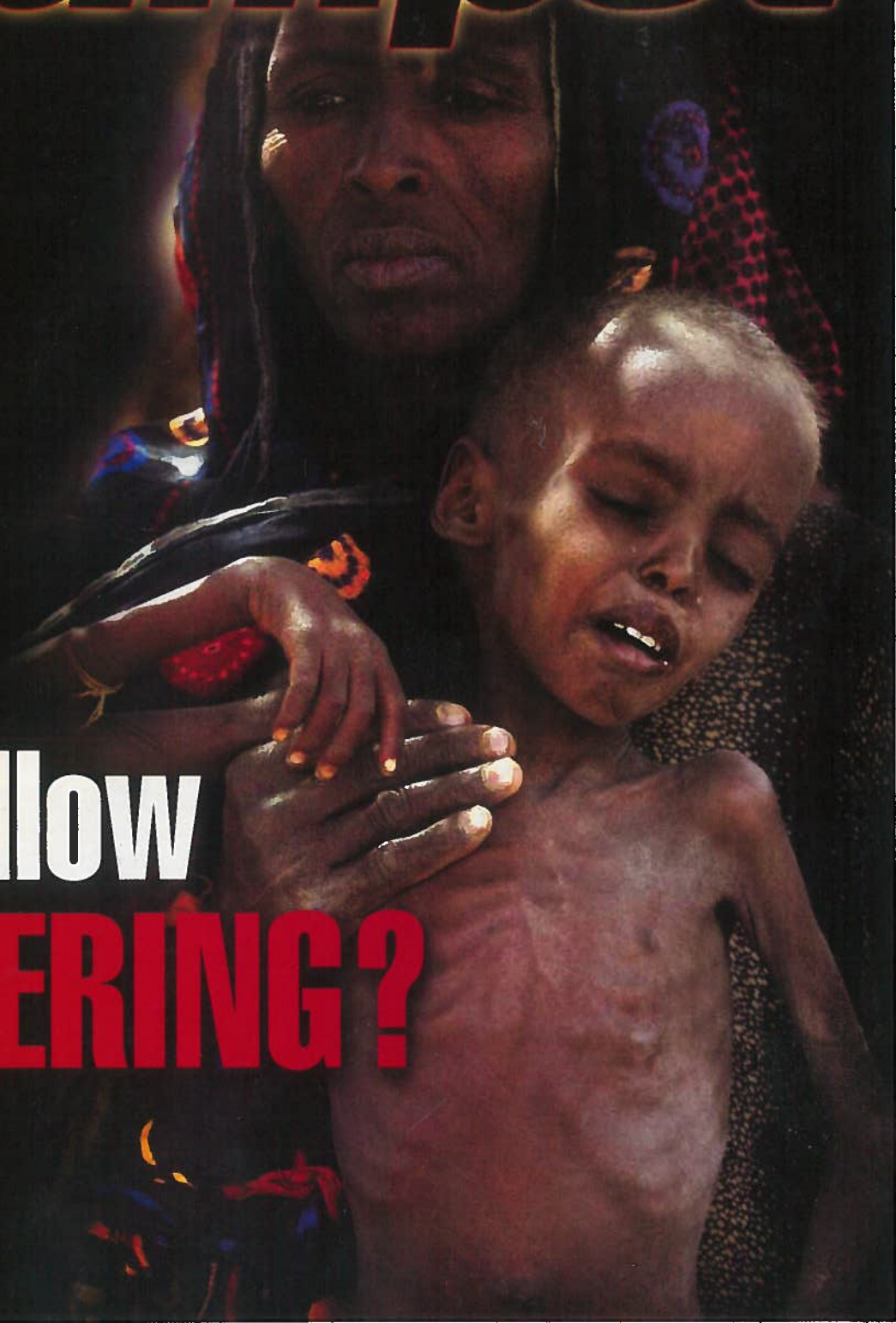


*The Philadelphia*

# Trumpet

AIDS,  
famine,  
child abuse,  
armed conflict,  
natural disasters...

