

UNDER SIEGE

Why America is being
opposed by several
global alliances

TRACING OUR ROOTS

The Trumpet began 14 years ago, but in this issue
we look at an even earlier anniversary.

HOW TO BE HAPPY

Keys to the abundant life

FEBRUARY 2004

THE PHILADELPHIA

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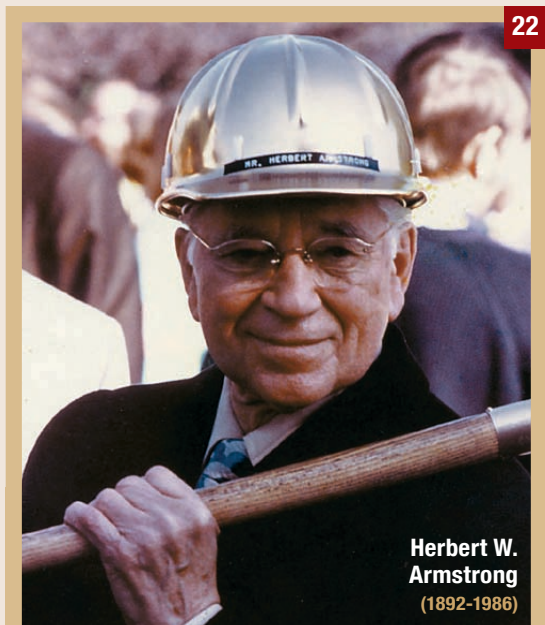
TRUMPET

NASA rovers reach
the red planet,
taking high-
resolution
pictures



MARS

It's all about your
incredible human potential



Herbert W. Armstrong
(1892-1986)

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COVER STAFF Publisher and Editor in Chief Gerald Flurry
Executive Editor Stephen Flurry News Editor Ron Fraser Senior Editor Dennis Leap Managing Editor Joel Hilliker Assistant Managing Editor Ryan Malone Associate Editor Donna Grieves Contributing Editors Eric Anderson, Wik Heerma, Mark Jenkins Contributors Gareth Fraser, Andrew Hessong, Stephen Hill, Gary Rethford, Richard Williams Research Assistants Jesse Frederick, Lisa Godeaux, Brad Macdonald, Zrinka Peters Photo Research Aubrey Mercado Prepress Production Ryan Malone Circulation Mark Jenkins International Editions Editor Wik Heerma French, Italian Daniel Frendo German Hans Schmidl Spanish Edition Editor Stephen Hill

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The first color image of Mars taken by the panoramic camera on the Spirit rover.

NASA/JPL/CORNELL

MARS Reveals Your Universe Potential!

AMERICA HAS JUST LANDED THE SPIRIT ROVER ON Mars, and we have gotten the best pictures ever of that planet. The world is stunned by the awe and wonder of this amazing achievement.

However, Mars is in a state of *decay*. It is probably dead, just as we found the moon to be. Mars is a vast, decaying wasteland.

And that decaying condition has everything to do with your incredible human potential. This subject is surely a million times more exciting and inspiring than the Mars landing. Let me to tell you why.

Cause of Decay What caused the state of decay on that planet? When God created it, He said it was “very good” (Gen. 1:31). And the Father is “perfect” (Matt. 5:48), so He would only create something perfect.

I am going to have to use some Bible scriptures, because it is the only way to answer the questions about Mars. Anybody can *prove* that the Bible is God’s Word if they are willing.

The Bible also states that there was a *war* in the universe (Rev. 12:7). It was the most destructive war ever, leaving Mars and apparently the rest of the universe in a state of decay!

Two Bible chapters, Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, give many of the details leading up to that war. Lucifer and one third of the angels rebelled against God.

But even more shocking and inspiring: **THAT WAR IS THE VERY REASON YOU WERE CREATED!** Mankind is destined to remove that decay from Mars and the entire universe! It’s hard to even imagine what a direct and strong connection mankind has to the universe. We will make the universe look like the Garden of Eden! That is man’s destiny—and you can prove it from the Bible.

Within five days of landing the Spirit rover, NASA had received 1.45 billion hits on their website. People are inspired and given

hope by the Mars landing. But the truth is that most of those people will only have a few fleeting moments of inspiration and then the hope will fade away. Please don’t let that happen to you. Your potential beyond those pictures is breathtaking and inspiring beyond anything you have ever known. Let those Mars pictures be a stepping stone to the greatest hope mankind can ever imagine!

We spent millions of dollars fighting in court for the book *The Incredible Human Potential* (and other writings). And now we want to give you this book for free. When you read it, we believe you will understand why we fought so hard and spent so much money to keep this book from being destroyed—and why we give it to you for free. You can’t put a price on anything so priceless.

Scientists Ask Wrong Question Why do our scientists want to reach Mars? It keeps getting back to one overall question: “Is there life on Mars?” **BUT THEY ARE ASKING THE WRONG QUESTION!** They should ask, “**WHY IS MARS AND THE UNIVERSE THERE?**” Then we would begin to get our minds on the Creator first of all. Scientists today get their minds focused on the creation—not the Creator. And that is an exercise in futility and rebellion against God, though it may be done in ignorance.

Paul also had to experience scholars asking the wrong question and having a warped focus. “Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever! Amen” (Rom. 1:24-25; Revised Standard Version). The word *creature* means *things or beings*. We are worshiping ourselves or other men and the rest of God’s creation—like Mars. We usually worship science, scientists and the universe—not God. And that includes most religious people.

WE WORSHIP THINGS AND BEINGS—THE CREATION—AND NOT THE CREATOR OF THOSE THINGS AND BEINGS. How disgusting and shallow men are when they leave God out of the picture. We ask, “Is there life on Mars?” and we should ask, “Is there a creator of Mars?” But most of mankind “*suppress the truth*” (v. 18, rsv). That is exactly what the Worldwide Church of God was trying to do in our court battle.

We must change human nature before we can successfully go to the cosmos.

Universe in Decay In *The Incredible Human Potential*, Herbert W. Armstrong wrote this: “Apparently all such planets in the entire universe now are waste and empty—decayed (*tohu* and *bohu*)—like the Earth was, as described in Genesis 1:2. But God did not create them in such conditions of decay—like our moon. Decay is not an original created condition—it is a condition resulting from a process of deterioration. Evidently if the now fallen angels had maintained the Earth in its original beautiful condition, improved it, carried out God’s instructions, and obeyed His government, they would have been offered the awesome potential of populating and carrying out a tremendous creative program throughout the entire universe. When they turned traitor on Earth, their sin must have also brought simultaneously physical destruction to the other planets throughout the universe, which were potentially and conditionally put in subjection to them.

“As God surveyed this cataclysmic tragedy, He must have realized that since the highest, most perfect being within His almighty power to create had turned to rebellion, it left God Himself as the only being who *would not* and *cannot* sin.”

This is a very profound statement. You need to read the book to fully understand. It will show you that these statements fit perfectly into the master plan of the Bible. This is a subject that requires study—and you will find that study richly rewarding. “Study to show yourself approved,” the Bible admonishes us.

“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God” (Rom. 8:18-19; RSV). Why are Mars and the creation waiting eagerly for the sons of God? Because a decaying universe (including this Earth) yearns for the rotting decay to be removed—decay that was produced by breaking God’s law.

Lucifer and one third of the angels were sent to this Earth to administer God’s law, and to beautify and build on this Earth. But they failed—they destroyed the Earth. You can read more about this in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. Then God had to renew the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30). That is when God decided that only sons of God with God’s own character could rule the Earth and the universe. Only those sons who obey God before Christ’s Second Coming will qualify to be Christ’s bride and help Him rule this Earth and the universe forever.

God created man to do a spectacular and magnificent work. When will we see our true potential? Once we do, it will galvanize us into action as never before.

“[F]or the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because THE CREATION ITSELF WILL BE SET FREE FROM ITS BONDAGE TO DECAY and obtain the glorious liberty of the children [sons] of God” (Rom. 8:20-21; RSV). The universe must be “set free from its bondage to decay,” and that includes this Earth. We don’t have freedom when we break God’s law. We are in bondage to sin. The law gives us true freedom. We must give the whole universe the liberty and glory of the sons of God—members of God’s own family!

WHEN WE SEE PICTURES OF THE MOON AND MARS, WE CAN SEE THAT “BONDAGE TO DECAY”! We can see what Romans 8 is all about. It is obvious that the universe needs desperately to be set free. We must make it flourish with new life and beauty—remove the bondage forever.

“We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies” (vv. 22-23; RSV). God personifies the universe. The “whole creation has been groaning in travail” like a woman giving birth to a child. The Earth and universe are in a state of “labor pains” just before God gives *birth* to the sons of God! The first fruits—those people called before Christ’s Second Coming—are going to REMOVE THOSE GROANS! That is why we are called now. Those dead planets will be brought to life. This Earth will become like the Garden of Eden. God is inviting you to lead in this magnificent universe-building program!

The word *adoption* is an absolutely wrong translation. We will not be adopted by God. We are going to be *born* into His family. This truth is so incredible that men refuse to believe God! But

it’s true, and you can prove it. The translators just would not believe that mankind is going to be *born* into the family of God—of which human birth is a type! It is not an adoption!

How awesome this truth is! Can you believe your Bible? You can if you study *The Incredible Human Potential* and let God build your faith.

“For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience” (vv. 24-25; RSV). It states that “in this hope we *were* saved.” God views it as having already happened! We should have that same positive vision.

THE WORD HOPE IS USED FIVE TIMES IN THESE TWO VERSES. HOPE SHOULD FILL OUR LIVES. We really are invited to help God remove the *groan* from this decaying universe. And the Earth has the biggest groan of all!

What a calling! What hope! In this evil world, we can be filled with hope. Mars is a desert-type place waiting for the sons of God. Are you willing to prepare now for this towering responsibility? OR WILL YOU LET THIS SUPER-VISION JUST SLIP AWAY?

Mars helps to show us how real the universe is. But there is much more that we don’t see and hear. We don’t hear the roar of the burning stars, many of them like our sun, but they are real. Your potential is excitingly real. However, *it is only potential*—we must fulfill that potential!

SCIENTISTS ARE LOOKING FOR LIFE ON MARS. THEY OUGHT TO BE LEARNING HOW TO SAVE LIFE ON EARTH!

Wrong Goals Scientists can see that Mars and the universe are waste and in a state of decay. And some intellectuals even dream of removing the decay.

USA Today wrote this in its January 9 edition: “In the 1930s, ‘you could be an intelligent and well-informed and scientifically literate person and feel it was entirely possible that there were intelligent beings on Mars,’ says Kim Stanley Robinson, author of the science-fiction trilogy *Red Mars* (1993), *Green Mars* (1994) and *Blue Mars* (1996).

“There was no reason to doubt it, really, given the evidence that they had at the time. That looms large in the imagination and it’s never quite gone away,’ Robinson says. In his trilogy, Earth’s scientists and engineers try to TRANSFORM MARS FROM WASTELAND TO EDEN” (emphasis mine).

But what is wrong with that picture? We can see that Mars and other planets are like a desert wasteland. But can scientists and engineers transform that wasteland into a Garden of Eden? No, they cannot!

Look at what they have done to this planet. We are about to destroy all human life on this Earth!

We were given a beautiful Earth, first created and then renewed by the Creator God. And look at what we have done with it. We have done what Satan did to the universe—only worse! That is because he is “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). That means the Earth’s inhabitants worship him. Could we now take a Mars wasteland and make it flourish with life? First we must change human nature.

We sense that the end of man’s rule on this Earth may be a mega-disaster. “Ray Browne, an author and retired professor of popular culture at Bowling Green University in Ohio, says exploring Mars taps into the constant human need to find a better place. ...

“But he adds that there could be a dark side to our explorations. ‘I suspect that the obsession—if that’s what it is—is

a kind of subterranean fear that things are going to get too hot down here, so now is the time to look for that Shangri-La. And if we just get up there, a few of us, we'll escape all the trouble that we're having down here" (ibid.).

We all share in the guilt of creating "all the trouble" on this Earth. Many leaders see that we have a dark and bleak future ahead and that we need an escape from the trouble.

God is going to reverse that process. He is going to change human nature and then make this Earth a place of beauty and rejoicing. And then we will go out into the universe as God's family and fulfill our reason for being created!

Mars should inspire us beyond words to describe. But it never will until we view our destiny as God does.

There is good news. Scientists and scholars can see that there needs to be a change brought to this Earth, Mars and the universe. Today, God is calling out a "little flock" to lead mankind in achieving this weighty potential. But we can only do it if we submit to God. It is our potential to let God change us so that we can make the Earth and universe blossom as a rose.

SCIENTISTS ARE LOOKING FOR LIFE ON MARS. THEY OUGHT TO BE LEARNING HOW TO SAVE LIFE ON EARTH! Our number-one problem is human survival!

Even if we found life on Mars, we would just destroy it in the end!

It seems that men and women will believe almost anything about Mars and the universe—except what God says. Very soon, that situation will change forever.

The Big Bang The Catholic Church put Galileo under house arrest for saying the Earth revolves around the sun. But then in 1951, Pope Pius XII put his stamp of approval on the Big Bang theory.

Discover magazine explained, "Eventually, astrophysicists followed the pope's lead, as evidence for the Big Bang became too powerful to ignore. They accepted the notion that the entire observable universe—100 billion galaxies, each stuffed with 100 billion stars, stretching out more than 10 billion light years in all directions—was once squashed into a space far smaller than a single electron. They bought the idea that the cosmos burst into existence precisely 13.7 billion years ago and has been expanding ever since. But even now, many astrophysicists are still uncomfortable with the implication that the Big Bang marked the beginning of time itself. And the theory has yet to yield a satisfactory answer to a key question: What made the Big Bang go bang?" (February 2004).

Foolish men make such mind-numbing statements like "the Big Bang marked the beginning of time itself." As if all you need is a Big Bang to begin time and the universe!

Man can't create time, but an explosion can?

God "inhabits eternity" (Isa. 57:15). He is apart from time—and so will we be in the future, if we let God rule us. Time was created by God as a gift to mankind. But our time is running out. It is time for mankind to stop making such wild and illogical theories!

We have no *theories* about why man is here or why the universe is here. We don't have theories about the vital issues. We have facts—the truth of God, which any person can prove. We don't look to pathetic man to understand what only our Creator could possibly understand!

How much will mankind have to suffer before they heed God's warning and inspiring message?

Other religions also believe in the Big Bang theory, even though they know the Bible teaches that God created the universe, and not through a Big Bang. Christ also said we should live by every word of God (i.e., the Old and New Testaments; Matt. 4: 4). And a Christian is one who is supposed to follow Christ.

So there is an obvious conflict with Christ and most Christians in this area. And there is also a conflict between the Bible and most scientists.

Is it logical to say that the Big Bang came from "a space far smaller than a single electron"? How could you get a Big Bang out of what many of us would call nothing? They just assume the electron was there. Actually, there was nothing there before God created the universe—except God and millions of angels!

And here is a far more important question: How do you get a universe that functions a million times better than any of man's creations, from a Big Bang? "Is it really logical that the cosmos burst into existence?"

**DID A BIG BANG HERE ON EARTH
CREATE OUR WATCHES AND CLOCKS?
THAT QUESTION IS FAR LESS RIDICULOUS
THAN THE BIG BANG THEORY!**

America sets our master clock by movement of the planets. Did a big bang here on Earth create our watches and clocks? That question is far less ridiculous than the Big Bang theory!

The universe is subject to laws. It is not in chaos. If you

were to make just a tiny tilt to the moon, the Earth would be flooded. If the sun came a little closer to the Earth, we would be burned alive. There is great design and power to sustain that design in the universe.

The truth is, no creation comes from a Big Bang. Where do you see such a *miraculous* event on this Earth? We see many big bangs in Iraq, which leads to chaos—not a well-functioning country. A Big Bang leads to the opposite of a wondrous and massive creation.

And that principle applies even more to God's masterpiece of creation, mankind! Where do you see evidence that the breathtaking creation of man evolved? There is no such evidence! There never has been and never will be!

Earth's Architect How could 100 billion galaxies just burst into existence? The design of such a massive-size universe should stagger our imaginations. Would you like to hear from the architect of the Earth (and the universe)? It's right before our eyes. All we need to do is believe.

"Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof" (Job 38:1-6).

Here is where the Earth was created, and probably the universe as well. We know the "heavens [not *heaven*] and the earth" were created "in the beginning" (Gen. 1:1). The whole universe, including the Earth, was created in that time period. There was no Big Bang. But there was an imagination-stirring creation that proves our Creator exists.

Notice Job 38:2. Here are some other translations of that

verse: “Who is this obscuring my *designs* with his empty-headed words” (Jerusalem Bible). “Who darkens my *design* with a cloud of thoughtless words” (Moffatt). “Who is this whose ignorant words cloud my *design* in darkness” (New English Bible).

The word *design* is used repeatedly in these translations. There is mind-staggering design in the Earth and universe. It was done by the greatest architect and builder ever—God.

Notice verse 3 in other translations: “Brace yourself like a fighter; now it is my turn to ask questions and yours to inform me” (Jerusalem Bible). “Confront me like a man; come, answer these my questions” (Moffatt Bible).

Scientists have questions. Now they need to get ready to answer God’s questions. Every person on this Earth is going to have to correctly answer these questions or else!

There is a strong indication that Job built the great pyramid. At least he was an outstanding builder. He became very vain and God decided to work with him and his problem.

Here are other translations from verses 4-6: “From what vantage-point wast thou watching when I laid the foundations of the earth ...” (v. 4; Knox Bible). “... Tell me, since you are so well-informed!” (v. 4; Jerusalem Bible).

“Who determined its measurements? You surely know! Or who stretched the builder’s line upon it” (v. 5; New Berkeley Version). “Tell me, since thou art so wise, was it thou or I designed earth’s plan, measuring it out with the line” (v. 5; Knox Bible). “Do you know how its dimensions were determined, and who did the surveying” (v. 5; Taylor Paraphrase).

“What supports its pillars at their bases” (v. 6; Jerusalem Bible). “How came its base to stand so firm” (v. 6; Knox Bible).

We depend on the *foundations* of the Earth, even though we may not know it. Who can fathom the measurements the Builder used?

Job acted like he designed the Earth, not God. Some scientists have the same arrogance, and God’s test awaits them!

Can you fathom the dimensions and surveyings required to create this Earth? Do you know what supports the pillars at their bases? Do you know why this Earth is so stable hanging out in the universe?

We can see the invisible things of God by His creation, if we aren’t so arrogant that we refuse to see (Rom. 1:20-22). “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools”!

“When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God SHOUTED FOR JOY?” (Job 38:7). Why did the angels shout when the Earth and universe were created? Certainly they were impressed by the creation. But the shouting came from seeing their potential to rule the Earth and the universe. Sadly, they lacked the character to do so. So God must have decided at that time, that only God had the character to rule the Earth and universe. So He began to recreate Himself in man—He is creating sons, a family of God. The family of God will succeed where Lucifer failed.

Sons of God God never said to any of the angels that “you are my son” (Heb. 1:5). They are not on the God level. God never intended that they be born sons of God, and yet today they have a fiery splendor that would make us faint if we saw them. And yet our potential is much greater! Are we grateful?

“For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the

world to come, whereof we speak” (Heb. 2:5). God has put the world to come—the Earth and entire universe—in subjection to men and women who enter God’s family. Only God’s character can rule the universe.

“But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (v. 6). This is a quote from Psalm 8:4-6. David looked up at what he could see of the universe and asked God why He was mindful of man.

I BELIEVE MOST OF US DON’T USUALLY GET THE DEEPER MEANING FROM THIS VERSE. God is obviously concerned about the universe. But *His main focus is on His masterpiece of creation—man!*

The universe would be of little value to God without His family to rule it. God’s mind is full—*mindful*—of mankind and their potential. The universe is to be their work after they are born into God’s family. After men have become God’s family—the universe will still just be a physical creation.

“Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see NOT YET ALL things put under him” (Heb. 2:

GOD IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE UNIVERSE. BUT HIS MAIN FOCUS IS ON HIS MASTERPIECE OF CREATION—MAN.

7-8). The Moffatt Bible translates “all things” as *the universe*. God is going to put Mars and the universe under man’s rule—no longer is it the potential of angels. It has become the transcendent potential of man!

God is here discussing a higher level of being than the angels. What a jaw-dropping potential God has given man. It’s time we began to see it!

“For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings” (v. 10). God perfects us through suffering. We have trials to prepare us for our mind-boggling future. Without our Father’s correction we are spiritual bastards (Heb. 12).

Christ is our Captain. He leads us in the suffering. He is not a military leader who stays behind the lines. He brings many sons to *glory*—and what glory! If we see the glory, we can endure any trial.

Christ is not ashamed to call us brethren (Heb. 2:11). The angels were never called the brothers of Christ. They were never sons in God’s family.

