

NOVEMBER 2003

WILL PILLS SOLVE OUR ILLS?

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The Philadelphia

Trumpet

THE WAR AGAINST TERRORISM

**WHY WE
CAN'T
WIN**



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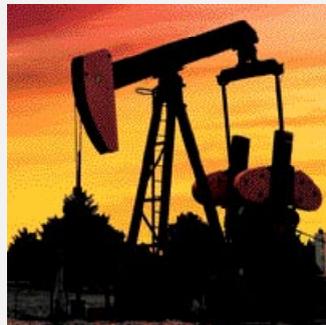
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◆ DEPARTMENTS

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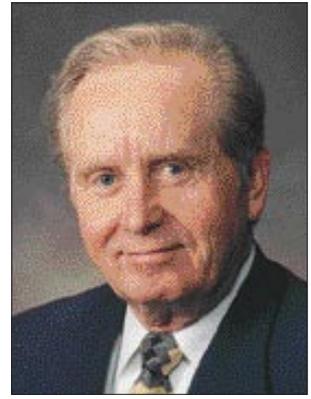
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Who Killed Iraq's Shiite Leader?

THE SHIITES RULE IRAN, AND 60 PERCENT OF IRAQ IS SHIITE. So who would dare kill Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, the chief leader of the Iraqi Shiites? And bomb the Shiites' holiest shrine? The August 29 car bombing of the Imam Ali mosque in the Iraqi city of Najaf, which along with al-Hakim killed at least 90 others, raised some vital questions. Any group responsible for this heinous crime could turn Iran, the number-one terrorist-sponsoring nation, against them. Could any terrorist group survive the wrath of Iran?

Almost immediately, Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein sent out tapes stating that they had nothing to do with this bombing. Why? Undoubtedly because they fear what Iran could do to their terrorist organizations.

So who did this grotesque deed? It is an act that will probably change the course of Iraq rather dramatically.

Who will now lead the Iraqi Shiites? The Shiite clerics have real power. Nobody in Najaf rebels against a cleric. So whoever gets control of the Shiites could have more power than anyone in Iraq!

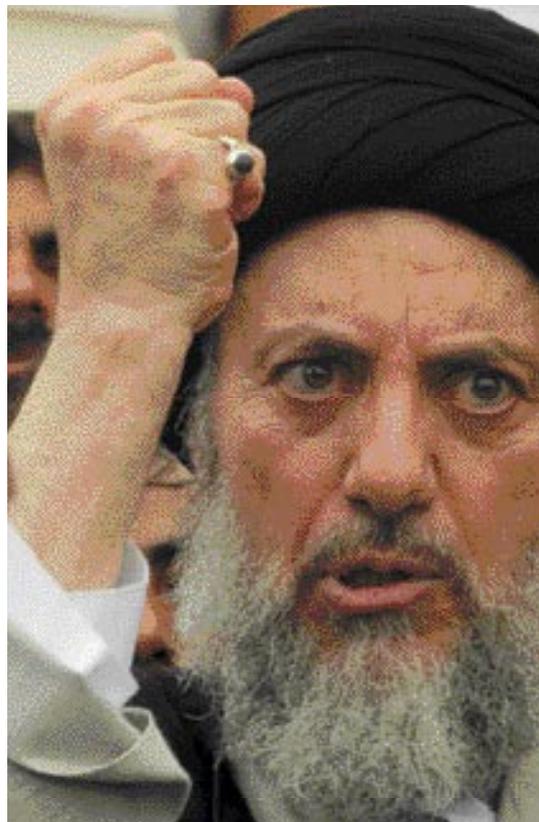
Ayatollah al-Hakim encouraged the Shiites to give America a chance to bring peace and stability to Iraq. So there was a certain amount of cooperation with the U.S. His brother is even a member on the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council.

But did the ayatollah's political posture fit with Iran's sponsoring of violent terrorism? No, it did not. (Please read my article on p. 2 about the war against terrorism.)

Here is a disturbing excerpt from a *Newsweek* article, September 8: "Especially worrisome are statements attributed to Moqtada al-Sadr, the son of a revered ayatollah murdered by Saddam in 1999. Although he has little religious standing, al-Sadr has shown himself capable

of rallying enormous crowds to his anti-American banner. 'The Americans will not protect our clerics nor let us provide that protection because the Americans are the enemy,' said a spokesman for al-Sadr, speaking on Al Arabiya television after Friday's bombing.

Al-Hakim encouraged the Shiites to give America a chance to bring peace and stability to Iraq. Did this political posture fit with Iran's sponsoring of violent terrorism? No, it did not.



SWAN SONG Al-Hakim speaks to his followers after his return to Iraq in May. He was

"Then again, many Iraqis, including residents of Najaf, believe it was al-Sadr who ordered the earlier murder near the Imam Ali shrine and possibly last week's attack. ... And the MURKINESS doesn't end there. Because al-Sadr is not himself a high-ranking Islamic scholar, HE DEPENDS ON A RADICAL IRAN-BASED AYATOLLAH TO GIVE HIS ORGANIZATION RELIGIOUS DIRECTION AND CREDIBILITY" (emphasis mine).

Why is this considered "murkiness"? The *Newsweek* article, titled "The Danger Is Very Close," didn't elaborate. But I think it should have. This bombing fits Iran's pattern of terrorism for over 20 years! And I don't believe any other Arab state or terrorist group would dare commit such an act—which would amount to a declaration of war against Iran.

America and Britain are standing in the way of Iran's very ambitious goal for the Middle East. And so far it has let nobody stand in its way. Could the most powerful Shiite leader in Iraq be allowed to cooperate with the hated U.S.?

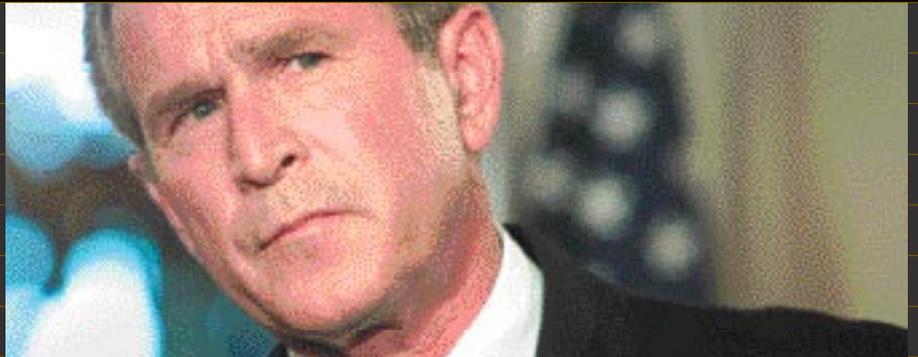
How can we ever win this war in the long run? Oil-rich Iran can keep providing terrorists and armaments endlessly! They are fighting this war from their strength and can't lose. America and Israel are both fighting the terrorists from a dangerously weak position and can't win. Both are either ignorant of the basic cause of terrorism or they are afraid to use their superior military might.

Regardless, our lack of *will* is why we can't solve the terrorist problem. What a great advantage for the terrorist-sponsoring

· continued on p. 28

Why We Cannot Win the War Against Terrorism

Human logic should show America and Britain that they can't win the war against terrorism. But there is also a hidden reason why we can't win—unless gigantic changes are made.



BY GERALD FLURRY

HISTORY TEACHES US some powerful lessons—if we are willing to learn. For example, history teaches us that we cannot win our war against terrorism. We can learn some essential lessons about our future through history.

History is a wonderful teacher. So we'll start there. Then we can move on to a far greater teacher of why we can't conquer terrorism unless massive changes are made—if it isn't already too late!

The Root of Terrorism

The Iraq campaign is the latest round in America's global war on terrorism. But where did all of this world terrorism begin? Iraq is a dangerous part of the equation, but it is not the head of the terrorist snake.

We must go back in history to see terrorism's roots. It's not enough to destroy the branches. We must pull the

terrorist tree up by the 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.

When Khomeini died 10 years later, he was succeeded by Hashemi Rafsanjani, who 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.

More than any other nation (apart from Iran), 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!

How did it all happen?

We must understand how this relates to the present situation in Iraq. History shows how Islamic extremism can dramatically change the politics within a country, and it gives us an indication

AT WAR

Bush fields questions about the Iraq campaign

of the kind of power Iran could be very close to achieving.

Let's look at Egypt, where Islamic extremism—which spawns terrorism—is gaining power at a frightening pace. **THERE, ONE ASSASSINATION TURNED THE COURSE OF THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST!**

Radical Changes in Egypt

A few years before the fall of the shah of Iran, Anwar al-Sadat was the warrior leader of Egypt and the Middle East. For example, he was the key leader of the Arab world in the Yom Kippur War against the Jews.

But, then the world was shocked—especially the Arab world. About the time Iran's shah fell, Mr. Sadat was becoming an astounding Middle East peacemaker. He enraged the Arab radicals by speaking at the Jewish Knesset (their congress, or parliament). *One man was literally swinging the Middle East toward peace with the West.*

But Mr. Sadat was working against the tide of radical Islam.

It is interesting that the late Herbert W. Armstrong visited with two Egyptian presidents: Sadat and Hosni Mubarak. He gave both men a strong warning that we were not going to have peace until Allah, or God, gave it to us!

In 1981, Mike Wallace of the television program *60 Minutes* interviewed Ayatollah Khomeini (who had come to power only two years before). He told the ayatollah that Sadat had called him a “lunatic.”

Almost immediately afterward, in just days, President Sadat was assassinated!

That is the kind of power the leader of radical Islam has! America and the world allowed this evil power to change history. Now terrorism is rampant around the world! America didn't have the *will* to stop such state-sponsored madness.

When the Sadat assassination occurred, Mr. Armstrong said it was *a turning point in Middle East history!* And that was almost an understatement. But virtually nobody in the media saw—or they refused to see—what a **WORLD-CHANGING EVENT** that was!

Iran's terrorist network was working frighteningly well.

MR. SADAT WAS IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING THE MIDDLE EAST FOR THE GOOD OF THE WORLD. He took a stand

against many of his own people and the Arab world to make peace with Israel. He proved to be a truly great man by putting the interests of the world and Egypt above his personal safety. **IF THE LEADERS OF THE U.S. AND BRITAIN HAD SHOWN HIS COURAGE, THEY WOULD HAVE DEALT WITH IRAN THEN.** Because of U.S. weakness, the Middle East began to look to the king of terror for leadership. It all happened because of American, British and Israeli weakness.

Islamic radicals are very effective in assassinating top leaders. They probably also assassinated the speaker of Egypt's parliament, Rifaat al-Mahgoub (the country's second-ranking official at the time), in 1990. Gunmen on motorcycles sprayed his chauffeured sedan with automatic rifle fire. Radicals likely were behind the killing of Algeria's President Mohammed Boudiaf in 1992. These are just a few examples of how Islamic extremism can influence Mideast politics.

President Mubarak, a moderate, could be assassinated just as Anwar el-Sadat was. This could implement another gigantic change in Egyptian politics, similar to what happened in Iran's 1979 revolution.

Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. (Request our free booklet *The King of the South.*) This prophecy indicates that there would be a radical change in Egyptian politics! It is happening before our eyes in this end time, and it is mainly because Iran's “push” toward radicalism. But that *pushy* foreign policy is going to lead to its downfall, in a way that most people cannot imagine!

Iran's Global Ambitions

A Stratfor intelligence brief dated August 22 explained that back in May, follow-

seen as being the ascendant force—it is seen as weak and needing help. This change will have the most impact on Iran, which has control over the Shiites in Iraq. As they see the U.S. becoming desperate, the Iranians will no longer feel the need to appease the U.S. (see article on p. 7).

Stratfor stated, “[I]f the Iranians start to believe that the situation in the region is out of control from the U.S. point of view, then either their price for keeping the lid on the Shiites will become astronomical or, more likely, they will decide not to bet on what they see as the losing horse. [I believe that Iran is more aggressive in this scenario than he does.]

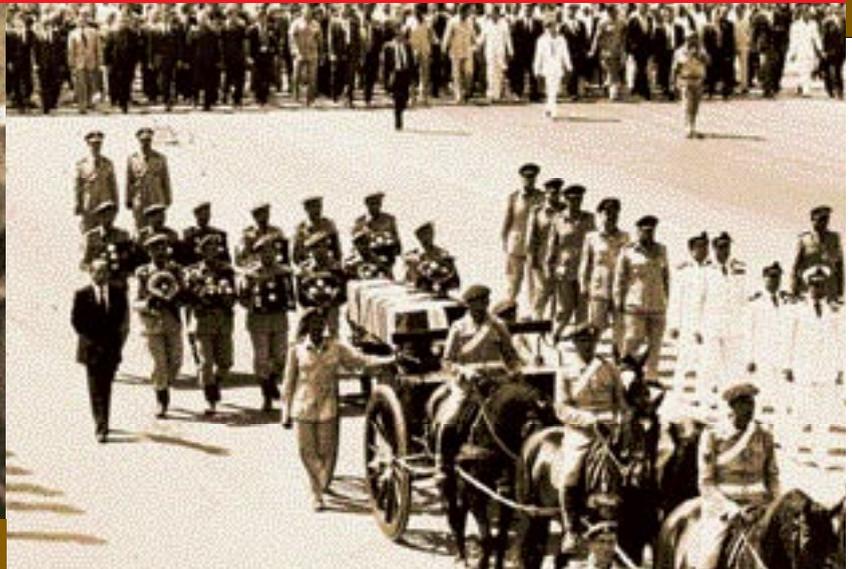
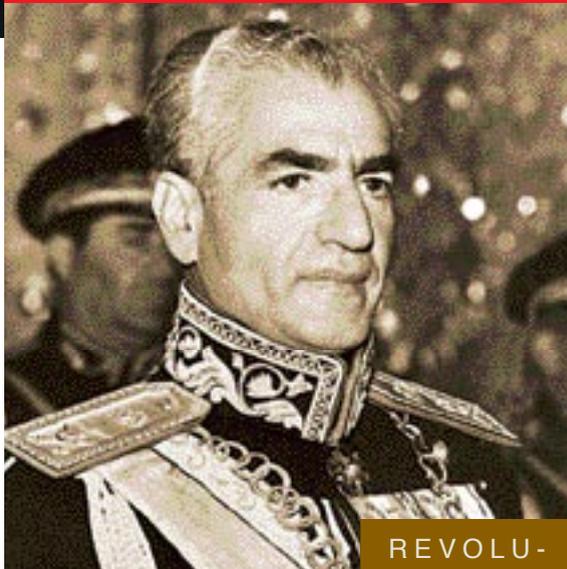
“The situation in the region is, in our view, reaching the crisis stage for the United States. Things are going very wrong for the Bush administration. The threat of **AN ISLAMIST RISING FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE PERSIAN GULF NO LONGER IS AN INTERESTING THEORETICAL CONCEPT.** [This influence and control would even extend beyond the Mediterranean, into North Africa.] Except for Jordan, it is becoming a reality. Under the circumstances, Jordan's stability and security should not be assumed in the next year or so. If Iran—or native Iraqi leaders—send the Shiites into the streets, then all of Iraq will be in chaos, and a perfect storm will have formed.

“Our perception of the U.S. strategy has been that the basic assumption was that the United States has the time to let the guerrillas burn themselves out or that it has enough time to craft an effective strategy. We do not think that basic assumption is valid any longer. The collapse of the cease-fire between the Israelis and Palestinians creates a regional force that can be contained only by decisive U.S.

“Iran expects to further its greater ambition of being the most important regional power in the Persian Gulf, a long-held foreign policy objec-

tion in Iraq” (Aug. 22; emphasis mine throughout). But decisive action in Iraq, without dealing with Iran, will not stop the terrorism.

The real power behind the Palestinians is Iran. No other nation would dare finance and blatantly encourage such terrorism in Israel. Iran has even been caught publicly sending enormous amounts of weapons to the Palestinians.



REVOLU-

Iran's shah, 1971 (left); Sadat's funeral (right)

Just a couple of years ago, Israel captured a boatload of arms going to the Palestinian terrorists. Virtually the whole world knows what Iran is doing, and Israel's terrorist problem keeps rapidly getting worse.

