China (\$14.2 billion), dumped \$52 billion.

And what will be the effect? Visualizing this eventual probability, the *Trumpet* wrote in 1997: “And now there is going to be a heavy price to pay. ... For Japan and other foreign creditors to sell extensive amounts of U.S. treasury bills would be similar to a bank cutting off the credit line of a heavily indebted individual who relies on borrowed money to pay his bills, and then demanding immediate repayment of the outstanding loans. That is exactly the position in which the United States finds itself! Simply put, if early repayment of these loans are demanded through a massive sell-off of foreign-owned bonds, the United States would be UNABLE to pay the face value of the bonds, let alone the interest! There is a mortgage on America—and foreigners hold that mortgage ...” (op. cit., August 1997).

In January 1998, we wrote that “the foreign-financed U.S. national debt is America’s Achilles’ heel! ... [F]oreign financing of a country’s deficits, or national debt, is a time bomb just waiting in the shadows, ready to destroy a country financially when the lender countries ... stop lending” (“Asian Financial Meltdown”).

Evidence today is vindicating the above statements. This past August, two Chinese government officials highlighted how China could use its massive U.S. dollar holdings (which include hundreds of billions in government treasuries) as a political weapon to influence the U.S. One Chinese cabinet-rank minister went as far as saying that America’s debt should be used as a “bargaining chip” to influence trade talks. Another Chinese official warned that China could set off a dollar crash if it so desired. Chinese state media referred to the country’s stockpile of U.S. dollars as its economic “nuclear option,” capable of destroying the dollar at will.

In early November, a Chinese central bank vice director warned that the dollar was losing its luster as a reserve currency and that China might start diversifying its currency reserves—selling its dollars and U.S. treasuries, for example. The announcement roiled financial markets, causing a drop in the dollar’s value and a 350-point plunge in the Dow Jones industrial average.

But as foreign investment has begun to leave America, other countries—especially in Europe—have begun to benefit from all that foreign money looking for a new home.

The Rise of Europe

When the euro was launched nine years ago, many critics said it could never share the field with the dollar, pound or yen. Critics and analysts, while focusing on the many obstacles that a culturally fragmented Europe would need to overcome, largely overlooked or dismissed the economic strength a united Europe could exert if monetary union succeeded.

But because of our reliance on Bible prophecy, the *Trumpet* stands out as a voice that consistently and correctly predicted the rise of the euro and a European empire.

In May 1998, when many thought the euro would not be a viable currency, the *Trumpet* wrote the following concerning its launch: “The most profound and significant event since the fall of the Berlin Wall is about to break on to the world scene. It is an event which will change the whole framework of existing global political, economic and financial cooperation” (“EMU Takes Off”).



Earlier, in August 1997, the *Trumpet* asked, “[I]f the Japanese and other foreign debt holders pull out their support of the United States and the U.S. collapses financially, how will those investors attempt to keep themselves from financial collapse? The answer fits perfectly with Bible prophecy, which indicates they will probably put their money with the new economic superpower, which will be forced into a meteoric rise because of the fall and failure of the present economic superpower America, when it is abandoned by its economic ‘lovers.’”

“Unknown to virtually everyone on Earth, America is being replaced in its role as the world’s sole-surviving superpower. Today, even as you read this article, a religio-political machine ... is on the rise in Europe.”

“Do we begin to catch a glimpse of imminent global economic upheaval? Can we see the competitive spirit with which the euro is being implemented? Can we see how the pullout of Japan as America’s financial underpinning could open the door for the euro to become the dominant international currency? ... Once this occurs, the new euro will probably be *catapulted* into prominence and increased value, all the while climbing higher as it pushes the dollar deeper into the financial abyss!”

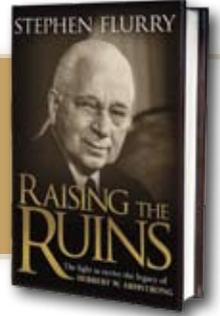
Today the global shift in investment from the dollar to the euro is stopping the mouths of critics. Europe and the euro are on the rise—largely because of the weakness of America and its dollar. The euro has risen 62 percent against the dollar since 2002.

As the *Trumpet* reported in November/December 2007, even former U.S. Federal Reserve Bank chief Alan Greenspan sees the possibility of the euro replacing the dollar as the world’s reserve currency. Greenspan warned in a September 2007 article in the German magazine *Stern* that both private investors and central banks were beginning to dump dollars in favor of the euro, narrowing the gap between the number of dollars held by foreign central banks as compared to euros. Greenspan also noted that the greenback didn’t actually “have all that much of an advantage” over the euro anymore and that in terms of cross-border trade, the dollar accounts for 43 percent, while the euro is used in a close 39 percent of exchange.

The world’s economic landscape is drastically changing. The dollar is on the verge of collapse, foreign investors are beginning to abandon the U.S., and investor confidence is shifting to Europe. The *Trumpet* has been warning of these events for decades. Future world events are not secret. The Bible reveals them and makes them plain.

Watch global trends! The dollar’s recent depreciation is only the beginning of many more biblically prophesied events that will drastically impact the Western world. As the parable of the fig tree tells us in Matthew 24:32-35 concerning end-time events leading up to the return of Jesus Christ, “when you see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.” ■

In his book *Raising the Ruins*, now available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is the 13th chapter.



STEPHEN FLURRY

Breaking Ground

“God’s headquarters has moved numerous times since the days of Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness. ... Therefore, if any departmental moves occur, they won’t represent the first time headquarters operations have moved”

—Joseph Tkach Sr. *Pastor General’s Report, Dec. 19, 1989*

MY FATHER STAUNCHLY SUPPORTED the changeover from Mr. Armstrong to Mr. Tkach in 1986. He arranged for all the church members in his Oklahoma City congregation to sign a card encouraging the new pastor general to carry on with the work. He also invited

Mr. Tkach, if he could fit it into his schedule, to visit the Oklahoma brethren.