**Why  
Does  
God Allow  
SUFFERING?**





◆ COVER STORY

- 2 **Why Does God Allow Suffering?**  
A 6,000-year experiment of epic proportions
- 4 **War Against Children**  
To some people, children are targets or simply nameless, faceless objects to be exploited. How can this be prevented? Why doesn't God stop it?
- 6 **Teach Self-Control**  
How to protect your child from life's dangers
- 9 **Not-So-Fab Youth Mags**  
Wading through information about sex, makeup, fashion and celeb gossip, you may wonder if there is a decent periodical for the younger generation.
- 11 **The Simple Solution to the AIDS Epidemic**



ON THE COVER: In an Ethiopian town wracked with famine, a mother holds her malnourished child. (Reuter)



9



16



24

◆ ARTICLES

- 16 **Europe's African Pillage**  
How the EU is looking to exploit the resource-rich continent to its south  
  
Part two
- 19 **Fascism Revives!**  
More plain facts on Europe's right-wing swing  
  
The Unstable Pacific: Fiji
- 22 **Trouble in Paradise**  
A recent coup shows the potential worldwide impact of the small islands of the South Pacific.  
  
The Unstable Pacific: The Philippines
- 24 **The Philippines Flashpoint**  
Can the conflict between the Christian government and Muslim rebels be resolved?

◆ DEPARTMENTS

- 1 **Personal: Life's Most Important Questions**
- 14 **World News Watch:**  
Friends in High Places — A Security Threat? — Fears of EU Law — Left or Right for the East? — Plagues of Violence
- 28 **Letters**
- 29 **Commentary: Beware Sudden Destruction**

**PUBLISHER and EDITOR IN CHIEF** Gerald Flurry  
**SENIOR EDITORS** Dennis Leap  
J. Tim Thompson  
Vyron Wilkins  
**MANAGING EDITOR** Stephen Flurry  
**ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR** Joel Hilliker  
**NEWS EDITOR** Ron Fraser  
**CONTRIBUTORS** Eric Anderson  
Gareth Fraser  
Andrew Locher  
Ryan Malone  
Wilbur Malone  
Gary Rethford  
**RESEARCH ASSISTANT** Zrinka Pratezina  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Donna Grieves  
Deborah Leap  
Paula Powell  
Melody Thompson  
Magda Wilkins

**PREPRESS PRODUCTION** Mark Carroll  
**CIRCULATION** Shane Granger  
**INTERNATIONAL EDITIONS EDITOR** Wik Heerma  
**French** Antonin Chiasson  
**German** Wik Heerma  
**Italian** Daniel Frendo  
**SPANISH EDITION EDITOR** Stephen Hill  
**Spanish Translation Coordinator** Jorge Esparza

**OFFICE DIRECTORS**  
**Australasia** Alex Harrison  
**Canada** Wayne Turgeon  
**Caribbean** J. Tim Thompson  
**Central and South America** Ron Fraser  
**Britain, Europe, Middle East, Africa** John Durrall

THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET (ISSN 10706348) is published monthly (except bimonthly March/April and September/October issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 1019 Waterwood Parkway, Suite F, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices.  
©2000 Philadelphia Church of God.  
All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE USA.  
**HOW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS BEEN PAID:** The Philadelphia Trumpet has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily aid and support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers in the effort to "hold fast" to the traditions established in the true Church by Herbert W. Armstrong and to proclaim a final warning to the world. Contributions or letters of interest may be sent to one of our offices nearest you:

United States: P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083  
Canada: P.O. Box 315, Milton, ON L9T 4Y9  
Caribbean: Philadelphia Church of God, P.O. Box 686, Chaguanas, Trinidad, W.I.  
Britain, Europe, Middle East: P.O. Box 9000, Daventry, NN11 5TA, England  
Africa: P.O. Box 2969, Durbanville, 7551 South Africa  
India: P.O. Box 59, Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh 534201  
Sri Lanka: P.O. Box 13, Kandana  
Australia and the Pacific Isles: P.O. Box 6626, Upper Mount Gravatt, QLD 4122, Australia  
New Zealand: P.O. Box 38-424, Howick, Auckland, 1730  
Philippines: P.O. Box 1372, Q.C. Central Post Office, Quezon City, Metro Manila

Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. Please include your old mailing label and the new address.  
The publishers assume no responsibility for return of unsolicited artwork, photographs or manuscripts. The "LETTERS" section is made up of various letters from our readers. The editor reserves the right to use any letters, in whole or in part, as he deems in the public interest, and to edit the letter for clarity or space.  
Unless otherwise noted, scriptures quoted in the Trumpet are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.  
U.S. POSTMASTER — send address changes to: The Philadelphia Trumpet, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083

For a **FREE SUBSCRIPTION** in the U.S. and Canada, or to request any of the free literature offered, call **1-800-772-8577**. To request by mail, see international addresses listed above.