Israel is losing its war with the terrorists, and so will the U.S. and Britain. Such terrorism will tear any free society apart. Israel is a classic example.

The only way to win such a war is to deal with the main source of the terrorism, or cut off the head of the terrorist snake. But neither the U.S. nor Israel has the will to tackle Iran—even though it is the *key part* of the "axis of evil" in the Middle East.

President Bush labeled Iran, Iraq and North Korea the "axis of evil." Iraq's government has been toppled. However, we can't win this war unless we also remove Iran's leadership. But American and British leaders are overwhelmingly liberal. And the press is dangerously pacifist. Our peoples lack the will to win this war against terrorism.

President Bush's labeling of the axis of evil was absolutely correct. However, he was attacked by the liberal politicians and press for that statement. That painfully illustrates America's dangerous lack of will power.

Imagine what will happen in Iraq if Mr. Bush loses the 2004 election! And Iran is very much aware of the political scene in the U.S. and Britain.

Tony Blair's government could easily fall over the Iraqi war. After such a display by Britain's military in Iraq, the people should be embracing Mr. Blair. But the British (and American) people are too weak to fight a real war. We lack

the will to win a bloody, protracted war.

The *fruits and evidence* of the past two decades overwhelmingly prove where the king of state-sponsored terrorism is! THE WHOLE WORLD CAN SEE THAT. However, the solution to terrorism lies in DOING something about it! We must confront the source. The terrorist movement flows from Iran.

Mr. Armstrong said over two decades ago that "America has won its last war." He saw then that the pride in our military power had been broken!

The entire geographic area that Stratfor discusses is already strongly influenced by Iran. If Iraq falls to this terrorist nation, then Iran could virtually control this whole area—which contains most of the world's oil!

A Nuclear Power

Now the situation gets even scarier.

Over a decade ago, the *New York Times* wrote, "Becoming second to Saudi Arabia as a world oil power, IRAN EXPECTS TO FURTHER ITS GREATER AMBITION OF BEING THE MOST IMPORTANT REGIONAL POWER IN THE PERSIAN GULF, A LONG-HELD FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE" (Nov. 7, 1992).

The article examined how Iran planned to achieve this objective: "More troubling to other countries in the area and to the West is the other side of Iran's plan to achieve this objective: A HUGE REARMAMENT PROGRAM, financed largely by the new oil money."

The *Islamic Affairs Analyst* of Gloucester, England, printed an article in August 1994 that said, "Iran is pursuing a parallel policy of surrounding Is-

rael with implacable enemies. ... Turkey is moving closer to Iran ..." Of course, the Shiites control Iran and are a *majority* (60 percent) in Iraq. This could be the decisive factor causing *Iraq* to fall under Iran's control (see story, p. 7). In addition, "Starting at the foot of the Red Sea, Iran is set to increase its influence considerably in both Somalia and Yemen. ...

"Further up the Red Sea coast, Sudan is already firmly in pro-Iranian hands with [Omar Hassan] al-Bashir's military regime no more than a front for Hassan al-Tourabi's Islamists. And it is from bases in Sudan that Islamist fundamentalists are beginning to undermine the stability of the newly independent Eritrea, which, it should be noted, now controls all of what was formerly Ethiopia's Red Sea coastline.

"It is also from bases in Sudan that Iran has done so much to undermine the stability of the West's most-important Arab ally: Egypt ..." (ibid.).

Today, Iran has a frightening influence and control in North Africa as well as Afghanistan. Many moderate Arab nations fear, and are afraid to offend, Iran.

We have often drawn our readers' attention to a front-page article in the *European* newspaper on May 7, 1992, "Iran Has N-Bomb," which stated, "Iran has obtained at least two nuclear warheads out of a batch officially listed as 'missing' from the newly independent republic of Kazakhstan, formerly part of the Soviet Union." Considering Iran's aggressive foreign policy, this report certainly has the ring of truth. We can't allow ourselves to be guided by wishful thinking. On top of this, Iran has

had a nuclear program of its own for many years. This past year there have been information leaks that show Iran, while publicly stating that its program is purely for energy use, actually wants other nations to know it could be a nuclear threat.

Here is what the *Islamic Affairs Analyst* of May 13, 1992, said: "The main strategic aim of Iran is to dominate the Persian Gulf and environs. An important step in achieving this goal is to GAIN UNDISPUTED LEADERSHIP OF THE RADICAL ISLAMIC CAME." Many of the good intelligence reports about Iran have proven true. Do we see just how powerful Iran is becoming militarily?

As far back as 1994, *U.S. News & World Report* gave some alarming facts as to just how widespread Iran's influence was becoming: "[T]he government of President Hashemi Rafsanjani continues to bankroll Islamic militant groups in Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza; Iran-backed terrorists operate in Europe, Latin America and Africa, intelligence agencies say" (Nov. 14, 1994).

And the U.S. "superpower" allows Iran to continue sponsoring violent terrorism!

The Push

The *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* wrote the following shortly after the Gulf War: "The Iraq-Kuwait dispute exploded into a war which engaged

with Iraq in 1988, Iran has accumulated a massive arsenal of weapons to back up its aggressive foreign policy, and that arsenal includes chemical and biological weapons.

The king of the south, or Iran, is going to "push at him"—that is, the king of the north (the European Union). *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* says the word *push* means "to strike—used of horned animals," or "to push with the horn." It is "used figuratively of a victor who prostrates the nations before him." It also means to wage war. *Push* is a violent word! This *push* no doubt revolves around Jerusalem and biblical Judah (called Israel today)—just as the clashes in the time of the Crusades did. That city is the third most holy city in the Islamic world. Pope John Paul II has publicly talked of possibly moving the Roman Catholic Church headquarters there.

These two great and powerful religions both passionately desire Jerusalem. Most people believe the Israeli peace process and other similar negotiations are leading to peace. ACTUALLY THEY ARE LEADING TO WAR!

The blatantly bold and aggressive foreign policy of Iran must lead to war. It will either conquer or be conquered. Bible prophecy makes it clear that Iran will be conquered—but not at the hand of America and Britain. These two countries are going to fall into cata-

both world wars.

France and Germany both have every reason to be close friends with America and Britain. But the opposite is true! Media headlines are showing us that daily. Believe it or not, God is raising up that European power to punish America and Britain if they don't repent. (Request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

History Lessons Unlearned

Middle East peace treaties dominate the news—as all kinds of peace treaties did just before World War II began! It is just *another major sign* that WAR IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE IN THE MIDDLE EAST! And it will lead to World War III.

Being spellbound by peace treaties has kept the Western world from fully seeing and recognizing Iran's massive plot to control the Middle East. That will never be stopped by a peace treaty! Only a superior power could ever stop this extreme Islamic movement! *The most precious jewel of Iran's plan is to CONQUER JERUSALEM.* This would then galvanize the Islamic world behind Iran! They will go far in their ambition but never fully conquer Jerusalem.

How could I possibly know this? If Iran or radical Islam were to conquer Jerusalem, then we would look very ignorant. But your Bible says it will *not* happen. However, the Bible also states that another specific power *will* conquer Jerusalem.

Such statements should cause you to prove why we can make these prophetic statements and watch them come to pass—exactly as we said. You need to prove what we say—while there is time!

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair have courageously restricted Iran's influence by toppling the governments of Afghanistan and Iraq. However, these are ongoing terrorist wars. We will still lose those wars if our nations don't unite behind our leaders. That is almost certainly not going to happen.

Mr. Blair and Mr. Bush had the vision to see that our nations can't win the war against terrorism without using our power!

Most of our politicians, the press and our universities do *not* understand terrorism—nor do they understand *history!* Winston Churchill said "the history of man is war." Misinformed people like to believe that is not true.

Superpowers cannot survive in this

The time when Britain and America were superpowers is history! France and Germany should be close friends with America and Brit-

nearly a million non-Iranian troops in the Gulf. Apparently the Iranians are calculating exactly how far they can PUSH their neighbors ..." (June 1993).

The stage is being set for an Islamic group of nations to be led by Iran as the prophesied king of the south, which will push at the king of the north, the European Union. "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south PUSH at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over" (Dan. 11:40). Let's not forget that this is an *end-time* prophecy.

Iran has a foreign policy with a lot of "PUSH." And since the end of its war

strophic ruin before this prophecy is even fulfilled if they don't wake up!

A *new superpower* is rising in the European Union. The Bible labels this conglomerate the *king* of the north. It takes one *king* to topple another *king*.

THE TIME WHEN BRITAIN AND AMERICA WERE SUPERPOWERS, OR KINGS, IS HISTORY! And we need to understand *why*.

Can we see this new European superpower rising on the world scene now? Yes, we can. You can get a good insight into it by watching Germany and France. Britain and America defeated Germany in two world wars. Then they led the Germans in rebuilding their powerful nation—especially after World War II. Britain and America saved France in

WAR AGAINST TER-

evil, warring world without the *will* to wage long, hard wars. This is the real world in which we live; fantasies won't change that reality.

In the 1930s, Winston Churchill warned Britain and America about Hitler. The politicians, media and educational institutions were overwhelmingly pacifist and against him (request our free booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman*). In fact, he stood *alone* among world leaders! And it almost cost us victory in World War II!



We have learned virtually nothing from Churchill's warning. In fact, the pacifists have grown much stronger today.

We either wake up or lose World War III! Any nation or bloc of nations that knocks off the number-one superpower *becomes* the number-one superpower! This is the lesson of *human nature* and of our *history* books. A superpower can't run and hide.

Our leaders fail to understand history because they refuse to understand that evil human nature is within every individual on Earth—including you and me! (Jer. 17:9). For example, our refusal to use our military might is often not righteousness, as we like to believe, but despicable weakness resulting from our sins. We simply lack the faith, character and courage to fight against Iran, the number-one terrorist nation today. Unless we change our ways, we will prove too weak to survive!

The king of the south is about state-sponsored terrorism. That is how Iran

became *king!* Daniel 11:40-43 is an *end-time* prophecy. It is about a nation that is always *pushy* in its foreign policy. It pushes until it starts a war. Having such power means that it must be a large oil-producing country. This king is close to Jerusalem, Egypt, Ethiopia and Libya.

Who else could it be in this end time but Iran?

Iran is extremely radical and the king over radical Islam. Where is it all leading? To war! Just as it has in the past. It's leading to terrifying war with weapons

of mass destruction. It can lead no place else.

A basic understanding of human nature and history should tell us that. All the wishful thinking in this world won't stop that calamity—just as the pacifist dreamers of the 1930s didn't stop Adolf Hitler!

HISTORY THUNDERS FOR US TO AWAKEN.

The great Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky feared Russian *radicalism* and what it would do to his country. Only days after he died, the tsar was killed and overthrown by radicals. Where did their radical movement lead? To Joseph Stalin and the spread of violent communism over much of the world.

So where is Iranian radical thinking leading Iran? To state-sponsored terrorism—which is going to trigger a nuclear World War III! At this point, we have ample power to stop them but not the will.

We fear facing the *origin* of state-sponsored terrorism in the Middle East. We can never win the war against terrorism until we comprehend and deal with this reality. We can't *negotiate* a victory. Only *superior power*, and *the will to use it*, can win. That is the *only* way to stop state-sponsored terrorism.

"And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And *I will break the pride of your power*; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass" (Lev. 26:18-19). The Prophet Daniel related that this is an end-time prophecy (Dan. 12:9; 9:12-14). Little Israel has more military might than Iran but fears to use it. The same is the case with Britain. And certainly that is true of America. But our nations fear to use their power—because of our sins. The "pride of [our] power" *has been* broken! We simply lack the will to sustain our war against terrorism.

We are fighting the terrorist war the way state-sponsored terrorists want to fight it—which means we can never win. They understand that they will win fighting the war their way. That is *why* they are waging this war of terror! Terrorist warfare would be a failure if we had the will to use our power against state-sponsored terrorism.

Nations must be held accountable and responsible for sponsoring terrorism. HOW DARE ANY NATION FINANCE OR SUPPORT TERRORISM IN ANOTHER NATION!

Most of the intelligence reports reveal that Saudi Arabia heavily finances terrorism in Israel (and even against the U.S.). Why? It is because SAUDIS FEAR THE TERRORISTS MORE THAN THEY FEAR THE AMERICAN "SUPERPOWER"! A real superpower simply would not allow such treachery.

IT IS AN ACT OF WAR TO FINANCE TERRORISTS! The supporters of terrorism are more guilty than the terrorists. They make it all possible.

If America and Britain held the terrorist-supporting nations accountable, we would drain the terrorist swamp. They should be given one clear warning to stop. If they don't, then strong action should be taken.

If the Iranian leadership were eliminated, the whole course of Mideast history would change radically for the better, because it is the *king*. Sadly, Bible prophecy reveals that will not happen.

OUR ULTIMATE SUCCESS WILL BE DETERMINED BY OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. If God is for us, we can't lose. But if God is *against* us, we can't win. And Bible prophecy relates that God is against us and is cursing us. We should repent and become a true superpower!

After having toppled Saddam Hussein, America and Britain have a marvelous opportunity to pressure Iran. We have a huge country from which to operate, and it adjoins Iran. It would stand no chance against our massive power. Then we would have heavy influence over a large portion of the world's oil.

Syria would quickly cave in if Iran were beaten or forced to stop supporting terrorism. So would other Islamic nations.

Instead, Syria and Iran see how divided we are at home. The Blair and Bush governments are near collapse—simply because they *did have* the will to use our power! The terrorist nations see our shameful division and are encouraged to support terrorism even more!

The pride in our power has been broken!

We must stop those powers that nurture terrorism. If we fail, our future is extremely black. On the other hand, the outcome could be the opposite. We could be a terror to any nation who dared sponsor terrorism against us and our allies. But those days are gone with the wind!

So brace yourself for a terrifying future, unless our people awaken.

All we have to do is look at Israel to see the outcome of our war in Iraq. Can Israel win its war against terrorism? It still acts decisively and with power. But the terrorism grows worse. Iran and other nations keep arming the endless stream of terrorists. The *only* way to turn it around is to stop Iran.

President Bush said that terrorist attacks come, not because of our strength, but because we are perceived to be weak. But it is more than a *perception* of weakness. *We are weak.* We must face reality if we are ever to correct that problem.

Iran and terrorists are preying on our weakness. STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM EXISTS BECAUSE OF OUR WEAKNESS!

But even if we don't change our evil ways, this is all leading **DIRECTLY** to the return of Jesus Christ. That is the best possible news this world could ever hear! This evil world of terrorism and

Is America Empowering Iran?



What looked like conquest in Iraq has become a guerrilla war. Skyrocketing war and reconstruction costs are forcing the United States to make some unsavory compromises. Here is the outrageous story of who stands to benefit. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

THE FIRST WEAPONS USED were box cutters. With them, a delegation of just 19 men turned four airliners into guided missiles and declared war on the most powerful nation in history.

We are now two years into that war. On the surface, these two years have been a stunning spectacle of American military muscle and political will. Not only has the U.S. beefed up its domestic security and traipsed all corners of the planet gathering intelligence and executing low-level missions, it has flipped two whole countries upside-down trying to eliminate the enemy.

But look closer, and the cracks in America's omnipotence become visible—dangerously visible.

It has been an expensive war. The first 18 months of Operation Enduring Freedom (in Afghanistan) required over

85,000 Air Force sorties, not to mention 48,000 airlift and 17,000 refueling missions. Operation Iraqi Freedom deployed almost half a million personnel; over 40,000 sorties were flown, dropping almost 30,000 munitions. But the costs of *destroying* things are only part of the picture—then comes the clean-up. In both Afghanistan and Iraq, quick military victories were followed by wearisome stabilization efforts hampered by protracted guerrilla campaigns. Rebuilding a nation is hard enough; doing it while under fire is impossible.