After making church visits to Phoenix, Big Sandy, Chicago and Anchorage in early 1986, Mr. Tkach accepted my father’s invitation and stopped in Oklahoma City on June 7, 1986. According to the *Worldwide News*, quoting my dad, Mr. Tkach’s sermon was “the type of sermon that is good for the ministry and can pave the way ... for the type of sermons we need to be preaching to God’s people. It left all with the feeling we need to become more on fire for God’s work, inspiring us to be more enthusiastic and involved.” Coordinating the special weekend, my dad arranged for the churches to present Mr. Tkach with an oversized greeting card that played “Hail to the Chief,” a fanfare often used for greeting U.S. presidents. The church areas also presented Mr. Tkach with a gold-plated, brass centerpiece as a gift of appreciation for his visit.

Certainly, my father was not against Mr. Tkach’s appointment as pastor general. Even after my dad first began to notice disturbing changes coming out of Pasadena, he tried to push these concerns out of his mind. He firmly believed Jesus Christ was Head of the church. And if leaders at headquarters needed to be corrected for any of their new teachings, Jesus Christ would take care of it.

In the third year of Mr. Tkach’s leadership, sometime in 1988, my dad’s thinking began to change.

■ THE LAODICEAN ERA

Before Herbert W. Armstrong died in January 1986, the WCG membership had been warned many times about the final prophesied era of God’s Church before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ—called *Laodicea* in Revelation 3. This era is characterized by spiritual lukewarmness—God says the people are “neither cold nor hot.” They trust in material things “and have need of nothing.”

Dr. Herman Hoeh wrote in his 1959 booklet *A True History of the True Church*: “This frightful condition lies now ahead of us. Just as the remnants of the Sardis era of the Church exist side by side with the Philadelphia era, so we will continue our work to the very ‘end time’ when another group will appear” As that statement reveals, we believed another group would appear *separate from* the WCG—though undoubtedly composed mostly of former WCG members.

But Mr. Armstrong had not ruled out the fact that the WCG *itself* might turn Laodicean, as the following statement indicates: “But, the bad news, as it appears today, my dear brethren, is that we, undoubtedly of the Philadelphia era ... are in serious danger of becoming also the Laodicean era. I am personally much concerned about that.”

It wasn’t until 1988 that my father began to see this as a distinct possibility. In studying Revelation 2 and 3, he realized that most of the time, Church eras do go astray. And once he accepted that historical fact, his discernment sharpened. He then noticed many more teachings coming out of Pasadena that simply did not square with the Bible. By the end of 1988, he was fully aware of the evil lurking within the Worldwide Church of God headquarters.

At the outset of 1989, my father began searching the Scriptures for God’s perspective on all the changes. Why were they happening? Where was it leading? What should we do?

■ TRANSFER TO BIG SANDY

The first time I ever remember my dad expressing dissatisfaction with headquarters occurred sometime in January 1989. As a freshman at Ambassador College, Pasadena, I had given some thought to possibly transferring to the Big Sandy campus for my sophomore year. I knew how my dad felt about the idea. Although he would have supported my decision either way, he had always wanted me to stay at the headquarters campus. Since that is where most of the top ministers in the church were assigned, he felt I could learn more in Pasadena.

During one particular phone conversation about Big Sandy, however, I was surprised to hear him encourage me to apply for the transfer. “Dr. Meredith is over Big Sandy,” he told me. “I think he’s more conservative than some of the ministers in Pasadena.” He was careful not to say much more than that.

I didn’t give much thought to his comment at the time. I was just excited that he was happy for me to apply for the transfer.

■ GETTING THE PGR

When Larry Salyer explained in the PGR why they discontinued *Mystery of the Ages*, it upset my dad terribly. But to read Mr. Tkach’s own words two weeks later, in the February 14 report—how the book had “peripheral or incidental” errors and that it was outdated—was just too much. He had to vent.

He received that issue of the PGR on a Friday and then called me that night, Feb. 17, 1989. At first, he was careful not to seem too upset. After a bit of prying, though, I got him to reveal how he really felt. He said, “Some of the things ministers are saying today would have gotten them fired if Mr. Armstrong were around.” I listened in disbelief. Could it really be that bad? He went on to explain that they had discontinued *Mystery of the Ages* because of “minor errors” and “money.” This was the first time I had ever heard that. Here I was at headquarters and no one—none of the ministers, faculty, student leaders—had ever told me that *Mystery of the Ages* was discontinued. My father later said, “We may very well be in the Laodicean era.” He also encouraged me to read the Old Testament book of Malachi—saying that some of the prophecy in that little book may be happening right now.

All of this was a lot for an unbaptized 19-year-old to digest. I tried to piece together my father’s comments with other things I was aware of. Four weeks earlier, during announcements at services, Mr. Tkach told the brethren how upset he had been recently, when he discovered that one of his assistants had been going “behind his back,” complaining about “changes” in the church. Mr. Fezell followed those announcements with a sermon titled “Eternal Truths.” In it, he discussed a number of changes in the church, but reassured the brethren that some things would never change—these so-called *eternal* truths. A week later, on January 28, Dr. Herman Hoeh gave a sermon on “change.” A number of us students had wondered if something big was about to happen.

For me, something big did happen on that night of February 17. The man I trusted more than any other human being on Earth had just told me the church I had grown up in was now headed in a dangerous direction. It scared me.

■ BEGINNING OF MALACHI’S MESSAGE

A few weeks after our phone conversation, my father began working on a manuscript to explain, from a biblical perspective, why the WCG was making so many changes. He now believed the church had indeed moved into the Laodicean era and that a number of Bible prophecies explained *how* and *why* it was happening.