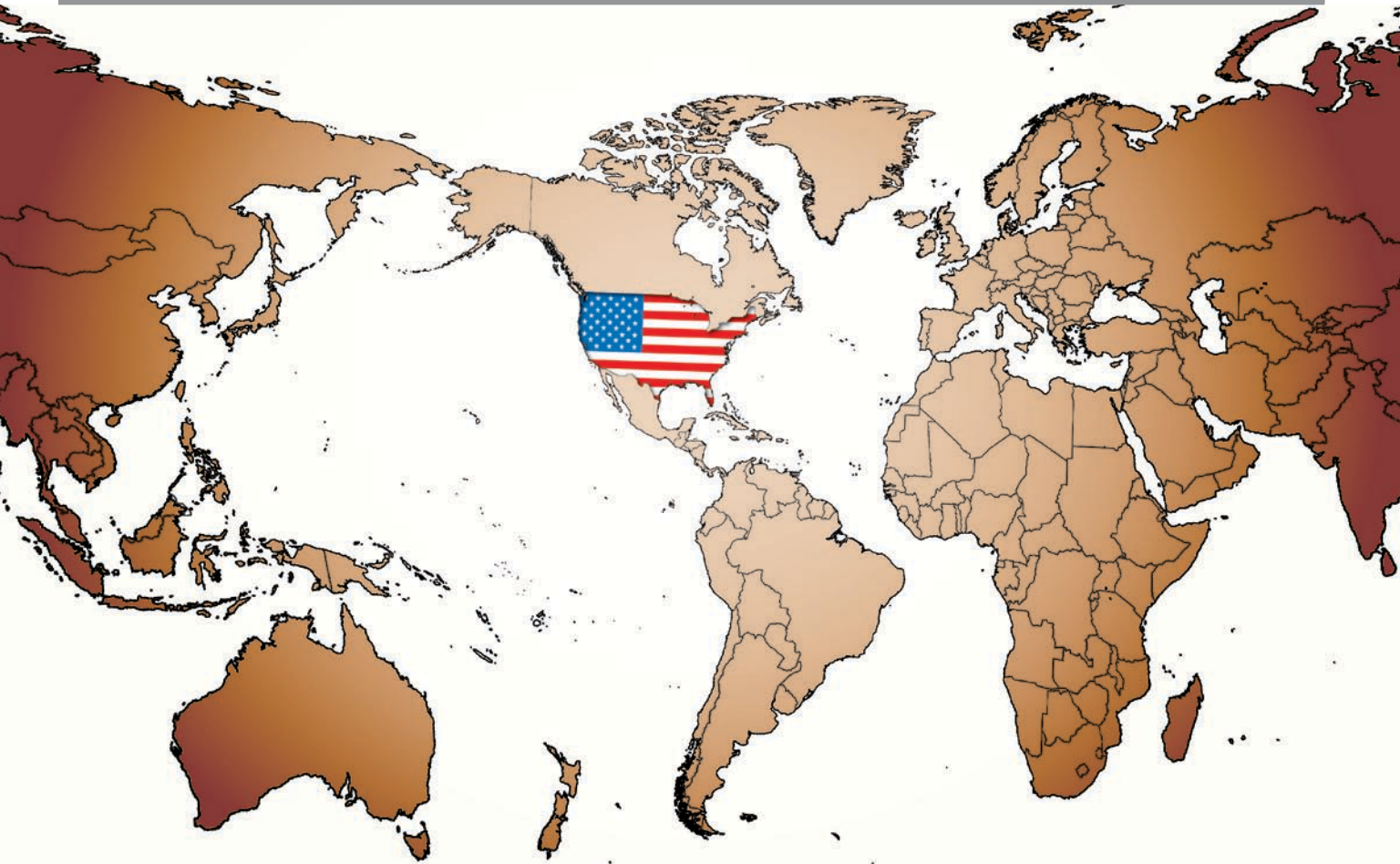
We are about to enter a very dark age. Actually, you could say this Earth has been in the dark ages throughout man’s history.

God is letting the trauma intensify until we finally learn how inept we really are. It’s as if this Earth has a bad case of epilepsy, and we are entering into our worst siege ever!

In this world full of terrorism, we need our universe dream. We need to see the stupendous possibility and the eternal majesty. That is what will motivate us to achieve our lofty calling. Nothing can stimulate our imagination like comprehending our universe potential! Nothing.

Scientists dare to introduce new theories about the universe. But we dare much more. We dare to *believe* our Creator no matter what. And then God gives us the faith we need to fulfill our incredible human potential. ■

Request your free copy of *The Incredible Human Potential*.



Superpower Under **SIEGE**

Alliances are forming worldwide to challenge America's dominance.

What will happen if they are successful? BY RYAN MALONE

IF YOU ASKED THE AVERAGE AMERICAN which nations posed the greatest threat to world peace, you'd probably hear a short list: Iran, North Korea, maybe Syria—countries where rogue elements violently oppose American ideals. Americans may think of “regimes” or terrorist groups as dangerous. But would any American say China? India? Europe?

Now, if you posed the same question in other nations, how many would name *America*? Though Americans might not think of others as *their* enemy, they may be surprised to know how many others worldwide think of *them* as such.

In a survey conducted late last year on behalf of the European Commission, Europeans were given a list of countries and asked to indicate which ones they

felt presented a threat to world peace. In second place, the U.S. was chosen by 53 percent of the respondents. That percentage tied for second with Iran and North Korea—just behind Israel, at 59 percent.

Shocking? Consider this: “At a 1997 Harvard conference,” wrote political analyst Samuel P. Huntington, “scholars reported that the elites of countries comprising at least two thirds of the world’s people—Chinese, Russians, Indians, Arabs, Muslims and Africans—see THE UNITED STATES AS THE SINGLE GREATEST EXTERNAL THREAT TO THEIR SOCIETIES” (*Foreign Affairs*, March-April 1999; emphasis mine throughout).

In 1997, the Japanese public also rated the U.S. as the greatest threat to their country behind North Korea!

When nations believe this about another nation, politically they will seek to contain, or “balance,” the nation seen as the threat.

History has seen many unlikely alliances form against common threats to challenge and ultimately remove them. This is exactly how the international community is responding to America’s bold foreign policy of late—joining forces on various levels to undermine or challenge what they perceive as America’s world domination.

“Uni-Multipolar World” After the Soviet Union’s fall in 1991, global politics changed—the “bipolar” world ended. Yet international relations did not simply move to a unipolar system. Rather it went to what Dr. Huntington calls a

“uni-multipolar world.”

This system involves one superpower and several major regional powers. Historically, “tier two” nations have collaborated on various levels to balance the supremacy of the superpower—what Huntington calls an “antihgemonic coalition.”

Huntington cites examples of this kind of anti-U.S. cooperation—how relations among non-Western societies in the mid-1990s were improving, and how the U.S. was not invited to certain gatherings among these nations’ leaders. The most significant step in this direction, according to Huntington, was “the formation of the European Union and the creation of a

increased fervor since Washington’s use of superior U.S. power in the Middle East. Unlikely coalitions are forming. Historic enemies are gathering at the same table, discussing one common concern: that America’s dominance has gone unchecked for too long. Like an international version of TV’s reality show “Survivor,” alliances are forming to vote America out of the game.

Europe and the Middle East At the helm of this antihgemonic coalition is Europe. Evidence of this is the euro’s challenge to the dollar and the EU defense force’s challenge to NATO. Then there is

tion. Brokering a peace deal between the Israelis and Palestinians would be a major way to “curb the nearly boundless U.S. influence in the Middle East without triggering a direct confrontation with Washington” (Stratfor, Dec. 1, 2003).

Europe will play both friend and foe to these nations, depending on which tactic will better limit Washington’s influence. It will, for example, consolidate trade links and diplomatic relations with rogue states like Syria and the Sudan. Then, when it has played its opposition of U.S. policy for all it’s worth, the EU will crack down on these nations—preempting any bold moves by Washington. This is what the core nations of Europe are doing now with Syria. They are demanding Damascus comply with international standards on weapons of mass destruction, thereby launching a foreign-policy play that might otherwise have been driven by Washington.

When France, Germany and Britain made a similar move with Iran last October—securing a commitment from Tehran to suspend uranium enrichment and to sign an additional protocol to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—Iran triumphantly announced, “The United States has been isolated.” Iran’s envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency said, “It is a victory for us, the EU and the international community.” (Interestingly, as our article on p. 17 shows, though Europe finessed the deal, Iran played both sides of the fence by using it to gain advantage with the U.S. as well.)

The EU has since done nothing but support Iran, saying it has “been honest” about its nuclear program and should not be made to appear before the UN Security Council, according to EU policy chief, Javier Solana. Though Solana admitted that both the U.S. and Europe have the same goal—a non-nuclear Iran—the EU is taking a much different tack.

This is all part of the EU’s strategy: to continue its “policy of constructive engagement” with nations such as Iran in order to boost its position and appear as the balanced, peaceful, stabilizing alternative to the harsh, unilateral policies of the U.S.

In Iran’s case in particular, the U.S. is isolated in its tough stance. Asian banks, in concert with European banks, are loaning \$1.75 billion to develop one of the largest natural gas fields in the world in Iran. Even Japan, Washington’s

Discussions have taken on increased fervor since Washington’s aggressive moves to maintain its superpower status. Unlikely alliances are forming. Historic enemies are gathering at the same table, discussing one common concern: America’s dominance has gone unchecked for too long.

common European currency. As French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine has said, Europe must come together on its own and **CREATE A COUNTERWEIGHT** to stop the United States from dominating a multipolar world” (ibid.).

This analysis, written nearly five years ago, is even more true today. Just last year, we saw the most overt antihgemonic moves by many of the regional powers of Europe and Asia, opposing U.S. military action in Iraq.

What has hindered nations from forming a more active, formal anti-American coalition to this point has been their dependence upon and desire to benefit from U.S. power and wealth. “Over time, however,” Huntington wrote, “**AS U.S. POWER DECLINES**, the benefits to be gained by cooperating with the United States will also decline, as will the costs of opposing it” (ibid.).

America’s display of military superiority in Iraq and muscular foreign policy under President Bush seem to be strengthening its political position in some ways. But ironically, it has also produced more resolve within the international community to diminish the U.S. power status. “At meetings of European security analysts the talk nowadays is more often about *how to control American power* than about how to combat international terrorism, weapons proliferation and the like” (Spectator, Oct. 18, 2003).

Numerous alliances have taken on

the EU’s increasing economic romance with Russia, China and other regional powers in Asia, and its opposition to the U.S. approach in Middle Eastern affairs.

Some argue that many of Europe’s foreign policies in the Mideast and North Africa, though economically beneficial to European interests, exist mainly to counter America. Europe has used the Middle East as a sparring ground against many U.S. policies. The most recent example, aside from its countering the U.S.-led Iraqi war, came when Europe backed the Geneva Initiative, a renegade peace accord agreed to between Israeli and Palestinian “unofficials.” Here Europe’s celebratory unveiling of the deal further exposed its eagerness to play the mediator in what has long been a U.S.-handled arbitra-

Huntington glossary

bipolar a geopolitical system with two major competing international powers e.g. the Cold War: U.S. vs. USSR

multipolar a system with several significant competing powers

uni-multipolar a system with one superpower and several “tier two” powers e.g. today: U.S. vs. Germany/France, Russia, China and other regional powers

antihgemonic coalition cooperation between “tier two” powers aimed at limiting the superpower

strongest Asian ally, has forged ahead with a \$2.5 million deal to develop one of Iran's oil fields, ignoring U.S. pressure to the contrary.

Europe and Asia This brings us to the EU's recent efforts to step up its influence among Asian nations to balance the U.S.

In mid-2003, the EU and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) floated the idea of a trade pact between the two blocs.

China, Indonesia, India and Japan have all recently looked more toward the EU economically, politically and technologically.

India and the EU (India's largest trading partner) signed deals at the end of 2003 to boost trade and investment even further. In a joint effort with the European Space Agency, China launched the Probe 1 satellite at the end of last year. As part of the Sino-European "Double Star" project, a second satellite is expected to be launched within six months.

Both China and India are on board to invest in the EU's global satellite system, Galileo. China agreed to invest \$255 million in the program "[d]espite intense objections from Washington," reported London's *Daily Telegraph*. "Experts say [Washington's] real worry is EU efforts to set up a rival technology bloc" (Oct. 31, 2003). India, an American ally, also will invest \$382 million in Galileo.

In the *Jakarta Post*, a major Indonesian newspaper, an expert in the affairs of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) admitted that ASEM was founded mainly to "challenge the domination of the U.S." He said, "So, there is going to be multilateralism. We would like to keep it like that."

This is increasingly how the world outside America's borders thinks. To many, the U.S. is a greater threat than a nuclear Iran or North Korea!

Asia's business sector is where the

U.S. is being left out the most. The prime example is in the competition between the U.S.'s airline manufacturer Boeing and Europe's counterpart Airbus for the expanding Asian aviation market—a race Airbus is winning. Even Washington's political and cultural ally, Australia, is buying more airplanes from Airbus than from Boeing.

America is being challenged through Asian-European cooperation, and much of it has to do with the world's finances. As Huntington stated, Europe set out to challenge the U.S. by creating a common European currency. The success of this currency thus far has new political romances forming, further isolating and defying U.S. influence. According to the *Daily Telegraph* quoted above, China and India are seeking a new intimacy with the EU (on projects like Galileo) because "Beijing and New Delhi have reassessed the EU since the euro was launched"

Euro Energy A major way in which the U.S. maintains power on the world scene is through the dollar: The greenback is the world's reserve currency. Since resources like oil and gas are priced in dollars, the U.S. has "the freedom to keep printing dollars without sparking inflation, enabling it to fund wars, giant trade deficits, government spending programs and tax cuts" (*Spectator*, Oct. 18, 2003).

Yet, as investors lose faith in the dollar, America's economic dominance comes into question. Russia and Europe now want to price oil and gas exports in euros instead of dollars. Talk of the switch occurred last October when Germany's chancellor visited Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The move has set off a chain reaction in the private sector, leading to a fourfold increase in euro deposits in Russian banks this year and sending Russian citizens scrambling to change their stashes of greenbacks into euro notes" (*Daily Telegraph*, Oct. 10, 2003).

Since Russia—which boasts the world's largest natural gas reserves and

ranks second in oil exports after Saudi Arabia—supplies half of Europe's energy needs, the pricing switch may seem logical. But there is more to it than that. The two leaders "are BOTH KEEN TO CHECK AMERICAN ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC POWER" (*ibid.*). No matter what deal you find between two non-American companies or politicians, references always arise about checking and balancing American power!

The pricing switch would likely encourage other countries—also "keen to check American ... power"—to follow suit. The main thing keeping most Middle Eastern exporters from switching to euro pricing is Saudi Arabia's loyalty to Washington. "But now even the Saudis are wavering," wrote Simon Nixon (*Spectator*, *op. cit.*). If Saudi Arabia were to follow suit, the dollar would lose significant clout in the Mideast and the world.

"If the oil producers turn their backs on the U.S. dollar, the ramifications for the global economy would be immense. ... [B]oth oil exporters and importers would switch a significant proportion of their reserves into euros, thus triggering a stampede out of the dollar into euros" (*ibid.*).

Foreign investors have already been leaving America in droves this past year, with the U.S. dollar being propped up by banks in Asia. "But the danger is that if Asian central banks do stop buying dollars, the result will be a devastating collapse in the U.S. currency" (*ibid.*).

Nixon relates that the dollar is in the same predicament that the British sterling was in just before it was replaced by the dollar as the global reserve currency in the 1930s (see p. 8). Americans, he writes, "now face a challenge to their economic hegemony."

Asian Checks and Balances Asia is the continent where U.S. influence is strongest in many ways. Alliances and strong relations with Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan, to name

"Unlikely alliances"

History has seen many unlikely alliances unite against common threats. This is how the international community is responding to America's bold foreign policy—joining forces on various levels to challenge, or at least undermine, America's world domination.



ROSIAN FAHMAN/AGE/GETTY

CHINA and INDONESIA



REUTERS

EUROPE and INDIA



GETTY IMAGES

RUSSIA and GERMANY



REUTERS

INDIA and CHINA

a few, give Washington considerable leverage in international politics. But even this is beginning to change. Certain allies are trying to shed their American cloak, while others—like China—are using their increased strength to firm up intra-Asian relations, in an effort to neutralize and replace U.S. influence.

In Central Asia, Russia and the U.S.

theTrumpet.com

For more on China's recent moves within Asia, read "Launch Into Power" in our January 2004 issue, under Issue Archives.

are scrambling for influence in the former Soviet republics. While America, thanks to the war on terror, is suddenly interested in increasing its military presence in the region, Moscow is doing what it can to one-up Washington. India and China are also keen to establish more bases in Central Asia to check an America that is coming uncomfortably close to their borders.

And it has been no secret that, since the U.S. took military action in Kosovo nearly six years ago, Moscow, Beijing and New Delhi have batted around the idea of forming a tripartite axis to counterbalance Washington's power plays. Though Russia and India have had strong ties for many years, China and India have been historic adversaries. They have never shared such sunny relations as they do now. In addition to enjoying unprecedented military cooperation, the two powers are bolstering their economic ties.

The BUCK Stops Here Is the dollar's reign as the world's reserve currency

THE NATION'S ECONOMY is struggling. The country's most fundamental problem is the decline in traditional export industries. It has become a nation of consumers that produces less and less, and the resultant balance of payments problem is like a noose around its neck. The nation is relying on imports to sustain the lifestyle of its citizens, who live beyond their means. At the same time, capital flows out of the country, leaving the nation's industry lacking investment. Long-term unemployment is an escalating problem. The currency's value is undergoing a continual decline, and economic competition is arising from other countries as they narrow the technology gap.

ECONOMY

No, this is not the United States. This was Britain, 80 years ago, in the twilight of the pound sterling's reign as the world's reserve currency.

The dollar has long enjoyed the same glory that sterling had at the beginning of the 20th century. For over half a century, the dollar has reigned supreme, enabling the United States to consume endlessly in exchange for little pieces of greenbacked paper. Approximately 70 percent of currency reserves in world banks are U.S. dollars. Half of world trade is

conducted using dollars. The world's main commodities are priced in dollars.

Over recent months, however, the value of the dollar has dipped lower and lower. Economic analysts and the media have expressed the possibility of an end to dollar dominance and its status as the world's reserve currency. Could it be that U.S. dollar-based financial hegemony is near its end? Is the dollar to suffer a similar fate as the pound sterling? If history is any guide, the answer is yes.

Sterling's Fall At one time, Britain found itself in a world-dominating economic position, much as the U.S. has enjoyed since World War II. Britain's empire extended around the world, and it boasted a dynamic yet stable, trade-based economy. Backed by gold, sterling had the confidence of the world—literally being as "good as gold." For over a century, it was the "global economy's lifeblood," as the London *Telegraph* put it. It certainly must have seemed that the pound would never falter. Likewise today, many cannot imagine an end to dollar dominance.

Leading up to sterling's decline, Britain ran gargantuan deficits. World War II dealt a further blow to Britain's already ailing economy, leav-

ing the nation and its empire with debts amounting to \$30 billion. "[T]he deficits grew so large that it became impossible to defend sterling" (*Spectator*, Oct. 18, 2003).

Today, the U.S.'s \$600 billion trade deficit (which has virtually doubled in five years)—in addition to its gigantic budget deficit—has passed all records.

At the same time as pre-World War II Britain was weighed down by its huge deficit, its industrial capacity was declining and its coal industry failing. America's unprecedented deficits are also coupled with a dramatically shrinking industrial base.

Again, just as Britain faced challenges to its technological supremacy from industrializing countries, so today the U.S. is facing the prospect of technological challenges, particularly from Europe. In an article titled "Battle Over the World's Reserve Currency," the *Independent* described how long-term trends in the scientific and mathematical fields show a shift away from the U.S. toward Europe (Oct. 21, 2003).

Finally, confidence in sterling waned as the nation could not meet its financial obligations. Similarly, America's habit of consuming the world's goods and services in exchange for paper dollars (in reality, only enlarging the

deficit) is increasingly being seen as unsustainable. Just as investors turned away from Britain, "global investors are beginning to lose faith in the greenback" (*Spectator*, op. cit.). This is significant because, after all, the role of a reserve currency is underpinned by *confidence*.

Howard Wachtel, professor of economics at American University, described the obligations of a reserve currency country as being twofold: to "provide worldwide liquidity, [which] requires a predictable economic growth path"; and to be the "lender-of-last-resort, to sort out debt problems." While doing so, the country must maintain "a reasonably stable set of internal and external currency values." Wachtel says that "Absent these stable conditions, countries become reluctant to hold this currency as a reserve..." (*Le Monde diplomatique*, October 2003).

So, are conditions developing in the U.S. economy such that countries will become *reluctant to hold its currency as a reserve*? Consider some current indicators that confirm what history teaches us.

Exodus From the Dollar

Already, investment coming into the U.S. in some areas has begun to falter. The most dramatic example involves foreign direct investment

Why is this happening? Two bitter rivals do not just change their policies toward each other for no reason at all. Stronger forces are at work here. And it has to do with containing U.S. influence in the East.

When it comes to besieging U.S. influence in Asia, China stands at the helm—shoring up relations with its smaller neighbors. A case in point is Muslim Indonesia. *Asia Times* stated, “U.S. policies are causing domestic difficulties for moderate Muslim states. ... This, coupled with the rise of China and

improving relations between that country and Indonesia, could be a harbinger of a NEW REGIONAL POWER and an *alternative* to the U.S.-led global order. ... [China’s] externally oriented policy will continue to put it into conflict with U.S. strategic interests, which will continue to stress security and ‘Western values,’ causing backlashes within developing nations” (*Asia Times*, Nov. 13, 2003).