Though the American public's attention has focused on Iraq, the struggle to stabilize Afghanistan continues to drag on. The Taliban (the Islamic government the U.S. displaced)—along with elements of al-Qaeda and other groups—has continued to attack American forces, and those of the American-appointed government of Hamid Karzai. In August, the

AGITAT-

Iran's president addresses an anti-American demonstration on the anniversary of the Islamic

Taliban actually regained control of significant portions of some provinces in the southeast of the country. While the modest 12,000-strong U.S. presence is thwarting these forces from retaking the country, the insurgents are preventing the U.S. from stabilizing the situation. “The two sides are in a stalemate,” Stratfor wrote on September 4.

Of course, stalemates of this type are costly—both economically and politically. Defense Department figures show the monthly bill for military missions in Iraq and Afghanistan approaching \$5 billion—only slightly less than the average monthly cost, adjusted for inflation, of the eight years of the Vietnam

piring. You must come to understand the reality, now being made plain by an informed examination of the facts, lying beneath the cold surface.

A Miscalculation

Last spring it became clear that key nations in the UN Security Council would stonewall indefinitely rather than follow the U.S. into battle. America, with strong support from Britain, rallied its own coalition and entered Iraq, sending the clear message to the UN, *We can do this without your help, thank you very much*. The quick allied seizure of Baghdad seemed to vindicate the U.S. position.

ternal power struggles and convulsions against the Americans into a proxy war, supporting armed factions to ensure the invasion of Iraq ends in failure,” wrote Stewart Bell in Canada’s *National Post* (Aug. 20). These various ethnic and religious groups are not necessarily working in concert with one another, but are vying independently for control of portions of the country. The lack of coordination among them is actually making them much more difficult to fight.

Counterinsurgency missions are very tricky. Because the enemy works in small groups, squads—even single individuals—with only light arms, it can operate almost invisibly among the greater local population. At the same time, while allied forces are recruiting Iraqis for intelligence and local policing, guerrillas can easily join these forces and thus get inside information on allied operations. If the U.S. takes a heavy-handed approach to wiping out the guerrillas, it generates more sympathy among the local population for the insurgency. As Stratfor wrote, “The dilemma facing the United States in Iraq is to surgically remove the guerrilla force from the population without generating a political backlash that will fuel a long-term insurgency ...” (Aug. 13). Thus, the guerrilla war drags on.

Accepting Reality

The continued violence, most all of which is being absorbed by the U.S. and Britain, has several broader damaging effects.

For one, it necessitates a greater commitment of resources to combat. America’s pre-war cost estimates of how much money and manpower would be required after the war have proven woefully inadequate. The longer that measurable success in pacification and reconstruction eludes U.S. forces, the greater the domestic backlash there is bound to be, especially considering the political climate created by an election year. Clearly, the U.S. needs outside help.

However, the catch is this: The greater the violence, the less other nations want to send their troops in to help. Before the guerrilla war started, it was much easier for countries such as Poland and South Korea to justify sending soldiers in exchange for political or economic concessions from the U.S. “[N]ow it is clear that a deployment to Iraq could mean high casualty rates—making the

The fact is, solutions need to be found, and quickly.

The evidence is mounting: While the U.S. would

War. Estimates for rebuilding Iraq alone range from \$180 billion to \$245 billion over the next five years. Place these ballooning costs (the Congressional Budget Office estimates a record \$480 billion government deficit next year) against the backdrop of America’s terrible job market and slow economy, and one begins to see real cause for concern for a Bush administration facing another presidential election within the coming year.

The fact is, solutions need to be found, and quickly.

The evidence is mounting: While the U.S. would love to retain control over Iraq, particularly its oil, reality is setting in. Neighboring nations seeking to exploit their interests in post-Saddam Iraq are eyeing the situation greedily. So—what sort of deals will the U.S. cut in order to remove from its neck the Iraq albatross in the least ungraceful manner possible?

As we will see, what is unfolding in Iraq is a *stunning* demonstration of the power of predictive analysis based on Bible prophecy!

Two titanic powers prophesied to exist in our day are locking horns over the future of Iraq. Based on prophecy, the *Trumpet* has been predicting who the victor will be. Events are playing out exactly according to this outline—yet in a manner more dramatic than even we could foresee!

The major news outlets are completely missing the real story of what is trans-

Throughout the summer, however, the death announcements from Iraq that punctuated America’s nightly news drew attention to the fact that even though President Bush announced the end of major combat operations on May 1, the war still hasn’t really ended. A massive miscalculation had occurred.

Notice Dr. George Friedman’s analysis of this mistake: “Initially, Washington viewed the Iranian-sponsored organization of the Shiite regions as a threat to its control of Iraq. ... Officials in Washington also assumed that the collapse of the Iraqi army would mean the collapse of Sunni resistance. Under this theory, the United States would have an easy time in the Sunni regions—it already had excellent relations in the Kurdish regions—but would face a challenge from Iran in the south.

“The game actually played out very differently” (“An Unlikely Alliance,” *www.stratfor.biz*, Sept. 2). Yes—the Sunni regions quickly became the battleground of a premeditated guerrilla war. To this day, remnants of the Baathists are causing trouble in and around Baghdad, as are other native terrorist groups. This has absorbed the U.S.’s attention almost completely, placing the Shiite south at a much lower priority—a fact whose significance we will discuss later in this article.

On top of this, terrorists from outside Iraq have entered the country and joined the insurgency. “... Iraq’s neighbors have turned what were initially in-



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The UN building in Iraq burns after a terrorist attack

move undesirable from a military and domestic political standpoint,” wrote Stratfor. “The threshold for involvement has grown much higher, and simple promises of additional trade or political goodwill no longer balance out the potential risks” (Aug. 21). As an example, Japan and Thailand, which had earlier promised to help the U.S., now say they want to wait until the situation simmers down.

An additional complication is the scaling back or pullout of non-governmental and international organizations. August 19, a terrorist car-bombed the United

Nations office in Iraq—the most severe in a string of increasingly sophisticated attacks on *infrastructure*, not coalition soldiers. It signaled a dangerous intensification of the guerrilla campaign, and within a couple weeks, several humanitarian aid organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Red Cross, began slimming down their presence in Iraq—exacerbating the problem faced by the U.S. “The withdrawal of humanitarian groups could develop into a major setback for coalition forces, which have become a focal point for resentment and

frustration among Iraqi civilians amid the breakdown of infrastructure and basic services following major combat. Insurgents fighting the occupation play on those feelings to build sympathy for their cause ...” (ibid., Aug. 31).

September 17, the lieutenant general over the coalition announced that attacks were beginning to come from Iraqi citizens—not guerrillas—irritated by the occupying forces.

The bottom line is, America’s go-it-alone approach has reached its limit. The swagger of March has been replaced by the pragmatism of September. Reality within post-war Iraq is forcing the U.S. to swallow its pride and downgrade its ambitions within the region.

Unfortunately for the U.S., the price for bringing other nations into the equation at this point is sure to be uncomfortably high.

Looking for Help

The U.S. has started looking for help from every source it can find—even the one that balked so brazenly at the U.S. going into Iraq in the first place.

Several states have said they would send troops into Iraq only with the sanction of the United Nations. Surely it was a bitter pill for the Bush administration to swallow, but toward the end of August Washington began changing its stance and coming back to the UN looking for help.

The crucial question is, how much control will the U.S. have to give up in order to bring in sufficient international help?

In early September, the U.S. introduced its resolution to the Security Council seeking a multinational police force. It was instantly met with disdain, particularly from France and Germany.

An editorial in the Indonesian daily *Jakarta Kompas* well sums up world opinion of the U.S.’s return to the UN: “Some countries ... have questioned the U.S. attitude, wanting to share the security and development load with other UN members, but remaining reluctant to share authority, information and policy-making rights. ...

“In truth, the United States is no longer in a position to do what it likes. ... The United States can no longer conceal the fact that it is exhausted and overwhelmed by security problems. ...

“The international community strongly opposed the invasion, but the

combined U.S.-British force went ahead anyway, bombarding Iraq from March 20 to May 1. The attack was seen as a form of arrogance

“Now, all of a sudden, the United States asks for the UN’s help in restoring security and rebuilding Iraq. If we recall the United States’ behavior, giving no value to the UN’s voice and role, the world body has strong reason to reject the U.S. request. The UN should teach the United States and Britain a lesson” (Sept. 6, translated from Indonesian by Global News Wire).

Most likely, the two sides will come to some agreement, and the UN will relent and provide assistance in Iraq. But in addition to America’s resultant loss of control, the loss of face for the “superpower” is huge. As bad as the rift within the Security Council was before the Iraq campaign, imagine for a moment how the situation would play out if the U.S. proposes anything even remotely similar in the future.

Backroom Deals

The United Nations is far from being the only resource the U.S. is tapping for help in Iraq.

At the same time that the Security Council was first eyeballing the new resolution, Stratfor reported that the U.S. had also begun “hammering out a backroom deal” with Russia. Stratfor’s version of an early draft of the deal is this: In exchange for the U.S. honoring Russia’s oil contracts with Iraq and promising to

ern Iraq do not defect and start a Kurdish state, inflaming the sympathies of Turkey’s own Kurdish population. Thus, it has repeatedly expressed a desire to send troops into Iraq. In the early stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the U.S. was adamant about keeping them out, because it didn’t want to lose control of the situation. Now, the idea looks much more attractive.

“U.S. negotiators are aggressively pushing the Turks to send forces into Iraq ...” wrote Stratfor on September 5. “But like the Russians, the Turks have their price. Ankara is well aware that a) the Americans need them, b) their troops are ready, trained and motivated to go and c) they can intervene with minimal advance notice. ... That means that while Turkey is interested in deploying troops, it only needs to do so on its own terms. For the United States this will most likely involve at least a partial sellout of the Kurds, who so far have warmly embraced the U.S. occupation.”

Turkish officials now say the U.S. has offered them command over their own sector of Iraq. On top of this came a promise to Turkey of \$8.5 billion in loans. Not bad treatment for a country that prevented the U.S. from using its military bases in Turkey during the war.

Each of these deals comes with its unsavory elements for the U.S. Such is the price to be paid by a country operating from a position of weakness.

But, as unpleasant as these

Iraq prompted U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to brusquely remark that the U.S. would *never* allow the Islamic republic to take over the newly liberated country. “Indeed, Iran should be on notice: Efforts to try to remake Iraq in Iran’s image will be aggressively put down,” he said (Agence France Presse, May 28).

But it appears that, like so many other items on America’s wish list in Iraq, this goal is slipping out of reach.

Saddam Hussein had been Iran’s biggest enemy in the region. The two sides fought a devastating and inconclusive eight-year war in the 1980s. Thus, Iran certainly saw Hussein’s expulsion as a promising development. Of course, it did come with one lousy side effect: America’s presence in Iraq.

But Iran is canny. It is betting on the fact that the U.S. won’t stay in the region forever—a hope buoyed by the U.S.’s appeals to the international community. Thus, Iran is craftily exploiting every ounce of leverage it has to undermine America’s position, impatient for the day it can have its pick of the spoils of war.

Early on, the U.S. was determined to ensure this did not happen. But that resolve is waning, and Iran knows it. In fact, America’s position has been so compromised, it is now quietly beginning to subcontract its peacekeeping responsibilities to Iran sympathizers.

This is the critical point that most news analysts are missing: the significance of Iran’s ominous and growing position within the new, emerging Iraq.

Iran’s Main Tool of Leverage

In our June issue, we reminded readers of a prediction made almost nine years ago by Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry. His Personal in the December 1994 *Trumpet* was headlined, “Is Iraq About to Fall to Iran?” In it he wrote, “The Shiite Arabs compose the majority of the population in Iraq. ... The Shiite Iraqis have been encouraged to revolt by Iran, which is almost totally Shiite. ...

“Can you imagine the power [the Iranians] would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world? If so, there seems to be little doubt that Iran would lead the king of the south (Dan. 11:40).” As we have been pointing out for several months, America’s removal of Iraq’s Sunni leadership—intended in part to



CANNY

Iran’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei

Iran is craftily exploiting every ounce of leverage it has to undermine America’s position, impatient for

turn the country over to a civilian administration, Russia would support the Security Council resolution and send troops to Iraq under U.S. command. This gives a mere indication of what sort of deals America may be willing to make—and it is far from being the only arrangement of its kind under discussion.

Consider Turkey, historically a strong enemy of Iraq. Turkey wants to make sure that in the postwar commotion, independence-minded Kurds in north-

concessions are, the most dangerous deal in the works—one that will likely not be widely publicized—is being foreshadowed by a truly alarming trend occurring in southern Iraq, Shia country. It is here that another significant player is extending its tentacles into the picture, shrewdly but relentlessly tightening its grip on its prey.

Enter Iran

Early in the postwar confusion, reports that Iran was making incursions into

put pressure on Iran—ironically could provide the very impetus Iran needs to fulfill its regional ambition.

But how can Iran effectively push the U.S. out—and at the same time prevent any *other* outside force from gaining control of Iraq? It appears that the answer lies in the leverage Iran holds over Iraq's Shiites, just as Mr. Flurry wrote about.

Earlier this year, Stratfor predicted the possibility of a “perfect storm” in the Middle East. In addition to a deterioration in Israeli-Palestinian relations and a prolonged guerrilla war that puts the U.S. on the defensive (both of which have happened), this nightmare scenario would culminate in “an uprising in the Shiite south of Iraq, in which mass demonstrations created an Iraqi intifada” (Aug. 22). As bad as the security situation is presently, America must truly tremble at the prospect of a general revolt among what is now the most stable segment of the Iraqi populace, the Shiites. But the unpleasant reality is, *Iran has enough influence, even control, over Iraq's Shiites to make this “perfect storm” a reality, turning what has become a bad situation into an impossible one.*

With the first two elements of this scenario already in place, Washington is put in a dreadfully difficult position with respect to Iran. Rather than now using Iraq as a new Middle East base from which to project power over Iran, the U.S. is forced to play nice with its new neighbor so as not to provoke it. Remember, not even two years ago Iran was number two in the “axis of evil.” Right after Baghdad fell, threatening hints were dropped that Iran had better watch its step. Now—although the U.S. is being discreet about it—*Iran is being looked to as an ALLY to motivate the Iraqi Shiites into establishing order within the area of conquest!*

The signs pointing to this appalling reality are abundant.

On the Ground

Of course, Iran is working through standard political and diplomatic channels to position itself to be able to hold stock in the new Iraq. It is recognizing the new Iraqi Governing Council. It is seeking to strengthen economic ties with Iraq, exchanging businessmen and planning a joint Iran-Iraq chamber of commerce. It

· continued on p. 25

Friend or Foe?

IT IS COMMONLY REPORTED THAT SAUDI ARABIA is supportive of the United States in the Middle East—even displaying unprecedented cooperativeness. Following a Saudi raid on al-Qaeda suspects in September, a U.S. diplomat in the country stated that the incident was proof of the high level of cooperation between the two countries, adding the comment that Saudi collaboration had increased in the last several months.

But just how deep is the Saudis' support? How sincere is their cooperation? Are they really on America's side?

Saudi Arabia is one of the world's leading producers of oil, holding a position of influence within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). With Iraq once again beginning to produce a steady flow of oil, currently at 1.4 million barrels per day (BPD) and expected to rise, Saudi Arabia perceives a threat to its dominance in this arena.

The leverage Saudi Arabia possesses in OPEC hinges on its “spare capacity” of oil—about 2 million BPD of spare production capacity that it could use to glut the market, collapse prices and force others out of the export market—which, the *Near East Report* stated, the Saudis “have demonstrated time and again their readiness to use” (Sept. 8). *Foreign Affairs* explained the strategic value of this in its March/April 2002 issue: “Saudi spare capacity is the energy equivalent of nuclear weapons, a powerful deterrent against those who try to challenge Saudi leadership and Saudi goals.”

The problem for Saudi Arabia is, if Iraq—with U.S. assistance—increases its oil production enough, the Saudis will lose their ability to control the oil market. With the lowest production costs in the world, Iraq has the capacity to potentially come out the better in any price war. Not since 1979, when it pumped 3.1 million BPD, has Iraq had high, stable levels of oil production. War and sanctions have prevented Iraq from being a significant player in the market for more than two decades. But now, the U.S. is changing all that—and Saudi Arabia is not happy.