We continued our occasional phone conversations, talking about school, family and areas of Scripture he had been studying—usually the minor prophets. But he never mentioned his paper. When I told him I was accepted to Big Sandy on April 4, he was glad to hear that I would be coming home toward the end of summer—and that I would only be a few hours from home during my sophomore year. More than that, he was glad that I would be getting out of Pasadena—the seat of the anti-Armstrong liberalism, so far as he was concerned.

He and my mom arrived in Pasadena on May 16 for my sister’s graduation. Once again, he made no mention of the manuscript. No one, except him, knew about it—not even my mom.

Meanwhile, rumors had been flying around campus that the church was going to put the Pasadena property up for sale. On Memorial Day, May 29, a few friends of mine went to a Dodgers game with Fred Stevens, the WCG accounting manager who assisted Leroy Neff, the church treasurer. I happened to ask Mr. Stevens about the rumors to sell the headquarters property. He said, “If anything like that ever happened, Mr. Tkach is not so dumb as to keep it a secret.” He brushed aside these rumors as a “bunch of lies.”

■ MY DAD’S INITIAL FEEDBACK

On Friday, July 14, I flew to Oklahoma to spend the rest of the summer at home. My dad picked me up at the airport and we drove directly to Robbers’ Cave in southeastern Oklahoma, where my dad’s congregation was sponsoring a youth campout for the Oklahoma area churches. It was a three-hour drive I will never forget.

For four months, my dad had been working on his paper, telling no one about it. He occasionally worked on it at home in his office, but that was inconvenient and nerve-wracking with my mom around. His favorite workplace was a vacant building in Enid, Oklahoma, where he pastored a small second congregation of about 100 people. The church area rented a room in a vacant building for services and Bible studies and the owner liked the congregation so much, he just gave my dad a key and said he could use it whenever he wanted. Thoreau had Walden Pond—my dad had a remote second office in a small Oklahoma town. He may have looked funny hauling a typewriter in and out of that vacant meeting hall, but it worked well for him. He wrote the bulk of his manuscript at that secluded location, about an hour and a half from home.

When he picked me up on July 14, he had a rough draft of *Malachi’s Message* tucked away in his briefcase, in the trunk of the car. During the drive, he told me about a number of other things going on in the church—again, things I was totally unaware of. He said several ministers in the field were disgruntled with the changes coming out of Pasadena. And adding to his comment months earlier, about the church being in the Laodicean era, he said he believed the church was headed toward

a “definite split.” He later said he wanted me to read something he had written that explained all of this. He had kept this conversation bottled up inside his mind for four months. I could tell that he was relieved, just having gotten it off his chest. The thought of reading his paper made me nervous.

What if, after all, my dad was wrong? What if God *was* behind all of the changes in the church? Whether I read the manuscript or not, I knew, based upon what he had already told me, that I needed to study more on my own. I needed to prove for myself who was right and who was wrong. I didn’t want to just take my dad’s word for it.

I put off reading it until Sunday morning, two days later. We had planned to head back home that afternoon. As I read, I could tell my dad was anxiously awaiting any kind of feedback. He was very fidgety—constantly in and out of the cabin, trying to “keep busy” while I took the time to read.

I got through about half of it before we had to gather our things to leave. “So, what do you think?” he asked when I stopped reading. “Well, that definitely will get you fired,” I responded. Its content certainly rang true—it was *inspiring* in fact—but I couldn’t yet commit to accepting the material without first digging into Mr. Armstrong’s foundational teachings. How could I say the church had fallen away from the truth when I hadn’t yet fully proven the truth in the first place? I was 19—interested in baptism—and had so much to learn.

He agreed that the content would undoubtedly get him fired. But believing it was from God, he fully intended to deliver the message to church leaders in Pasadena—perhaps in January of 1991—the end of the work’s third 19-year time cycle. That was still a year and a half off, I thought. In the meantime, I had some studying to do as a sophomore in Big Sandy.

We talked about his paper most of the way home. Even with my limited understanding, I felt pretty sure about one thing: that we were now in the Laodicean era. But was it my dad’s place to warn headquarters and the church about this? This is the question I wrestled with most over the next several months. Why not some other minister? Shouldn’t a high-ranking minister from headquarters do this? Why couldn’t my dad just tend to his flock in Oklahoma and let someone else lead the fight?

■ “THIS CHURCH IS LAODICEAN”

Mr. Tkach was in Big Sandy for my orientation on August 14. He gave an odd introductory message—considering it was the kick-off to another exciting school year. He seemed paranoid and defensive. He was upset that some people were criticizing him. He then proceeded to criticize Mr. Armstrong, saying that in the past we had focused too much on prophecy.

Later that week, I met a sophomore whose dad also happened to be a minister in the WCG. From what I could gather, it seemed like his dad was upset about the changes too. I remember feeling good about that—like I wasn’t totally alone in this.

The next week, on August 22, I got a part-time job in the college library. For the most part, I was responsible for organizing and storing sermon, Bible study and forum cassette tapes. Many of the older tapes, by Mr. Armstrong and other leading ministers, weren’t even available to students. But as tape librarian, I had access to the archives. This wonderful collection proved invaluable as the semester wore on. As changes worked their way into the church, I often made

side-by-side comparisons between what they were preaching and what the church taught when Mr. Armstrong was alive.

On Sunday night, October 1, I called my dad to chat about college and church subjects. During our conversation, he told me that his assistant, John Amos, had heard headquarters intended to remove Dr. Meredith from his position as head of the school in Big Sandy. My dad went on to say that he wondered if I should continue on at AC after my sophomore year. That comment shook me more than the Meredith rumor.

Four days later, Mr. Tkach, via telephone hook-up, announced that Dr. Meredith was being “transferred” to Pasadena to “write articles.” He was replaced by Dick Thompson. Gary Antion would move in from Pasadena to replace Mr. Thompson as dean of students.