On a larger scale are China’s efforts to secure strong ties with ASEAN. “In a little-noticed ‘Strategic Partnership’ agreement, which China and ASEAN

quietly signed in Bali in early October, are buried the seeds of closer security cooperation that analysts and officials say China aims to use to dilute American influence in the region” (*Far Eastern Economic Review*, Nov. 20, 2003).

The *Review* quoted a senior ASEAN official: “The whole objective of the policy is to avoid strategic encirclement by the U.S.”

What is to prevent China’s success? Chinese foreign policy expert Sheng Lijun says the biggest obstacle to China’s “circling of the wagons” in East

coming to an end? BY DONNA GRIEVES

(FDI), which plunged 56 percent from 2000 to 2001, and then a further 64 percent the following year (*Investment Dealers Digest*, Aug. 11, 2003).

The value of dollar reserves overseas is declining (*Le Monde diplomatique*, op. cit.). The euro is increasingly being used as a reserve currency, with global foreign exchange reserves having “risen substantially over the last years,” according to Ulrich Preuss, vice-president of the Berlin and Brandenburg Division of Germany’s federal reserve bank, the Bundesbank.

In a speech before the Economic Club of New York in November last year, European Commission President Romano Prodi related how “[i]n just a couple of years, the euro has established itself as the second-most-important currency after the U.S. dollar on the world’s financial markets.” He then gave some rather startling figures. By mid-2003, the share of bonds and notes issued in euros had increased to 41 percent of world issues, with the dollar’s share only slightly ahead, at 43 percent. Moreover, by the same time, money-market instruments denominated in euros, at almost 46 percent of world issues, had overtaken those issued in dollars, which had fallen to 30 percent. Less than five years earlier, the

euro’s predecessor currencies accounted for only about 17 percent, compared to 58 percent for the dollar.

In trade, according to the Pakistani newspaper *DAWN*, the dollar is being replaced by the euro in business between European companies and non-U.S. businesses (March 17, 2003). There is talk of the euro replacing the dollar in oil sales, with Russia already declaring its desire to denominate its oil sales in euros. In an ominous message for the U.S., the *Daily Telegraph* noted that, historically, “When Saudi Arabia’s oil company announced that it would settle accounts only in dollars, rather than dollars and sterling, the effect on the pound was immediate and close to catastrophic. It marked the end of sterling as a reserve currency” (Oct. 11, 2003). The dollar is threatened with the same fate.

A leading South African financial services group warned last year, “Although a change in a monetary system may seem hard to imagine, it has happened historically and it could happen again” (www.StenhamGestinor.com, August 2003). Stenham Gestinor went on to explain its concern for the U.S.’s financial position and advised investors of alternatives. “It would seem unsustainable that the currency of the

world’s largest debtor nation should also constitute the monetary standard of the day. At some point the buyers of dollars may stop to question the blind faith they have displayed to date.” Just as shareholders in any company want out if their shares continually decline in value, so ultimately will holders of a declining currency.

History is witness to the inability of a country to sustain a reserve currency and a large deficit indefinitely. One day, America will find that the dollar’s friends will flee. As *DAWN* predicted, a day of reckoning will arrive: “That day could come in around five years” (op. cit.).

Day of Reckoning Today, the position of the dollar is well known as it falls to record lows against the euro, creating regular headlines around the world. “The dollar is on its knees,” said Merrill Lynch economist Andrew Roberts (*Daily Mail*, London, Dec. 9, 2003). The *Mail* went on to say, “If the dollar’s decline continues it will put pressure on its status as the world’s sole reserve currency.” Indeed, as the *Spectator* reports, “the U.S. currency is already under siege as never before” (op. cit.).

History warns of the end to dollar supremacy—but only when there is another currency in a position to

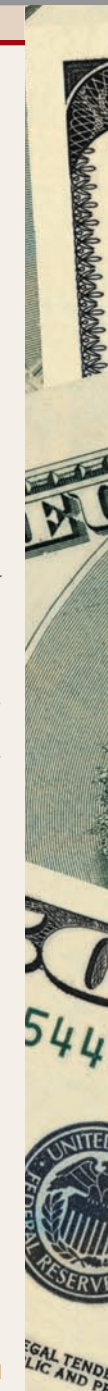
replace it. There is much talk of the euro pushing out the dollar in the future. At this stage, various realities belie this possibility, namely the relative strength of the American and European economies. But Europe’s economic influence is growing and in the future will become dominant (see “Trading Places,” in the November 2003 *Trumpet*).

Euro dominance in world markets has been an EU goal from the euro’s inception. Virendra Singh, a former World Bank and U.S. Treasury economist, points out that the eurozone’s “political leadership is quite straightforward in saying they want a strong euro, and they want the euro to be a reserve currency ...” (*Investment Dealers Digest*, op. cit.).

At the same time, we see Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert Mundell, who laid the groundwork for the euro, calling for a new *international* currency to replace the dollar (www.EUobserver.com, Jan. 5).

Indeed, we do not know if it will be the euro that in the future will supplant the dollar, but we do know, as the *Trumpet* has often prophesied, that the U.S. financial system will collapse and be replaced by a European-dominated system.

When a viable substitute emerges, the dollar’s supremacy will be history. ■



Asia is Japan. “Japan’s political over-dependence on the U.S. defeats Beijing’s political purpose of East Asia integration,” he says (*ibid.*).

So the pin holding Washington’s influence in Asia in place is its relations with Japan. But U.S.-Japanese ties are becoming strained as their interests diverge. Watch for further contention in this alliance, likely triggered by America’s deepening economic woes, which

If the U.S. were toppled or even severely crippled geopolitically in the global order, would the world be a safer place?

may cause Japan to untie itself from the U.S. If Tokyo’s relations with Beijing improve, China’s ability to round up Asia and counter U.S. hegemony in Asia will be realized.

Superpower Besieged So what does this global climate portend? Are these challenges to U.S. dominance significant? For the answer, we must turn to the only truly reliable source for accurate geopolitical forecasting—the Holy Bible. According to prophecy, the seemingly invincible United States of America will not merely be marginalized by its enemies, but surrounded and besieged!

Yes, these alliances will ultimately *succeed* at overthrowing the only remaining superpower! And, ironically, they are forming even while the U.S. appears stronger than ever.

Prophecies in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 list the blessings and curses to befall the latter-day nations of Israel (which include the U.S., Britain, Israel and other English-speaking nations) were they to follow God or turn from Him. Because America has turned from God, its reign as a superpower is nearly finished. It has already begun to reap the curses God warned about—terrorism, broken national will and failure in foreign policy and military ventures (Lev. 26:16-19).

These curses will climax in a nightmare: America’s fall to another nation, which prophecy shows to be “Assyria,” or modern-day Germany (Isa. 10:5). Deuteronomy 28:49-50 reads, “The Lord shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of *fierce countenance*” The

same Hebrew phrase for “fierce countenance” is used in Daniel 8:23, where God describes the man who will lead Germany in the end. Germany—that nation which flies as the “eagle”—will deal the deathblow to the U.S., taking it off the world stage altogether.

“And he 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). The fact is, God gave America its power—domestically and in foreign policy. But because the U.S. has forgotten this and insists on trusting in its own strength, God tells this nation that it will be *besieged* by a greater power. God states this twice in the same verse!

Dangerous World to Follow If the U.S. were toppled in the global order or even severely crippled geopolitically, would the world be a safer place? Few realize that the multipolar solution many are seeking would NOT bring global stability. These alliances of convenience will not last once the U.S. is out of the picture.

Bible prophecy reveals that once the superpower seat is left vacant, the new “multipolar” world will be even MORE DANGEROUS. God’s Word refers to this as the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24; see also Rev. 11:2)—referring to the ABSENCE of the Israelite powers. Current events show how dreadfully near we are to this time, when nations will vie for the superpower slot!

This power struggle is summarized in the final verses of Daniel 11. In this passage, God identifies three power blocs or coalitions that will collide in a fierce world war as none has ever seen! The conflict will begin when two of these alliances face off in battle. “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” (v. 40). The king of the south, as our free booklet by that name will show you, is radical Islam. It will “push” at the other power here, the king of the north—united Europe, led by Germany.

The prophecy in Daniel 11, along with others, shows how Europe’s victory over radical Islam will allow it unchecked dominance in the world—

particularly over the Western hemisphere and the Middle East (vv. 41-44). Its reign as superpower will plunge the world into a time Christ called the greatest time of suffering ever on planet Earth (Matt. 24:21), or “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation” (Dan. 12:1).

As nations do not allow one nation’s or bloc’s power to get out of “balance,” there must arise another coalition to counterbalance the European superpower—the world’s newest threat, much greater than the U.S. ever posed!

Bible prophecy says that is exactly what will happen! Daniel 11:44 explains it this way: “But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [the king of the north]: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.” Other prophecies show this alliance “out of the east and out of the north” to be a grouping of Asian nations—Russia, China, Japan, India and others. The “balancing” this alliance attempts will culminate in the destruction of millions of lives worldwide.

Gentile Powers to Be Challenged! The greatest threat to global peace is not the nation most believe: the U.S. Nor is it those the U.S. believes—a handful of rogue non-democratic regimes in the Middle East. These prophecies show us it is, rather, a coalition of European nations, plus a confederacy of radical Islamic nations, met by another conglomeration of Asian civilizations.

Only through bringing down THESE alliances will the world know true stability and peace. But how can this happen? It cannot through men—only through *supernatural means*, brought about by the return of Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Luke recorded how these tumultuous times will lead to Christ’s Second Coming: “[T]hen shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:27-28).

At His return, Jesus Christ will destroy these coalitions and bring peace to the Earth. Through conquest of His enemies will He usher in a new era in global politics: a UNIPOLAR world, dominated by *one government*—God’s government—perfectly administering the benevolent law of God. ■

The **OTHER** America

The United States has failed to use its proximity to Latin America as an opportunity to build a strong ally. Now, other nations seek to tap the enormous potential of this struggling region. As Latin America rebounds, it appears the U.S. may be left out in the cold.

BY RON FRASER

LATINO ECONOMIES ARE EMERGING, licking their wounds in recovery, from the painful lessons of the 1980s and '90s.

To be sure, deep structural problems still exist in many Latino nations. But there are increasingly brighter lights shining on the horizon. Constitutional democracies seem to have taken root in Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay. Argentina and Brazil are showing signs of having turned the corner into more positive economic territory. Despite the political instability of countries such as Ecuador and Venezuela, what is most evident is that many Latin American nations now permit free and largely fair government elections.

The main problem in many, however, is the resistance of firmly entrenched self-interest groups to advancing democratic reforms. These groups feel threatened by efforts to regulate business

and government, substantially reduce fraud and genuinely restructure their countries' economies. Some of the big players on the world scene are seeking to make inroads into Latin America before the requisite reforms are instituted. They intend to be in on the ground floor when Latin America's huge potential is fully tapped.

In the process, the U.S. may yet be left out in the cold.

Competition for access to Latino markets, to the continent's rich pool of resources, to its cheap and ready labor force, and for tariff-free arrangements for exports is heating up. Russian President Vladimir Putin recently made it clear that he sees Latin America as one of the frontiers for expansion of Russian trade and even the sharing of nuclear technology with such countries as Brazil. China is already involved in Central America and other Latino regions, most particularly in the rapidly developing

economy of Chile. Japan continues as a favored investor. Then there's the European Union, already having the edge through strong cultural and religious ties with the southern Atlantic continent.

All this competition is arousing concern in Washington, with its own North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) suffering from lack of visionary leadership and reaction from the anti-U.S. culture that pervades much of Mexico, and Central and South America.

Foreign Interest Compared with the level of its foreign adventures away from home shores, the U.S. seems to view Latin America more as a poor country cousin. This is quite intriguing when compared to other First World powers, which place a premium on developing and maintaining good, close, neighborly relations with bordering countries. The U.S. is about to rue the day that it did not take advantage of the geographic closeness of Latin America to develop relationships more akin to that which its proximity demands. America's neglect is just the window of opportunity that other nations, with contrary agendas, will seize to their strategic advantage!

Take China, for instance. Successive U.S. administrations might have us believe that positive trade relationships with that emerging monolith will work to develop friendly ties with the land of the dragon. This ignores the long-term, seemingly ponderous, yet innately calculating strategic Asian vision for ultimate dominance over the Western "foreign devil," in particular the Anglo-Saxon peoples. It was the preponderance of such long-term thinking over the seemingly inborn forgetfulness of the American mind that led to the U.S. throwing away the powerfully strategic sea gateway of Panama to the Chinese in 1999 (refer "The Rise and Fall of a Superpower" in our January 2000 issue on www.theTrumpet.com). This will yet prove to be one of America's greatest follies. China now has its eyes on the crucial southern gateway of the Straits of Magellan. It is heavily investing in Chile at present—one of the reasons Chile is becoming a driving force in the collective Latin American economy. With the major sea gates of Panama and Freeport, Bahamas, already in its possession to the north, should China do a deal with Chile to secure the southern gateway of the Magellan Straits, it would be in a tremendously strong position to control



Burning bridges

An American flag is burned in front of the U.S. embassy during an anti-war protest in Ecuador last year. Antipathy for the United States is widespread in South America.

major shipping routes to and from the South American continent.

China pursuing its national development program while paying no deference to the U.S. is one thing. But the more astute analysts of U.S. foreign policy are starting to worry about the re-emergence of individual agendas, out of sync with the U.S. global strategy, from nations formerly perceived as being friendly allies. Jose Luis Fiori, an influential Latin American political scientist, refers to an emerging, yet “badly disguised nervousness of the American establishment facing ever-more-evident signs that Germany, Russia and Japan start to return to their national development projects as a way of getting out

to leave their own home. The United States and its culture is overwhelming, powerful and penetrating.

“On the other hand, it is this very power that makes the United States so deeply hated. Precisely because it overwhelms, overpowers and penetrates everywhere, precisely because the United States is so relentless and indifferent to the rest of the world, the United States is profoundly resented. The sense of helplessness in the face of U.S. power breeds a sense of rage against America” (*www.stratfor.com*, April 10, 2000).

A case in point was Brazil’s reaction to the U.S. mandating the photographing and fingerprinting of all inbound travelers hailing from countries where

Japan all vying for various slices of the Latin American pie, there is another player on the Latino scene, which has the edge on all others—the rising, confusing, fractious, trundling federation of nation-states called the European Union.

European Initiatives Although, as stated, many Latino countries now have a democratic approach to free and mostly fair elections, this has failed in many instances to translate into effective government policies administered efficiently in the interests of both domestic and foreign affairs by accountable institutions. Corruption and high crime rates are endemic to much of this resource-rich continent. Attempts by governments to regulate reforms are often sabotaged by politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen on the take. This has frustrated the process of privatization that spread through Latin America in the 1990s.

Countries with the most effective governance have inevitably shown the highest rates of democratization and relatively high growth in productivity. Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay are cases in point.

Brazil and Argentina, the two largest Latino economies, are worth watching as both show signs of improvement under their respective leaders Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Nestor Kirchner. These two leaders could hardly be more different. The left-leaning Brazilian leader seems to be oriented at present more toward heading Russia’s overtures and strengthening ties with such unlikely friends as Libya and Syria. On the other hand, Kirchner, the German Catholic son of a wartime Nazi, reflects a background more in tune with the EU agenda.

European Commission President Romano Prodi was quick to invite Kirchner to a face-to-face meeting following the Argentine president’s election in May last year. Prodi stressed that he was keen to “discuss regional integration and cooperation projects involving the European Union and Mercosur” (EU press release, June 26, 2003). Mercosur is the largest Latin American free-trade bloc, comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. It is the emerging link between the EU and Mercosur that could dictate the direction of Latin American foreign policy from now on.

NAFTA Vs. EU Simply put, given the choice between a free-trade treaty with either the U.S. or the EU, the odds are

America seems to lack a basic conception of how its collective attitude, culture and general ignorance of the world affects other nations. This breeds a resentment against the U.S.

of the swamp they fell into during the 1990s” (*Asia Times*, June 12, 2003).

Consider Russia. The old Soviet Union penetrated Latin America deeply with communist ideology in the past century. But that is now an ideology that is largely seen in Latino countries as simply not having delivered any lasting, beneficial reforms in Latin America. Along comes comrade Putin with nuclear weapons rattling in his quiver. The gravest danger to the U.S. of Putin’s overtures to the southern continent is his declared willingness to share nuclear technology with such countries as Brazil. This is a tempting carrot to offer nations that have struggled for years in a love-hate relationship with their giant, seemingly all-powerful neighbor to the north.

Leaders such as Putin, whose real agendas are in direct conflict with the U.S., understand the psychology that creates a prevailing hatred of U.S. global dominance.

Hating America The U.S. alone seems to lack a basic conception of how its collective attitude, culture and general ignorance of the world affects other nations. Dr. George Friedman of Stratfor Systems puts it this way: “There is a deep ambivalence, a love-hate relationship between the United States and the world. On the one hand, no nation is more imitated than the United States. The United States serves as the standard against which the rest of the world measures progress. There is no nation that others would rather go to, if forced

a visa is required to enter the States. In a tit-for-tat judgment, Brazilian Federal Judge Julier Sebastiao da Silva immediately ordered that all U.S. citizens entering Brazil be similarly fingerprinted and photographed. In the process, the judge described the U.S. action as “absolutely brutal, threatening human rights, violating human dignity, xenophobic and worthy of the worst horrors committed by the Nazis” (*ibid.*, Dec. 31, 2003). We may think this an overreaction by an overly zealous Latino judge. Rather it is a reaction born of the deep resentment that such people hold against the U.S. due to its tendency for unilateral action.

The danger of such deep-seated hatred of U.S. power is not so much in the angry actions of a Brazilian judge. It is in how Brazil will put its nuclear program to use, given its refusal to commit to spot inspections of its nuclear facilities and Russian overtures to assist in their development. Such overtures may prove too tempting a carrot for Brazil, the country with the largest economy in South America, to resist.

In respect of Japan, current trends make it obvious that this nation, with the second largest of national economies, will soon buy into the application of nuclear power for its defense. Possessing the second-largest navy in the world, always on the lookout for raw materials to feed the furnaces of its highly developed industrial base, Japan continues to make inroads into Latin America via programs of aid and business investment.

But aside from China, Russia and

significantly stacked against Latin America opting for a U.S. deal. Indeed, already the existing fabric of NAFTA is beginning to fray at the edges.

Mexico, the U.S.'s largest Latino trading partner, has found little to benefit from in its linkage to the U.S. via NAFTA. The World Bank reported in December that "the country has benefited marginally in the 10 years since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was implemented on Jan. 1, 1994. However, many of the gains actually were due to reforms made before Mexico joined NAFTA" (*www.stratfor.com*, Dec. 18, 2003).

Although the U.S. announced plans to negotiate bilateral free-trade agreements with Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Bolivia last November, then wrapped up similar agreements with the Central American countries El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in December, the approach has been piecemeal at best. The U.S. appears to give little thought to how its actions with one Latino nation may affect relations with another.

At present, U.S. relations with Brazil are somewhat tenuous. No doubt that is another reason why Putin made his timely overtures to Brazil, to capitalize on anti-U.S. angst as leverage to get a firmer foot in the door of that country. As Stratfor observed, "Washington's strategy seeks to advance U.S. interests in the unstable Andes region, but it likely will heighten tensions between the United States and Brazil, and it could make U.S. assets and citizens more conspicuous targets for political violence in several Andean countries" (Nov. 18, 2003).

As Washington fiddles around with this piecemeal approach to its Latin American diplomacy, the EU works at ripping the rug out from under the U.S.'s feet. Three years ago, the EU and Mexico launched a comprehensive free-trade agreement. A year ago, the EU, which has continuously opposed the U.S. trade embargo against Fidel Castro's Cuba, reached out to that island nation and opened an office in Havana. Already, the EU, Cuba's most significant trading partner, accounts for 80 percent of Cuba's imports.

Turning to the Andean community, the leaders of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela are in the final stages of establishing a free-trade zone, which they hope to link with Mercosur,

and have declared their intention to launch negotiations on a free-trade association with the EU.

Flurry of Diplomacy In relation to the seven nations of Central America, already the EU has placed a free-trade offer before the Central American leaders, predicated on those countries that comprise the Central American isthmus negotiating their own regional free-trade deal.

During visits by Latin American leaders to Europe last summer, repeated calls



Cutting in
Europe courts Argentina, as Prodi (right) meets with Kirchner.

were made by the Latinos for a major effort to cement free-trade ties with the EU. These visits were undertaken at a time of rising diplomatic friction between the U.S. and Latin American countries such as Brazil and Argentina. Last November, Mercosur and the EU agreed to conclude a trade deal by the end of this year. The same month, German President Johannes Rau, leading a delegation of German businessmen keen on investing in Latin America, visited Mexico, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil. He also sought to strengthen ties between these countries and the EU.

This flurry of diplomatic horse trading between the EU and Latin America will coalesce in an EU-Latin America summit in Guadalajara, Mexico, in May. Watch for anti-America rhetoric to fill the air as Mexico and Central and South America move, step by step, back into the fold of their old colonial masters. The EU, already the leading donor and premier foreign investor in Latin America, now only has to pip the U.S. at the post in the area of free-trade agreements to replace it as the region's most important trading partner. That is the clear goal of the EU and the obvious preferred option of Latin America.