Thus, while outwardly friendly toward America, the Saudi government is actually attempting to undermine U.S. efforts, hoping to chase America off. The *Near East Report* explained, “Though the Saudi government often claims to be a close ally to the United States, its actions indicate this outcome is precisely what it is hoping for. It has not lifted a finger to seal the border to block the surge of *jihadists* to Iraq, and certainly has done nothing to help rebuild Iraq's vital oil industry” (op. cit.).

Just how far are the Saudis prepared to go to counterbalance the U.S.? Consider the fact that they are now seeking help from *Russia*. In September, Crown Prince Abdullah, the Saudi leader, talked with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow “in hopes of influencing Moscow's oil exports and controlling U.S. involvement in the Middle East. ... Almost since the founding of the Arab state, Moscow and Riyadh have viewed each other as enemies, but now, Riyadh's deteriorating ties with Washington are forcing it to seek other allies” (www.stratfor.com, Sept. 2). While any significant success in the venture is doubtful, this move clearly illustrates that Saudi Arabia is not the friend of the U.S. it may pretend to be.

What is more, Bible prophecy reveals that Saudi Arabia will be part of a future alliance that will have as its goal the *destruction of America*. Psalm 83 states, “They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee” (vv. 4-5). This is talking about a future alliance that will form against “Israel”—or, the modern nations of Israel, particularly the U.S., Britain and the Israel of the Middle East. Which nations will be included in this hostile alliance? The “Ishmaelites” of verse 6 are the forebears of the people of Saudi Arabia (as taught at Ambassador College under Herbert W. Armstrong). Here is a prophecy that Saudi Arabia will join with other nations to one day attack America.

We can see that Saudi Arabia's duplicity, and its smoldering resentment of the U.S.,



ALLIES?

Crown Prince Abdullah seeks support from Putin

BY RYAN MALONE

NEEED NEWS? YOU DON'T have to search too hard to get it. Since

the mid-1990s there has been an explosion in the number of news sources available on television. In American, on top of the nightly news and news-related programs on the major U.S. networks, the addition of cable gives you channels like MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, Headline News and Fox News, reporting news 24 hours —1,440 minutes—a day, updated each minute, delivered by an anchor or host, or running endlessly at the bottom of your screen.

We haven't even mentioned the amount of news available on the Internet, in the plethora of newspapers, or on the dial of an AM radio. Ah, the wonders of the Information Age. The American news consumer's mind is crowded, even glutted, by the thousands of events that occur each moment.

The staggering pace of world events and the profuse wealth of news media coverage can leave the sharpest of minds perplexed as to how to keep up with, much less analyze, the vital issues facing our world today.

How can you wade through the dense morass of information? How can you weed out the stories that really are significant? Most importantly, once you've identified the relevant news items, how can you analyze and understand them to the fullest, most useful degree?

There are five simple yet profound KEYS you need in order to understand the impact of world events and to make sense of the complex world you live in.



EXTRA!

Understand

The *Trumpet* magazine bases its selection of news stories and its unique analysis on these five factors. The *Trumpet* staff did not, however, contrive these five keys on its own. This magazine continues in the tradition of the *Plain Truth*, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong—a magazine unmatched in its ability to grapple with the tough issues of its day and give the real meaning behind them. We at the *Trumpet* continue

in this tradition—and we subscribe to the same five points as put forth in the *Plain Truth*.

1) Important Current Events

The first key to a better understanding of the news is having an UP-TO-DATE FAMILIARITY WITH IMPORTANT CURRENT EVENTS.

“Newspapers, more and more, concentrate their coverage on unimportant *local* or *regional* news, or cover the big issues with regional bias, parroting the assumed concepts their own readers find acceptable. Further, news of real import is often shoved to the back pages, if covered at all.

For this reason, the reading public is not exposed to key events as it should be” (*Plain Truth*, February 1969).

So how can you know what is “important”? This is where the *Trumpet* can help. Our News Bureau subscribes to dozens of top news sources and monitors many others via the Internet. Our staff trudges through the mounds of information to find the stories of real relevance that should be highlighted.

In addition to presenting the significant current news, we strive to give the real meaning behind those happenings—that is, we plainly state the CAUSES of society's troubles and dare to give answers and solutions to such troubles.

We continually watch key events developing around the world—the strengthening European Union, the volatile Middle East, the precarious Asian

region, the moral and geopolitical direction of the Anglo-American nations. And when we discuss the major social problems that you may also hear about from other news outlets, we boldly present the causes and solutions to such ills.

By doing all this—in short, fulfilling Christ’s command in Luke 21:36 to “watch” world events—we give you, the reader, a guide. We can show you what to look for in your own news consuming, as you flip the channels, surf the Net, scan the radio or peruse the papers.

2) Understanding of History

The second key to understanding the news is A PROPER COMPREHENSION OF HISTORY.

“The news of today cannot be divorced from the news of the past. But the average person’s knowledge of history, in many cases even recent history, is weak. For this reason, the lessons that history should be teaching mankind today go almost totally unheeded!” (ibid.).

True education in history is in crisis today. At major educational institutions, its importance is lost and its content heavily diluted by politically correct revisionists.

Again, the *Trumpet* can help here. Though we aren’t a purely historical publication, we often must delve into historical research to bring a vital dimension to current events that many news outlets ignore. It is through the lens of history that we see the importance of events developing in Europe or the Middle East, for example. It is simply impossible to accurately analyze events in these regions without knowing certain historical elements.

And that historical perspective even helps us fulfill the first point, in knowing what is important—as history has a tendency to repeat itself.

3) Human Nature

AN UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN NATURE AND HOW IT ACTS is the third key to understanding the news.

As the late Hans J. Morgenthau wrote in his definitive book on political science, *Politics Among Nations*, an understanding of international politics “embraces more than recent history and current events. The observer [of the world scene] cannot find solid ground on which to stand, or objective standards of evaluation, without ... the correlation of recent

events with the more distant past and the perennial qualities of human nature underlying both.”

Though most like to think of human nature as essentially good, stark realism and biblical understanding speak bluntly against this notion. In fact, human nature is responsible for all the tragedy that plagues our world!

The Prophet Jeremiah wrote, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). The Apostle Paul said, “[T]he way of peace have they not known” (Rom. 3:17). In the book of Galatians, he wrote that the “works of the flesh” are adultery, fornication, hatred, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness (Gal. 5:19-21). These attributes describe the society we live in—they fill the daily headlines!

Though some will accept the realities of human nature—how it is, at its core, violent and evil—they still do not understand its origin. They are ignorant of the fact that there is a powerful devil ruling this Earth—deceiving and swaying mankind (Rev. 12:9; Eph. 2:2; 11 Cor. 4:4). For more information on this vital subject, please request your free copy of our booklet *Human Nature—What Is It?*

As the *Plain Truth* stated, “Knowing the true nature of humans—why men

FIVE KEYS

1) IMPORTANT CURRENT EVENTS

2) UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORY

3) HUMAN NATURE

and nations act the way they do—is an essential key, then, to understand what is happening in the world around us” (op. cit.).

4) Identity of Key Nations

The last two keys are those which the experts, think tanks and political scientists of our day all fail to consider, yet are the most vital to truly *understanding* world events and their actual relevance.

The fourth key to understanding the news is KNOWING THE HISTORICAL—THAT IS, BIBLICAL—IDENTITY OF KEY NATIONS. Only then can we fully under-

stand the history of such nations, why they relate to others as they do—and what is important to watch concerning those nations. Tracing a people’s history reveals its modern-day location.

The *Plain Truth* appropriately asked the questions, “Why have the British and American people played such key roles in recent world history?

“How were the British people—relatively few in number—able to rule, until a decade or so ago, over 800 million people in an empire and Commonwealth spanning the globe?” (ibid.). We may also ask, how did the United States—just one nation—attain such power and influence on the world stage for the most of the 20th century?

Like the *Plain Truth*, the *Trumpet* has the answers to these questions. Through Mr. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, we have shown the world the true historical identity of the Anglo-American peoples. Through this book, and other of our writings, we have shown the identity of all the nations that play major roles today.

“This fourth key is an indispensable link leading to true understanding of the world around us. And it leads directly to the most important key of all” (ibid.).

5) Advance News

KNOWLEDGE OF *FUTURE* NEWS is vital to understanding current events. This may seem preposterous! How could anyone know news *BEFORE* it happens?

There is a source that we tap for *perfect, infallible* predictions of what happenings will be the “current events” of tomorrow. This is the source that the *Plain Truth* relied on, as does the *Trumpet* today—a source that many, despite it being the world’s bestselling book, are skeptical of.

It is the Holy Bible. Approximately one third of this book is devoted to *PROPHECY*, most of which is for our time today—the events unfolding before our eyes right now and over the next few years!

The Apostle Peter said we have “a more sure word of prophecy” (11 Pet. 1:19). As the *Plain Truth* stated, “Current events can be deceiving, history misleading—but advance news foretold in the Bible never fails!” (op. cit.).

We have proven the veracity of the Bible. Herbert Armstrong’s booklet *The Proof of the Bible* is available for online



NO A changed pro-Euro sign the day after the Swedes voted

◆ EUROPE

Iron and clay

Who can accurately predict the future of a Europe that is split down the middle and side to side with every effort toward further integration seemingly only augmenting the chaos? Europe is rapidly approaching its next great crossroads. It cannot continue indefinitely as it is—a gigantic rumbling conglomerate that could be shot in the foot and crippled by any one of its dissenting parts.

It would be hard to overstate the extent of Europe's divisions. They range across the spectrum—political, historical, economic, philosophical and religious. Small countries look suspiciously upon the large; the poor are mistrustful of the rich; the accession countries are wary of the six founding members; those within the eurozone look down on those without.

Earlier in the year, disputes erupted over the war in Iraq, with every former Soviet-bloc country supporting it, much to the chagrin of their western soon-to-be "big brothers." Developments in military and defense integration, supported largely by Germany and France, are hotly contested by some countries that fear an EU military will challenge the U.S.-led NATO.

The setting up of an EU

president and EU foreign minister, and the reduction to 15 (from 20) full-time commissioners that will represent the soon-to-be 25 members of the EU, are controversial points now included in the draft EU constitution. They are opposed by many of the smaller

countries, which see their voices and political weight slipping away because of these proposals.

Any constitutional treaty must currently be approved unanimously by the enlarged EU. It is not difficult to foresee the problems inherent in this requirement.

In a veiled threat to Britain, the real thorn in the EU's side, the office of the European Commission president foreshadowed the prospective outcome of the EU's present difficulties: "A spokesman for Romano Prodi, European Commission president, admits it will be a 'huge challenge for our communication efforts' to sell the [constitution]. If it is not ratified, Europe faces the messy choice of grinding to a halt or possibly having to expel one of its members" (*Financial Times*, London, Sept. 17).

Sweden recently made waves when it rejected, by a clear majority, a referendum to replace its national currency with the euro. The Danes have also rejected the euro. Over 70 percent of Britons are against it. And who could forget the double arm-twisting to get the Irish to accept the European currency?

What is the future of this shaky European combine? "The EU faces a tough choice. It could either let the founder members cooperate ever more closely, while others stay outside the process; or it could simply move at the speed of the slowest" (*ibid.*). We can be sure that it will not be the latter.

◆ GERMANY

Stoiber strengthens

Bavarian State Premier Edmund Stoiber handed Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's ruling Social Democrat Party (SPD) its greatest election defeat since World War II in September's state elections. In a drubbing that stymied the SPD and caused general election in Christian Social Union (CSU) ranks, Stoiber gained 61 percent of the total vote compared to the Social Democrat's 19 percent. This was a full 10 points up on his showing in the previous state election held in 1998.



STOIBER

In a statement that may yet prove prophetic, Stoiber declared that his win was "a sensational and epoch-making event." He maintained that the result would have "consequences far beyond the next days, weeks, months and maybe even years" (*Deutsche Welle*, Sept. 21).

Edmund Stoiber is favored by a state economy that reflects one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. With Chancellor Schröder having barely scraped back into office with the slimmest of margins during the last federal elections, the German electorate is loudly calling on him to deliver on his promise to deal with Germany's deeply entrenched unemployment rate. So far there are no clear signs of the chancellor dealing decisively and effectively with this challenge. This is the clear ace that Stoiber holds.

Stoiber claims that Bavaria is the only state presently subscribing to the EU's 3 percent ceiling prescribed by

the eurozone's stability pact. Reflecting on Bavaria's economic success, Stoiber mused that "Bavaria should be a blueprint for all Germany."

The landslide victory for the CSU is a particularly bitter pill for the SPD to swallow, especially coming on the heels of other significant electoral defeats in Hesse and Lower Saxony.

Germany is in economic crisis. The risk is that this will develop into a winter of discontent that will spill over into national social disruption. Stoiber could well be the man to lead the Fatherland out of this state of crisis.

For the past seven years, this magazine has pointed to Edmund Stoiber as a prospect for future leadership in Germany, perhaps even in a federal Europe! As our editor in chief wrote in our May 2002 edition, "This crisis is apt to get worse before it gets better. If it does, Mr. Stoiber will be much more attractive to voters. He is a man we all

◆ JAPAN

Nuke talk

should watch."

Stimulated by North Korea's aggressive nuclear rhetoric, Japan is replying in kind. So far, it's only talk—but the world should take warning that the balance of power in the Far East is presently up for grabs, and Japan is in for the taking.

Britain's *Independent* wrote, "Japan's defense minister has stressed his country's right to strike North Korean missile sites if an attack is thought imminent. In an exclusive interview, Shigeru Ishiba told the *Independent*, 'The Japanese constitution

permits my position. Attacking North Korea after a missile attack on Japan is too late. ... Intelligence officials estimate that North Korea has at least 100 Rodong ballistic missiles capable of striking Japan" (Sept. 15).

The irony here is that the Bush administration's touting of "preemptive" warfare in the ongoing war against terror is being seized upon by nations such as Japan to warn enemies that they may expect similar action if it is perceived that an enemy strike against their shores may be imminent.

In Asia, the prospect of a resurgent militaristic Japan does not sit well. "The prospect of a newly aggressive Japan, which already boasts annual military expenditure of almost £25 billion [us\$40 billion]—25 percent larger than Britain's—worries its neighbors, who have bitter memories of the Second World War. ...

"A number of senior politicians have recently floated the idea of Japan developing its own nuclear weapons ..." (ibid.).

Japan's economy is in the doldrums. Yet, any new expansionary vision, should it be given credence by the Japanese electorate, could stimulate industry with a new drive toward full rearmament, giving Japan the economic recovery it has sought for the past decade.

Watch Japan, as it climbs slowly out of its economic slough, rebound with a renewed sense of nationalism driving a return to a new militarism in the guise of

◆ ISLAM

Watch Malaysia

"self-defense"—with the full

support and backing of the U.S.

Though the United States emphatically denies the war on terrorism is fundamentally a war on *Islam*, Muslims around the world perceive it as such. This, in many instances, has resulted in a backlash against the U.S. manifesting itself in increasing support of conservative Islamic parties in various countries.

A case in point is the majority-Muslim country of Malaysia, where the main opposition party, the fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS), is garnering support through exploiting anti-Western sentiment in the lead-up to national elections next year.

What is more, the party itself is increasingly leaning toward Islamic extremism. At the Islamic Party's annual assembly in mid-September, hard-line Islamic clerics defeated moderates to gain control of the party. The party congress resulted with the PAS vowing to seize power from the moderate United Malays National Organization, the mainstay of the ruling National Front coalition, and to turn the country into a *theocratic Islamic state*.

The appeal of the Islamic Party's stance is reflected in its nationwide gain in popularity and influence. In the last five years, the party has grown in membership from 300,000 to 1 million and currently has control over two of the 13 Malaysian states. During the most recent parliamentary elections, in 1999, it tripled its representation in parliament. And the PAS not only has the support of *conservatives*: "Analysts noted

that an increasing number of *moderate* Muslims appear to lean toward PAS ..." (*South China Morning Post*, Sept. 16; emphasis ours).