The whole announcement was upsetting. But I couldn’t help feeling excited as well. The rumor Mr. Amos heard was, in fact, true! To me, it indicated that there were some rumblings of dissatisfaction among the field ministers around the world—it wasn’t just my dad! If there indeed was a split in the church, hopefully the majority would stand up for the truth, or at least maybe it would be a 50-50 split.

That night, I happened to be eating with a student named Rick. After everyone at our table had left, half joking, he told me the church had drifted into a “lukewarm attitude.” Once he saw that I didn’t disagree, he quickly turned serious. “This church is Laodicean,” he said. “I don’t care what anyone says. The same thing is happening now that happened in the 1970s, only this time, I’m old enough to see it”—this from someone I had just met! I immediately thought to myself, “Now here is someone I need to spend more time with.” When his friend Chris joined us in mid-conversation, I politely changed the subject. Rick interjected, “Oh, don’t worry, he thinks the same way I do.”

This was too good to be true! Sure, the overwhelming majority of students thought Dr. Meredith’s transfer was nothing more than “business as usual.” But for me to stumble upon two students who were terribly upset by the news and felt that the church was Laodicean seemed like a miracle from God. I really needed those two guys. The three of us started listening to old tapes together. We dug up old literature in the library to get a good grasp of what Mr. Armstrong taught on all the church’s foundational teachings. For the rest of the semester, the three of us were practically inseparable.

■ OUR LAST FEAST

My family came to Big Sandy for the Feast of Tabernacles in mid-October. My sister read my dad’s manuscript during that Feast, giving us lots to talk about. She told me that while she couldn’t refute anything in the paper, her only concern was, *why did it have to be Dad?* She and I were struggling to get past the same obstacle.

Before the Feast started, I gave my dad a copy of a video Rick had gotten hold of a couple weeks earlier. It was Mr. Armstrong’s taped sermon from the 1985 Feast. This was the one preceded by the 20-minute segment about the uniqueness and importance of *Mystery of the Ages*, with footage of Mr. Armstrong addressing the sophomores. My dad added a couple of points from that video to his Feast sermon, given the fourth day of the festival, Oct. 17, 1989. It was the last Feast message my dad would give in the Worldwide Church of God.

Later that Feast, when Mr. Tkach announced that the church

would be donating \$100,000 to victims of the earthquake in San Francisco, I distinctly remember my dad saying, “They can afford to make a huge donation for the earthquake, but they can’t afford to print *Mystery of the Ages*.” He was disgusted.

■ GETTING TURNED IN

Soon after I read the paper over the summer, my dad began discussing the disturbing direction of the church with his assistant pastor, John Amos. Mr. Amos was also upset with the church’s direction and didn’t know how God intended to fix the problem, until after reading the manuscript. He was so gung-ho for what my dad was studying and writing that it inspired my dad all the more to press on with the project, confident that God would back him in the end.

There were also several members in my dad’s church area who were upset about the changes. But he was much more guarded around them—telling them nothing about his manuscript and only that “God would work things out.” Three individuals, however, persisted in asking my dad to explain what was going on with the church: Don Avilez and Stuart Powell (both local church elders), and a deacon named Dan Elliott. My dad finally agreed to meet with them, along with Mr. Amos, on Sunday, November 5. (Mr. Powell and Mr. Elliott also brought their wives). During the meeting, which lasted for several hours, he told them why he believed these changes were happening. He later issued copies of the manuscript, suggesting they study it first before meeting with him again a few weeks later.

On the way home with Mr. Amos, my dad expressed concern, wondering if he had done the right thing. Much of the feedback at the meeting was encouraging—even enthusiastic. But it was clear that the five of them were shaken by my dad’s explanation.

Their follow-up meeting had been set for early December. This time, when my dad and Mr. Amos arrived at the old building in Enid (the same one where much of *Malachi’s Message* had been written), the two wives weren’t there—only the three men. (Conversely, Mrs. Amos, who was now in full agreement with her husband’s support of my father, decided to attend.) Don Avilez had taken the lead among the three men, saying that my dad was way out of line to criticize Mr. Tkach Sr. and headquarters. Though not completely shocked, my father and Mr. Amos were both deeply disappointed. My father asked the three men to return their manuscripts, which they did, and assured them that he would eventually deliver a completed copy to Mr. Tkach. Until then, he asked that they keep these discussions confidential.

Later that week, Don Avilez called Arnold Clauson in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. (Mr. Clauson had been the pastor in Oklahoma City before my dad replaced him in 1985.) Mr. Clauson then called Joseph Tkach Jr. in Church Administration on December 6.

The cat was out of the bag.

■ MOVING HEADQUARTERS

Ironically, I actually saw Joe Jr.’s dad in Big Sandy the same day Joe Jr. saw my dad in Pasadena. (The big difference, though, was that I didn’t fire his father.)

On Dec. 7, 1989, Mr. Tkach Sr. was on campus for a groundbreaking ceremony. The day was cold, cloudy and damp—which, as I look back on it now, seems fitting—considering

what finally came of their big ideas for Big Sandy.

The church and the college had been going through so many changes—reopening Big Sandy, pursuing accreditation, closing Pasadena, etc. More and more of the church’s focus had centered on the Big Sandy campus. Mr. Tkach wrote in the Dec. 19, 1989, PGR: “Under careful study is also the possibility of moving one or more major departments of the work to Big Sandy, where costs of construction are significantly less than in Pasadena, and cost of housing would be considerably more affordable for our employees.”

They actually gave strong consideration to moving headquarters from Pasadena to Big Sandy. He continued, “If God leads me to see that some parts of the work should be relocated in Texas, sale of any resulting unused facilities here would also help in the costs of building there.” As it turns out, there actually was something to those rumors we had been hearing in Pasadena earlier in the year. Mr. Tkach even acknowledged the rumor mill in his column: “Now I realize that such moves may sound drastic at first to some (though I understand rumors have been circulating for months).” According to the report, Mr. Tkach had commissioned a “careful and detailed feasibility study” on the possibility of such a move back in the spring of 1988. No wonder rumors had been circulating.