# Life's Most Important Questions

**O**ver the past year, our Trumpet circulation has doubled. That means many of our newer subscribers might not be familiar with our extensive literature library.

One must read is *Mystery of the Ages*, written by the late Herbert W. Armstrong. This book contains answers to all of life's most basic questions—questions teachers should be asking at school, ministers should be asking at church, the media should be asking on TV and in print, but don't.

*Mystery of the Ages* does. Once you have read it, your own Bible will no longer be a mystery to you. Read for yourself how Mr. Armstrong introduced this wonderful book:

Did you ever ask yourself: "Who am I? What am I? Why am I?"

The world about you is a mystery. You yourself are a mystery. You have never seen your brain, the seat of your intellect and all that you are.

Your life is engulfed in mysteries. When you reflect, your very existence is a mystery. Did you simply happen by unintelligent resident earthly forces without meaning or purpose, or were you intelligently designed and created by an all-powerful God of supreme mind for a purpose that also has been hidden in mystery?...

If the all-powerful God was your Maker, and exists as the divine Creator of all that is, then the mystery about God emerges, in order of time sequence, as the first and paramount mystery of all.

Who and what is God? That is a mystery not understood by any religion, not explained by science, untaught by higher education. God reveals Himself in His word, the Holy Bible, yet almost none has understood it. The Bible, as the writer Bruce Barton said, is "the book that nobody knows." The Bible itself is the basic mystery that reveals all other mysteries.

If the truth about God is mystery number one revealed in the Bible, assuredly the truth about angels and evil spirits is second in order. Is there, after all, a devil? Did God create a devil? If there are holy angels, what is their purpose and function? The Bible clearly states that this world is actually ruled by unseen principalities of evil spirits. Do evil spirits affect and influence humans and even governments today? Do evil spirits affect even your own life? This question seems enveloped in total mystery.

Certainly third in order is the mystery of your own life—of humanity as a whole. What and why is humanity? Is man an immortal soul? Do the dead know what the living are doing? Is man a flesh and blood being with an immortal soul within? Is there meaning and purpose to human life? Did we

evolve through unintelligent material forces without meaning or purpose? Why are humans beset with seemingly unsolvable problems?

Fourth in line of the not-understood mysteries is the civilization that has developed in man's world. How did it develop? Why do we find a world of awesome advancement and progress, yet paradoxically with appalling and mounting evils? Why cannot the minds that develop spacecraft, computers and marvels of science, technology and industry solve the problems that demonstrate human helplessness?

Next, in the development of human society on Earth, is the mystery of the Jew and the ancient nation of Israel. Why did God raise up one special nation of Israel? Why are they God's "chosen people"? Are they God's favorites? Does God discriminate against other nations? Is God a respecter of persons? What is Israel's purpose in the divine order of things?

Come now to the mystery of the church. Why should there be the institution of the church in the world? Is there some purpose for it, not understood even by the religion of traditional Christianity?

Finally, why the mystery of the Kingdom of God? Jesus' gospel message was "the Kingdom of God." Is the Kingdom of God something within each person? Is it something that may be set up in men's hearts? Is it the institution of the church? Or is it something else altogether? Why this mystery of the very gospel of Jesus Christ?

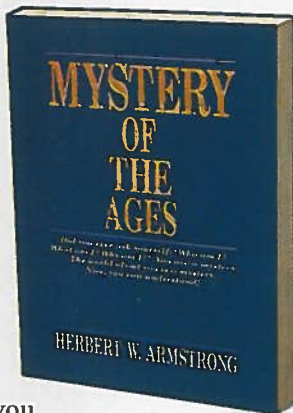
These are the SEVEN GREAT MYSTERIES that concern the very lives of every human being on earth. The PLAIN TRUTH of all these mysteries is revealed in the Bible, but none of the churches or theologians seem to have comprehended them.