Though the PAS may not currently have sufficient support to defeat the National Front coalition in Malaysia's elections next year (largely due to the voting power of ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities), it is likely to gain considerable power.

Moreover, the Islamic Party's rise in popularity



ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP PAS members walk past a display of

demonstrates a dangerous swing toward the more radical side of Islam in Malaysia. The Malaysian *New Straits Times*, describing the PAS as "disguised extremists," stated, "Make no mistake—PAS is situated within the Islamist movements in which the Taliban, Wahhabis and al-Qaeda lie at one extreme ..." (Sept. 14).

◆ TRADE

Death of the WTO?

This does not bode well for the U.S., whose war on terrorism is actually *galvanizing* extreme Islamic elements rather than suppressing or eradicating them.

Representatives from 146 members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) met in Cancun, Mexico, in

mid-September. The five-day conference ended with developing countries calling the West's bluff and refusing to accept the modest concessions on offer from the EU and the United States.

With the talks regarded as a failure by the international community, some have openly questioned whether they spell irreparable breakdown for the WTO—a "democratic" organization where, with decisions made based on consensus, any one of its 148 members can hold up negotiations at any point. Can this huge international organization, designed to aid global economic stability—with particular emphasis on assisting poor nations reach higher economic prosperity and pull their economically deprived masses out of poverty—actually fulfill its stated commission?

The latest failure had its roots in the first round of negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda, which took place nearly two years earlier in Qatar. These talks were "marked by acrimony between rich and poor. The rhetoric was grand ..." (*Economist*, Sept. 20). The Doha round of trade talks was intended to cut industrial and agricultural tariffs, abolish agricultural export subsidies, enable free trade in services, and establish global rules in four new areas of trade. However, since that meeting, for the most part, none of the countries have taken action. In the time between the two rounds of talks, "All self-imposed deadlines were missed; all tough political decisions were put off" (ibid.).

Most pundits agree that the WTO is not yet at risk of dying. But will the organization ever be able to fulfill its originally intended role of helping producers of goods and services, exporters and importers, conduct their

OVER A

Feeding America's immoderate appetite for oil comes with a high cost—and a measure of peril.

BY ANDREW HESSONG

THE UNITED STATES CONSUMES A full quarter of the world's daily oil production, or nearly 20 million barrels per day (MBD). No other single nation on the planet approaches this level of consumption.

American roads are increasingly filled with large passenger vehicles, many of which spend most of their road time hauling only one or two passengers. There are 180 million Americans currently old enough to drive a car, while there are 200 million cars. That is more than one car for every man, woman and teenager legally eligible to drive—a statistic that people in most nations would consider absurd (www.abcnews.com).

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, domestic oil production (including crude oil and petroleum products) has steadily decreased since 1970 to where it is about 9 MBD—less than half of consumption. Further exacerbating the situation is consumer demand, which is expected to expand from 19.7 MBD to 26.7 MBD by 2020—a 35 percent increase. The growing gap between domestic production and demand must be filled by foreign oil imports—which leaves the American superpower with a glaring vulnerability.

In 2001, the Bush administration developed the National Energy Policy. The policy said this about the situation: “U.S. dependence on oil imports is a serious long-term challenge. The economic security of our nation and our trading partners will remain closely tied to

global oil market developments.” The situation is not only a challenge but a dangerous threat to national security. How does the U.S. plan to deal with this massive risk?

The Need for Imported Oil

The Bush energy policy, in its own words, “seeks to lessen the impact on Americans of energy price volatility and supply uncertainty.” The document stated the need to try to increase domestic production (though it expects that it cannot raise production more than 2 MBD), reduce consumption, utilize improvements in production and exploration technology, and—most crucially—strengthen trade alliances with oil-producing nations. “Energy security must be a priority of U.S. trade and foreign policy,” it says. “We must look beyond our borders and restore America’s credibility with overseas suppliers. In addition, we must build strong relationships with energy-producing nations in our own hemisphere, improving the outlook for trade, investment and reliable supplies” (*ibid.*).

Currently, the Persian Gulf accounts for 2.3 MBD, about 22 percent of U.S. net oil imports. Growing instability in the Gulf is forcing the U.S. to work feverishly to diversify its imports and find a strategic hedge against its Persian

Gulf oil use.

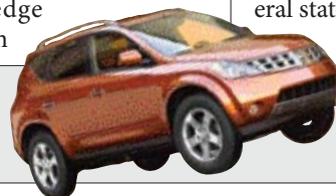
One oil source that appears promising is Africa.

Within the June report “Bottom of the Barrel: Africa’s Oil Boom and the Poor,” Ian Gary of Catholic Relief Services stated, “West Africa’s growth potential is considered to be greater than that of Russia, the Caspian or South America. The U.S. government’s Energy Information Administration (EIA) conservatively calculates that the region will be producing 9 million barrels a day by 2030.” The EIA further estimates that sub-Saharan Africa has about 7 percent of proven world reserves. And www.forbes.com reported that some have even estimated the Gulf of Guinea alone has upward of 24 billion barrels in reserve (March 10).

Already, American oil giants are infiltrating the region. In 2002, Chevron-Texaco announced that it had invested \$5 billion in the previous five years and would pump another \$20 billion into the region by 2007. ExxonMobil claims it will spend \$25 billion across Africa in the next 10 years. West Africa currently supplies about 15 percent of U.S. imports, and the U.S. National Intelligence Council expects that West African oil will represent 25 percent of U.S. imports by 2015—surpassing Persian Gulf imports (*Olympian*, Sept. 13, 2002).

In recognition of the critical need for secure oil supplies, for nearly two years the U.S. government has been making overtures in the region, seeking to establish military bases in various West African countries. In August last year, the *Olympian* reported an announcement by Sao Tome President Fradique de Menezes that an agreement had been forged with the U.S. for it to put a naval base on the Gulf of Guinea island. The waters surrounding Sao Tome are said to hold 4 million barrels of oil. Though this naval base has not yet eventuated, the U.S. is forging ahead with its strategy. Stratfor reported on September 17 that “U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has received a draft of plans for the establishment of military bases in West Africa. U.S. military officials reportedly have reached air basing deals with several states in the region, including Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and

America consumes a quarter of the world's oil:



The U.S. produces less than half of its own oil, and domestic production has fallen

Gabon.” These basing moves would give the U.S. a powerful presence in the area.

Of course, many Africans see such actions as American imperialism—an attitude that mirrors the feeling of many all over the globe.

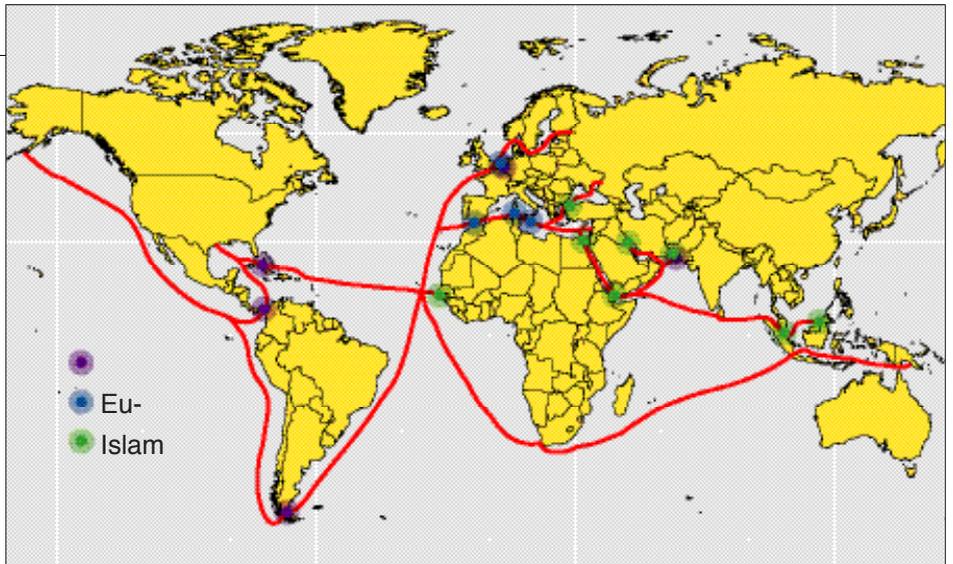
Although these moves are among the most recent U.S. initiatives to hedge against its heavy dependence on Gulf oil, they are by no means the most significant. U.S. involvement in oil exploration, production and distribution spans the globe, covering all continents. In recent years, the most high-profile involvement has been centered in Eurasia, particularly the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Pacific. The importance of Latin America’s oil fields in terms of their proximity to the U.S. also is a serious consideration in America’s overall strategy to secure alternative sources of energy.

Despite these efforts to implement U.S. national strategic policy through securing investment, drilling and long-term initiatives, America will not contain the vulnerability of its vital need for foreign oil. In fact, Bible prophecy indicates that overseas *development* of these resources will not be the real problem. The real problem will be *delivering* them to the U.S. marketplace.

Crucial Gateways

The United States and Britain comprise modern-day biblical Israel, which is described as being besieged in the end time by foreign nations through their control of sea gates. “And he [foreigners] shall *besiege thee in all thy gates*, until thy *high and fenced walls come down*, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the Lord thy God hath given thee” (Deut. 28:52; see also v. 57). This besieging of the U.S. and Britain will include a blockade on their trade traffic as well as the collapse of their financial systems—the “high and fenced walls.”

For the U.S., once oil has been acquired, it must be delivered via a shipping lanes. All major shipping lanes either transit through or terminate near major choke points—sea gates.



CHOKED The above map shows the major shipping routes through which most of the world’s oil travels. All major shipping lanes either transit through or terminate near major choke points—sea gates. A close analysis of these routes reveals a growing danger to U.S. trade traffic. The U.S. is facing

A close analysis of global trade routes reveals a growing danger to U.S. trade traffic. The U.S. is facing three opponents in this arena: China, the Islamic powers and the EU.

China, through the front company of Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., controls the Panama Canal and also one of the world’s largest container ports—Freeport, Bahamas. Both of these gateways, particularly Freeport, are critical for the import of oil to the U.S. Though the U.S. has 57 coastal oil terminals, the greatest concentration of refineries, terminals and storage facilities, including the nation’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve, is in the Gulf of Mexico region, from East Texas to Louisiana. This means that much of the oil must pass through the Caribbean region—a route now significantly controlled by China. In addition, China is establishing a huge deep-water port in Gwadar, Pakistan, at the entrance to the Persian Gulf.

Islamic governments presently control access to Persian Gulf oil resources through the gulfs of Oman and Aden and the Suez Canal. Turkey, another Islamic state, stands at the crossroads of the Dardanelles, pathway of oil from Eurasia.

The southern gateways of Jakarta and the Straits of Malacca, through which shipments from Pacific and Asian oil fields must be transported, are bordered

by Islamic nations.

By May next year, the European Union will control the crucial northern gates of the Mediterranean and the North Sea, through which oil from Russia, the Caucasus and Eurasia passes.

Looking at which nations have control over strategic gateways, we can see that the U.S. could find itself in a very vulnerable position if certain nations or groups of nations turned hostile. What if, for instance, China and Europe were to cooperate strategically to limit traffic through the gateways they control?

Some may argue, and the National Energy Policy agrees, that should trade routes from the Middle East, Eurasia, Africa and the Pacific be blocked, the U.S. could turn to resources in the Western Hemisphere, namely in Latin America. However, the EU has been erecting a powerful hedge throughout all of Latin America, including in America’s closest neighbor, Mexico (for details, read “Recolonizing Latin America?” in the July *Trumpet*; you can find it at www.thetrumpet.com).

Trade Routes in the Future

The EU has not yet consolidated control over strategic sea gates; yet, in alignment with Bible prophecy, it is positioning itself to do so in the future. In recent years, Europe has been laying the groundwork for strong trade relations and influence in various strategic areas of the world.

In a European Commission press release in 2000 concerning the signing

The Persian Gulf accounts for **22 percent** of U.S. oil



Trade routes are increasingly controlled by **enemies**

of the Cotonou Agreement between the EU and its 77 member nations of Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific states, the following was written: “[T]his agreement will shape a significant part of the European Union’s dealings with the rest of the world. It also reflects the Union’s reach both as the *leading international trading partner* and the world’s main provider of official development assistance, with a European Development Fund of 13.5 billion euros for the initial five-year period” (emphasis mine throughout).

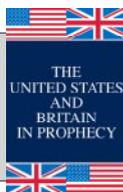
The press release emphasized the importance to Europe of the Caribbean region—an area with sea gates critical to the U.S. “In the Caribbean region, EUROPE REMAINS A NECESSARY PARTNER AND A USEFUL COUNTERWEIGHT TO POWERFUL NEIGHBORS” (June 21, 2000).

The EU has a 13.5 billion euro “carrot” for 77 nations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Why? It wishes to serve as a “counterweight” to “powerful neighbors”—a clear reference to the United States. What benefits will small Pacific islands, Caribbean islands and nations in Africa afford the EU? Control over trade routes and vital strategic sea gates!—not to mention economically vital resources (for example, the EU itself is becoming increasingly entrenched in oil-rich Russia, Eurasia and West Africa).

Despite all the efforts of the U.S. to procure and secure foreign oil—so vital to maintaining America’s fragile economy in the long term—Bible prophecy is clear: Unless the U.S. and the other nations comprising biblical Israel, repent and turn to God, failure is assured on all fronts. The Bible prophesies that it will be a powerful European bloc that will attain control of world trade—though only for a relatively short time (Rev. 18:17-19).

However, regardless of the future path of the U.S. as a whole, hope is assured for individuals willing to correct within their own lives the same mistakes that are bringing the U.S. to this point. ◆

For more information, request your free copy of our book **The United States and Britain in**



TRADING

Europe’s economic influence in the world increases as the economic dominance of the U.S. declines.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS

THE EMERGENCE OF THE EUROPEAN Union as an economic superpower has brought with it the unprecedented ability to wield significant influence on the world stage.

Positioning itself to become the dominant influence in world trade and commerce, Europe has no qualms about flexing its newly acquired commercial muscle.

One case in point is a new proposal for Europe’s chemicals regulation. “Europe’s grand strategy to impose its regulatory vision on the global economy became explicitly clear this month with the formal unveiling of the EU’s chemicals regulation by Environment Commissioner Margot Wallstrom.



Wall-

“Just as Jean Baptiste Colbert, Louis XIV’s mercantilist controleur general, imposed stifling regulation on the French economy, the EU move will choke off \$90 billion in chemical imports to the bloc, and have a far-reaching impact on global trade liberalization” (*Wall Street Journal*, July 30).

Europe claims to be regulating for itself. The reality is that it is regulating the world under the guise of EU environmental policy.

This 1,200-page regulatory proposal has attracted a barrage of criticism, particularly from the United States, which claims that the new policy is “excessive, bureaucratic and unnecessary” (*New York Times*, May 8). The U.S. chemical industry estimates that the new policy will impose \$10 billion in new costs against annual chemical exports to the EU of \$25 billion.

The proposed chemical regulation is not the only source of tension between nations in the international trade arena. Recent months have seen an esca-

tion of strain in trade relations, particularly between Europe and the United States—the other major economic superpower. The following events serve to illustrate the point.

Trade Disputes

In August, the European Commission (the EU’s executive arm, which handles trade matters for the 15-nation bloc) took the toughest stance yet in its four-year antitrust battle with Microsoft. The Commission asserts that the U.S. software giant continues to abuse European competition rules, claiming in its statement of objections that it has now built a case “too strong to ignore” (*Financial Times*, London, Aug. 7).

Should this battle develop into a formal court action brought by European regulators, the Commission is confident that the case would withstand the scrutiny of the European Court of Justice. Such an outcome would result in Microsoft facing fines of up to \$3.2 billion.

In relation to another longstanding dispute, the August 29 meeting of the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body established a panel to adjudicate on the EU moratorium on genetically modified crops. For nearly five years, the EU has blocked market access to the U.S. and other countries, claiming that genetically modified foods may pose risks. The U.S., on the other hand, claims the moratorium is without scientific basis and amounts to an unfair protectionist measure.