Later, Mr. Tkach said, “Big Sandy has served as a second headquarters for decades,” which wasn’t true. It might have been a second Ambassador College campus—but certainly NOT a second headquarters. It became obvious where Mr. Tkach was headed. “I believe God is now leading me to see that a consolidation of as many of our resources, personnel and operations as possible at our less expensive facility may make good sense in preparation for the bumpy economic times ahead,” he said. The church was, after all, in the midst of a financial crisis in 1989.

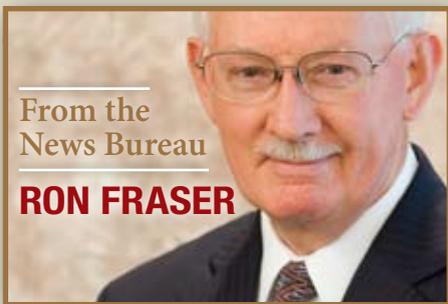
He went on to explain that Mr. Armstrong himself moved headquarters from Oregon to California back in the 1940s. “God’s headquarters has moved numerous times since the days of Moses and the Israelites in the wilderness.” Thus, “if any departmental moves occur, they won’t represent the first time headquarters operations have moved.”

Indeed, plans for this move were already well under way by the time Mr. Tkach informed the church of the “possible option” in December of 1989. The WCG had been busy buying parcels of land around its 1,600-acre campus in preparation for the massive move. Numerous buildings were being designed by architects. In 1990, the church hurriedly built nine new structures in Big Sandy, including five student residences and a 350-seat lecture hall.

But the centerpiece of this building program was the Hall of Administration—a three-story office building situated at the end of the main entrance on campus. This building, once the move was complete, would become the church’s new headquarters.

What I find most remarkable about this history is that the very day Mr. Tkach broke ground on a new headquarters in Big Sandy, the church’s headquarters actually did move—but not to Big Sandy. On Dec. 7, 1989, the real ground-breaking ceremony took place in Pasadena, California—inside Joseph Tkach Jr.’s office. On that day, Tkach Jr. fired my father and John Amos.

That’s the day headquarters moved from Pasadena, California, to Edmond, Oklahoma. ■



From the
News Bureau

RON FRASER

EU Ignores Public, Expands Powers

EUROPEAN LEADERS MET IN LISBON, PORTUGAL, ON A balmy October day to thrash out differences over the EU Reform Treaty. Outside, 200,000 citizens demonstrated. They were protesting against the idea of EU citizens being denied any say in the process of the Union's agreeing to a revision of the much-touted European Constitution in its new guise as the EU Reform Treaty.

Yet again, the EU is showing a determination to impose its will and to ride roughshod over public opinion.

Though the Lisbon demonstration was the largest in the Portuguese capital for 20 years, it was ignored by the press. You simply did not hear about it.

That's a startling demonstration of the power that this European monolith, the EU, already possesses to control media and thus public opinion. As Thomas Rupp, the coordinator of the European Referendum Campaign, observed of the EU leaders gathered in Lisbon, "They boasted that they have managed to get over an institutional crisis, but in fact they just increased the EU's democratic crisis by completely avoiding the citizens. And obviously you should not count too much on the mainstream media to do anything about it" (EU Observer, Oct. 23, 2007).

This emerging economic and political titan has a record of railroading its treaties and regulations through the institutions of its own creation—institutions designed to impose the EU will over and above the sovereign rights of its member nation states. The list of regulations it now enforces on its 27 member nations, in many cases trumping those nations' own sovereign laws, currently runs to 90,000 pages!

In the past, Ireland, France and the Netherlands have all, in principle, rejected the EU constitution via public referenda. The British government has been scared out of its wits by the prospect of testing the EU constitution via the same democratic method, knowing full well that polls indicate upward of 70 percent of the British people do not support it.

The term "democracy," to the bureaucrats of Brussels, simply has the same meaning as it has in Moscow or Beijing. The European Union is the new tyrant of the Continent.

Thankfully, though it be late—far too late, if we were only to know the truth—voices both sides of the Atlantic are increasingly crying out in alarm over what is building in Europe.

Until recently, very few of the voices that have been sounding an alarm at the danger emerging via the undemocratic processes of the EU have been given equal airtime with the Europhiles. We have quoted a number of the most strident of those voices over the years. Most have been British—such keen observers as British political economist Rodney Atkinson, that great British patriot Norris McWhirter, authors Adrian Hilton, John Laughland, Bernard Connolly et al. Yet on the other side of the Atlantic, those analysts who clearly

see what is happening in Europe today for what it is have been few and far between.

Brian Connell, who authored *A Watcher on the Rhine* back in 1957, attempted to warn Americans of the dangers they would face by endorsing the concept of a united Europe. More

A European Union summit brought out a number of critics complaining about this institution's threat to democracy. Is it too little, too late?

recently, the *Washington Post's* former London bureau chief T.R. Reid has become quite vocal in trying to educate Americans as to the new superpower that threatens U.S. dominance.

His most comprehensive effort, the book *The United States of Europe*, was published in 2004.

But suddenly, a rash of commentary is coming from sources on both sides of the Atlantic decrying the manner in which this imperial European Union is forcing its will upon the European populace and even beyond. In the business world, the cowering of corporate giant Microsoft before the high and mighty European regulator has set alarm bells ringing among corporate moguls, as the prospect of the EU becoming the chief regulator of global business starts to sink in.

The EU Reform Treaty summit in October ran true to form. As the *Economist* mused, "Eurocrats like to talk about building Europe 'step by step.' Critics accuse Brussels of slicing away national sovereignty, treaty by treaty" (Oct. 25, 2007).