WHY? The Bible is the basic mystery of all.

If one begins reading the Bible continuously from beginning to end, one becomes bewildered. The Bible simply cannot be read like any other book. It is a mystery because it is a coded book. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, with perhaps hundreds of various pieces of different forms and shapes that can be fitted together in only one precise pattern. The truths of the Bible are revealed here a little, there a little, scattered from beginning to end, and revealed only through the Holy Spirit within those surrendered and yielded to God, willing to have confessed error and wrongdoing, and yielding to BELIEVE Christ, the Word of God. Jesus was the Word in person. The Bible is the same Word in print.

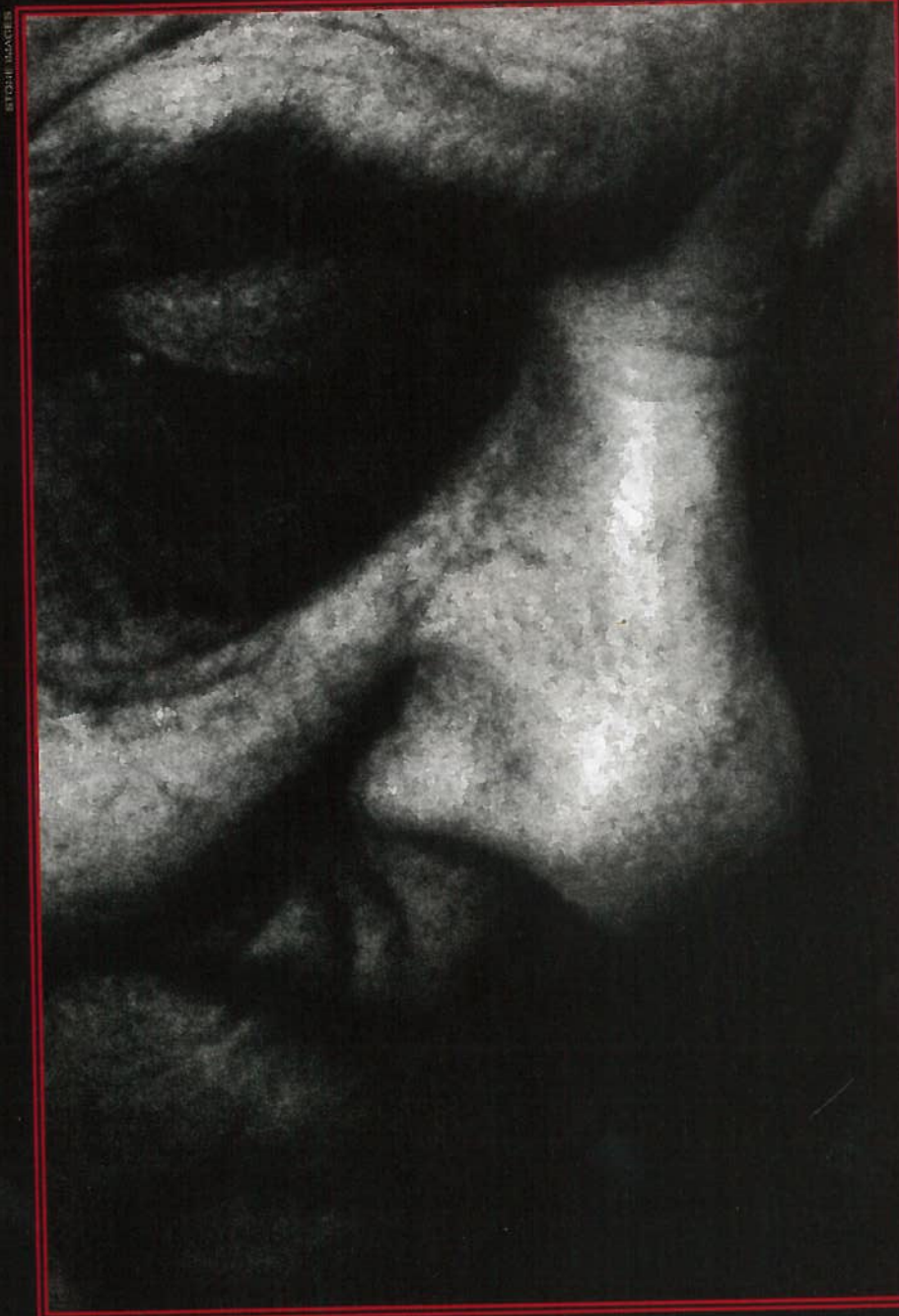
No one can have the Holy Spirit, which alone can open the human mind to understanding of this word of God, without a