Shared Confusion—Shared Institution

One thing that the EU and Latin America have in common is the confusion that results when many differing nation-states, reflecting varying national aspirations, consider a united front on any particular issue.

Despite the EU's desire to regulate everything from the shape and size of bananas to their own definition of just what it is that constitutes an island (notwithstanding the facts of geography), when the chips are down, as we saw last year with France and Germany, the bigger nations will always flout the very rules they frame to bring everyone else into line. Latin America faces a similar challenge with Mexico, Brazil and Argentina set to call the tune for the rest of the continent.

But there is one particular institution that has the potential to be a binding force within both Latin America and Europe, in addition to strengthening ties between the two continents. Just how this long-entrenched organization can be stimulated into action has been demonstrated in Mexico under the leadership of President Vicente Fox. "[T]he role of the Catholic Church is fundamentally changing with the election of the country's most openly religious president in nearly a century. ... [T]he church is now poised to take a more prominent role in public life and have an impact on policy" (*Washington Post*, Aug. 6, 2000).

That is where Latin America and the EU merge.

Nothing within the U.S.—given its moral turpitude, its social decay, its confusion of religion, and its foolish insistence on banal "political correctness"—can lift a candle to the binding force that the deeply entrenched Roman Catholic Church can and will have on EU-Latin America foreign policy. A reading of the prophecies of Revelation 13, 17 and 18 ought to make that clear to any open mind seeking the visionary truth on the near future of Latin America.

For a vision of the *long-term* future of Latin America, Europe, the U.S. and indeed *all* other nations, request your free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*. It puts all of the global political machinations of our day into true perspective.

The Wonderful World Tomorrow is available free. See inside the front cover of this magazine for how to order.



BY ANDREW HESSONG

ON DEC. 12, 2003, THE EUROPEAN Union held a summit designed to have all current and potential EU nations agree on a constitution for Europe. Such a constitution would bind its member nations together in a federal union of nation-states when it expands this May from 15 to 25 members. The summit ended in failure as agreement could not be made on an equitable EU voting system.

For many Britons, this was far from sad news: It kept Prime Minister Tony Blair from signing away British sovereignty. This critical issue, however, is far from resolved. Blair is still working to see that Britain is brought to what he believes is its rightful place in the European sun. Upon his return from the summit, Blair insisted that there was still plenty of time for further negotiations before the planned implementation of the constitutional treaty's key elements in 2009. He told Parliament, "We must continue to shape the future of Europe in ways that reflect our national interest" (*Independent*, Dec. 16, 2003).

Blair claimed to have secured agreement on British vetoes of certain clauses written into the draft EU Constitution. These "red line" issues, as he termed them, were meant to counteract the British people's reluctance to signing over sovereignty of their nation to a federalist superstate. Mr. Blair emerged, in Chamberlainesque manner, from the rubble of the collapsed negotiations in Brussels, claiming victory on these controversial issues: criminal justice, taxation, defense and foreign policy.

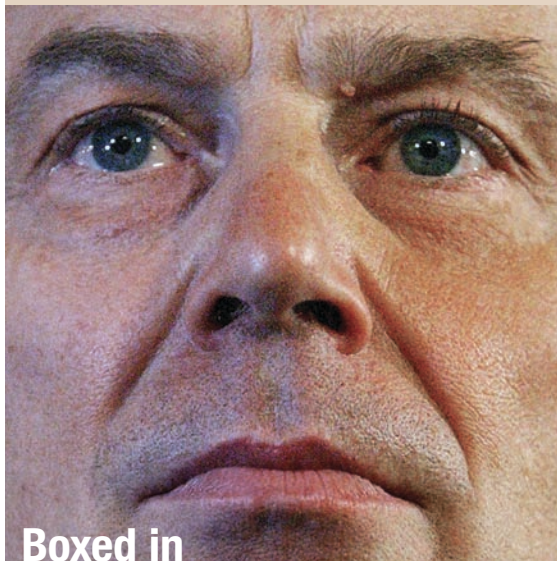
The problem is, unlike Chamberlain, Mr. Blair did not even have a piece of paper to indicate that any party had signed to agree that Britain would have such "red lines" drawn through the constitution's offending clauses. "In reality, what Blair had secured was an agreement from his mate Silvio Berlusconi, then holder of the EU's rotating presidency. The Italian prime minister's assurance, however, means nothing now that Ireland holds the presidency.

"And Ireland has made it clear that Blair's supposed red lines are null and void.

"Ireland's prime minister, Bertie Ahern, told journalists that despite all Blair's talk, there was 'nothing on paper.'

Does Britain Know What It's In For?

Tony Blair is committed to further integrating Britain into the EU. A growing number say that's a terrible idea. Here's the evidence to support their claim.



Boxed in

Europhile Tony Blair faces a British public and a queen increasingly resistant to European politics.

According to the *Guardian* [January 9], when Ahern attempts to restart the talks in spring, the only texts he will recognize will be [Valery] Giscard d'Estaing's constitution draft and a set of Italian amendments published in November.

"Blair, then, is back where he started. He will have to return to negotiations with no guarantee of a British veto on any areas crucial to national interest—and with the EU's federalists keener than ever to steamroller resistance to their dream" (www.eursoc.com, January 9).

What is at stake here is simply the question of whether Britain is prepared to yield up its sovereign right, as a separate national entity, to the federalist agenda of the Franco-German inspired federal union of states envisaged in the draft EU Constitution. The British prime minister is on the back foot. Even as the Eurofederalists seek to "steam-

roller resistance to their dream," the signs are that the average Brit is digging in to take a stand against the steamroller!

Waking Up For years, Britain's leadership had been serving its subjects a virtual diet of tea laced with the opiate of deceit, brewed in a concoction of lies. This potent elixir drugged the British public into a state of mind where they believed that EU membership would amount to nothing more than an economic trading bloc with no fundamental changes in Britain's governance or sovereignty. In the past year, however, many Britons have awakened to this diabolical lie and the grave danger inherent in becoming further integrated into the EU.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth recently raised concern at the prospect of Britain becoming a signatory to the EU Constitution—which ardent realists such as Rodney Atkinson, Norris McWhirter and Adrian Hilton have been warning about for years. The *Daily Telegraph* (London) of Oct. 16, 2003, stated, "[T]he Palace's concerns focus on whether the Queen's supreme authority as the guardian of the British constitution, asserted through the sovereignty of Parliament, could be altered or undermined by Article 10 of the draft text." Article 10 of the draft constitution states, "The constitution and law adopted by the Union's institutions in exercising competencies conferred on it shall have primacy of the law of the member states" (emphasis mine throughout).

The next day, the *Daily Mail* (London) ran a three-quarter page story titled "Why the Queen Must Stand Up to Mr. Blair." Simon Heffer clarified how the new constitution would subjugate the Queen to the unelected powers of the federalist Eurosuperstate and emasculate the British House of Lords. This would end nearly 1,000 years of sovereign British rule.

Britain has already signed away certain sovereign rights through its accession to various European treaties. However, the government has drawn the line on the most significant issues—Mr. Blair's so-called red lines. These are matters of major concern to the average British subject, and the government knows it.

Criminal Law

IN JULY 2002, THE EUROPEAN COURT OF Human Rights ruled that the UK was violating the human rights of transsexuals for failing to recognize them legally. Bowing to the EU, the Lord Chancellor's Department quickly announced proposals to allow transsexuals to marry in their altered gender.

In January 2003, the EU Parliament singled out Britain for a wide range of human rights abuses regarding prisons and "erosions of civil liberties" following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The EU's condemnation was aimed at Britain's Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act of 2001, which allows for the detention of foreigners, including EU citizens, under suspicion of terrorism or threat of national security.

Following this attack, the EU Parliament called for the creation of a European Human Rights agency to introduce more intrusive monitoring of what the EU sees as abuses. The new agency is to be guided by the principles of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, "which creates a vast array of economic and social rights that do not currently exist in the British legal system" (*Daily Telegraph*, Jan. 14, 2003). Britain can expect this agency to emerge this year, leaving it powerless to detain or incarcerate foreign or domestic terror suspects holding EU passports.

Last June, Britain's second-largest labor union threatened to sue the British government in the European Court of Justice over its alleged failure to protect workers' pension rights, demonstrating that Brussels already has supremacy over London on such issues. Then in July, the European Commission announced preparations to sue the British government for failing to open its rail freight market to competition.

The Oct. 1, 2003, *Evening Standard* (London) documented the case of a man convicted of attempted theft and possession of a stolen identity card, and thrice deported from the UK, who was then permitted to return to British "sovereign" soil in accordance with EU immigration law.

These eye-opening examples illustrate how, *even under current treaties*, Britain has compromised itself in criminal justice to the burgeoning federalist EU superstate.

Taxation

ONE OF BRITAIN'S DEEP CONCERNS relates to Article III-63 of the draft EU Constitution—supposedly designed to combat tax fraud and evasion. In effect, the application of this proposal would lead to tax harmonization within the EU membership. This effectively would yield control of the disbursement of taxes paid by the British public to the boffins of Brussels. Britain has long resisted yielding up this sovereign right.

Added to this is the prospect of the loss of rights to effective tax havens such as the Channel Islands.

Already, the European Court of Justice makes wide and fortuitous judgments regarding domestic tax laws of EU member nations via Eurocentric interpretations of federal EU law. Submission by Britain to Article III-63 of the EU Constitution would further solidify this incursion into the nation's sovereign right to apply its taxes to the benefit of the British nation.

Defense

ARE BRITISH MEMORIES OF THE GERMAN war machine so dim that they cannot be awakened to the danger of the proposed European defense force?

German Lieutenant General Rainer Schuwirth, chief of the EU's military, has declared that to establish a federal European military force, "National governments would have to give away their authority over their army" (*Financial Times*, London, Sept. 24, 2003). Blair is stuck between his commitment to support a European army and his stated intention to draw a red line on sacrificing sovereign control of British troops as demanded by the EU Constitution.

Of even deeper concern is Germany's claim that member nations hand over sovereign control of their nuclear capability to Brussels. On Oct. 24, 2003, the *Daily Mail* exposed frightening details of a document from the German defense ministry that stated, "[A]nother difficult and delicate area will have to be addressed. That is the TRANSFER OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR WEAPON CAPABILITIES OF CERTAIN EU COUNTRIES. They should also be integrated within the European defense system." These words are quoted from the defense ministry of the very country currently banned from possessing nuclear weapons and responsible for the death of a million British troops in two world wars—Germany.



On defense

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin: EU defense needs Britain.

Foreign Policy

OCT. 19, 2003, AT THE BBC'S ANNUAL Dimpleby lecture, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, despite concerns from the U.S., insisted that European defense had to be at the core of the EU's future. He warned, "There can be no Europe without European defense and no European defense without Britain" (*Daily Mail*, Oct. 20, 2003). He then coupled his insistence on Britain's participation in the EU defense force with the need for a single EU foreign policy—another of Blair's "red line" issues. "If they want to be able to hold their own on the world stage, Europe must have its own foreign policy and be able to fight for its principles," de Villepin declared.

Blair insists he will NOT allow the EU to dictate British foreign policy. Yet, at the same time, he believes the EU must have a defense force in which Britain must participate. Can a nation separate its military from its foreign policy? De Villepin clearly understands that this is impossible: The military is a fundamental and essential component of foreign policy.

British foreign policy has often been incompatible with that of the EU and sides more often with its cultural brother across the Atlantic; London's full support of the U.S.-led Iraq war most effectively illustrated this fact. Britain could never have a separate foreign policy if it were to accept and come under the authority of an EU Constitution.

Mounting Opposition The EU Constitution has been a hot topic in Britain's political landscape. The conservative Tory party, out of favor with the British people for the last decade or so, is quickly recovering. Under the new leadership of Michael Howard, a shift has begun. While Prime Minister Blair and the Labor Party push forward with the EU agenda, Howard has been working to awaken the nation to the EU danger.

Mr. Howard wrote in the *Sun* that if the constitution was to be forced upon Britain, "The EU will meddle in our justice system and Brussels will have more control over our economy, our employment laws and our immigration policy" (Dec. 12, 2003). In a separate article, the *Sun* stated, "As a democratically elected leader, [Blair] would be giving irrevocable EU control over the daily lives of our citizens without their consent" (ibid.).

While political figures can yield sway on Britain, there is perhaps no more powerful man than media tycoon Rupert Murdoch. His empire includes the *Sun*, the *Times*, the *Sunday Times* and the *News of the World* as well as the satellite television group BskyB—all of which, for the last 10 years, has supported the Labor Party. But it appears that is changing.

Last November, Murdoch said he was "torn" between backing Labor and the conservatives in the next election. While he remains impressed with Blair's efforts in Iraq, he is very concerned over the EU Constitution. He warned of "great dangers" in signing the constitution and supports having a referendum on the subject—which Blair opposes. "I don't like the idea of any more abdication of our sovereignty in economic affairs or anything else," Murdoch said. "We'll have to see what's in the final constitution. If it's anything like the draft, then certainly we'll oppose it" (*Daily Mail*, Nov. 15, 2003).

While conservatives inside Britain strive to halt Britain from agreeing to an EU Constitution, they are also working to create a new political group from the nations set to join the EU in May. The group, which enjoys the backing of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, aims to contain the Europhile parties from *within* the EU. It is based on the idea of producing a "Europe of the nations, with close relations with the U.S. and a free market economy," said Polish European Parliament Observer Adam Bielán (www.europeanvoice.com, Oct.

23, 2003). The idea that there would be significant political support within the EU for closer ties with the U.S. is sure to create enormous division and infuriate ensconced EU nations, especially Germany and France, who are clearly trying to maneuver the EU into the role of the next great superpower, on a direct collision course with that of the U.S.

Britain Must Choose In May 2003, Giscard d'Estaing, who chaired the convention that drew up the draft EU Constitution, addressed Britain's loyalty issue: "Britain never considered Europe as a full option," he said. "It wanted to be in Europe and to have all the options ... the special relationship with the U.S. I would say if you want as a wish to be a leading country in Europe I think you should make up your mind in the next 10 years" (*Scotsman*, May 26, 2003).

BRITAIN MUST CHOOSE. Will it remain

RETROSPECTIVE

TILL THE END OF HIS LIFE, HERBERT Armstrong maintained the unerring conviction that Britain would eventually be separate from a united Europe. Witness this declarative statement in his book, *Mystery of the Ages*, published only months before he died in January 1986: "[A] union of 10 nations [is] to rise up out of or following the Common Market of today (Rev. 17)." He then forecast, "Britain will NOT be in that empire soon to come."

Fifteen years later, a leading British newspaper was espousing this same conviction: "Britain will one day leave the EU. The timing may be hard to predict, but not the inevitability of our eventual departure. ... We shall depart because the balance of advantage, both politically and economically, already so plainly in favor of leaving, will become overwhelming" (*Daily Mail*, London, Dec. 9, 2000).

Had the British peoples heeded the warning broadcast daily to it by Mr. Armstrong from offshore radio back in the 1960s, that prediction may never have had to appear in a London paper. Had they heeded, they may never have joined the EU and then be faced with the choice of whether or not to yield up their precious national sovereignty to a rising European empire—an empire which, the prophecies in your Bible declare, will turn to devour their nation!

with its American brother—or, against all sense, throw its hat in with nations with which it does not agree on the "red line" issues? Would Britain be willing to hand its nuclear weapons over to a new European defense force commanded by German generals? Is Britain willing to allow Brussels to dictate labor laws or transportation jurisdictions, demand it open its doors to competition, or tell the British government whom it can allow and not allow on its own soil? Are Britons willing to give up the pound sterling for the euro and send their gold reserves to the European Central Bank in Frankfurt? Is Britain willing to subjugate its judicial system to Brussels?

Almost 40 years ago—38 years before the EU Constitution was drafted—Herbert W. Armstrong foretold, "Germany is the economic and military heart of Europe. Probably *Germany will lead and dominate the coming United States of Europe*. But BRITAIN WILL BE NO PART OF IT!" How could Mr. Armstrong be so adamant on this point? Simply because your Bible prophecies that very fact!

Bible prophecy indicates that the time will come when Britain is on the *outside*, looking in, *pleading for help* from the German federalist Europe. "Wherefore I have delivered her into the hand of her lovers, *into the hand of the Assyrians* [Germans], upon whom she doted. These discovered her nakedness: they took her sons and her daughters, and slew her with the sword ..." (Ezek. 23:9-10).

Britain clearly WILL NOT be part of a united Europe at that time because they will be the *victim* of the united Europe's attack! God states in His Word that He will punish end-time Israel (which includes Britain) through a German-led Europe (see Isa. 10:5; Hos. 5:5). They will fall to a mighty military, with the remnant being taken captive into Germany (Hos. 9:3; 10:6). Logic would tell us that Britain must be on the outside of this united Europe to be the focus of such an assault!

Sadly, it is only through this attack that Britain will wake up to God's warning. But there is hope: The people of Britain will turn to God in their time of tribulation, and God will hear them. Speaking of Ephraim in the last verse of Hosea 5 and the first verse of chapter 6, God says, "I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early. Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up." ■



Influence

Shiites march in Baghdad January 19 in support of leader al-Sistani.

A Deal With the Devil

How Iran is inching its way toward regional supremacy

BY JOEL HILLIKER

WHEN SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS captured in a spider hole, things began looking up for coalition forces. Better intelligence meant an immediate drop in terrorist attacks. Suddenly Libya, after months of diplomatic efforts, looked to be coming in out of the cold, renouncing ties to terrorism and becoming a willing partner for peace in the Middle East. Iran and Egypt followed with indications of a reversal of their former antipathy. Then Turkey and Syria appeared to engage in efforts to make up. Israel followed with overtures to Syria.

For just once, it seemed that a host of nations in the most volatile region on Earth were ready to give peace a chance. And now, for the foreseeable future—which perspective is admittedly very limited in these times—the structure of Middle Eastern affairs appears to be working in favor of a period of quiet.

But in this region, things are never quite what they seem. Look closely, and what we are seeing is actually a scramble among many for a long-term power advantage. With one less dictator around and America sure to leave at some point, several regional powers are positioning themselves to fill the gap.

Indications are that, in the end, Iran will be the big winner.

Saddam's Sunni-dominated tyranny in Iraq had been a longtime enemy of and counterbalance to Iran, which is run by Shiite Muslims. When the U.S. eliminated Saddam's government, Iran strategized on how best to capitalize on the moment. As the Sunnis mounted their guerrilla resistance, Shiite clerics,

including the now-prominent Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani, cannily told followers not to oppose coalition forces.

The *Trumpet* detailed in our November 2003 issue the back-door negotiations that then took place. In exchange for Iran-influenced Shiite leaders keeping Iraq's Shiite population under control, the U.S. agreed to eventually allow a Shiite-dominated government to take control in Iraq. This kept the conflict localized for the U.S. (a Shiite uprising on top of the guerrilla war would have been a nightmare)—and it gave Iran what it always wanted: a friendly neighbor in Iraq, essentially guaranteeing its own unchecked dominance in the region.

Events are bearing out the reality of this compromise having taken place—although both sides are still clearly trying to press every advantage to give up as little as possible.

Last December, Tehran went public with two startling reversals of foreign policy. First, it declared willingness to accept inspections of its nuclear facilities. Second, it agreed to recognize the U.S.-appointed interim Governing Council in Iraq. This was not so much capitulation to a newly strengthened America, as was the case with Libya, as it was Iran's holding up its end of the bargain—signs of a flowering association with Washington.

Faced with the difficult task of getting the public to accept this dramatic turnaround in relationships, both Iran and the U.S. found the unlikely means to this end being provided by the impact of December's tragic earthquake in the Iranian city of Bam. Iran, though

publicly blustering, readily seized the opportunity to accept the offer of U.S. relief teams to supply aid in the earthquake's aftermath. Pictures of USAF aircraft landing in Iran, of U.S. military personnel unloading and distributing U.S. aid on Iranian soil and of tents with U.S. flags providing temporary accommodation for those made homeless by the effects of the earthquake, attested to the emerging relationship between the two nations.

If you follow the daily reports, you can see a pattern that points to 1) Iraq falling under the control of a decidedly Iran-friendly government, and 2) Iran gaining considerable clout in the process. Consider, for example, the huge demonstration that occurred in the city of Basra, Iraq, on January 15, where the “unofficial purpose” was to show the U.S. “that the Shiite community was disciplined and generally responsive to the wishes of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. By holding the demonstration in Basra, al-Sistani was reminding the United States of the power the Shiites have near the southern oil fields” (Stratfor, January 16). In a January 17 piece, *Asia Times* called Sistani “the most powerful man in Iraq today.”

True, Iran is in the middle of a political shake-up (which the *Trumpet* will cover in a future issue), and the details of the Iran-U.S. deal are still written in pencil. But our long-time readers know that one thing is for sure: “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place ...” (11 Pet. 1:19). Again, we must consider what our editor in chief wrote nearly a decade ago: “The most powerful [Islamic] country in the Middle East is *Iran*. Can you imagine the power they would have if they gained control of Iraq, the second-largest oil-producing country in the world?” (*Trumpet*, December 1994). Gerald Flurry has repeatedly raised this as a probable means by which Iran would rise to take its place in the unfolding panorama of Bible prophecy.