What is the real impact of this latest in the series of treaties that has governed the evolution of this European monolith to this point? The Reform Treaty, to be signed on December 13 in Lisbon, is but the clone of the rejected European Constitution, under a different name, with some revolutionary clauses of imperialistic nature strongly endorsed.

The Reform Treaty creates the new post of president of the European Council, who will host four or more EU summits per year. In addition, the treaty allows for the appointment of an EU foreign minister to represent the Union in its international relations with the rest of the global community and to represent the EU within international entities such as the United Nations.

The treaty also allows for nations desiring greater defense cooperation to proceed to pursue just that. Added to these changes is a shrinkage of the upper layer of political leaders within the European Commission, currently headed by José Manuel Barroso.

What does all this mean to citizens of EU member states?

It means that, without being consulted at all, they will become part of an imperial Europe. Their most powerful representation on the international scene will not be from the foreign ministries and diplomatic corps of their national governments, but through a separate EU foreign office, backed by a separate EU corps of diplomats, who may counter any foreign-policy initiatives that any EU member nation may wish to promulgate individually. This reflects a clear policy

of imperialism crafted by EU technocrats.

Europe's past as an imperial power is one of the great blots on the history of man. It is one of bloodletting on a grand scale, consummating in the 20th century in the two most terrible wars of all. How is it then that the world just stands by and lets the prospect of more such horror to evolve before its eyes with barely a whimper of concern?

Last October, the European Council on Foreign Relations divulged results of a survey that ought to alarm every keen watcher of European developments. Commenting on the results of that survey, EU Observer noted, "Citizens worldwide prefer 'soft power' in international affairs rather than military might, and the EU appears to be the political actor whose role is most respected, a new survey suggests.

"In the poll, released by new think tank, the European Council on Foreign Relations, more than one third of the respondents (35 percent) said they see an increased EU power as a central element needed to develop a better world" (Oct. 25, 2007).

Yet there is a paradox here, as the think tank's executive director, Mark Leonard, and board member Ivan Krastev commented: "It is striking that a continent with a military budget second only to the United States, and the biggest number of peace-keeping forces serving in the world, seems to be perceived as a non-military power" (ibid.).

Back when Europe lay largely in ashes at the close of World War II, there was one lone voice that cried out in warning at the Allied nations' efforts to promote the construction of a unified Europe. Herbert W. Armstrong declared that imperial Europe would arise out of the ashes to once again stride across the world as a global superpower. He pointed to the dangers that imperial power would pose to the English-speaking peoples in particular.

Few listened.

Now the chickens are coming home to roost, and the hens are clucking in startled fashion.

As Herbert W. Armstrong declared, this time the leading power in Europe, Germany, has learned the lesson that a European empire is best not created by war. It is best created, like the British Empire of the past, by trade. Once that economic empire is consolidated into a political entity, overlaid culturally by a collective spiritual ideology—a state religion—then and only then should a policy of military imperialism be imposed.

Sixty years of documented history attest to the prescience of Herbert W. Armstrong's observations.

Led by Germany, in tandem with France and influenced by Rome, this European conglomerate has grown from a Common Market, via economic imperialism, into a political European Union about to elect its own president and appoint

its own foreign service. Economic imperialism has morphed into political imperialism.

How will the economic and political interests of this new "United States of Europe" be secured and defended? It has the capacity to support a combined military force with a collective defense budget second only to that other United States, the United States of America! And its combined forces are deployed across more theaters of conflict, in "peace-keeping" mode, than any other international entity! Given some attention to organization—a natural gift of our German friends—that combined military force is already capable of defending the interests of the EU empire, more particularly so now that France has a president willing to share that nation's nuclear capability with its German partner. This situation is, in fact, destined to have far graver consequences upon the U.S. and



its allies than Iraq and Afghanistan combined are presently having. In fact, it is destined to soon overtake the U.S. and its English-speaking allies in terms of economic impact, political influence and military might—believe it or not!

Yes, the more astute pundits are now emerging to decry the threats posed by imperialist Europe. But it's all too late. The barn door has been left open by the victors in the last European-instigated war; the horse has bolted and there's no stopping it.

The best we can hope for now is—in fact—the greatest of all hopes.

Hope, and pray, for the day soon come when the final revival of that old Holy Roman Empire will be quashed, never again to raise its bloody fist over mankind. Its global power is about to be replaced by a supreme, universal Power in fulfillment of Isaiah's great prophecy: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7). ■

For thou hast made him a little lower [or, for a little while lower] than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. *Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet*" (Psalm 8:3-6). The Apostle Paul paraphrased this psalm in Hebrews 2.

In Romans 8, Paul said the whole creation, meaning the vast, limitless universe, is waiting "with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God; for the creation [including all the suns, planets, stars, moons] was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation [stars, suns and moons now in decay and futility] has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for [the birth] as sons" (verses 19-23, Revised Standard Version).

No truth is more exhilarating! What an eye-opening passage of Scripture!

Notice what Herbert W. Armstrong wrote about this passage in his book *Mystery of the Ages*: "This passage indicates precisely what all astronomers and scientific evidence indicate—the suns are as balls of fire, giving out light and heat; but the planets, except for this Earth, are in a state of death, decay and futility—but not forever—waiting until converted humans are born the children of God; born into the very divine Family of God, forming the Kingdom of God. . . . Put together all these scriptures I have used in this chapter, and you begin to grasp the incredible human potential. Our potential is to be born into the God Family, receiving total power! We are to be given jurisdiction over the entire universe!

"What are we going to do then? These scriptures indicate we shall impart life to billions and billions of dead planets, as life has been imparted to this Earth. We shall create, as God directs and instructs."