(continued on page 28)





# Why Does **GOD** Allow **SUFFERING?**



BY JOHN QUANTER

The story of a massive dose of aversion therapy, and a 6,000-year experiment of epic proportions

**BY STEPHEN FLURRY**

**A** JEWISH WOMAN WHO SURVIVED the Holocaust of World War II tells a chilling story. She had witnessed a host of terrible things in her time in the German concentration camps—more than many people could handle in a lifetime.

One day this woman saw two little Jewish boys fall from a truck that was taking them somewhere. A Nazi soldier picked them up, slammed them against the truck until they bled, picked them up, threw them back on the truck, and sent the truck on its way.

That was the day, this woman said, that she stopped praying to God.

Was this woman justified in her decision? Is it not fair to ask how a loving, all-powerful God could allow such horrific suffering?

How could this be God's world?

Think of the billions whose lives have been tragically cut short by war, violence, disease epidemics, starvation and malnutrition. Think of the billions who have lived unfulfilled, unhappy lives. How could God allow such things to go on? Why doesn't He put a stop to it?



Of all fields of human knowledge, RELIGION should best be able to answer such difficult questions. But when we examine the answers religion offers, we are left even more confused.

Consider: Most religion teaches that this is God's world!

Religion tells us that God is trying to convert the world today. What else would motivate the efforts of missionaries and evangelists? Religious youth movements and church drives? Crusades, inquisitions and "holy" wars—past and present? The zeal to gain converts for God would all but disappear if not for the idea that heaven comes only to those who profess a particular religion or belief before they die.

But think of the *billions*, over the past 6,000 years, who have lived and died *never knowing Christ*. If God is trying to save the world *now*, He must be failing miserably. How could a just God allow so many to fall by the wayside, never having a chance for salvation? Yet, that is what mainstream Christianity would have you believe—that the billions who have died not knowing Christ will never have a chance for salvation.

In Galatians 1:4, the Apostle Paul refers to the age in which we live as "this present evil world." Elsewhere, Paul referred to *Satan the devil* as the "GOD of this world" (II Cor. 4:4). In Revelation 12:9, the Apostle John says that Satan "deceives the *whole world*."

If God is struggling against Satan to save this world *now*, these many verses reveal GOD TO BE LOSING THE BATTLE. Is that what is happening today?

To get REAL answers to these questions, we must set aside preconceived ideas and prejudices. We must put on hold any ideas we have invented.

We must let God speak for Himself!

God has not left us without answers. He reveals in clear and plain terms just why the world is the way it is, and what He is doing today.

In this article, we will see that God is not losing the battle against Satan—MAN IS! But God is *allowing it so* that man might learn, *by his own tragic experience*, a lesson he will never forget.

### The Two Trees

In his original created state, man was a perfect creation *physically* (Gen. 1:31), yet UNFINISHED *spiritually*. God offered man His Holy Spirit which, when combined with man's human spirit, would have completed his spiritual creation (Rom. 8:16; I Cor. 2:9-11).

But Adam rejected God's Spirit when he followed his wife and partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Most people are familiar with the story of Adam and Eve, but have never understood its true significance. It is not about two fruit trees—it is about TWO WAYS OF LIFE.

The tree of life represented living God's way as led by His Holy Spirit. By obeying God's commands, Adam could have partaken of the tree of life and received God's Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). This would have given Adam the power to think like God—to have a godly relationship with his Creator and with his fellow man.

**God is not losing the battle against Satan—man is!  
But God is allowing it so that man might learn, by his own tragic experience, a lesson he will never forget.**

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil represented Satan's way. In taking from this symbolic tree, Adam and his offspring would willingly subject themselves to the seductive and deceitful spirit of Satan (Eph. 2:2).