Yes, whether or not the current deal holds, it is sure that a deal will be done that places Iran at the helm of the Islamic nations. The prophecies in your Bible that clearly predict this simply cannot be broken (John 10:35). Write now for your free copy of our booklet *The King of the South* for the exciting details of events just ahead that are bound to affect the lives of every person on this planet. ■

GERMANY

Military Revamp

SINCE SHEDDING MUCH OF its World War II stigma, the German military has undergone major upgrades in the past decade. Recently, Berlin announced more.

Quoting German news sources, a Dec. 17, 2003, *www.german-foreign-policy.com* report stated, “By ‘means of a directive for the further development of the German Armed Forces,’ the German military shall be in a position, within a few years, to lead extended and ‘robust’ combat missions throughout the world. Thus, after the reorganization, the armed forces will become an instrument of ‘preemptive warfare.’”

German Defense Minister Peter Struck wants to restructure the army to be “more fit for action”—to develop a military “able to attack other states at any time” (ibid.).

Its navy and air force are undergoing serious upgrades. One air force bomber unit “has also been optimized for the

deployment of nuclear weapons and also is scheduled into the plans of NATO—Berlin’s option for nuclear participation” (ibid.).

Struck announced the separation of the armed forces into three specialized parts—an intervention force, a stabilization force and support personnel—tripling the troop contingent available for deployment abroad.

Current troop deployments are already revealing Germany’s long-term motives. Look at the map: This German military buildup will lead to a time when a German-led Europe will be strong enough to overtake the key piece of real estate for which it has always lusted—the Middle East.

German Troop Deployments



TRUMPET MAP



PAOLO COCCO/AFRETTY IMAGES

REQUEST Pope calls for new world order at the Vatican January 1.

VATICAN

Pope Wants UN Replaced

“PEOPLE ARE BECOMING more and more aware of the need for a new international order that will make the most of the experience of the United Nations Organization and the results it has achieved in recent years ...” Pope John Paul II stated on New Year’s Day.

Although these words echo many statements from world leaders since the end of the Cold War, the pope’s call for a new world order hints at the Vatican’s desire for the weakening United Nations to be replaced by a growing European Union.

In his sermon at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, the pope referred to the UN “as if it were already a part of the past” (*Guardian*, January 2; emphasis ours). The pontiff’s words “appeared to show he wanted the United Nations replaced in light of its failure to block the use of force by America in Iraq” (ibid.).

If the UN is unable to effectively counter America’s strength, the pope appears to argue that another power must rise on the scene to balance the U.S. What power

could rise to such an occasion?

With a military force of its own, the EU is sure to undertake more of its own peacekeeping adventures—leaving the weak UN to watch from the sidelines. Watch for this counterforce to the U.S.’s military might and political clout to overtake America, leaving the U.S. as less of a power player on the world scene.

Cry Freedom—Plug Catholicism

POPE JOHN PAUL II, ADDRESSING THE VATICAN’s diplomatic corps on January 12, said that “religious freedom might be threatened in some European countries that confused the official separation of church and state with a ban on religion in the public sphere.” He chided an attitude in “some European countries that could effectively endanger religious freedom” (Reuters, January 12).

France is planning to ban all religious symbols in public schools—prohibiting Muslim girls from wearing headscarves, “which many Europeans see as a sign of growing Islamist influence among their Muslim minorities” (ibid.). Germany and Belgium have also considered similar legislation.

The pope appeared to be coming to the aid of minority European Muslims in the name of religion in general. But he was actually pushing democratic European na-

tions to interpret the separation of church and state in a way that doesn’t exclude Catholicism. The Vatican is trying to prevent its influence from being marginalized by secular movements in European politics.

The pope said, “The difficulty to accept religion in the public sphere has been shown by the recent debate about the CHRISTIAN ROOTS OF EUROPE”—not the debate about “religion” or the “separation of church and state.” He said some countries “have read history through reductive ideological glasses, forgetting what Christianity has contributed to the Continent’s culture and institutions.”

In these two statements, the pope summed up both the crisis in Europe today, and how the Vatican plans to fix it—that solution being a Europe united by its Christian, i.e. Catholic, roots.

Wall of Defense or Division?

ISRAEL'S "WALL OF DEFENSE"—an eventual 425-mile barrier composed of concrete wall, ditches, fencing and barbed wire—continues to be built despite an ongoing barrage of criticism from all sides. Around one-quarter completed, the wall is being built as a last-ditch effort to keep Palestinian suicide bombers out of Israel. Since the resurgence of the Palestinian *intifada* that began in September 2000, more than 400 Israelis have been killed in over 100 suicide bombings.

Palestinians see the wall as an effort to place limits on land that may eventually fall within the borders of an independent Palestinian state. In December, the UN General Assembly voted to seek a legal opinion on the matter from the International Court of Justice, located at The Hague. The hearing is to be held February 23.

Palestinian officials have been rallying world leaders, European leaders in particular, against the barrier, and have found several sympathetic ears. Palestinian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Nabil Shaath took a European tour in January to mobilize support. "It is highly important to have Europe on our side when the International Court of Justice in The Hague begins to look into the wall issue," he stated (BBC News, January 8). Shaath warmed EU leaders with talk of a future European role in the region to boost the peace process.

A ruling against Israel in The Hague could damage the country's already battered economy if new international sanctions are introduced. That is a likely result because, as Victor Davis Hanson put it, "Modern diplomats do not like walls either. For them the problem is not that

they are ineffective, but that they work too well—ending utopian hopes of eventual reunion between warring parties. They would rather gamble that changed Palestinian hearts and minds, not a bastion of concrete and wire, will save the lives of school-age Israelis" (*National Review*, June 25, 2002).

The U.S., while hesitant in its support of the undertaking, has not been as vocal a critic as Europe.

The Hague hearing is un-



DIVIDE Israeli workers build a separation wall to form a security barrier between East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

likely to result in a halt to the building. But it could have an important effect that will build on an ongoing trend—the

ever-growing gulf and competition between the U.S. and the emerging EU superstate over influence in the Middle East.

A "Half Empty" Media

WATCHING THE NEWS since U.S. occupation began in Iraq, we are led to believe that Iraq is an endless quagmire of suicide bombings, guerilla attacks and riots that end in U.S. soldiers arbitrarily firing into crowds. This just shows the media's power to spin our view of the situation there.

Consider the following statistics—based on reports from military officials in Iraq—on the little-heard-of positive sides of the reconstruction efforts put forth on www.BrookesNews.com (Dec. 15, 2003).

- Over 60,000 Iraqis now provide security to their fellow citizens.
- Nearly all of Iraq's 400 courts are functioning.
- All 22 universities and 43 technical institutes and colleges are open, as are nearly all primary and secondary schools.
- All 240 hospitals and more than 1,200 clinics are open.
- Teachers' salaries are 12 to 25 times what they were under Saddam Hussein.
- Doctors' salaries are at least eight times greater than they were.
- The clearing of 8,700 miles of Iraq's 16,000 miles of weed-choked canals has enabled tens of thousands of farms to now be irrigated, creating more than 100,000 jobs for Iraqis.
- By October 2003, power generation exceeded the pre-war average. Over three quarters of pre-war telephone services and over two thirds of clean water production have been restored.
- Iraq has a single, unified currency for the first time in 15 years.

These are just a few items from a plenteous list.

How much more American public support would the reconstruction effort have if the media reported a more



PEN IS MIGHTIER Iraqi schools were purged of weapons and pro-Saddam textbooks.

"Think Europe"

JANUARY 22 MARKED Franco-German day. The day was instituted last year when France and Germany held talks celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Elysee Treaty—a post-World War II agreement—in the context of a uniting Europe.

Franco-German day "is an investment in our common European future," said French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in a joint statement. It "gives schoolchildren the chance to think about the new perspectives offered by the enlargement of the European Union and about the role that the young generation in both countries can play" (www.EUobserver.com, January 22).

Schools in both countries honored the day with debates, conferences and exhibitions—encouraging French children to learn German and vice-versa.

These two nations are the driving force behind further European integration. Continue to watch for Germany and France to come together in an unprecedented level of cooperation.



JIMINI LAHA/GETTY IMAGES

TROUBLED WATERS Asia steps up patrol of the piracy-prone Strait of Malacca.

ASIA

Region Unites Against Threats

NOTHING DRIVES NATIONS to coalesce like mutual fear. This phenomenon currently can be witnessed throughout Asia. Across the region, various nations are joining together to fight the threat of terrorism and piracy that hangs over their populations, industries and economies.

Eighty percent of global goods are carried on cargo vessels. Hundreds of thousands of cargo ships transporting vulnerable sea containers float through Asian waters each year. With pirate attacks around the world—including in the Malacca Straits—doubling in the past year, national leaders, not to mention shipping companies and shipowners, are fretting.

Not only is there potential for ocean-based terrorist attacks, of enormous concern is the relative ease with which weapons of mass destruction can be smuggled into the region via its hundreds of sea lanes.

To combat this threat, Asian nations across the region are joining together. For example, Malaysia and Thailand are currently conducting joint border patrols, a cooperative measure not seen

between these two nations since the 1970s (BBC News, January 13). Larger Asian

Maritime Organization, is prepared to join many of its Asian neighbors to implement an initiative that will make sea travel more secure.

In the Bible, God foretold of an eastern bloc of nations,

ports such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Yokohama and Shanghai are working together to implement the U.S.-designed Container Security Initiative (intended to protect the estimated 200 million cargo containers that move between world ports). Even India, which has a relatively cold relationship with the International

INDIA

Love Thine Enemies

INDIA IS SURPRISING THE world with an abrupt political about-face in two of its most bitter rivalries.

The first shocker came when Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistani leader General Pervez Musharraf entered talks in January. Few border disputes are as bitter as the rift over the northern region of Kashmir. Since achieving independence in 1947, the two countries have gone to war three times, twice over Kashmir. As recently as 2002, India and Pakistan were on the brink of all-out war.

In the first week of this year, however, the feuding nations set aside differences to meet in Islamabad, with more talks to take place this month.

At the same time, India is seeking closer ties with another longtime opponent, China. China has traditionally supported Pakistan and has been at odds with India over the

Indian-Chinese border for decades; the two countries even fought a brief war in 1962 over the disputed territory. Indian strategic defense analysts have long referred to China as the “northern threat.” But India is beginning to warm up to its neighbor. In late 2003, Indian and Chinese naval vessels cooperated in a joint naval exercise—only the second time the Chinese navy has conducted such an operation. In mid-January, negotiators met in Beijing for talks aimed at ending the border dispute.

Why is India changing its tune with two of its main regional rivals? Because it is seeking to be a regional power.

“India has long considered itself a major global player, or at least a major Asian power, and it has been deeply frustrated until now in not being regarded as a formidable actor on the in-

ternational and Asian scene” (*Asia Times*, Dec. 25, 2003). Prime Minister Vajpayee has instructed planners to up their defense strategies from sub-regional to regional and international levels. Once New Delhi has tidied up relations with two significant thorns in its flesh, India will be ready to project its power more vigorously in the region as it continues its military buildup. For more on this subject, see our article “What’s Ahead for India?” in Editor’s Choice on www.theTrumpet.com.



PRESS INFORMATION DEPT./AFP/GETTY IMAGES

HISTORIC Heads of India (left) and Pakistan meet in January.

Power Struggle for Georgia

THE COLD WAR HAS LONG been over, but a political battle seems to be brewing between the United States and Russia for influence over the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

Russia has been attempting to exert more influence within its post-Soviet republics. Georgia, in its heyday, was called the “fruit basket” of the Soviet Union. It also occupies a vital place geographically in the resource-rich Caucasus region.

Last November, when Eduard Shevardnadze resigned as Georgia’s president, Moscow complained that he did so under “forceful pressure.”

Washington supported the regime change. Into office came an American-trained lawyer, Mikhail Saakashvili. Saakashvili is a strong advocate of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) pipeline to open next year—in which the U.S. has heavily invested. The route will transport crude oil from the Caspian to the Mediterranean Sea. Georgia’s capital, Tbilisi, is the hinge city in the pipeline that creates competition to a pipeline from Kazakhstan to the Russian port of Novorossiysk (see “Breaking the Bottleneck” in our January issue for more on this).

Washington’s strategy is to keep Russia in check—especially after its president gained massive political leverage in the recent parliamentary elections. Russia stands to challenge U.S. global dominance in the one area where Moscow may still have pull. And Washington is doing all it can to ensure this does not happen.

The U.S.-led war on

terror has brought American troops increasingly closer to the Russian border—even into countries where Russia has a military presence. And now, the U.S. is calling on Moscow to withdraw its military from its bases in Georgia. Though Russia has pledged to do this, it says it will take at least 11 years. Washington wants this expedited.

Tensions are rising in a way that has some analysts calling it a “miniature cold war” (*Stratfor*, January 9).

“This is a volatile region, made more so by unstable governments and by Russian and U.S. competition for military power. It would be folly to predict that the great powers ... will renounce the economic, political and strategic goals over which they are now contending so intensely—and decide to start cooperating” (*Asia Times*, Dec. 19, 2003).

Watch to see just how far the U.S. is willing to go to maintain its strategic influence in Central Asia—and watch as Russia grows in political and military clout as it seeks to rebuild its historic, imperial glory.



IN BRIEF

EUROPE

Intelligence HQ Moves to Berlin

Stratfor, Jan. 15
“THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT said January 15 it will move its intelligence agencies to Berlin from several small towns in western Germany where they have been located since the end of World War II.”

Labor Divide in Europe

Stratfor, Jan. 20
“AT LEAST FIVE EUROPEAN Union members—Austria, Germany, France, Belgium and Finland—will have a moratorium on free labor movement for the incoming Central European states These decisions will further trench divisions between incoming states and current members and add a purely economic dimension to what until now generally has been a political fight.”

Watch for divisions and crises within the EU to multiply until it spurs strong leadership to the fore.

MIDDLE EAST

Iran Resumes Terror Support

menewslines.com, Jan. 9
“IRAN HAS RESUMED WEAPONS shipments to [Syrian-based terrorist organization] Hezbollah under the guise of an international relief effort for the victims of the earthquake in Bam.

“Israeli intelligence sources said ... Syrian aircraft were deployed to transport the weapons from Iran to Damascus, where the cargo proceeded overland to Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley. ...

“The Syrian aircraft was said to have brought equipment to Iran for the earthquake survivors,” an intelligence source said. “When they arrived in Iran, these aircraft were loaded with weapons for Hezbollah and flown back to Damascus.”

Germany, Libya and Nukes?

Deutsche Welle, Jan. 1
“JUST A FEW MONTHS BEFORE Libya declared it would cease its efforts to create weapons of mass destruction, American and British agents seized a German freighter ship loaded with centrifuges and other parts that are used to create enriched uranium, the material needed to build nuclear bombs. The seizure is believed to have influenced Tripoli’s decision to suspend its weapons program last month.”

The Libya incident is not an isolated one. Remember when French armaments were found in Iraq? This is more evidence that Europe has an agenda for the Middle East quite different from America’s—one that, at this point, is actually undermining the U.S. war on terror.

RUSSIA

Napkin Politics

Asia Times, Jan. 15
“A NEW TRIANGLE IS EMERGING in East Central Eurasian geo-economics among Russia, Kazakhstan and China. ... The dynamics within this emerging triangle appear to conform to Putin’s geopolitical vision, which he explained to a dinner companion during his last visit to Brussels by drawing a map on a napkin. In that world view, Putin grouped Russia and China together, while lumping his European hosts in with (as he put it) ‘your American cousins.’”

Despite some diplomatic romancing between Russia and Europe, these two regions are fundamentally different—evident in Putin’s grouping of Europe with America. Bible prophecy tells us that Russia and Europe will eventually abandon their surface friendship and clash in the most violent battle ever to shake this planet.

This month marks the 70-year anniversary of the *Plain Truth*.

Many former *Plain Truth* readers are now among those who receive the *Trumpet*.

Since this is also the *Trumpet's* 14th anniversary, let's spotlight both publications.

In doing so, you will get a better idea of why the *Trumpet* exists and where we are going.

Tracing Our Roots

BY STEPHEN FLURRY

THE *PLAIN TRUTH* MAGAZINE now has 40,000 subscribers. To some of our readers, that figure means nothing. But for those familiar with the work of *Plain Truth* founder Herbert W. Armstrong, 40,000 tells quite a story.

You see, at its peak, around the time of Mr. Armstrong's death in 1986, the *Plain Truth* had a monthly circulation of over 8 million. The precipitous decline in circulation since his death also coincides with the demise of the church he raised up. Today, the Worldwide Church of God (wCG) and the *Plain Truth* might still be breathing, but there's barely a pulse.

The circulation drop-off, in large part, also explains why the *Philadelphia Trumpet* now exists. The *Plain Truth* is no longer *plain* or *true*. Mr. Armstrong's teachings—though supported and enjoyed by MILLIONS over the course of DECADES—were repudiated and ridiculed by his most-trusted lieutenants.

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Armstrong, 10 years after his death, Joseph Tkach Jr., feigning humility, declared, "We have much to repent of and apologize for" (*Plain Truth*, March-April 1996). Mr. Tkach Jr., current pastor general of the wCG, described Mr. Armstrong's teachings as "judgmental and self-righteous."

Michael Feazell, executive editor of the *Plain Truth*, wasn't nearly that nice. In his book, *The Liberation of the Worldwide Church of God*, he compared life in Mr. Armstrong's church with *being raped*.

And yet they wonder why no one much cares about their work anymore.

This month marks the 70-year anniversary of the *Plain Truth* (though I doubt their current issue will draw attention to that fact). Many of those former

Plain Truth readers are now among those who receive the *Trumpet*. Since this is also the *Trumpet's* 14th anniversary, let's spotlight both publications. In doing so, you will get a better idea of why the *Trumpet* exists and where we are going.

Mr. Armstrong's Legacy The impact of Mr. Armstrong's lifelong service to God was felt by tens of thousands of members within the wCG. It was felt by millions who were introduced to Mr. Armstrong through the *World Tomorrow* television program or the *Plain Truth* magazine. The impact was felt by world leaders, many of whom Mr. Armstrong met with privately.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan sent this note to the wCG shortly after Mr. Armstrong's death: "Mr. Armstrong contributed to sharing the word of the Lord with his community and with people throughout the nation. YOU CAN TAKE PRIDE IN HIS LEGACY. Our prayers are with you. God bless you" (emphasis mine throughout).

Otto von Habsburg, a member of the European Parliament, sent this message: "Deeply shocked by news of the death of unforgettable Mr. Armstrong. Am with you all in prayers for him and hopes for SUCCESSFUL CONTINUATION OF HIS LIFE'S WORK."

Teddy Kollek, mayor of Jerusalem at the time, wrote, "One could only be deeply impressed by his vast efforts to promote understanding and peace among peoples. His good deeds were felt in many corners of the world." The mayor of Pasadena called him "a giant of a man." The Israeli ambassador to the U.S. called him "an inspiring religious and public and educational personality." The king of Thailand considered him a "close and valuable friend." The king of Nepal said he was "dedicated to

the cause of serving humanity."

Mr. Armstrong's impact did not go unnoticed by the media either. Many newspapers carried the news of his death. The *Pasadena Star News* wrote, "[T]hose who choose—or who believe they are divinely chosen—to spread the message of monotheism in the world are bound to endure more than their share of mortal vicissitudes. Many of these men and women, however, leave a LEGACY that makes all their suffering worthwhile. Herbert W. Armstrong was such a man" (Jan. 17, 1986).

Prophetic Understanding In the autumn of 1926, Mr. Armstrong's wife challenged him into an almost night-and-day, intensive study of the Bible. This personal study laid the groundwork for his ministry. Writing at the end of his life, he said, "My research was totally different from that of students in a seminary. They absorb what they are taught in the doctrines of their denomination. ...

"But I had been called specially by the living GOD. ... I was taught by Christ what I did not want to believe but what He showed me was TRUE!" (*Mystery of the Ages*). On the strength of this life-changing experience, Mr. Armstrong set out to proclaim the message he came to understand early on in his biblical education.

He started the *Plain Truth* 70 years ago with about 250 copies. Headlining that first, eight-page issue, Mr. Armstrong asked, "Is a World Dictator About to Appear?" Five years later, Adolf Hitler's Nazi machine set out on its quest to conquer the world. After the outbreak of World War II, even the casual student of Bible prophecy wondered if it might be the "time of the end"—especially as Hitler's forces in Africa zeroed in on Palestine in 1942.



TRUMPET

Ambassador

Herbert Armstrong visits the king and queen of Thailand, November 1984.

However, Mr. Armstrong wrote in November 1939, “This may not, after all, be the ‘Armageddon War’ at all!”

More remarkable is what Mr. Armstrong wrote *after* the war—when Germany was in rubble after the Allies bombed it into submission and total defeat—after the Allies split up the remains of the country—*after* President Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill assured the world in February 1945 that “Germany will NEVER AGAIN be able to disturb the peace of the world” (in a signed document on American-British policy in Germany). At the time, Mr. Armstrong assured *World Tomorrow* listeners and *Plain Truth* readers that Germany would one day reunite and rise again to lead Europe into World War III.