I hope you will request a free copy of this wonderful book because it contains a message that will truly lift up your eyes on high—and keep them there for eternity. ■



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri
Alabama, Dothan WBDO 8:30, Sun
Alabama, Montgomery WBMV 8:30, Sun
Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Fairbanks KWFA 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun
Arizona Cox Channel 7, 10:00 am
Arizona, Yuma KWUB 9:30 am, Sun
Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun
Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun
California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Chico KIWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri
California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri
Colorado, Grand Junction KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri
Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri
Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 9:30 am, Sun
Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun
Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri
Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun
Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun
Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed
Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon
Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue
Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WCUI 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri
Illinois, Peoria WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
Indiana, Lafayette WBFY 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Des Moines KPFX 5:00 am, Fri
Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Kirkville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun
Kentucky, Lexington WPX 6:00 am, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Maine, Bangor WBAN 9:30 am, Sun
Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun
Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMK 9:30 am, Sun



North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Lawton KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun

Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSO 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBB 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXV 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPRX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri

Washington, Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle KWYP 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVVB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVVB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPA 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper KWYY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton KWYY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.
Alberta, Calgary CICT 12:30 am, Mon
Alberta, Edmonton CITV 12:30 am, Mon
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; BCTV 12:30 am, Mon
Manitoba, Winnipeg CKND 12:30 am, Mon
Maritimes CIHF 12:30 am, Mon
Ontario CIII 12:30 am, Mon
Quebec, Montreal CKMI 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Regina CFRE 12:30 am, Mon
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon CFSK 12:30 am, Mon

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias TV 47 11:00 am, Fri
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 6:00 pm, Tue

Michigan, Traverse City WBVC 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior KWBD 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KWBM 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KWXB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KWGF 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KWHA 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KIDW 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Hastings KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KWVB 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun

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Save Israel?

AS THE FRENCH SAY, the more it changes, the more it remains the same (“Can This Man Save Israel?” November-December 2007). The only thing that the militants understand is strength. Concessions will always be considered weakness. Unfortunately, the entire Western world has forgotten how it got where it is. The British stood firm against Napoleon and Hitler. The Americans stood firm against the Russians. Things once considered “common sense” are forgotten. The American loss in Vietnam was the first real sign that Americans had forgotten their own past, which was built upon courage, resolve and a determination to endure. We are in decline today with rampant immorality and financial corruption, with the welfare state the epitome of corruption. We live off other taxpayers instead of taking care of ourselves. These things will be the death knell of the Western world.

Greg Byrne—VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Coming Food Shortages

I AM 61 YEARS OLD AND HAVE PREACHED this possibility to our children for 30 years (“When the Food Runs Out,” November-December 2007). We own 117 acres in New Brunswick with organically raised beds, passive solar heating, well water, blueberries, raspberries, etc. This is our family retreat. God help the metro city folks. Boy Scout motto of old: “Be prepared.” Our country is not only running out of food but also running out of water. When will we smarten up and take care of our own backyard first?

Frank Warren—NEW BRUNSWICK

Subprime Crisis

WELL-WRITTEN ARTICLE (“THE CON That Turned the World Against America,” November-December 2007). Summarizes the five-year con game orchestrated by the Fed and Wall Street. I sent it to my colleagues at work. Everyone was shocked to learn how the U.S. conned its partners. Keep up the good work to spread the truth.

Peter Chander—CALIFORNIA

FIRST OFF, I ENJOYED THE READ AND agree with some, but not all, of the analysis (“The Con That Turned the World Against America”). The same thing is happening internally within Europe and Great Britain as well as other parts of the world (i.e., easy money making the home values go way up). This, I believe, is independent of the subprime mess in America. And, last I checked, European unemployment is higher and wages on average lower, so the ramifications of Europe’s own internal real-estate bubble could be even worse. Now to be misled by inappropriately high-rated American bond ratings is inexcusable—on that I do agree. However, that is not the whole problem. Individual investors, many of them from Europe, bought directly into the ever-increasing home value models as “flippers.” Had they, as many of their American speculator counterparts, done their homework as I did, they would have found that the ever-increasing valuations just could not sustain themselves. Think long-term investment versus short-term gain! I feel sad for everyone that is going to get hurt and dislike the financial institutions that helped enable all this.

Dave Fenton—FLORIDA

I JUST RECEIVED THIS MONTH’S *TRUMPET* and read with great enthusiasm your article “The United Welfare States of America” (October 2007). It was a superb article—truthful and courageous. I work in Social Services here in Canada. I see a lot of what goes on behind the scenes with taxpayers’ money, and I am appalled. Our hard-earned money is being wasted on trivial programs, on people who do not want to work, and on programs which are abominations to God (gay, lesbian, transgender, promotion of drug use, sex outside of marriage, etc.). ... Our nations have created a population of people who are thoroughly dependent on taxpayers’ funding, and people are not held responsible for their actions. Males (I will not call them men) get females pregnant, and then society is left raising them both when the male skips out. ... Women are turning their backs on their families and dedicating themselves to their careers instead, leaving the small and impressionable minds to be fed all sorts of rubbish at the day-care centers. When that career woman then wants to have another child, she goes on maternity leave and

receives a full year of taxpayers’ money. The taxpayers should not be financing those families—the fathers should! ... The horrendous tax burden that Canadians face is literally putting people into poverty. ... The government has made it nearly impossible for people to get ahead or even put money into the bank for their futures. ... We live in a world where people are not held accountable for their actions and get themselves into difficult situations. Rather than showing people where they went wrong and helping them to make better decisions, the “solution” is to throw money at them and ignore the problem, or to throw even more money at the cause of the problems (so-called “harm reduction” for drug use, providing condoms, etc.). Thank you for a first-rate, no-nonsense explanation of what is wrong with this tax system. Bravo!

J. Robinson—ONTARIO

Disparity of Views

I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS to the *Trumpet* team for their excellent work. I enjoy understanding the sweep of macro-economic, political and social issues, and find the *Trumpet* to be one of the most concise and well-researched resources. Although I cannot always agree with all your views, I find I do concur with most and respect those that I do not have accord with. Indeed, I find this disparity of views intriguing.