More importantly, by taking from this wrong tree, Adam—acting on behalf of his descendants—would cut mankind off from having access to God and His Spirit. This is the path Adam chose. Genesis 3:22 and 24 explain the outcome of Adam's rebellious decision: "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, *and live for ever*.... So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, *to keep the way of the tree of life*."

Here we see that this story is about much more than trees. Eating from the tree of life would have given Adam ETERNAL LIFE. God was not offering eternal life to Adam through an actual fruit tree—He offered it *by His Spirit*, represented by the tree of life. Romans 8:10 even refers to God's Spirit as *life*. This spirit-life comes only as a *gift* from God (Rom. 6:23).

Adam rejected that incredible gift and instead ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the tree of *human* reasoning. When he did that, God pronounced a sentence on mankind in general.

### The 6,000-Year Sentence

Herbert W. Armstrong described this "sentence" best in his book *Mystery of the Ages*. When Adam made his fateful decision, God said, in effect, "You have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic source of knowledge—you have rejected power from me through my Spirit to live the righteous way—you have rebelled against my command and my government—you have chosen the 'getting,' 'taking' way of Satan. Therefore I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6,000 years of being cut off from access to me and my Spirit—except for the exceedingly FEW I shall specially call. And that FEW shall be called for special service preparatory for the Kingdom of God. They shall be required to do what you have failed to do—reject, resist and overcome Satan and his WAYS, and follow the ways of my spiritual LAW.

"Go, therefore, Adam, and all your progeny that shall form the world, produce your own fund of knowledge. Decide for yourself what is good and what is evil. Produce your own educational systems and means of disseminating knowledge, as your god Satan shall mislead you. Form your own concepts of what is god, your own religions, your own governments, your own lifestyles and forms of society and civilization. In all this Satan will deceive your world with his attitude of SELF-centeredness—with vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition and strife and violence and wars, rebellion against me and my law of LOVE.

"After the world of your descendants has *written the lesson* in 6,000 years of human suffering, anguish, frustration, defeat and death—after the world that shall spring from you shall have been brought to confess the utter hopelessness of the way of life you have chosen—I will supernaturally intervene. By supernatural divine power I shall then take over the government of the whole world. With reeducation, I will produce a happy world of peace. And on repentance, I shall *then* offer eternal salvation to all.



After a thousand years of that happy world to come, I will resurrect from death to mortal life all who have died uncalled during this present 6,000 years. Their judgment shall then come. And on repentance and faith, eternal life shall be offered them.

“During this 6,000 years, when I myself shall cut them off from me, they shall not be eternally judged. Only, as they sow during their lifetimes, they shall reap. But when I open eternal salvation to them, there shall be no Satan to hinder or deceive them—no Satan

for them to overcome. Those few called during this first 6,000 years shall have to reject and resist Satan’s pulls and overcome. But those who overcome shall sit with me in my throne, and have power under me to rule all nations under my Supreme Rule” (*Mystery of the Ages*, pp. 120-121).

You might find it amazing that anyone could deduce that much from the Garden of Eden account. But Mr.

Armstrong got that accurate description of what transpired 6,000 years ago right out of the Bible. We will send you a copy of *Mystery of the Ages* so you can study God’s plan of salvation in much greater detail. The book is free upon your request.

### Aversion Therapy

Mr. Armstrong referred to this 6,000-year “lesson” man is recording by his own experience as *aversion therapy*. Some clinics still employ this method of therapy to help people overcome addictions. If a person is an alcoholic, for instance, he would be forced to drink alcohol until it made him so sick that he would never want another drink!

In a sense, that is what God is doing with this world. Though He is not *forcing* us to go the way of Satan, He certainly is allowing us to fill our minds full of Satan’s way of life. God is allowing it to bring us to the point where we will absolutely loathe and abhor this “present evil world.” He is allowing man to go his own way so that he might *see* the fruits of living contrary to God’s law of love.

To this point, however, mankind in general has shown no signs of learning

the lesson God is trying to teach. BUT THAT IS ONLY BECAUSE WE REFUSE TO SEE WHERE OUR PRESENT COURSE IS HEADING. We have rejected God’s inspired word which plainly reveals the outcome.