Far from the effects of Europe’s moratorium being limited to within its own borders, the tentacles of European regulation know no geographic bounds. Last year, several African countries refused to accept genetically modified food aid for fear that their crops would be contaminated, thus jeopardizing their own exports to Europe. The U.S. claims that EU actions threaten to deny the full development of a technology that holds enormous potential benefits to both producers and consumers and, it believes, may also provide a significant means to combat hunger and malnutri-

tion in the developing world.

The economic stakes for the U.S. are significant. The moratorium costs U.S. farmers an estimated \$300 million each year in lost revenues, making it one of the most contentious issues in a long line of U.S.-EU trade disputes.

the emergence and growing influence of one economic superpower and the relative decline in influence of another.

In truth, America is relinquishing control over its own destiny.

Take, for example, the dispute over the foreign sales corporation tax incen-

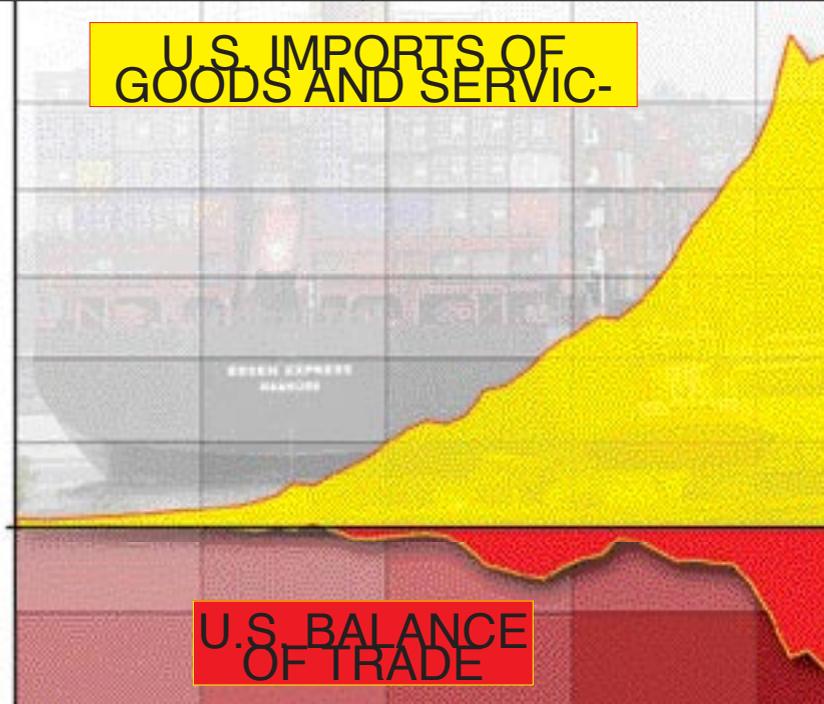
quietly slips deeper into a greater dependency on foreign countries for the necessities of national life. The former cultivates its power and influence by aggressively promoting and protecting its trading interests, while the latter is content with opening up its borders in an effort to satisfy the ever-indulgent appetite of consumers gone mad in a feeding frenzy of foreign goods.

America continues to consume more than it produces. It continues to spend more than it earns. While the U.S. consumer has been the savior of the global economy throughout the last decade, at some point the bill is going to have to be paid.

The incredible escalation of America's proclivity to consume can be dramatically seen by a cursory glance at the nation's national accounts. America's trade deficit exploded to \$418 billion in 2002 and will be substantially higher this year. Imports have nearly doubled in just 10 years, and the U.S. hasn't had a trade surplus since 1975. Eventually, the world will cease to finance such excesses, putting downward pressure on the currency and exposing the evaporation of wealth of a once-dominant nation.

U.S.
DOL-
LARS

U.S. IMPORTS OF GOODS AND SERVICE-



In response to import tariffs on steel imposed by the Bush administration in 2002, the EU filed a claim with the WTO alleging the violation of trade agreements. In July this year, a WTO panel rejected U.S. arguments that the tariffs on selected types of steel imports were needed because increased steel imports were hurting domestic steel producers. The WTO ruled that the protective

tariffs were ruled illegal last year. Congress now has to rewrite its tax laws to conform to WTO commands—or face the imposition of \$4 billion in tariff penalties from Europe. One American commentator wrote, “Our Congress is ordered by foreign bureaucrats to alter U.S. law or our companies face penalties. Presidential decisions to protect vital

Outcome Foretold

Readers of this magazine know well that we have long held to the view that a European federation will rise to be a major force in international politics, underpinned and supported by a great economic empire. The ultimate outcome of escalating trade tensions and political wrangling between the two economic powerhouses of the EU and the U.S. was foretold hundreds of years ago.

Bible prophecy reveals that a final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire, made up of a group of European nations, is soon to impact the entire world (Rev. 13:4, 16-17; 18:11-15). Dominance in international trade will empower the rise of such a formidable empire. “[F]or thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived” (Rev. 18:23). “[A]nd the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies” (v. 3). Such dominance, however, will plague this Earth only briefly, before this economic, political and military empire will be brought down (vv. 11-15). ♦

The EU knows the strategic importance of maintaining its critical industries.

The U.S. quietly slips deeper into a greater dependency on foreign countries for the necessities of life.

The EU aggressively promotes and protects its trading interests. **The U.S.**

tariffs were illegal, deciding the case in favor of the EU.

Subject to the results of a U.S. appeal (in which the U.S. is not expected to prevail), the EU is now empowered to impose \$2.2 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports. The European Commission has already drawn up a list of potential U.S. products to be hit with retaliatory measures if Washington fails to conform to the WTO ruling.

Whatever one thinks of who is right or wrong, these situations demonstrate

American industries are declared invalid by Eurocrats. The terms of access to the U.S. market are now to be decided in Geneva ...” (*American Conservative*, Aug. 11).

A Growing Dependence

Contrast the emerging economic dominance of a European superstate with that of its longtime rival, the United States. The former is conscious of the strategic importance of maintaining its critical industries, while the latter

STRESS IS THE REACTION OF the body to perceived threats. Prompting us to fight or take flight, it is one of the body's defense mechanisms—an aid to survival. Even the stress of everyday concerns such as getting to work on time, meeting deadlines and fulfilling our positions in life can elicit this response.

But there is a dangerous downside to excess anxiety, and today, many people are experiencing worry and stress in epidemic proportions. Inordinate levels of stress can result in deep depression to the point of substance abuse and addiction, suicide—even anger to the point of murder.

Stress resulted in the latter in the July killing spree at the Lockheed Martin plant of Meridian, Miss. Doug Williams was described in an interview with the *Meridian Star* as a non-smoking high school graduate who was kind, honest and a hard worker (July 11). Williams was taking medicine for depression and had attended an anger management course two years earlier. This man killed five and injured nine before taking his own life.

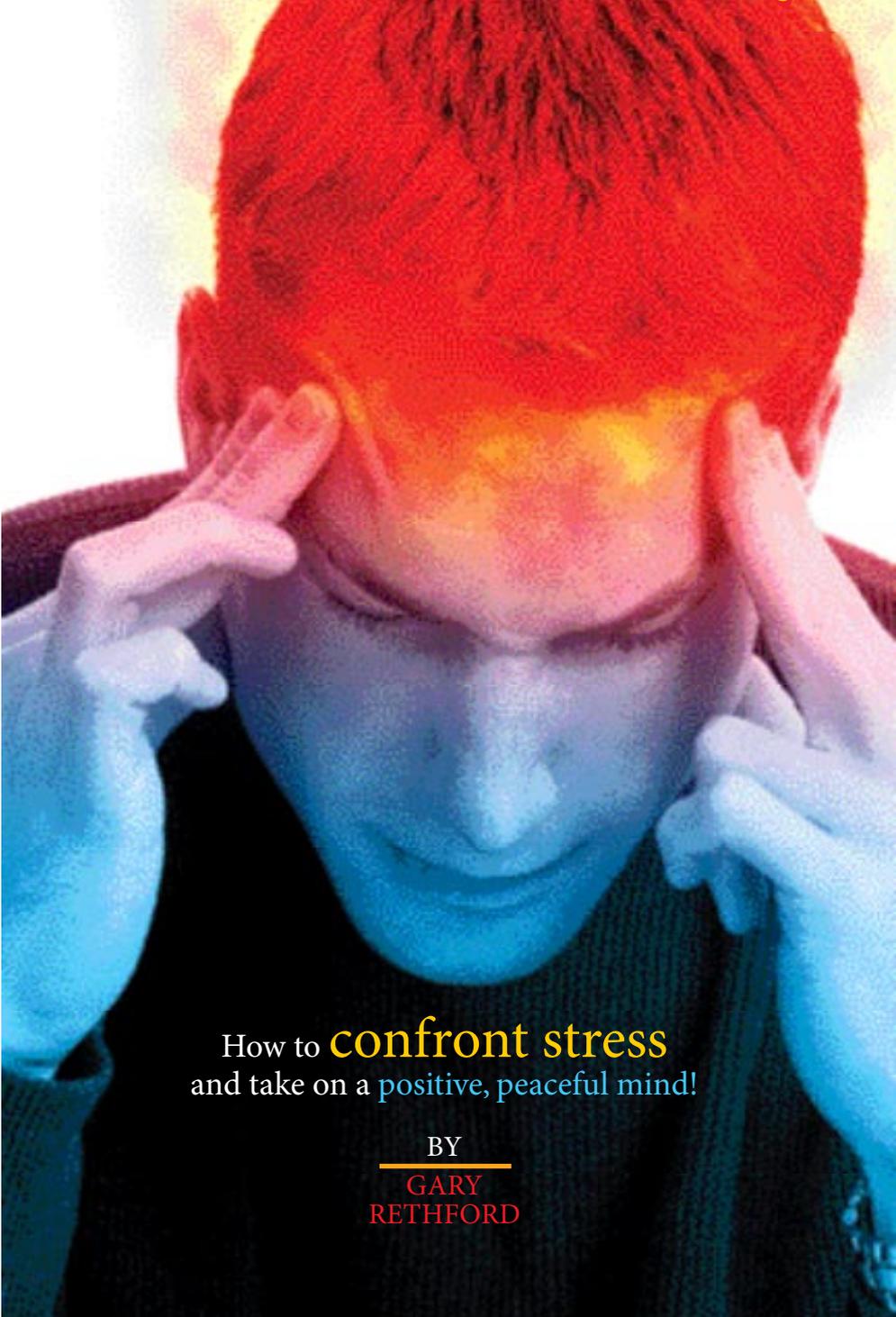
Not all stress leads to such extreme outcomes. Nevertheless, more than 19 million adult Americans have anxiety disorders, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. In addition, more than 2.3 million American adults suffer from manic-depressive illness in a given year, approximately 19 million experience depression, and more than 2 million are affected by schizophrenia. Around the world, according to the World Federation for Mental Health, there are 400 million people suffering from mental and neurological disorders. In the UK, it is estimated that 15 to 30 percent of workers will experience some form of mental health problems during their working lives. In Canada, 38 percent of the population have admitted having had psychiatric disorders, and in the Netherlands, 41 percent. In Finland, over half the work force experience stress-related symptoms.

The trend of such events as the Lockheed Martin shooting is growing. Why?

Real Solution Is Missing

In 1985, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, "You live in a world seemingly far advanced in science, technology, higher education and diffusion of knowledge. People think it's a world of GREAT

The Age of Anxiety



How to **confront stress**
and take on a **positive, peaceful mind!**

BY
GARY
RETHFORD

PROGRESS. ...

"But, paradoxically, it's also a world of IGNORANCE! Even the educated *know not* how to solve their problems and the world's evils. They *know not* the way of PEACE or the TRUE VALUES of life! ...

"It's an unhappy, restless world in frustration, staring a hopeless future in the face. It's a world ridden with escalating crime and violence, immorality, injustice (even in its courts of law), dishonesty, corruption in government and business, and continual wars, pointing now to the *final* nuclear World War III" (*Mystery of the Ages*). Written 18 years ago, Mr. Armstrong's assessment of world conditions becomes more relevant every day. All this increases our daily stress.

Many people offer practical ways to avoid some of the stress: Confiding our fears in someone we trust; learning to think before we act; striving for balance in life; striving to maintain a healthy lifestyle. These are all positive ways to help us live in a negative world.

However, in truth, the problem cannot be totally solved on the human level. Permanent healing is what we need! Repeated failure to solve the rising level of anxiety proves that it is not a physically based problem, which humans can deal with on their own; it is a *spiritual* one.

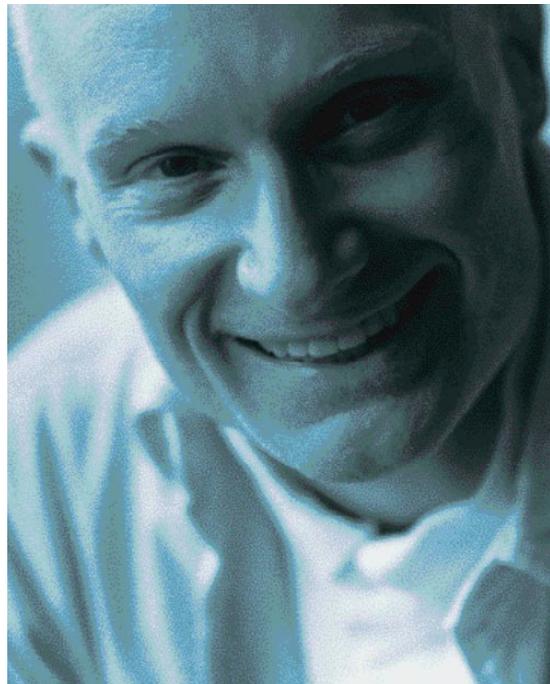
Counseling and drug therapies exist for those who desire such treatment. At best, however, drugs always have side effects, and counseling often only helps one *live with the fear*. In other words, these attempt to treat the *effect* of stress. They do not address the *cause*. One therapist acknowledges the limitations of such counseling. "So many people come to a therapist or counselor to help them get rid of their anxiety," says Bob Rosenblatt, Ph.D., a private-practice psychotherapist in Washington, D.C. "*The therapist's job is not to do that but to help people cope with anxiety*. Anxiety is a fact of life. ... The therapist's job is not to make anxiety go away but to help people deal with it and go on in their lives in the best way they can. *You help them cope with their anxiety but you can't eradicate it*" (WebMD Medical News, Oct. 16, 2002; emphasis mine).

Modern counseling, drugs and therapies CANNOT solve people's prob-

lems. All that can be achieved is the *possibility* of giving a person the *temporary* ability to *live with* the problematic situation. Drugs and applied psychology cannot make the problem go away. SCIENCE DOES NOT HAVE THE ANSWER!

And the causes of our stress will steadily get much worse. The Bible points to a period referred to as a time of tribulation and destruction: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And

Only a relatively few today know genuine peace of mind—and peace of mind is imperative for good health.



except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matt. 24:21-22; see also 1 Thes. 5:3; Jer. 30:6).

The Positive Key to a Peaceful Mind

Today, in this age of anxiety, we need *real* answers to our problems. We need to know how to escape the anxiety of today and the terror of tomorrow. We need to know how to have peace of mind—how to rear children to be happy, healthy and CONFIDENT.

Only a relatively few today know genuine peace of mind—and peace of

mind is imperative for good health. Physical solutions are not enough to obtain peace of mind.

For every effect, there is a cause. Why do we have a world based on the strong preying on the weak? Why do we have racial discrimination and strife? More to the point, why does it seem this world is in a headlong rush to destruction?

It is because society is generally under the control of an arch-demon who hates humanity with a raging passion! "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Rev. 12:9). SATAN is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:3-4), and the misery and death being inflicted on mankind is inspired by him. In the beginning, it was not that way.

The Eternal God created mankind (Gen. 1:27). He gave man an able mind with which he was to rule over the animal kingdom and the whole earthly environment (vv. 26, 28). God planned for His creation to exist in *peace*. To guarantee that peace, God set in motion spiritual *laws*, which, if obeyed, would bring *blessings*. If those laws were not obeyed, terrible curses would result (Deut. 28).