Gary Byatt

I READ WITH MUCH PLEASURE MR. Flurry’s article in the October issue on the subject of the pope’s remarks and attitudes (“Why the Pope Offends Muslims, Jews and Protestants”). I also enjoyed Mr. Fraser’s piece in the June issue about Northern Ireland (“From Terrorists to Politicians”), which is the best commentary on the subject I have ever seen in a North American publication. As an Ulster Protestant expatriate, these matters are of acute interest to me—although I fear that the British government’s betrayal of the Ulster loyalist Protestants is now complete and irreversible.

Stafford Gillespie—LONDON, ONT.

Comments?

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Pakistan and the Shah of Iran

Is the U.S. about to repeat the blunder it made in 1979? BY GERALD FLURRY

THE WAR IN IRAQ MAY BE THE LATEST ROUND IN America's global fight against terrorism. But where did *world* terrorism begin? Iraq was a dangerous part of the equation, but it was not the head of the terrorist snake, as we have often pointed out.

We must go back *in history* to see terrorism's DEADLY ROOTS and then deal with the *cause* of the problem. It's not enough to destroy the branches of a vast network of world terrorism. We must pull up the terrorist tree by its roots. It's the *only way* to win this war.

When Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi led Iran, he was a strong ally of America. But our liberal press and politicians thought he was too undemocratic, so they helped to drive him from power. As he was falling, America gave him little or no support.

Then, in 1979, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew the shah. Khomeini established Iran as the world's number-one state sponsor of terrorism. Ten years later, shortly after Khomeini died, Hashemi Rafsanjani became president and intensified Iran's international network of terrorism. It was only then that some observers began to see what a terrible mistake liberals had made in assisting the shah's downfall.

Back in 1994, then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher called Iran "the world's most significant state sponsor of terrorism." How pathetic to make such a statement and do nothing about it! Just how much of a superpower is America? America has known for years who "the world's most significant state sponsor of terrorism" is. But it lacks the *will* to deal with Iran—to hold Iran accountable for its terrorist acts of war!

In the 1990s, state-sponsored terrorism became deeply entrenched in Iran, and America's leaders did almost nothing to combat it. And the U.S. "superpower" allows Iran to continue sponsoring violent terrorism to this day!

More than any other nation (apart from Iran itself), America is responsible for the overthrow of the shah and the ushering in of Ayatollah Khomeini. Our weakness could prove to be the biggest foreign-policy disaster of the 20th century!

With that history in mind, let's ask the question: Could this nightmarish scenario be happening all over again?

In terms of population, Pakistan is the second-largest Muslim nation in the world, behind Indonesia. It has a population larger than Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and North Korea *combined*.

PAKISTAN ALSO HAS THE NUCLEAR BOMB AND COULD BE TAKEN OVER BY RADICAL ISLAM, WITH PLENTY OF HELP FROM IRAN. That means it could become a proxy of the Iranian mullahs. This would be the worst possible disaster!

America's ignorance and weakness helped to push Iran into the arms of radical Islam. It could very well do the same to Pakistan—unless we learn from our history with Iran.

We can't afford to make the same mistake twice. If we do, it will become a nightmare for the whole world!



FAROOQ NAJEM/AP/GETTY IMAGES

President Pervez Musharraf has led Pakistan to be a key ally of America in its war on terror. Shah Reza Pahlavi also led Iran to be our strong ally in the 1970s.

Former UN Ambassador John Bolton recently stated that America should be *supporting* Musharraf right now to ensure that those nuclear weapons do not fall into the hands of jihadists. "Make no mistake: This is a very dangerous situation," Bolton told CNN (Nov. 11, 2007). He's right about that.

As reported in a recent issue of *Foreign Policy*, "A perfect terrorist storm may be brewing in Pakistan. When asked to choose the nation that is most likely to become the next al Qaeda stronghold, more experts chose Pakistan than any other country, including Iraq. Osama bin Laden reportedly remains at large along Pakistan's mountainous border with Afghanistan, where al Qaeda is also regrouping; the country's intelligence service is said to be still cooperating with radical Islamist elements; and President Pervez Musharraf's political future seems increasingly imperiled. These developments would not be as worrisome had the experts not also said that Pakistan is the country most likely to transfer nuclear technology to terrorists in the next three to five years. Together, it's a terrifying combination" (Sept. 1, 2007).

And yet, the president and the Democrat-controlled Congress are threatening to cut off financial and military aid if Musharraf doesn't hold elections early next year. President Musharraf pleaded with them not to cut off U.S. aid.

American leaders are telling Musharraf to take off his military uniform and give real freedom to that country. However, the military is the *only* institution that gives stability to that extremely divided country! *This is another example of how little our leaders know about Pakistan.*

Are early elections really the solution? The West forced Gaza into the same situation. Have we already forgotten that the Hamas terrorists, an arm of the Iranian army, won that election? Now America's friend Israel is surrounded by Iranian-sponsored terrorists.

What will be the *final* outcome of that fiasco?

Here is the brutal truth: THERE WOULD BE NO STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST IF AMERICA HAD THE WILL TO USE ITS POWER! But America's problem is even worse than a weak will. We even help *push* our allies into the hands of radical Islam. That is a dangerous kind of ignorance.

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

America has a much deeper problem than any of our leaders really see. The root of our problem is spiritual. If you would like to know why this is all happening, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. ■

Marriage

will be saved!

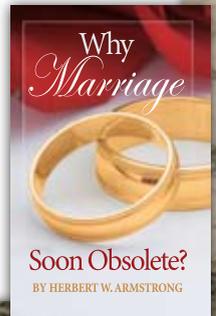


Looking at society, one might ask, "Will the 21st century see the institution of the home and family disappear?"

How and where did marriage originate? Does it serve any necessary purpose?

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