### Man’s Destination

The evils of our present generation are not unlike those of Noah’s day. Genesis 6:5 says that every imagination of the thoughts of man “was only evil continually.”

The Bible prophesied of those same immoral conditions to be widespread in this end time: “But as the days of Noe [Noah] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be” (Matt. 24:37). In Noah’s day, the masses mocked God’s warnings until the floodwaters came and “took them all away” (v. 39).

In this end time, the majority of mankind will again ridicule God’s warning message. But that will not alter the prophesied outcome one iota: “For then shall be great

tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:21-22).

This will be the end result of man’s rebellion against God, which began in the Garden of Eden nearly 6,000 years ago. Once the Great Tribulation is upon us, mankind will have *seen* the results of his 6,000-year experiment. The fruits of going it alone, without God, will begin to sink in. Finally, man will be fed up with all the evils and sufferings he has brought upon himself. Finally, man will *want* to seek after God and His way of life.

The lesson in aversion therapy will have served its purpose. Jesus will return to this Earth, remove Satan from his throne, and then rule *all nations* with God’s government of love. The few who were called out of Satan’s world in this age will have been prepared to personally assist Christ in God’s family government.

Then, finally, God *will* offer salvation to every human being who has ever lived! ♦

Though He is not forcing us to go Satan’s way, God is allowing us to fill our minds full of it. He’ll let it go on until we will absolutely loathe and abhor this “present evil world.”



To some people, children are targets or simply nameless, faceless objects to be exploited physically, mentally, sexually or economically. How can this be prevented? And why doesn’t God stop it?

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

**T**HE WORLD IS A DANGEROUS PLACE for children, but in the relatively comfortable environs of suburban America, we are sometimes *willfully* ignorant of the extreme dangers facing children at home and abroad. From the horrors of being intentionally maimed physically, to sexual abuse resulting in lifelong mental scars and the potential for sexually transmitted diseases, as well as the nightmarish degradation of child prostitution and even slavery, all the way to the final agony of murder, our children are in grave danger!

Some people turn away from religion altogether or lash out in harshness toward God when they say, “If there is a God, He would never let such horrors happen to little children.” Or perhaps, “I refuse to worship a God who lets innocent children suffer and die so dreadfully!” So why *does* God allow such misery and abuse to befall children?

### Child Slavery

In an annual report titled “State of the World’s Children 2000,” the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) says (emphasis mine throughout),



# gainst Children



JOEL HILLER/DIGITAL STOCK PHOTO/ISO

stricken areas. The UNICEF report says that *every month* 250,000 children and young people around the world become infected with the fatal HIV/AIDS virus, with many of those cases directly related to child prostitution and the grinding poverty which holds them captive.

Poverty wreaks havoc on a society in many ways. Child soldiers as young as 9 or 10 are sent off to war so they don't have to be fed at home. Many children are kidnapped to become soldiers, because a child soldier is welcomed on the battlefield. "Children make awesome soldiers," a Save the Children coordinator stated in an interview with Mozambique's *Sunday Independent* on August 13, 1995. "Child soldiers are effective," he said, "because they are easy to organize, and they don't ask questions. In wartime, a commander wants total submission. You get that only from a child."

The article continues with a comment from *World Press Re-*

*view*: "Children have their own reasons for fighting in war. But in the Mozambican civil war, the reason for children becoming soldiers was simple: They were *forced* to fight. [And in many cases, child soldiers are given drugs to make them violent and erase their inhibitions.—WPR]"

One former child soldier described the use of boy soldiers in combat by saying, "They worked out quite nicely in the field. You know, they always did what they were told to do, they were fiercely loyal and brave in battle. They had the hardest job really, they were often the first to go forward when we attacked a village.... The ones who didn't follow orders or failed in some way, they would be killed by one of the soldiers or, to prove his loyalty to [the army], by one of the boys in front of the whole group."

It is estimated that about 200,000 children, 10 percent of whom might be girls, are involved in war as combatants around the world, the majority in Africa's numerous wars. Children are being made into hardened killing machines with no regard for the life of others as they themselves are brutalized by adults.