Here is what Mr. Armstrong asked in a radio broadcast while attending meetings for the newly formed United Nations on May 9, 1945: “The war is over, in Europe—or is it?” Later, he said, “We don’t understand German *thoroughness*. From the very start of World War II, they have considered the possibility of losing this second round, as they did the first—and they have carefully, methodically *planned*, in such eventuality, the *third* round—World War III!” Using the one source that always underpinned the *Plain Truth*’s analysis, Mr. Armstrong went on to say, “The Bible foretells that third round—and it spells DOOM for us, as God’s punishment, because we, as a nation, have forsaken Him and His ways! The third round is termed, in prophecy, an invasion by ‘BABYLON’—a resurrected Roman Empire—a European Union. I have been proclaiming that since 1927.”

It’s impossible to know how many scoffed at Mr. Armstrong’s prophecy in 1945 that *Germany would rise again to lead a European union into World War III*. But in 1958, with the formation of the European Common Market, the groundwork was set for this prophecy to be fulfilled. Today, with the startling emergence of the European Union, this prophecy is only a few years away from becoming a frightening reality. *Plain Truth* and now *Trumpet* subscribers have been *reading about this for decades*. One *Plain Truth* writer commented on this in February 1970: “For nearly 30 years the *Plain Truth* magazine and the *World Tomorrow* broadcast have been telling the world that Europe would unite—that a *United States of Europe* was as certain as the rising of tomorrow’s sun.”

There have been so many other instances where the *Plain Truth* hit its mark head-on. (We documented much of this in the *Trumpet* in our February 2000 issue—request a free copy or view it under “Issue Archives” at www.theTrumpet.com). Long before 1989, it prophesied that East and West Germany would reunite. In October 1967,

it wrote about a future united Europe adopting a “common currency.” Even at the height of the Cold War, Mr. Armstrong blared this headline: “Russia Will *Not* Attack America!” The *Plain Truth* correctly foretold the end of the British Empire before it happened. It prophesied in advance that the U.S. and Britain would lose many vital strategic sea gates, like the Suez and Panama Canals. Before the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, Mr. Armstrong told readers that Israel would eventually seize control of the entire city of Jerusalem. He later prophesied that Israel would

give back some of the territory it gained in 1967, such as the Sinai Peninsula. And he repeatedly said that there would not be peace in the Middle East until Jesus Christ returned to Jerusalem to enforce a lasting peace! And on and on we could go.

With such incisive, plainly written articles about tomorrow’s news, you can see why the *Plain Truth*’s circulation peaked at a figure that exceeded those of popular newsmagazines like *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Where We Have Been Mr. Armstrong left a tremendous impact on many people. His successor, Joseph W. Tkach, said on the day Mr. Armstrong died, “The admonishment is now for those of us still living, who now have a task that is set before them, a course that has already been charted by God’s apostle. We need to maintain that course and NOT DEVIATE FROM IT ONE IOTA.” At Mr. Armstrong’s funeral, Mr. Tkach prayed, “We readily admit and acknowledge that there is no man who can fill his shoes, but, Father, WE AIM TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS.”

The wCG has since veered way off that footpath. And that, as I said earlier, is a big reason why the *Trumpet* now exists. Fourteen years ago, in the same way Mr. Armstrong began the *Plain Truth*, we started the *Trumpet* with a shoestring budget, a handful of subscribers, and one objective: to pick up where Mr. Armstrong had left off.

For the first seven years of our work, the main thrust of our message was directed at members and former mem-

bers of the Worldwide Church of God who had become disillusioned by the doctrinal changes. The centerpiece of this warning was the book *Malachi's Message*, written by Gerald Flurry. The *Trumpet*, during those early years, complemented *Malachi's Message*, keeping readers updated on what was happening inside the wCG and, more importantly, on what the Bible had to say about it.

After seven years, however, our work entered a new phase. Because of a growing television audience and a rising *Trumpet* circulation, we were attracting more supporters who knew little or nothing about Mr. Armstrong or his teachings. For these people, *Malachi's Message*—which explains why the Worldwide Church of God rejected Mr. Armstrong's teachings—only told part of the story. They couldn't very well go back and get the rest of the story without borrowing some of Mr. Armstrong's literature—which had since been removed from circulation—from our own members.

Fourteen years ago, just as Mr. Armstrong began the *Plain Truth*, we started the *Trumpet* with a shoestring budget, a handful of subscribers, and one objective: to pick up where Mr. Armstrong had left off.

And so, even as Joseph Tkach Jr. put the finishing touches on his dreadful book *Transformed by Truth*, we were preparing to offer our *Trumpet* readers Mr. Armstrong's most significant book—*Mystery of the Ages*. Tkach Jr.'s book tells the story of how Tkachism had now publicly renounced the “unortho-

dox teachings” of Mr. Armstrong and forced the wCG to enter the evangelical mainstream. Though we were not aware of his plans to produce this book, looking back on 1997, how satisfying it is for us to know that in the same year Tkach released his book, we re-released *Mystery of the Ages*. In fact, we were offering free copies of *Mystery* a few months before Mr. Tkach's book hit the shelves.

Seven years ago this month is when we splashed Mr. Armstrong's book across the cover of the *Trumpet*. In that February 1997 issue, we told readers about how the wCG had failed to carry out Mr. Armstrong's commission regarding *Mystery of the Ages*—that of reaching the “largest audience possible” with the book (co-worker letter, Sept. 23, 1985). “Suddenly,” my dad wrote in his Personal from that issue, “we now have a message for billions of people.” Anyone who reads *Mystery of the Ages* can understand God's supreme purpose for man as it is revealed in the Bible.

Yet, only seven years old, we were still small. The circulation of the *Trumpet*, at the time we first offered *Mystery*, stood at 62,500—higher than the *Plain Truth* is today, but not nearly high enough to reach the “largest audience possible.” In addition, right after we started with this “new phase,” we became bogged down in six grueling years of litigation. The wCG did all it could to prevent the world from ever receiving any of Mr. Armstrong's literature again.

Though small and somewhat distracted by litigation, the *Trumpet* has still undergone a number of changes the past seven years that are reflective of the “new phase” we entered in February 1997. Overall, the focus has broadened considerably, giving the magazine a worldwide perspective. Indeed, we now

produce the *Trumpet* with the “largest audience” in mind.

Laying the groundwork for this world view started in the same month my father announced the new phase for this work. He transferred Ron Fraser from England to our offices in Edmond to head up our magazine's News Bureau. Serving as the *Trumpet's* news editor ever since, Mr. Fraser and his staff have kept *Trumpet* writers supplied with the most relevant news items for our message—particularly the lesser-reported items that are connected to Bible prophecy.

A year after Mr. Fraser came on board, our editorial department started another magazine primarily for members and co-workers of the Church, *Royal Vision*. As another vehicle by which to deliver more religious-oriented articles, *Royal Vision* has helped free up more space in the *Trumpet* for stories having to do with prophecy in the news.

For most of our readers, “Tomorrow's news today” is all they have ever known the *Trumpet* to be. Since we began striving to reach the “largest audience possible,” the circulation has climbed from 62,500 to over 340,000. In our view, we still have a long way to go, both in circulation figures and in *Trumpet* improvements, but we also have good reason to be excited about what lies ahead.

A Look Forward Last year, as most of our readers know, we finally prevailed in the aforementioned court case—obtaining the copyrights to *Mystery of the Ages* and 18 other works by Mr. Armstrong. (See the May 2003 *Trumpet* for more about the copyright victory.) At present, we have five of Mr. Armstrong's books and nine of his booklets in stock, available upon request. So, not only are we finished with the time-consuming (not to mention expensive) litigation, we already have most of what we fought for in print.

Additionally, for most of 2003, *The Key of David* did not air on television. My father decided toward the end of



Behind the Work takes a look at the news of the Philadelphia Church of God—the organization that publishes this magazine—headquartered in Edmond, Okla. This issue we discuss two other PCG projects, the Key of David television program and Imperial College, as well as our foreign-language publication department.

2002 to go off television for a while so we could devote more time, resources and money to finishing the court case. From the point of that decision until now, *Trumpet* circulation has been about the same.

But now that the court case is over, now that we have much of Mr. Armstrong's literature in stock, now that we are back on television with *The Key of David* and close to finishing an 18,000-square-foot mail processing center, you can understand why we are excited about what lies ahead—especially for the *Trumpet*.

With the circulation of the magazine now set to increase, we hope to improve the overall quality of this publication.

First, you have probably noticed the facelift given to the *Trumpet's* appearance. It has been several years since we have modified the magazine's layout, so we hope you enjoy the new style.

Second, if you flip to the back of this issue, you will notice eight extra pages. We have been looking for a way to add a few features to the publication without deviating from our main purpose—giving God's perspective on the news. The extra pages will give us that flexibility. This way we can keep featuring hard-hitting articles on current events, while including more articles in other general categories such as *society, living, religion and science/technology* to help round out each issue.

Additionally, since we can only cover so much in our feature articles, we have expanded the "World Watch" department to make sure you receive a good overview of what news is truly significant each month. And building on the "World Watch" model, we have added a new department called "Society Watch."

You will hopefully notice other improvements, like in the letters department, where we intend to give more editorial responses to some of our feedback.

So let us know what you think. We hope you enjoy the enhanced *Trumpet*! ■



■ **TV Program Stronger Than Ever**

SINCE THE *KEY OF DAVID* TELEVISION program returned to the airwaves on Nov. 2, 2003, after its eight-month hiatus, it has enjoyed the heaviest response ever.

The episode "Mystery of the Church," which aired December 5, generated the second-largest response ever for the program. The "Mystery of Israel" episode was number one in religious-programming ratings for Sunday morning, January 11, in the Philadelphia market. It even received higher ratings that day than the Fox News Sunday program, which aired at the same time in that city.

The program's own call center has experienced tremendous call volume—with 75 percent of the calls coming from first-time contacts. To handle the increased response, the call center has expanded its in-home operator base—which uses the volunteer help of PCG members.

The Key of David has a potential audience of over 350 million people worldwide—with the best time slots in its history—covering the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Australasia. Representatives are working to secure additional contracts with high-quality stations in Europe, South America, the Middle East, the Philippines, Africa and Britain.

■ **College Campus Develops**

THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF EDMOND campus continues to develop—with the purchase of an additional 10 acres to what used to be a 160-acre campus,

and the near-completion of the mail processing center.

The mail center, a 17,400-square-foot warehouse, will store the millions of pieces of literature inventory and also house the mail processing and television departments of the PCG's headquarters operations. The television department will film *The Key of David* in its new studio on the second level of the building.

These moves will free up much-needed office space in the PCG's office suite in downtown Edmond for the editorial staff, the *Trumpet* News Bureau and the business department. These operations will continue there until an administration building is constructed on the Imperial campus.

■ **Foreign Language Department Busy After Copyright Victory**

WHEN THE PCG WON THE COPYRIGHTS to 19 works of Herbert W. Armstrong (most of which can be viewed in English on www.theTrumpet.com), part of the out-of-court settlement with the Worldwide Church of God included the rights to all the foreign-language versions of these works.

The PCG's 55-strong, mostly volunteer team of translators is working to make Mr. Armstrong's literature available in Dutch, French, German, Italian, Norwegian and Spanish.

Since Spanish-speaking subscribers comprise the largest percentage of the PCG's foreign-language demographic, the Church intends to print hard copies of these books and booklets in Spanish. Three are already in printed form: *Mystery of the Ages, Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days—Which?* and *The Seven Laws of Success*.

For the other five languages, the literature will eventually be published online—available for viewing, downloading or printing. Currently, the plan is to launch one language at a time. Those without Internet access may contact their nearest PCG regional office for a laser-printed copy.

The *Trumpet* magazine is currently translated into Spanish, German, Italian and French. ■



The Only REAL Value of a Human Life

BY HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG Plain Truth, February 1984

PHILOSOPHERS, HUMANISTS, SPEAK LOFTILY OF human worth as of supreme value in itself. They speak of the “god” within you—of tapping the innate hidden resources within yourself. They teach SELF-reliance, self-glorification.

They are smugly ignorant and unaware of the TRUE VALUES and the incredible but real human potential.

Human life is at once of infinitesimally less value than people suppose,
and at the same time of supremely greater potential than they know.

Human life is at once of infinitesimally less value than they suppose, and at the same time of supremely greater potential than they know.

Real truth is revealed. Unless revealed it remains a mystery, utterly unknown to the deceived and vain intellectuals. Jesus said in prayer: “I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes” (Matt. 11:25).

What is the real truth concerning human worth? What is the real value of a human life? It is grossly overestimated in its own reality, and astoundingly undervalued in its supreme potential. The truth indeed is staggering.

You look upon a sweet, innocent babe a few hours old, or upon a life-fulfilled elderly person of 80 and ask yourself, “Just how valuable is that life—one just beginning, the other already spent.” Could you supply the correct answer?

Let’s UNDERSTAND! Right here is the point of difficulty. Right here is the jumping off point where the world’s educated jump the track. Science and advanced education today almost universally assume nothing exists but matter. They deny the existence of spirit. Which is to say, whether admitted or not, they deny the existence of God.

We come to the modern science of brain research. We learn that the human brain exercises many functions impossible in animal brain, yet we learn there is virtually no significant difference, physically. The animal cannot think, reason, study, make decisions apart from instinct. It cannot know what the human knows. It does not have attitudes of judgment, wisdom, love, kindness, cooperation, nor is it aware of competition, conspiracy, envy, jealousy, resentment. It has no appreciation of music, art and literature. It has no spiritual qualities or characteristics. Yet science and higher education insist the faculty of intellect in humans is solely physical.

I had to PROVE to myself rationally that God exists and is in fact more REAL than matter. I had to PROVE that the Holy Bible is in fact the authoritative Word of God, by which He communicates to man, reveals truth otherwise inaccessible

to man. And I found revealed PURPOSE, DESIGN, MEANING that is hidden from the self-professed scholarly. I found revealed the reason for mounting evils in a progressive world.

Can the human, who has been designed, created and made, say to his Maker, “WHY did you make me thus?—and for what PURPOSE?” And can he instruct his Maker? Should he not, rather, open his mind, and listen when his Maker reveals to him the very reason for his being?

The Creator reveals and instructs in a highly coded book, the Holy Bible. Its profound message is opened to human understanding through the presence and indwelling of the Holy Spirit injected into the human mind that has surrendered and yielded completely to the revelation in belief and obedience. To such a one the TRUTH is made plain—wonderful beyond description.

The real value of a human life, then, lies solely within the human spirit combined with the human brain. It should be stated at once that this human spirit is not perceived by the most highly educated psychologists, yet it is the very essence of the human MIND.

The Creator’s book reveals, contrary to fallible humanist teaching, that man was made from the dust of the ground, and this dust thus becomes soul, mortal—like all vertebrates. Man has continued to accept the first lie in human history—Satan’s lie to mother Eve that man is immortal and cannot die.

The soul is merely the breathing animal. All animals are biblically called “souls” in English translations of the Bible. But there is a human spirit *in* the human soul.

This human spirit does not impart human life. Human life, like that of all vertebrates, comes from blood circulation, oxidized by the breath of air. But God reveals there is a spirit within every human. This spirit is not present in animals. The human spirit empowers the human brain with intellect—with ability to acquire knowledge, to think, reason, make decisions, produce attitudes of good or evil.

Human and animal brain are alike. Human mind superiority comes not from superior brain, but from the presence of human spirit within the human brain. Animal brain is supplied with instinct, not intellect.

It may seem shockingly strange, because it is a dimension in knowledge hitherto untaught, but the real value of a human life lies solely in the human spirit, as it works in combination with the human brain.

God formed man of matter, but after His own image and likeness as to form and shape.



But the brute animal and man have the same breath, the same source of life. They die the same death. Human life *is* animal existence, but in the form and shape of God, and with the human spirit added to the brain.

Man was created to have a relationship with his Maker. Therefore he was made in his Maker's form and shape, with contact and relationship made possible by the presence within him of the human spirit.

But man's creation was not completed. He was made mentally and spiritually only "half there." He needed the addition of God's Spirit to unite with his spirit, begetting him as a child of God—uniting him with God—ultimately enabling him to be born into the very GOD FAMILY.

Thus immortal life was freely offered Adam. But he had to make a choice. He followed Eve in obeying Satan instead of God, choosing SELF-knowledge of good and evil, rather than God's revealed knowledge of the right way of life by choosing the "tree of LIFE."

Thereupon, God closed off the tree of LIFE (God's Holy Spirit), UNTIL Jesus Christ, the second Adam, should come and by death pay the human penalty incurred by sin. Thereupon also God decreed that as in Adam all humans must die so in Christ the same all shall be resurrected to life and to judgment.

Adam had sold out to Satan—had been "kidnapped." He and his family—the human family which sprang from him—became Satan's, deceived and swayed by Satan. Thus mankind grew and developed the civilization or pattern of life we call this world.

It is not God's world, but Satan's. In due time—some 4,000 years after Adam, Jesus Christ was born as the second Adam. He came to pay the ransom price—His death in payment for the penalty humanity has incurred through sin. He started an entire NEW CIVILIZATION—GOD's world through the Church. Following His death, those humans chosen by God, called into the Church, upon repentance and faith received the Holy Spirit the first Adam had rejected. Those

called into God's Church are the "first fruits"—the first to be judged, pardoned on repentance and baptism and begotten (but as yet unborn) children of God by receiving the Holy Spirit, joined with the human spirit.

At the Second Coming of Christ in supreme power as WORLD RULER, replacing Satan on Earth's throne, those begotten with God's Spirit will be resurrected immortal and changed instantly from mortal to immortal, the dead in Christ first, then those still living. They will rule and teach the mortals still alive and those born during the next thousand years. Judgment and opportunity for salvation and immortality will then come to all living humans. After this millennial judgment, an opportunity for immortality shall come to all who had died prior to Christ's coming.

Now back to our original question: "What is the only real value of a human life?"

Human life is animal existence, in form and shape of God, and with human spirit empowering the brain with intellect. The human spirit in man makes possible the union with the Holy Spirit and mind and immortality of God. When mortal man dies, the body reverts to dust, and the spirit returns to God. The human spirit of itself cannot see, hear, think or know. The only real LIFE, inherent and self-containing, lies in the Holy Spirit of God, united with the human spirit. The value of a human life lies in the human spirit and its potential of being united with God's Spirit—which is God-mind and God-life.

Philosophers think of human worth as of supreme value in itself alone. They speak of "human dignity." They speak of the innate "god" powers within each human. They advocate SELF-confidence, self-glorification. They make mortal man to think of himself as immortal God.

Much to the contrary, the sole value of human life lies in the human spirit and the potential of being begotten of God, later to be born VERY GOD, a child in the GOD FAMILY.

Man is not "god" within himself, but only mortal flesh and blood with a brain empowered with intellect by the human spirit.

Therefore, man of himself is infinitesimally of less value than the self-professed wise of this world suppose. But, once begotten by the supreme God through the very LIFE and Spirit of the living God dwelling in him, a human being's potential is of infinitely greater value than the world has understood.

Ultimately, born into the GOD FAMILY, we shall complete the creation of the entire endless universe. We shall continue the creative process for ever and ever, in dazzling splendor and glorified beauty, time without end.

That is the incredible human potential. ■

Portions of this article reappeared in Herbert Armstrong's final and most important book, **Mystery of the Ages**. Request your free copy today.



How to live an abundant, happy life of freedom is no secret. God tells us that keeping the Ten Commandments is the only way. Will we believe God? BY DENNIS LEAP

Keys to Life, Liberty and the

THE AUTHORS OF THE AMERICAN Declaration of Independence sent a clear message to their homeland and the nations of Europe. Great Britain's king was a tyrant. The fledgling 13 states desired to be free of him and his government, which sponsored both political and personal oppression. The now-former British colonialists declared, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The decision to revolt was based on religious faith and principle. The king had taken away human rights bestowed on all men by the Creator God. The colonialists told the whole world that they were taking back their God-given rights to *life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness*. These simple assertions started a revolution that profoundly affected the course of world history. The inspiration gained from these words led to the birth of the single greatest nation in human history.

The thoughts put into words then still have their impact today. These few sentences have resonated deep within the hearts of millions not only in America, but also throughout the world. Human beings have no trouble understanding their timeless meaning.

Everyone desires an abundant life of freedom. Each man, woman and child on the planet wants to find real, lasting happiness. But for many living in our world, abundant life, liberty and happiness simply do not exist. The World Health Organization reported in October 2002 that *one person commits suicide every 40 seconds, one person is murdered every 60 seconds and one person dies in armed conflict every 100 seconds*. Where is the life, liberty and happiness in these figures?

Philosophers, scientists, educators and even religious leaders have sought to uncover the secret to happiness.

Some believe and teach that the secret can be discovered through human reason. Geneticists are searching for the happiness gene. Educators believe that happiness comes through improved knowledge. Religious leaders of all faiths insist that happiness comes by greater spiritual awareness. However, many are pessimistic—not believing happiness is possible. Some even go so far as to suppose that God prevents human happiness.

What is the truth? Did the Founding Fathers of America get it right? Is there a God who has given *all human beings* the right to live abundantly and freely, and to be happy? Can we find true, lasting happiness? There is a way!

World of Sorrow We live in a world filled with cruel irony. Highly intelligent men have designed fantastic gadgets that have freed many people from the drudgery of hard labor. Sophisticated computer systems, robots and advanced machinery now do many everyday jobs that men, women and often children once had to struggle to do. A certain type of liberty has been achieved—at least, in the Western, *have* nations. We control more time to pursue other interests. Yet, are we happy? The stark reality is, we are not!