Long before schools of behavioral science learned that our negative emotions contribute to physical sickness and disease, God had revealed that knowledge to those who readily received His revelation (Prov. 14:30; 13:12; 17:22). He inspired the cure for anxiety problems to be included in the Bible. "*Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them*" (Ps. 119:165).

GOD'S LAW is the way to peace and happiness. "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For *length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee*" (Prov. 3:1-2).

God's law is based on the way of *give*—of outgoing concern for others. Notice Jesus's reply to a question concerning the law, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all

· continued on p. 27

Will Pills Solve Our Ills?

BY

ANDREW
HESSONG

Prescription drugs is a hot political topic, and use of medications is soaring, among all ages. How much of this craze is borne of legitimate need—and how much are we relying on legal drugs to compensate for our bad behavior?

IT'S AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT: AMERICAN television viewers are barraged daily by commercials for prescription drugs. It seems there are pills for every ill: obesity, allergies, arthritis, depression, sexual dysfunction, high cholesterol—the list goes on.

The message: Life will be better with drugs.

The commercials then rapidly list a myriad of common side effects: nausea, dry mouth, perspiration, drowsiness, diarrhea, upset stomach, insomnia, throat

inflammation, muscle pain, dizziness, fatigue, indigestion, headache, constipation, cough and loss of appetite.

In 1997, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) clarified drug advertising regulations. Expenditures on direct-to-consumer drug marketing then exploded, from less than \$800 million in 1996 to over \$2.6 billion by 2001. *Medical Marketing & Media* reported that prescription drug advertising ranks number one in expenditures for syndicated television programming (July 1).

American consumers are swallowing hard—hook, line and gel cap; between 1997 and 2001, they doubled their purchases to \$155 billion (National Women's Health Network, July 1). According to results of a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* last year, in any given week, 81 percent of Americans are taking some type of medication and more than half are using medication requiring a doctor's prescription.

But, does medical science have the cure for the nation's ills?

Heartburn and Obesity

One of the most common commercials seen on American TV is for heartburn or acid reflux drugs. About 25 million Americans experience daily heartburn. Many have turned to drugs, which actually short circuit the digestive process, to alleviate the effects of the problem.

Dr. Ramesh Gandhi, president of the Dayton, Ohio, Digestive Specialists practice and instructor at Wright State University's School of Medicine, explains, "The underlying problem isn't excess acid production, but being overweight or smoking or having a malfunctioning sphincter [the muscular valve between the stomach and the esophagus]" (*Dayton Daily*, Aug. 3). Dr. Mark Walsh, a gastroenterologist and also on the faculty of the Wright State University, says doctors agree that losing weight is usually the best way to keep acid from entering the esophagus. He said, "Most of the people I see for heartburn have gained about 20 pounds" (*ibid.*).

Heartburn is often the result of an ever-increasing lust for food, particularly junk food. For most, however, even when they know wrong diet and overeating is the cause, a permanent change in eating habits is not considered an acceptable solution. "People restrict their diets if they know eating something will give them heartburn and keep them up all night," Dr. Walsh said. "Then they go on Prilosec or Nexium or whatever, their heartburn's gone and now they can eat more." Doctors advise changes to lifestyle and diet. "But, in general, people don't follow them. Once they take the drug, it works, and they say, 'Why do anything else?'" said Dr. Gandhi (*ibid.*).

In the U.S., nearly 10 percent of teenagers suffer from depression; 4,000 teens a year kill themselves. These youths have problems in their lives that drugs will never address.

Drugs are also becoming the treatment of choice for weight problems, promoted by adverts promising miraculous results without any effort whatsoever. *Lose weight while you sleep! Supercharge your metabolism and lose 10 to 20 pounds in the next 60 days! Eat what you want and lose weight. Win the fat war once and for all—even if you lack the will power.* For the 120 million overweight or obese American adults, such rhetoric is a dream come true. No self-control is required, no exercise and no need to make lifestyle changes. Just pop a daily pill and away go the effects of broken physical law.

Many have opted for this method. Sales of diet pills and supplements more than quadrupled from 1996 to 2000, going from \$168 million to \$782 million (*New York Times*, Oct. 29, 2000). Why should people exercise self-control when they can pop a pill, circumvent the effects of their actions and go right along with life the way they want it? So the reasoning goes.

Depression

Depression is another revealing problem area.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) reports that nearly 10 percent of the U.S. population, or about 18.8 million American adults, suffers from a depressive illness, and more than 3 in 20 Americans will experience serious depression in their lifetime. Science and the medical community believe that the culprit is a biochemical change in the brain. While a biochemical change usually does occur, the question is *why?* Science does not provide the answer. Rather, it offers drugs. Feeling down? Having trouble coping with your life's stresses and problems? A trip to the doctor will send you home clutching a cure: antidepressants.

Of course, drugs don't eliminate the *source* of the problem—they merely alleviate the physical, biochemical effects. Addressing the use of drugs to

In any given week, 81 percent of Americans are taking some type of medication. Over 50 percent are taking medication requiring a doctor's prescription.

treat depression, Theodore Dalrymple, a physician and psychiatrist practicing in England, said, "By actively discouraging other, more constructive approaches to life's problems, without producing any benefit other than the avoidance of painful choices, it is very possible that SSRIs [Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors—the class of antidepressants to which Prozac belongs] actually add to, rather than reduce, the sum of human misery. I very rarely see a patient who is in a dreadful personal situation, in which it is inconceivable that he or she should be happy, who has not been prescribed these drugs. ..."

"By the very fact of having been given a prescription, they are encouraged to believe that help is at hand, and that all they need to do is swallow it daily, when what they need, in fact, is character, resolve and a sense of purpose in life" (*National Post*, Canada, Aug. 13).

In the U.S., nearly 10 percent of teenagers suffer from depression; 4,000 teens a year are killing themselves. Why? Is it simply because they lack antidepressant drugs vital to their mental well-being? These youths, along with 18.8 million U.S. adults, have serious problems in their lives that drugs will never address. Despite all the advancements in drug science, statistics from the past decade only prove that the problem is rapidly growing.

What then is the real answer?

ADHD

The NIMH reports that 3 to 5 percent of American children—as many as 2 million—have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD. This disorder manifests itself in symptoms such as distractibility, impulsivity and hyperactivity. Medical science has concluded the problem to be a chemical imbalance taking place in the brain. So, do 2 million American children simply have a chemical imbalance? If so, why? Is the imbalance the root cause of the problem, or the *result* of a deeper problem? The medical community leaves this question unanswered. Why bother, when drugs such as Ritalin can artificially boost the deficient chemical levels and all will be well—that is, as long as the child stays

drugged?

Warwick Dyer, a British behavioral expert, completed a five-year project to help children whom the medical community deemed ADHD. His method was to teach the parents and put them in loving control of the children instead of allowing the children to rule. After five years of teaching simple, fundamental parenting skills used for generations, he had a 100 percent success rate. He concluded that it is up to parents to take more responsibility for their children's "disorders" and move away from the chemical hammer of prescription drugs.

Mr. Dyer asserts that it is "clear that a lot of symptoms ascribed to such disorders are in fact easily confused with basic behavioral problems that don't need to be treated with a drug." He states, "You need to give your child what they want—love and attention—but on your terms, not theirs." Mr. Dyer claims, "The problem is that a lot of parents simply aren't being parents. In the last 20 years, parents ... have stopped being in control of [their children]. They have tended to examine how they were brought up and reject what they thought was bad, but they haven't taken on what was good. Children are instinctively artful and will try to put themselves in control of their parents. I put parents back in control" (*New Zealand Herald*, July 21).

Dr. Peter Breggin, a psychiatrist in New York, concurs. "I don't think the answer is drugging our kids. Instead, we should be figuring out what their problem is. There's no substitute for caring enough" (*San Francisco Chronicle*, Aug. 31).

Do parental control and child rearing have anything to do with chemical imbalances in the brain of a child? Scientists would laugh at such proposed connections.

Compounding Problems

Science's solutions come with their own Pandora's box filled with problems.

The Associated Press reported that studies have estimated that 2 million Americans are hospitalized annually from drug side effects, while 100,000 actually die! (Dec. 14, 1999). According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, adverse reactions to pre-

Studies have estimated that 2 million Americans are hospitalized annually from drug side effects, while 100,000 actually die.

scription drugs result in roughly three times as many fatalities as do automobile accidents, making prescription drugs the number-four killer in the U.S., after heart disease, cancer and stroke (April 15, 1998). FDA drug chief Dr. Janet Woodcock stated, "There's no doubt the toll of deaths and injuries, and the economic costs of adverse drug reactions, is really staggering" (Associated Press, op. cit.).

These problems emerge for two main reasons: one, doctors don't read warnings; and two, though drugs are tested on a few hundred to a few thousand, they end up in the mouths of millions,

most of whom are taking an untold combination of other drugs, or are subject to physical or biological factors, the combination of which leads to unknown adverse reactions. These factors place consumers in a game of Russian roulette when seeking drugs to "cure" their ills.

Then there is the massive issue of a new, little-known epidemic: prescription drug addiction. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, this affects the lives of an estimated 9 million Americans. Dr. Jean Lennane, who was director of Drug and Alcohol Services at Rozelle Hospital in Sydney, Australia, during the 1980s, observed that tranquilizers and hypnotics used to treat anxiety and insomnia, touted as non-addictive, created countless addicts. She noted two distinct groups. Those who were pure abusers, and—the much larger group—those who had never had drug problems but became hooked by taking the normal small doses of one of these types of drugs (*Weekend Australian*, July 26).

Such abuse is now being greatly exacerbated by the Internet, where powerful drugs can be obtained with just a credit card at the more than 300 online drug pharmacy websites. Often, medical history, a doctor's visit or prescriptions are not necessary. It's a fast, shameless way to prolong addictions (*New York Post*, Aug. 10).

Finding the Answers

Let's face it: Drugs are not the real answer to our ills. Drugs never have dealt with root causes of ailments. Drugs will not stop Americans from eating heaped plates of fatty and starchy foods, nor will they instill the self-discipline to exercise. Drugs will not solve the shattered lives of young children whose parents fight or are divorced. Drugs will not fill the void of a missing father. Drugs will not teach parents how to properly rear their children. Drugs will not solve man's hatred toward his neighbor. Drugs will not heal lives shattered by rape, incest or abuse. Drugs will never remove the actions that have brought about disease. Drugs will never reveal to man why he exists, give him a relationship with his Creator, give him the hope that will remove all depression. Mankind needs the answers that address the root of the problems, so they can be dealt with properly and not swept under the carpet.

The root cause of these problems gets down to right living vs. wrong living.

The Prophet Jeremiah lived in a society crumbling from the curses of wrong living. He concluded, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23).

Though most will laugh this to scorn, the fact is, the true solutions to all of these problems is laid out by the Creator of mankind in His Word, the Bible. If you really wish to prove or disprove this fact, you need to understand your Bible. Yet most people become confused when attempting to read it.

This need not be so. If you wish to unlock your Bible and see the answers for yourself, ask for our free book *Mystery of the Ages* and read it along with your Bible. It will illustrate to you, in the pages of your own Bible, the answers to the seven great mysteries of life. Then you will begin to see that the answers to all of man's horrific problems are, indeed, addressed in God's Word. ♦

There is a new, little-known epidemic: prescription drug addiction—which affects an estimated 9 million Americans.

is talking with Poland (which governs the southeast of Iraq, bordering Iran) about creating a mutual security agreement. While the Polish defense minister, visiting Tehran, praised Iran for its contribution to restoring security in the region, Iran affirmed its desire to cooperate with reconstruction and UN efforts to end the American occupation.

But truly interesting are the steps the U.S. is taking to secure its interests that are demonstrating its new-found dependence upon the Islamic regime.

To take one example: Facing an energy shortage within the bombed-out country, at the end of August Iraq's U.S.-appointed interim government announced that it would buy electricity from Iran, as well as Syria. The *Boston Globe* correctly labeled it "a deal that would probably enrich with U.S. funds two countries that top the White House

ment of a Shiite-dominated government in Iraq.

On September 12, it was announced that the assembly to draft a new Iraqi constitution will be elected, not appointed. Stratfor made this analysis: "A democratically elected constitutional assembly means a Shiite-dominated assembly. Apart from the sheer demographics, the ongoing fighting in the Sunni regions will mean a low turnout—whenever the election takes place. ... The net result will be a constitution written by Shiites. This raises an interesting question of what kind of constitution will be written. It will undoubtedly be democratic—but democratic on the order of the Iranian model" (Sept. 15).

The analysis continued: "Now, the United States specifically said that it wouldn't accept a theocratic regime in

IRNA news agency, Iran's last president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, gave a chilling version of these recent events. "Even though the United States has a physical presence in the countries that surround us, *the reality is that the United States is in fact surrounded by Iran*," he said. "God has pushed the Americans into a quagmire in Iraq. If they stay, they will be victims every day, and if they leave, it will be a loss of honor" (Agence France Presse, Sept. 11; emphasis mine).

Is this just bluster? An honest appraisal of the situation reveals the truth in Rafsanjani's statement. Iran has indeed "surrounded" America, because it is the *king* of terrorist-sponsoring nations. The only way to win the war against terrorism is to conquer Iran. America has the power to do so, but lacks the will to use that power.

Rafsanjani concluded, "Our enemies such as Saddam, the Taliban and the Monafeghins [speaking of an Iran opposition group] have been swept out of our way, and soon the U.S. will be too."



Raf-

Watch southern Iraq! Watch Iran! This terrorist nation has already become a much more formidable foe

than is generally realized. Dr. Friedman has drawn this conclusion: "Currently, this seems to be the most likely evolution of events: Washington gets Tehran's help in putting down the Sunnis. ... The United States gets Iran to dial back its nuclear program. Iran gets to dominate Iraq. The United States gets all the benefits in the near term. IRAN GETS ITS HISTORICAL DREAM" (www.stratfor.biz, Sept. 2).

Of course, those "benefits" to the U.S. will quickly amount to nothing. Iran will be entrenched—and the U.S. won't have the will to stop it. ◆



Who could have known that an awesome show of American strength in Iraq would, a mere six months later, create a situation where the U.S. is

list of states that support terrorism" (Sept. 8).

Another, more telling, example is America's approach to Shia militias. The public line is that the U.S. has "zero tolerance" for independent militias in Iraq. But on more than one occasion, coalition forces have looked the other way as armed members of these militias have policed southern Iraqi cities. Notably, the Badr Brigade, the military arm of Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim's political party, handled security at the three-day funeral following Hakim's murder (see Personal, p. 1, for more on this). According to a National Public Radio report of September 8, the Badr Brigade has worked with U.S. forces, for example going on raids with them to track down Saddam supporters, and the Americans have approved members of the brigade carrying weapons. Najaf, where Hakim was killed, also began a coalition-approved 400-man protection force composed of Iraqi volunteers who worked closely with the Badr Brigade. Ironically, this force was the brainchild of Hakim.

The ties to Iran are strong, and clearly the U.S. finds itself with no other good options. The question is, what will be the Shiites' price for helping the U.S.? Stratfor makes the case that they will want nothing less than the establish-

[Iraq]—but that was when the United States believed it would have a blank slate on which to write. U.S. options have diminished since the days before the war began: Washington now needs the Shiites far more than it needs the United Nations, and the Shiites know it. The Shiites' price has always been the same—a Shiite regime. The United States seems to be showing every sign of being prepared to pay that price."

Who could have predicted this is where the campaign in Iraq would leave the United States? Who could have known that an awesome show of American strength in Iraq would, a mere six months later, create a situation where the U.S. is being forced to pander to Iran? It is an extraordinary turn of events—one that is bound to explode into the public view in time, and which, when it fully plays out, will leave the world breathless.

Yet it is also a reality strikingly in line with Bible prophecy. It is that biblical outline that has informed the *Trumpet's* warnings for almost a decade now about the inevitable rise in Iran's dominance within the Middle East. Mr. Flurry's booklet *The King of the South* (sent to you free upon request) details the scriptural source of this prediction.