There is a lot more trouble in our world today. In fact, the evils in our world are piling up faster than we can produce the amazing machines we have come to depend upon. Let's be honest. While thrilled NASA flight controllers celebrate bouncing the land rover *Spirit* onto the surface of Mars, brutal butchers still lead nations by abuse, repression and bloodletting. While scientists dig into the surface of Mars looking for signs of life, the so-called *have-not* nations continue to suffer immeasurably. The continent of Africa is witness to this fact. These nations are plagued with starvation, poverty, illiteracy and fatal diseases. There are teeming masses of people enslaved to hopeless lives of continual pain.

Yet, even those living under the po-

litical freedoms of the wealthiest Western nations cannot claim true happiness. Marital strife and family division plague our society. Crime and violence of every sort bother us. All English-speaking nations are living under the terrorist threat. Security experts tell us it is inevitable that some radical group will explode a weapon of mass destruction upon us. We can no longer feel safe in our own neighborhoods. The question of human survival has suddenly become up close and very personal. Why can man extend his reach onto the surface of Mars but not solve his serious problems on Earth?

There is a cause for every effect. Something is bringing about human suffering. What is it? Will humanity face the answer when it is offered to us?

Here is the plain truth. Our world must face the fact that it is bringing all this horrible suffering on itself. How? By the way it is living.

Is there a connection between the suffering in this world and the Ten Commandments? Yes, there is. Few will accept this fact. Why? In our high-tech civilization, most have come to believe that human reason and rational thinking can solve every problem. In essence, man has built a civilization—a way of thinking and living—without God!

No Commandments Necessary The Ten Commandments are considered by many to be both old-fashioned and destructive. The highly educated, *including theologians*, believe that mankind has advanced to the point that the basic moral law espoused by the Commandments is unnecessary. Yet the obvious fruits of that thinking stare us boldly in the face. As our fund of knowledge has increased, so has our evil and suffering. Do men really know better than God?

In the latter half of 2003, a lot of publicity was devoted to the furor over Judge Roy Moore's placement of a huge chunk of granite displaying the Ten Commandments in the Alabama state courthouse. Opposing him were judges, lawyers and

Pursuit of HAPPINESS

leaders of atheist groups. Supporting him were well-known heads of Christian groups. There were marches to get the granite rock out of the state house. There were prayer meetings and candlelight vigils to keep it in public view. The setting was very revealing about how our Western world views the Ten Commandments and God.

Christopher Hitchens, Oxford graduate and prolific political journalist, wrote this in an article titled “Moore’s Law: The Immorality of the Ten Commandments”: “Judge Roy Moore is clearly, as well as a fool and a publicity hound, a man who identifies the Mount Sinai orders to Moses with a certain interpretation of Protestantism. But we may ask ourselves why any sect, however primitive, would want to base itself on such vague pre-Christian desert morality (assuming Moses to be pre-Christian).

“The first four of the commandments have little to do with either law or morality, and the first three suggest a terrific insecurity on the part of the person supposedly issuing them. ... [A] day of rest, as prefigured in the opening passages of Genesis, is no more than organized labor might have demanded, perhaps during the arduous days of un-pyramid erection. ...

“The next instruction is to honor one’s parents: a harmless enough idea, but again unenforceable in law and inapplicable to the many orphans that nature or god sees fit to create” (*Slate Magazine*, Aug. 27, 2003). The article continues in such a similar reproachful manner for all the commandments. It is not our intention to fingerpoint here, but the author obviously holds a hatred of God and established religion.

No doubt Mr. Hitchens speaks for many liberal intellectuals today. While they may espouse morality, they resent and resist all authority—especially God’s. Men today want a permissive society that emphasizes *do*, but removes all the *don’t*s. Morality and law is a matter of personal interpretation and personal choice. *Obey* the Ten Command-

ments? Why, that is viewed as negative and even harmful.

Does today’s Christianity offer a better view? On the surface, all the prayers and candlelight vigils that took place in Alabama give the appearance that Christians fully support the Ten Commandments. But that is not really the truth. Yes, the majority of today’s Christian churches teach that children should honor their parents, that people should not kill, steal, lie and covet. Yet, the vast majority of all Christian denominations will not keep the Fourth Commandment: “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” (Exod. 20: 8). Modern Christianity has come up with all sorts of clever arguments to get around this law. The other Commandment that many Christian denominations struggle with is the second, which states, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image ...” (v. 4). Many Christian buildings feature images and statues. Two major denominations worship icons and relics. How are these practices reconciled? One church, claiming 1 billion members worldwide, simply eliminated the Second Commandment and divided the tenth into two. Other denominations assure us that they do not bow down or worship the statues and images.

The blunt truth: Even the pious retain contempt for the laws of God.

In regard to the Ten Commandments, there is a fundamental flaw in our modern Christianity. Herbert Armstrong discovered this flaw and wrote extensively about it. He said, “In Satan’s deceived world many have come to a counterfeit Christ who is supposed to have done away with His Father’s commandments. They even worship Christ. But Jesus Himself said plainly, ‘Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ... And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. ... Making the word of God of none effect through your tradi-

tion, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye’ (Mark 7:7, 9, 13)” (*Mystery of the Ages*, pp. 133-134). Could Mr. Armstrong’s statement be true? Are the vast majority of Christians worshipping a false Christ? Are today’s Christians simply following what men—but not what God—teaches? The answer is an absolute yes if you know your Bible.

Modern Christianity has failed to recognize that Jesus Christ is the King of God’s coming Kingdom, and the Ten Commandments will form the foundation of all law in that Kingdom. The Ten Commandments have been in force since the creation of man, are in force today, and will be *enforced* in the future.

Creator and Lawgiver It is time that this world comes back to the true God. Science continually shows us that we live in an incredible creation. Advanced investigation in fields of astronomy and biology reveals an incredible design in both the universe and life on the Earth. Any rational person must admit there has to be a Master Designer—a Creator.

That Creator must also be a great Lawgiver. God is the supreme Lawgiver (James 4:12). He rules the universe by His government, through which He administers His laws. Most scientists accept the fact that there are fixed physical laws in the universe. There are the laws of physics and chemistry. These laws protect and sustain physical life. No sane person would deny that the law of gravity operates all the time. It is a proven law. If an individual jumps off a building, he falls. The result? Serious injury or death.

However, few people will accept the fact that our Creator set in motion invisible spiritual laws to preserve and sustain human happiness, peace and abundant well-being. The Ten Commandments are also proven laws. God designed them to produce all the good that men desire. The cause of all human suffering is the rejection and transgression of those laws. This is not a simplis-

The reason why men don't see the Ten Commandments as love is that we don't know what true love is. God must define it for us.

tic fantasy of the uneducated. It is the humble recognition of the only way of life that will truly work! When we ignore these laws—live totally opposite to them—we suffer just as we would suffer from breaking the law of gravity.

Let's be honest about it. Look at how much suffering we could eliminate if every person in this world obeyed the Seventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exod. 20:14). We could wipe out the massive teen problem of unplanned and unwanted pregnancy. Consider the immediate stability reintroduced into society due to the fact that these children would be born to happily married couples. We could eliminate the transmission of deadly sexually transmitted diseases that cause much human misery. AIDS would never take another life. No man, woman or child would fall victim to a sexual assault. Also, consider the mental and emotional pain that could be eliminated in all the marriages affected by an illicit affair.

Think on each Commandment. No stealing, no lying, no coveting. If every man, woman and child obeyed each one in both the letter and spiritual intent, our world would be revolutionized. Can we see that no man could ever write such a law? It is a perfect law (Ps. 19:7). The Ten Commandments are a perfect combination of *do* and *don't*. There is both a positive action and a restrictive, self-disciplined side to each.

Man continues to write law after law, and look at the mess. There are endless volumes of all kinds of laws regulating human conduct. For every infraction, someone writes a new law.

Law of Love Considering the all-encompassing magnitude of God's law, Mr. Armstrong stated, "It outlines, in broad detail, our right relationship with the true God that we may have all the needed guidance, help and blessings from God; and also our right relationship toward human neighbors—including parents, children, husband or wife. This law provides for every human need for our own good in a living, active, continuous relationship with the all-wise, all-powerful, all-loving God" (*Plain Truth*, January 1984). When we meditate fully on the Ten Command-

ments, we can see that God provided the means for mankind to have pure religion, happy families, a right social life, and wealthy economies. Never did God intend that His law be oppressive or destructive. In fact, the law can be summed up in one very powerful word—love!

The Bible reveals that God is love (I John 4:8, 16). God designed the Ten Commandments with His love in mind. The Apostle Paul showed that the Ten Commandments are kept through acts of love (Rom. 13:10). Essentially, this invisible spiritual law is the way that gives, helps, serves and cooperates. It is a way of life that is concerned for the good and welfare of others.

The reason why men don't see the Ten Commandments as love is because we don't know what true love is. God must define it for us. In the Ten Commandments, God teaches us how to love Him and other men. Real love is outgoing care—not inward lust. Jesus Christ said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). There is no need to argue over which ones. All ten are listed in *the New Testament*. John, the disciple closest to Christ, also taught that if we do not love men, we really don't love God (I John 4:20). King Solomon, the wisest man on Earth in his day, said the Ten Commandments defined the whole duty of man (Eccl. 12:13). We have the duty to love God and our fellowman. Jesus Christ said these laws were the foundation of the entire Bible (Matt. 22:40; see also Rom. 7:7; 13:8-10; James 2:10-11 and I John 2:3-4, to name a few other verses.)

We must come to see that a loving God has given us a law that, when kept, ensures that blessings come upon us. Within the Ten Commandments, God only forbids those things that harm us.

Law of Liberty Most today view the Ten Commandments as a restrictive law that takes all the fun and happiness out of life. Yet, when obeyed, these commandments produce an abundant and happy life. Jesus Christ, the only truly obedient human being, said, "... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Was He just kidding? No! God and Christ desire that all humans

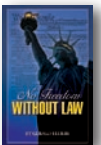
have an abundant life. To have an abundant life, we must live as Christ lived. How did He live? He always obeyed His Father. The ultimate abundant life is to live eternally. When asked how to receive eternal life, Christ responded, "[I]f thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17). Man must stop being flippant with God's law.

Today people want to be free to do as they please. But what happens when people do as they want? Our society is full of people suffering from addictions—the worst kind of slavery. How many lives are wasted on the unhappiness of drug and alcohol abuse? There are multiple thousands of people addicted to perverted sex and pornography. Many of our young people are enslaved to a life of crime and violence with no hope of escape. Can we recognize the bad fruits of a generation raised without discipline and lawful restriction? Can we admit the critical error in emphasizing the do's but ignoring the don'ts? Peter warned, "While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage" (II Pet. 2:19). When men ignore God's law, they subject themselves to slavery. Do we see it? God gave us the Ten Commandments to keep us out of slavery.

The Apostle James refers to the Ten Commandments as the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). Keeping God's law is the only way that will preserve life, freedom and true happiness. However, we must recognize that God will never force us to keep His law. God has made us free moral agents. God wants us to choose to follow Him and His ways. It is all for our good.

From the very beginning, God told Adam and Eve that they couldn't make their own rules. Our first parents did not obey God. Their sad history is recorded for us in the first few chapters of Genesis. It is not too late to learn the lesson they did not.

Request our free booklet *No Freedom Without Law*. And look for a series on the Ten Commandments in future Trumpet issues.



ONE OF THE MOST HARMFUL social and health crises facing the world today is the widespread epidemic of drug and alcohol abuse. Each year, millions are dragged into the mire of substance abuse, leading to illness, lost productivity, and often crime and death.

In 2002, in the U.S. alone, an estimated 22 million citizens suffered from substance dependence or abuse due to drugs, alcohol or both, according to a household survey conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services (Sept. 5, 2003).

Alcohol abuse, and the use of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and “designer drugs” (including prescription drugs), has raged through other Western nations as well. At the same time, developing nations are paying tremendous social and economic costs due to the scourge of substance use and misuse.

Tens of millions of people crave addictive agents to cope with miseries and problems, to escape boredom, or to find excitement. One of the chief causes of this growing problem is intense tension, or *hyperstress*.

And it is simple to understand why. Look at the world and what do we see? Chaos! There is war, strife and violence in parts of Asia, Africa, South America, Central America, Ireland and the Middle East. Inner city tensions fuel crime in Britain, Europe and North America. Violence, sickness, disease, inequality, poverty, filth, squalor, degeneration, suffering, economic uncertainty, interpersonal conflicts, a gnawing sense of helplessness—these infest *all* nations and billions of people to one degree or another. Added to this is the fear factor of a world living under threat of the modern terrorist.

Increasingly, people are seeking to ESCAPE the reality of these problems—and to ease the pain of continual anxiety or stress—by using potent pills, mind-altering powders or chemicals. “Something is missing in the cultures, values and knowledge of all nations today. Instead of being taught to look for and deal with true causes of human problems, millions have been educated—literally conditioned by their cultures—to look to drugs and chemicals to solve almost every problem” (*Plain Truth*, May 1982). Twenty years on from this assessment, the situation has only escalated to new levels of escapism.



PHOTO: JISIC

MANAGE YOUR STRESS

SUBSTANCE FREE

BY ERIC ANDERSON
AND BRAD MACDONALD

Medical drugs and painkillers are not the solution to personal and emotional problems. Rather, they usually offer only a *temporary respite* from stress. If used constantly, they can lead to serious, sometimes irreparable, damage—mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. They *always* have side effects—sometimes deadly!

The fact is, we all face a certain amount of stress. The key to dealing with it is not to avoid the stress through drugs or alcohol or any other escapist device, but to tackle the stress head-on and learn how to *manage* our stress levels.

To do this, we need to first of all realize that *not all stress is bad*. Second, we need to understand that we as individuals largely determine our personal stress level by how *we* REACT to the pressures and stimuli around us. How we react is controlled by our mind and emotions. *Stress and emotional stability are directly connected*.

Many successful people, who have lived long and productive lives, have thrived on stress. A proper amount of stress can motivate us to perform at our very best. Athletes use it at the start of a race or competition; many Olympic gold medals have been won by those who strained their bodies to the peak of endurance. Inventors and artists have achieved their greatest feats during periods of tension. In fact, it is only by working through periods of great stress and anxiety that nations have been born.

Stress also serves to protect us in dangerous circumstances. Many are familiar with the “fight or flight” impulse shared by humans and animals alike: When one is faced with a crisis or emergency, the intense stress causes a person to either flee the situation or deal with it. Extreme calamity or emergency can inspire almost superhuman strength and power as adrenal glands pump extra adrenaline into the bloodstream, causing the brain, heart and muscular system to react nearly instantaneously.

It is when the crises and stresses around us begin to bombard us incessantly, placing a heavy demand upon our inner resources and emotions, that the pressure and stress can virtually incapacitate us. Hyperstress, or even a normal amount of stress ineffectively managed, simply places too many demands on the body, which cannot then cope.

So today, an increasing number of people, young and old, are turning to alcohol, tranquilizers, amphetamines and street drugs to numb the emotional fatigue or mental illness brought about by excessive anxiety and stress.

Failing to see the fruitlessness of these *addictions* to effectively manage their stress, users often experience further stresses that come with drug or excessive alcohol usage. At this point, it

can be easy for users to fall into a quickening cycle that may end in catastrophe.

To avoid the temptation to turn to drugs or alcohol in dealing with stress, we must understand certain techniques that will help us effectively manage personal stress:

1. Learn to Live With Stress

WE CAN'T POSSIBLY AVOID ALL STRESS. It is a natural part of living in this 21st century. We simply need to learn how much we can handle and take steps to avoid excessive stress.

Negative stress burns up needed energy and causes fatigue. Poor health on top of excessive stress can drag one down into the depths of mental and emotional despair and can amplify life's smaller problems and irritations.

Improving our general physical health boosts our stress capacity. Moderate exercise relieves tension and builds stamina. Renowned stress expert Dr. Hans Selye found that underexercised mice withstood stress far worse than those in peak physical condition. The same is true with us: A healthy, physically fit person can handle a substantial amount of pressure. Such a person is more adaptable to change and generally possesses a positive and hopeful outlook.

In the interest of improving your general health so that you may better manage stress, consider the seven basic laws of radiant health: 1) Eating the correct foods, 2) cleanliness and personal hygiene, 3) sunshine and fresh air, 4) proper exercise, 5) the right amount of sleep and rest, 6) avoiding bodily injury, and 7) maintaining a tranquil mind and developing self control.

The last law is vital: We all need "quiet time" when the tensions of life build up. A healthy diversion—a change of pace or scenery—is often invaluable.

Meditation and prayer in a private place are highly recommended in the Bible to help develop self-control and peace of mind (Ps. 63:5-6).

One way to relax and sooth rattled nerves is to listen to inspiring music. (Realize that loud rock music or rap should be avoided; it will only increase negative tension.) Consider reading an uplifting book, watching an inspirational film or documentary, playing sports with friends or family, or taking a trip to a park or an area of natural beauty where you can observe God's "great outdoors." Take an annual vacation. Some use hobbies as a form of quiet diversion

away from people and problems.

Strive to do all things in moderation and balance, not going to extremes in relaxing (to the point of laziness) or working (to the point of becoming a workaholic).

In contemplating a situation or issue, ask yourself, *What is the worst possible scenario that could happen?* Upon answering that question, accept that scenario as a possibility. If it is particularly terrible, you can even pray for the ability to accept that it could occur. Once you have done this, *everything* else that might occur will seem entirely positive!

2. Be Positive

ESTABLISHING A RIGHT MENTAL OUTLOOK can prevent and even alleviate certain physical maladies caused or aggravated by stress and negative thinking.

Learning to think properly is a key to mental and emotional stability. As the Apostle Paul said, "[W]hatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things*" (Phil. 4:8).

In a world where the prevalent attitude among people is "me first," strive to develop an outgoing, helpful concern for others. Don't criticize or gossip, or try to drag them down so you can get ahead. Instead, focus your mind on their good qualities. It will go a long way toward alleviating stress.

Few of us have issues or stresses that have not been experienced by others. Talk to people about your dilemma. Seek help. Offer your assistance to others. This will most often mean just providing an empathetic ear to other people. Seeing our problems in the context of the trials and tribulations of other people can be quite humbling and can quickly put our problems into a proper perspective.

Learning the basic skills of getting along with others will also reduce stressful living. Strive to become a "people person"—go out of your way to practice acts of kindness toward others. Be patient and tolerant. Expect unexpected situations to arise. Don't lose your cool—anger only adds to your stress and the stress load of those around you (though, of course, there is a time to speak out in righteous indignation).

Dr. Selye says negative feelings "include hatred, distress, disdain, hostil-

ity, jealousy and the urge for revenge, in short every drive likely to endanger your security by inciting aggressiveness in others who are afraid that you may cause them harm." Positive feelings, on the other hand, include "gratitude, respect, trust, and admiration for the excellence of outstanding achievements, all of which add up to goodwill and friendship" (*Stress Without Distress*).

The Bible concurs. Good emotions are beneficial to the body and mind, but negative thinking and a depressed attitude can hinder normal healthy functioning. "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22; see also Prov. 15:13). Request our reprint article "Are You Positive?" for more tips on developing a positive mental attitude, or link to it online within the text of this article.

3. Be Realistic

WE LIVE IN A NEGATIVE, STRESS-FILLED world. We know we will have disappointments in life from time to time. None of us can have smooth sailing 100 percent of the time.

Stressed people don't accept this simple fact. They tend to mentally magnify their problems out of proportion—making mountains out of molehills. They become so wrapped up in their problems and difficulties (real or imagined), they become almost immobilized.

Don't dwell on past mistakes and failures. We all have regrets. Learn from them and move on. Don't wallow in self-pity; for if you do, you'll remain in a stressful situation.

Some situations are beyond our control. We have to accept them. Why continue to slog away in a no-win situation? Instead, act where possible, but also realize and accept limitations when and where they exist.

Become more goal-oriented; realize there are steps you can take to manage your time more effectively. If you're losing sleep or stressing because there is not enough time in the day, take steps to plan your time effectively. Buy a day planner and use it. Before you go to bed at night, plan your next day. On a Sunday, when perhaps you have a little more time, take a few moments to plan the week. When planning, prioritize your activities, ensuring the most important come first. Strive for balance between work, family and personal recreation. Too much time spent in any one of these sectors of life can lead to stress and anxi-

ety in the other areas. Too much work will lead to family problems. Too much recreation can lead to problems at work

Next time you are faced with a stressful situation, resist any temptation to turn to drugs or alcohol. That's escapism. Face up to life.

and at home. Aim for balance. When possible, plan ahead in order to avoid any last-minute scrambling and the associated stress. Begin work on new job projects and assignments as soon as you receive them, avoiding the habit of leaving them to the last minute.

Whether we like it or not, our lives are stressful. We must learn to see this in a positive light. Simply *think* positive!

The summer of 1776 was a stressful period for many leading American politicians, especially Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. But what was the end product of all the stress? *An independent America!* A few years later, the United States Constitution was born out of intense stress and concern. Very rarely do great things happen without some associated stress.

There is no need to avoid *all* stress in our lives. We simply need to learn how to effectively manage it—even causing it to work for us.

Next time you are faced with a stressful situation or issue, strive to remove any temptation to turn to drugs or alcohol. That's pure escapism. Face up to life and remember the techniques on managing stress covered in this arti-

cle. Accept stress as a fact of life. Learn to live with it. Develop a positive mental attitude; strive to focus your mind on others instead of yourself; be realistic and develop a game plan to cope with stress. Remember the lessons from the man who underwent more stress than any other human—Jesus Christ.

The greatest time of stress in man's history is soon coming upon this world in the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22). But out of this intense stress, the greatest occasion this world has ever witnessed will be born—the return of Jesus Christ to this Earth to eliminate *all* negative stress at its source!

You may find our free booklet **The Seven Laws of Success** helpful for furthering your study on this subject.



Lessons From the Master

IN HIS SERMON ON THE Mount (Matt. 6), Jesus Christ enumerated several principles or guidelines for beating stress, anxiety and worry. Let's notice what they are.

First, you must *decide* not to worry. Jesus said: "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" (Matt. 6:25).

Think about it. The advertising industry would like us to believe that if we don't have a swimming pool in our backyard, a shiny new car, new clothes and a two-week vacation at the beach every year, we're really missing out on life! Buying into that illusion can easily turn us into workaholics or discontents, or bury us in debt. Happiness is not synonymous with riches. We ought to be thankful for what we have, rather than anxious or stressed about how we can get more. Here, Christ is helping put our values in perspective.

Second, you must *discover your worth to God*. Christ says, "Behold the fowls of the

air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (v. 26). Due to our incredible human potential, God values human life infinitely more than any animal's life. And those who turn to God and seek to walk in His ways should never doubt that He will always provide for our every need and even give us many of our desires. Remember, however, that it is only when you "[d]elight thyself also in the Lord" that "he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4).

Third, realize that worrying doesn't help. Christ's next comment on the topic of worry and stress was expressed in the simple question: "Which of you by taking thought [worrying] can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matt. 6:27). Worrying is not constructive; rather, it can be destructive, compounding anxiety and causing further stress. If you have an issue on your mind, ensure your thought patterns about the subject are constructive, leading toward a solution, a conclusion. If they are not, or

if your thoughts only cause added stress over the issue, get control of your mind and discard the fruitless thoughts.

Another principle to recognize is the fact that God knows our needs. Jesus continued, "And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say to you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?" (vv. 28-30). Even though God already knows our needs and problems, He expects us to *talk* to Him about them! Apply Philippians 4:6: "Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Moreover, we should cast all our cares and anxieties on God (1 Pet. 5:7). He still wants us to ask for His help in tough situations.

Christ's next statement is one of the most meaningful verses in the Bible: "But seek

ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). When we make that our number-one goal, God will take care of the other, less-important details in our lives. This principle is one of the *surest cures* for the anxiety, worry and tension that can afflict all of us. When our focus is on God's Kingdom, all other material problems will seem insignificant and unimportant by comparison.

A final principle from the Sermon on the Mount having to do with stress is to *concentrate on your problems a day at a time*. Christ said: "Take, therefore no thought [do not worry] for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil [trouble] thereof" (v. 34). *Prioritize*. Take care of first things first. Handle the troubles that need immediate attention first; don't be overly concerned about problems that might (or might not) crop up. Plan for the future, but live your life *positively* one day at a time, dealing with responsibilities as they arise.

FAMILY

Fatherhood: Good Business Sense

TO ENCOURAGE MALE productivity on the job site, a growing number of big companies are encouraging their employees to, of all things, become better fathers.

In recent years, a number of studies have shown how children benefit from more involved fathers. (Sons are less likely to turn violent; daughters are less likely to become promiscuous.) Further studies now reveal that *fathers* also benefit from being good fathers. According to a Dec. 15, 2003, article in *American Way*, companies like Motorola, Texas Instruments and the Marriott Corporation are offering fatherhood courses and encouraging male employees to work more flexible hours, so as to allow time for dad to attend his child's school play or afternoon soccer game.

"By dealing with their children, fathers learn to be empathetic and to think about others' needs, skills they can then apply at work," the article says. According

to a recent survey of 1,200 executives (one that included women), those who were

more productive and less stressed at work were ones who placed family needs on equal footing with career objectives.

One wonders why such findings aren't given more

coverage in mainstream media (taking nothing away from the overall impact of the in-flight magazine for American Airlines). Could it be that those responsible for delivering the news are quite often ones who put career ahead of family?



EVERETT

The Workaholic Father

AND WHAT OF THOSE FATHERS WHO NEGLECT CHILDREN for the sake of career objectives? According to a report in the *Wall Street Journal* last month, "Different children react differently to the presence of a workaholic parent. Some imitate the parent and strive, unconsciously, to outdo their mother or father by working even harder. Others rebel, withdrawing into a teen culture that offers plenty of alternative values, including rejecting achievement" (January 15).

So to prevent children from resorting to either extreme, whether workaholic or do-nothing drifter, we suggest that fathers strive to find the balance between responsibilities on the job and at home. Being a provider goes much further than providing financial security. A father's role also includes providing children with plenty of love and attention.

HEALTH

Bigger Not Always Better

EVIDENTLY, McDONALD'S isn't the only establishment where customers ask for "super-size." According to a report in the *Chicago Sun-Times* (January 13), hospitals are now making requests for bigger beds, double-wide wheel chairs, thigh-sized blood pressure cuffs and weight scales that could pass for loading docks. Citing statistics released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the article stated that 64 percent of American adults are now overweight—and nearly one third of that figure is comprised of people who are obese.

As it happens, obese people are frequent visitors to hospitals. According to the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, last year U.S. hospitals performed 120,000 gastric bypass surgeries, three times the amount from just two years ago.

These trends add weight to what should otherwise be obvious: Obesity significantly increases your chances of sickness and disease.



GETTY IMAGES

Father Facts

Here are the top 10 father facts in the U.S., according to www.fatherhood.org:

- 1 24 million children (34 percent) live absent their biological father.
- 2 Nearly 20 million children (27 percent) live in single-parent homes.
- 3 1.35 million births (33 percent of all births) in the year 2000 occurred out of wedlock.
- 4 Approximately 1 million children each year experience the divorce of their parents.
- 5 Over 3.3 million children live with an unmarried parent and the parent's cohabiting partner.
- 6 Fathers who live with their children are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than those who do not.
- 7 About 40 percent of children in father-absent homes have not seen their father at all during the past year, and 50 percent of children living absent their father have never set foot in their father's home.
- 8 Children who live absent their biological fathers are, on average, at least two to three times more likely to be poor, to use drugs, to experience educational, health, emotional and behavioral problems, to be victims of child abuse and to engage in criminal behavior than their peers who live with their married, biological (or adoptive) parents.
- 9 From 1960 to 1995, the proportion of children living in single-parent homes tripled, from 9 percent to 27 percent.
- 10 Children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have healthy self-esteem, exhibit empathy and pro-social behavior, and avoid high-risk behaviors such as drug use, truancy and criminal activity compared to children who have uninvolved fathers.

For more on the subject of fatherhood, request our free booklet **Conspiracy Against Fatherhood**.

Start Saving Your Pennies

AS UNPREDICTABLE as stocks, bonds and mutual funds have been in recent years, some financial experts are suggesting Americans do the unthinkable to prepare for retirement: Save more money.

The *Wall Street Journal* (January 14) crunched the numbers this way: Let's say you can only count on a 4 percent investment return, instead of the 6 percent you

might have gotten during the '90s boom. If that's the case, in order to save \$100,000 over the next 20 years, Americans must tuck away \$272 per month toward retirement, compared to \$215 at a 6 percent return. That means Americans would need to up their monthly savings toward retirement by 27 percent.

Problem is, Americans rank among the lowest in

the developed world when it comes to saving money. According to a Reuters report in December, some economists see this as one of America's most serious economic weaknesses. The news followed a revised Commerce Department report last December that discovered the savings rate of Americans to be lower than what the government first thought. The study showed that in 2002 the average American saved 2.3 cents from every dollar made, after taxes—not 3.7 cents, as had been previously reported.

At this revised savings rate, to put \$272 per month toward retirement, the "average" American would need an annual income of \$141,912—after taxes.

EDUCATION

Future Not So Bright

COMPARED TO STUDENTS IN OTHER ADVANCED DEMOCRACIES, American students rank near the bottom in their science, math and literacy scores. And according to the Winter 2003 issue of *Hoover Digest*, these scores get worse with each passing generation.

In an International Adult Literacy Survey given to a group of adults aged 16 to 65, Americans educated in the 1950s ranked second place compared with other students. Those schooled in the '60s held third place, while those with a '70s education fell to fifth. But those educated in the '90s rolled in at 14th place.

On the International Test of Mathematics and Science Study, 17-year-old American students' scores ranked only above those in several developing countries.

This, despite the U.S. leading the way in educational spending at \$10,240 per student from elementary to secondary education (2000 figures, according to an annual review by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development). Says Jack Jennings, director of the Center on Education Policy, "You can't just put dollars in one column and test scores in another column."

Hoover had another interesting take on the relationship between money and education: "Economists tell us that human capital is more important than physical capital for long-term economic development. Weak educational systems won't ruin the country overnight, but prolonged incompetence will eventually prove consequential."

For the Trumpet's perspective on true education, write for our new booklet on the subject, **Education With Vision**. There is no cost or obligation.



AGRICULTURE

C'mon People, We're Smarter Than Bugs

RESEARCHERS ARE STILL trying to determine if genetically engineered crops pose a health risk.

Meanwhile, farmers all over the world are rapidly adopting biotech methods. Seven million farmers in 18 countries now produce genetically engineered crops. That amounts to 18 percent of the world's food-crop production, a significant chunk when you consider biotech crops first became commercially available just eight years ago. Last year alone, biotech plantings increased by 15 percent compared to 2002. Not surprisingly, the United States is the biggest producer, followed by Argentina and Canada.

Though some scientists argue that genetically engineered foods could help feed more of the poor and disadvantaged of this Earth, the reason for the upsurge has to do more with greed than with humanitarian aid. In biotech farming, processing is more profitable because crops become less vulnerable to the elements, have a longer shelf life and make for easier shipping. They are also more resistant to bugs and the poisonous pesticides that kill bugs.

Hungry yet? *Genetically produced vegetables together with poisonous pesticides*. Yummy!

Seriously: If bugs won't eat the poison-drenched, nutrient-starved plants, should we?

DRUGS

And, in Case You Didn't Know ...

ACCORDING TO A NEW international study, taking the drug ecstasy could impair your ability to remember things. The findings revealed that drug-users were 23 percent more likely to develop memory problems than those who did not use drugs. Evidently, mind-altering drugs adversely affect the mind.

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

Rod Without Reproof

I would like to comment on “A Child Left to Himself” (January) The other side of the coin, insofar as schools are concerned, is the rod without reproof. I grew up in Ireland while corporal punishment was still permitted in the public school system there; more often than not, such punishment was doled out for not knowing answers to questions during oral examinations, a teacher’s own prejudices, etc. We respected the teachers who judged fairly within the system and who were committed to helping slower students learn, but not the abusive teachers.

My mother, who was subject to a worse form of the same system when she was a child, revealed to me that since she was a slow learner, she was pushed to the back of the classroom and struck upon the hands with a thick wooden rod daily for not knowing how to do any of the assigned work.

The lenient way practiced in public schools nowadays is, or so it seems from my point of view, a backlash against the abuses. Rationalism no doubt played its part, but the role of the abusive teachers cannot be overlooked. And insofar as the role the lack of discipline in the school environment plays in encouraging crime, there have always been criminals, even in the days of the strict school environment, and such types having been produced from the same.

Alan—E-MAIL RESPONSE

Unfortunately, education systems are subject to both the whim of the government of the day and the personal inclinations of individual teachers. There is a balance to be achieved in the application of appropriate discipline such that it instills responsible behavior in the mind of a child. Neither the excessive use of corporal punishment nor excessive leniency reflect the type of training enjoined by Proverbs 22:6.

“Opinion,” Not Science

I WAS IDLY FLIPPING THROUGH THE December 2003 issue of the *Trumpet* in a doctor’s office when I happened on a section labeled “Science.” Being a scientist, I paused to read it, especially since the title was also the most interesting one there is—the human mind. I didn’t have to read very long to realize that this was not a science article but an opinion article. There is nothing wrong with opinion articles, even scientists write them at the beginning of new discoveries, but the

looks of your magazine had led me to believe that you were legitimate, so I was shocked at the deception. . . . You may not want your readers to think; rather you may want them only to accept your opinions. But have you ever thought about the actual source of your beliefs?

Henderson Cole—DANBURY, CONN.

Certainly no deception was intended: The article was titled “Why Science Cannot Unlock the Secret of the Human Mind.” There is a reason—but it is spiritual, not merely physical.

God designed us to be truly thinking creatures—a capacity not similarly found outside of humankind. But the power to think does not make human reason the highest authority. We must think—yes!—fully informed by the knowledge revealed by our Creator. You ask about the source of our beliefs. In his booklet *What Science Can’t Discover About the Human Mind*, Herbert Armstrong identified the Holy Bible as “our source book.” If you are interested in real answers to the mystery of the human mind, based on (but not limited to) revealed scriptural knowledge, you are welcome to request a free copy of this informative booklet.

A Woman’s Perspective

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE ARTICLE “Wanted: Real Men” (December 2003). Just the other day I came across a statement by a well-meaning author stating the reason that women suffer from certain diseases is because of a lack of power and abuse of power against them by men. I wanted to shout: What? What planet are you living on? Nowhere in the history of the world have women had the power that contemporary American women enjoy, and they abuse it shamefully. I am outraged by the constant humiliation and ridicule of men in sitcoms and the TV and media in general. While spreading the constant fiction that they suffer from lack of power, American women have become insufferable bullies. American men have become so thoroughly intimidated they are like whipped puppies, afraid to call their souls their own or open their mouths without asking permission. And has this improved the world or given us wiser leadership? My answer would be a resounding NO! All of us women don’t want men that are feminized. When are men going to stand up and act like real men again?

Joanne Ceruone—CHICAGO, ILL.

WHEN I GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE IN 1990, I moved and stopped receiving

the *Plain Truth*. Years later, after reading and re-reading all of the literature I had previously received, I decided to find the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) online so I could request more literature. To my dismay I found that the church had changed dramatically. I was frustrated and saddened and resigned to the fact that I would no longer be able to read fresh, new literature on God’s plan. Recently I decided to double-check the WCG website for information on people who still held to the original doctrine. That is when I found the reference to the Philadelphia Church of God. I hurried to your home page and was happy to see familiar doctrines and beliefs. Thank you for continuing the message that had been delivered by Mr. Armstrong for so many years.

KEITH GUYTON—BREA, CALIF.

We’re glad to hear that our www.pcog.org website was helpful to you. You can also find articles from this magazine, previous issues and other literature at www.theTrumpet.com or view our television program at www.keyofdauid.com.

Counsel Available?

I HAVE JUST COMPLETED READING some booklets written by Herbert Armstrong. In the back of these booklets, it said that if requested, someone could possibly be dispatched to give some type of counseling. I was curious to see if that offer was available through the Philadelphia Church of God. If so, then I would very much like to make that request; I have been receiving the *Trumpet* for a few years now and have been greatly enlightened by Mr. Flurry and associates.

Joe—E-MAIL RESPONSE

The Trumpet is printed by the Philadelphia Church of God. We have congregations throughout America, Canada and in other areas of the world administered by dedicated, fully instructed, ordained ministers. If you have questions regarding attendance of church services, you may request that a minister contact you. For more information, please e-mail visitrequests@pcog.org or otherwise contact us (see inside the front cover of this magazine on how to do so).

Comments?

**letters@theTrumpet.com
or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083**

The Pride of Sodom

The problem with society's acceptance of homosexuality BY RYAN MALONE

JUST RECENTLY, MY WIFE RECEIVED AN E-MAIL FROM a good college friend of ours in which he chose to “come out of the closet”—an announcement he made not only to her but to an entire list of friends in his e-mail. He went on in detail about how thrilled he was with his new life.

My wife was somewhat surprised by his “coming out.” She could not honestly share in her friend’s celebration of his new life. We believe, according to scriptural teaching (and despite what’s fashionable), that God condemns homosexuality as sinful.

This e-mail made me realize that of all the things we consider as sinful in society, this sin enjoys a unique status. Some sins still carry a stigma; some have been passively accepted. But, in the past decade, homosexuality has shed its stigma and taken on an aggressive nature in public life.

Society has undergone this “queer makeover” in nearly every avenue of thought, and it has gone far beyond mere calls for “equal rights.” Science works overtime to validate homosexuality—looking for the gay gene, or anomalies in nature that might show how “natural” it is. Religion tries to justify it with modern translations and interpretations of Scripture. Higher education welcomes it, teaches it and, thus, breeds it. At the public university my wife and I attended, there were certain, unspoken advantages to being in the gay crowd. Lawmakers are doing what they can to help homosexuals: A total of 146 pro-homosexual bills were under consideration in state legislatures in 2003, compared to only 31 pro-family bills in the same period (of which just two passed). And the entertainment industry—with 20 major television shows prominently featuring homosexual themes or characters—would have us believe every circle of friends has its “token gay guy” despite the fact that only 3 percent of the American population is admittedly homosexual. Then there are the countless marches, parades and festivals each year where thousands trumpet their “gay pride.”

Just a few years ago it was “don’t ask, don’t tell.” Now this lifestyle is being shoved aggressively down our throats.

No wonder people like our friend have such pride in their “coming out” these days. What other sins enjoy such positive publicity? There are a few—fornication comes to mind (1 Cor. 6:18). But still, this sin has more of a general, passive acceptance rather than overt pride and arrogance associated with it. How many pre-marital sex parades do you see in Washington, D.C.?

In the September-October 2003 issue of this magazine, we spoke out boldly against homosexuality, after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down anti-sodomy laws. Our cover story discussed the deep spiritual and inspiring meaning behind family and marriage—which are actually God-plane relationships.

Among the considerable feedback we received, one let-

ter, though agreeing homosexuality was sinful, wondered why we didn’t spend more time condemning other, “more damaging” sins. This person brought up adultery—feeling that adultery was much worse than homosexuality because it affected many more people.

Is homosexuality just like any other sin? According to God’s own Word, the wages of ALL SIN, unrepented of, is death—whether homosexuality, adultery, murder, stealing, lying (Rom. 6:23).

But consider the sins still generally frowned upon by society. Imagine our same college friend—considering he were heterosexual and married with children—sending an e-mail to all his friends and family celebrating his infidelity to his family. Imagine if someone came out of the closet and announced he was a serial killer, or that he molested children, or he drove drunk.

It is the PRIDE aspect of homosexuality that makes it particularly unique among other sins condemned in the Bible. Even in the account of Sodom and Gomorrah, where God destroyed these cities because they were full of

all sorts of immorality—homosexuality being most prominent—the sheer *brazenness* of these people was most appalling. In one instance, its men showed zero shame when attempting to mob rape two angels there in human form (see Gen. 19:1-11). In Ezekiel 16:49, when God lists the sins of Sodom, He puts “pride” first on the list. In the next verse, He says “they were HAUGHTY, and committed abomination before me.”

Bible prophecy states that end-time Israel has become as sinful as Sodom (Jer. 23:14)—and is to suffer Sodom’s fate (Amos 4:11). (Request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* to prove who the descendants of Israel are in the end time.) But its similarity to Sodom is not merely in homosexuality. In Isaiah 3:9, God says, “The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and THEY DECLARE THEIR SIN AS SODOM, they *hide it not*. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.”

This nation once had a historically unique and close relationship with God. And that is why God is warning them! But let all of us be warned. Jesus, while He walked this Earth, condemned the *stubbornness* of Israel—saying that if this message actually went to the original inhabitants of Sodom, they would have repented (Matt. 11:23-24). If we have heard this warning, God holds us accountable. We must act!

Homosexuality is an abomination (Lev. 20:13)—as is all sin unrepented of. If we continue to flaunt our sins, whatever they be, before God, He will inflict the fate of Sodom on us. But if we repent of our pride and strive to live God’s way—seeking His help to overcome—then we can be spared the destruction ahead.



SIGN OF THE TIMES Participants parade in a “gay pride” demonstration last year in San Francisco.

THE KEY OF DAVID

Television Listings



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun
Dish Network DBS WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Northeast cable WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun
California, Los Angeles KTLA 7:00 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WFLD 8:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOCB 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPHL 9:00 am, Sun
Washington D.C. WDCA 8:00 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Nationwide satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable Vision TV 8:30 am ET, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Argentina WWOR 10:30 am Sun
Brazil WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Chile WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun

Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun; WWOR 8:30 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Puerto Rico WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Venezuela WWOR 10:30 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thur
Regional satellite Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Aruba WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Bahamas WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Belize WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Cuba WGN 8:00 am, Sun; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
Dominican Republic WGN 8:00 am, Sun
Grenada CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Grenada Meaningful TV 8:00 am, Sun
Haiti WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Jamaica WGN 9:00 am, Sun; WWOR 10:30 am, Sun
Tobago CCN 7:30 am, Sun
Trinidad CCN 7:30 am, Sun

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 5:00 pm, Sat; 11:00 pm, Wed; 9:25 pm, Fri

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
Australia nationwide CNBC Asia 7:30 am, Sun
Tasmania Southern Cross TV 5:00 am, Sun
New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri
New Zealand nationwide CNBC Asia 7:30 am, Sun

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