In a September interview with the



Championing the Way of Give

REACHING OUT
(L-R) A PFCS concert in Edmond; Gerald Flurry visits the project in Jordan with Princess

lands, Tokyo to Cairo—with projects in Jerusalem, Jordan, London, Nepal and Okinawa—its most notorious achievement was undoubtedly its concert series, held in the incomparable Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, built in 1974. Concertgoers and performers alike praised its acoustical perfection and warm, intimate atmosphere.

This series brought excellence in the performing arts to the Los Angeles area by showcasing the greatest performers from all over the world during the 1970s and '80s—artists such as the Vi-



enna Philharmonic, Luciano Pavarotti, Joan Sutherland, Vladimir Horowitz and Mel Tormé.

After he died, the WCG wanted nothing to do with Mr. Armstrong or the legacies he left. Eventually, the AICF was discontinued; the concert series ceased. Mr. Armstrong had spent \$2.5 million a year to attract the finest artists in the world, and with the financial demise of the WCG throughout the early '90s, church officials, in January 1995, said they no longer had the money to subsidize the arts. Ambassador Auditorium sits empty today, awaiting sale or demolition. AICF projects around the world were stopped as well.

It was to keep Mr. Armstrong's legacy alive that the PCG broke away from the WCG. In the mid-1990s, we raised up a humanitarian department, the Philadelphia Foundation. For its first project, it took over—ironically—a project that the defunct AICF had left behind in Amman, Jordan. As this project developed, and Foundation officials built close relations with many of the royalty in Jordan who remembered Herbert Armstrong, the Foundation began another project.

BY RYAN MALONE

READERS WHO PICK UP THIS magazine for the first time may be surprised to know the Church that sponsors it also carries on other major educational and philanthropic projects.

Though we consciously think of this magazine as containing primarily a warning message, we do not think of ourselves as doomsayers, alarmists or even pessimists. In fact, the major part of our work revolves around positive, hope-filled, inspiring concepts—as we aim to demonstrate in every issue of this magazine, as well as within other projects of the Philadelphia Church of God.

As some of our readers know, a considerable amount of our resources is devoted to Imperial College—a private, liberal arts college we raised up just over two years ago in Edmond, Okla. We believe that offering young people true, godly education is vital to the fulfilling of a Christian work.

Another arm of our work—the chiefly humanitarian side—is the Philadelphia Foundation. This aspect of our work, as with the college, traces its roots back to the founder of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG)—Herbert W. Armstrong. The PCG broke away from the WCG in December 1989, nearly four years after Mr. Armstrong died—once it was clear that the new administration was dismantling everything that Mr. Armstrong had built up and stood for.

From its inception, the PCG has sought to uphold God's truth as restored through the teachings and traditions of Herbert Armstrong. Inextricably linked with Mr. Armstrong's tradition was the college he raised up, Ambassador College, and the unparalleled humanitarian organization he began, known as the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF).

Although the AICF's humanitarian activities stretched from Bombay to Brussels, the Philippines to the Nether-

In 1998, a small concert series began—in hopes that it would one day grow to be a grand series in Mr. Armstrong's tradition—supporting the arts by giving monumental cultural experiences to the area.

Now, just five years later, the Philadelphia Foundation Concert Series (PFCS) is providing cultural excellence in central Oklahoma. In November 2000, the Foundation brought the world-famous Vienna Choir Boys to Edmond for a concert, with other acclaimed artists the following season—thus bringing the Foundation into the public eye for the first time since its inception.

It was extremely special to us to have such a world-class group of artists performing for our series—especially as we aim to resurrect the legacy of a concert series unmatched in its own time. It was fitting that the group had also performed for the AICF's series. Two of its members are still part of the original ensemble that began over 30 years ago; they remember well their performances at Ambassador.

Just as the *Trumpet*-magazine sends a clear, bold message to the world—the Philadelphia Foundation, with its yet relatively small concert series, is aiming to do the same. Though the Foundation's activities focus on the non-religious and avoid denominational language altogether, it still aims to champion God's way of life—demonstrating that God's way is that of serving, giving and sharing. Through the Philadelphia Foundation, we are able to practice this way as we share our beautiful campus grounds and some of the finest performers in music with the community around

us.

We believe that the two-pronged concept to all our activities and goals must be the same as the AICF: 1) That man is a unique being, possessing vast mental, physical and spiritual potentials—the development of which should be aided and encouraged; 2) that it is the responsibility of all men to attend to and care for the needs of their fellowmen. This is a precept professed by the vast majority of religions of the world—appropriately summed up in three biblical words: "Love thy neighbor."

The Philadelphia Foundation, with Imperial College as its home, will continue, with God's help, to practice the giving, serving, sharing way of life with the community around it. We will continue to strive, within a world of mounting evils and ills, to show the beauty and hope in God's creation, in the mind of man that He created, and the joy that the way of give truly brings to all who embrace it. ◆

For more information on the Philadelphia Foundation and Imperial College, please visit www.pfconcerts.org and www.icedmond.org.

thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:36-40).

Love is the fulfilling of God's law (1 John 5:3; Rom. 13:10). That love casts out the fears, worry, anxiety and depression that cause mental anguish and the negative emotions that can wreck mental health (1 John 4:18). That way of give—that type of love—is the essential key to mental health and emotional well-being.

Simple Formula

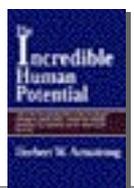
Here is the simple formula to assist you in achieving true peace of mind. First, you must prove the existence of God. It is not enough to just believe God exists—you must prove it beyond all doubt. Second, you must prove, beyond all doubt, that the Bible is His inspired Word. Third, you must begin to live by every word of God as contained in that book (Matt. 4:4).

When you begin to live the way your Creator designed you to live, you stop making the mistakes that produce feelings of anxiety and fear of the future. Learning to live God's way of give also means you will stop reacting selfishly to situations. Depression, worry and negativity are all selfish reactions.

King David, in prayer to God, acknowledged, "Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps. 16:11). If you desire to bring yourself and your family out of the sometimes overwhelming stress, anxieties and worries of life, there is a way. It is already working in the lives of thousands of people who once were just as worried as you may be now.

Don't become another negative statistic. You can begin to learn the way to peace, safety and true joy today! ◆

Request your free copy of **The Seven Laws of Success**. And learn about your God-given future in our inspiring book **The Incredible Human Potential**.



In 2001, after purchasing 160 acres in northern Edmond, the Philadelphia Church of God opened the doors of Imperial College—the campus of which would become home to all the cultural activities of the Foundation.

In November 2002, the Choir Boys returned under the sponsorship of the Foundation—an event that also brought the Foundation and its new college home more into the limelight. The other event for that season, in March 2003, featured the internationally acclaimed Russian pianist Valery Kuleshov and German cellist Tess Remy-Schumacher.

Most recently, the Foundation launched its 2003-2004 season with the Edmond debut of the world's most famous and beloved brass ensemble—the Canadian Brass. On the evening of September 14, the Edmond community was served with a spellbinding performance displaying the group's versatile musical vocabulary, from George Frideric Handel to Jelly Roll Morton, from Giovanni Gabrieli to Glenn Miller. The ensemble—famous for its personality, charisma and white sneakers—charmed concertgoers with a brilliant array of selections, including a comic "brass" opera by musical comedian and composer Peter Schick- ele.

◆ PERSONAL · from p. 1

nations!

Several Middle Eastern nations support terrorism. But all of them know that the king of state-sponsored terrorism is Iran. And they generally follow the leader.

This is the kind of reality that most of our leaders refuse to face. Until we do, we have no chance of winning our war against terrorism.

The real power base of Mideast terrorism is Iran. This nation is the *king*. Iran leads the “axis of evil” in the Mideast. Labeling this axis is not enough. Endless talk and writing won’t stop this deadly problem. Sponsoring terrorism is an act of war. Terrorism will continue to flourish until we deal with this reality.

We must understand the *origin* of state-sponsored terrorism. Until we do, the “murkiness” will continue as we try to solve the terrorist problem. It’s as if we have come into the middle of the movie and are confused about what is really happening. We must see the movie from the beginning!

But there is a deeper problem. WE FEAR TO FACE THE CAUSE OF THIS PROBLEM. Our will has been broken, so we try to solve the problem the way the Israelis do—and their terrorist problem grows worse! The Israelis also lack the will to deal with Iran—the origin and primary source of world terrorism!

We are essentially fighting the terrorist war as the Israelis are. So look closely at their pathetic failure. That is going to be our outcome in this war unless we radically change our strategy.

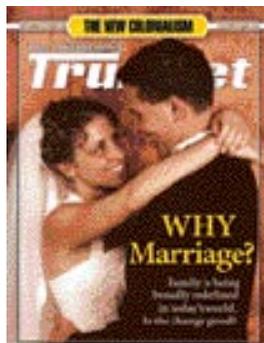
Iran, along with Syria and other nations, will keep undermining whatever we do. We may slow the process, but in the long run, Iran will win this war. (I explain this in more detail in my article on page 2 of this issue.)

Iran should be given a choice: Stop sponsoring terrorism or the war will be extended into your nation. The U.S. has never been in a greater geographic position to put pressure on Iran. But do we have the *will*? That will continue to be the big question.

How can we win the war against terrorism if we don’t see, or refuse to fight,

◆ CORRECTION

On page 26 of our September/October issue was a statement attributed to “Lord Palmer.” The statement actually came from Lord Palmerston, British prime minister under Queen Victoria.



Why Marriage?

“I am impressed so far that your reporting is more Christian-based than other so-called Christian magazines and news organizations. The world needs it more than ever.”

Santa Ana, Calif.

I APPRECIATE YOUR ARTICLES ON MARRIAGE and how you are not afraid to stand up against the satanic, politically correct stance of this terrible evil world.

Texas

I RECEIVE GREAT INNER STRENGTH FROM your publications about current world events and future predictions. You report facts and do not express political correctness and mainstream ideology.

Wigan, Lancs, England

AS MUCH AS I LOVE READING YOUR GREAT literature, I have a big problem with the way so many articles in the *Trumpet* give President Bush much more praise than he deserves. And your articles only bash former President Bill Clinton. I don’t have a problem mixing some religion with politics. But if you’re going to do it, then why not tell both sides of the story?

E-mail response

AS JEWISH BELIEVERS, WE ARE VERY INTERESTED in the views that the *Trumpet* sends out. We also see and read in your monthly issues how prophecy is being fulfilled. We continue to pray for the leaders and people of this dying world. Thank you for sending out the truth.

Buford, Ga.

I LOVE THE *TRUMPET* MAGAZINE ARTICLES. I am a political science major at California State University, and it is very interesting how your articles dovetail with conventional political thought on world events.

Grand Terrace, Calif.

MY FRIEND LET ME READ LAST MONTH’S *Trumpet*. This is what I have been waiting for my whole life. I could not stop reading; it was so interesting. The one issue answered a lot of questions I’ve

been asking myself many years. Thank you for letting the world know the truth.

E-mail response

Real Success

SUCCESS IS WHAT EVERYONE WANTS TO achieve, and people now use hook or crook to get it. The questions you posed in your August Personal were vital ones. I would be very glad for a copy of the booklet, because I also want to “make it” in life. As you said, it is free, and there is no condition attached—just that you have to obey the principles to be blessed.

Tema, Ghana

I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE ARTICLE “Making Modern Mittelafrika.” I couldn’t agree with you more. Africans are being brainwashed by all the developed—and even some developing—nations. The world will be like this for Africans as long as we do nothing to define our existence. Every nation plundering Africa’s wealth is doing so for its own good, and the question is, what is Africa doing for its own good?

Accra, Ghana

YOUR AUGUST PIECE “THE NEXT MARKET to Crash” was informative. The housing industry will never collapse for the simple reason that the constant population increase ensures a robust housing market. And Americans will never run out of money. Just ask the 100

Letters to the Editor must include the writer’s name and address and should be sent to The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or e-mailed to letters@theTrumpet.com. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

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DENNIS LEAP

America's Judicial Blackout

IN MID-AUGUST, OVER 50 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE NORTH-EAST U.S. and Canada suffered the worst electrical-power blackout in history. In New York City, many were trapped in pitch-black subway tunnels and high-rise office buildings. A mass of people flooded the streets of Manhattan. Like some wartime refugee exodus, thousands had to make their way out of the city on foot. The blackout of 2003 will be vividly remembered as a tense, nightmarish experience.

But there is another kind of blackout happening in the United States that, when fully understood, should terrify every American much more than an electric power blackout.

In late August, many news outlets ran a story about the controversy surrounding a 5,300-pound granite monument of the Ten Commandments in the Alabama state judicial building. The monument, which had been placed there by State Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore two years earlier, included excerpts from the Declaration of Independence and other historic documents, as well as quotations from James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington and other leaders. It featured our national motto: *In God We Trust*.

The storm over the monument began when three attorneys, backed by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, filed a lawsuit against Judge Moore for unlawfully crossing a constitutional line separating church and state by imposing his own brand of Christianity on the state of Alabama. When Moore placed the monument in the judicial building, he said it depicted “the moral foundations of law” and reflected the “sovereignty of God over the affairs of men.” Moore has been battling to keep it in place since U.S. District Court Judge Myron Thompson ordered it removed in November 2002. Justice Moore has lost that battle. The monument was moved.

The alarming issue is not the removal of a rock that displays the Commandments, but a federal judge's misinterpretation of the Constitution and the Supreme Court's support of his ruling. The First Amendment reads, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . .” Judge Thompson declared public display of the monument *unconstitutional*—a violation of the First Amendment. What was the explanation of his interpretation? Thompson stated that the most important issue was, “Can the state acknowledge God?” He dictatorially answered the question, “No.”

Certainly the First Amendment forbids the establishment of any single denomination as a state religion. But does it deny our government the right to acknowledge God? Certainly the Founding Fathers would disagree with Judge Thompson's statement. It is well documented that they acknowledged God. Our history also shows that this country was established on one spe-

cific type of religion: Our founders held sacred Judeo-Christian history, values, culture and law. Until very recently, America has had a rich history of acknowledging God!

British historian Paul Johnson considers John Winthrop “the first great American” in his book *A History of the American People*. Winthrop, founder of the city of Boston, on board a tiny ship sailing to the New England, spoke the following inspiring words: “Now the only way to avoid this shipwreck, and to provide for our posterity, is to follow the counsel of Micah [Old Testament prophet], to do justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with our God [Mic. 6:8]. . . . For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill [Matt. 5:14]. The eyes of all people are upon us.” Winthrop, and many like him, saw this land as the New Israel, borrowing heavily from Bible history. He also knew that acknowledging God was the key to the survival and success of the fledgling colonies.

George Washington, first U.S. president, said, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports.” He believed that religion and morality lead

to political success. These statements support the belief that for our system of government to survive, we had better acknowledge God.

Judge Moore appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and his case was flatly refused—meaning Judge Thompson's ruling stands. The Supreme Court obviously agrees that our nation cannot acknowledge God! This same Supreme Court said in June of this year that sodomy is a constitutional right. Think about this. For refusing to comply with the court's order to remove the monument, Judge Moore has been suspended as a judge because of his so-called criminal activities—and yet, sodomy is now a right? What is going on?

Where is the wisdom in our federal judges? We must face the fact that America is experiencing a judicial blackout. In reality, it is the federal judges that are crossing constitutional lines—making *the rule of law* in this country say what they and a minority of lawbreakers desire. When our federal judges refuse to acknowledge God—the Founder of all law—then we should not be surprised that sodomy becomes legal.

But it is even more serious than that.

We have ancient Israel's history as an example. When that nation stopped acknowledging God, it suffered the disastrous effects of war and captivity. Is that America's future?

Who will stop this trend of degeneracy in America? The federal courts will not. Those men and women are snuffing out the bright light of our Founding Fathers' vision of a God-fearing, law-abiding American civilization. As John Winthrop said, “the eyes of all people are upon us”—but unfortunately, the “city upon a hill” is descending into darkness.

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