"There is no way to calculate the exact number of young boys and girls whose lives are endangered by their sale and trafficking [meaning slavery], by debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labor, forced or compulsory recruitment into armed conflict, prostitution, pornography or by the production and trafficking of drugs. But, according to estimates by the International Labor Organization (ILO), some 250 MILLION CHILDREN between the ages of 5 and 14 work in developing countries, and some 50 million to 60 million children between the ages of 5 and 11 work in hazardous circumstances."

The UNICEF report says that more than 600 MILLION CHILDREN WORLDWIDE are living in poverty. Though at first seemingly unrelated, war, poverty, prostitution and slavery many times all go hand in hand.

The independent weekly publication *Búsqueda* in Montevideo, Uruguay, wrote on May 7, 1998, about how the traffic in human beings has changed from ancient history. "New forms of slavery exist in the modern world. Child prostitutes, child soldiers, women uprooted from their countries and forced into prostitution...are just

some of the faces of slavery at the end of the 20th century.

"The trade in females for prostitution and the forced recruitment of workers amount to billions of dollars annually worldwide, though the exact figure is practically impossible to calculate. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, *more than 1 million women and children are sold annually worldwide*. Operatives scour rural areas of the poorest countries where they establish friendships with the parents or with the children themselves, luring them with false promises and money. Sometimes the parents know the destiny of the children and still take the money and let them go."

Over the last 20 years, in spite of the growth in the world's economy, the number of people living in poverty GREW to more than 1.2 billion, or one in every five persons. The desperation of poverty causes many desperate acts. Parents with a large number of mouths to feed sometimes sell their children into forced labor or prostitution in order to support the rest of the family. Many children are sold for the equivalent of US\$35, about a year's wages in some poverty-



## The Devil's Toys

The European-based magazine *The Spectator* has uncovered one of the most outrageously appalling dangers to children abroad. Describing "The Devil's Toys" in a March 18 article, the author states, "In front of me as I write is a dud butterfly bomb. It is just over four inches wide and two deep, made of plastic and shaped like a wing-nut—or a butterfly—and its purpose was to *blow the hands off Afghan children....* They were produced in green, blue, red and yellow because they would be more attractive for children to pick up and thus have their hands blown off. This was usually only up to the wrist, but sometimes further, especially if the child was delicate or very small.... It had what is called a trembler fuse that would cause it to explode half a second or so after it was picked up. Note the

delay. There had to be time for the bomb to be fully grasped, otherwise there was no point in dropping it in the fields and watercourses close to villages. If it could explode at a touch, a child might lose only a few fingers. (Sometimes they lost feet.) No: it had to be seized in a tiny hand for the explosive to act in the way that was intended...."

What a diabolical way to prevent children from being used in war: Blow the hands off of every little child you can! By doing so, a potential link is taken out of the chain of supply of soldiers, present and future. How ghastly! One can only imagine the pitiful quality of life left for these little maimed children. Only a demon-influenced mind could devise such a terrible crime against humanity.

The UNICEF report for 1996 on the world's children estimated that in the previous ten years (1985-1995), wars left

2 million children killed, 4 to 5 million maimed and disabled, and 12 million homeless. What abomination mankind has wrought upon itself through its own warped goals and thinking!

## Prostitution

Many Americans are aware of the problem of child prostitution in some Asian countries. Perhaps not as widely known of is research that has revealed a growing number, currently between 100,000 to 300,000, of children under age 18 bought, sold and recruited into prostitution in *North America*.

On average, these children become prostitutes at age 14. The vast majority of adult prostitutes began before turning 18.

The *Christian Science Monitor* of August 30, 1996, wrote, "Like children in Thailand, India and elsewhere, most North American children enter prosti-

How to protect your child from life's dangers

# Teach Self-Control

BY J. TIM THOMPSON

**M**ANY OF THE WORLD'S ills could be prevented if children were raised in an environment of self-control. Teaching children self-control can prevent sexual abuse. Children should be taught to control everything affecting their minds and bodies. Sexual abuse occurs in many forms, and all leave a child's mind scarred for life. Children should be taught what sexual abuse is and about their right to privacy.

As defined by the American Medical Association (AMA), "Child sexual abuse is any sexual act or sexual contact with a child performed by an adult or an older child. It also includes showing an adult's genitalia to a child, showing the child pornographic pictures or videotapes, or using the child as a model for pornographic purposes" ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)).

To prevent child sexual abuse, children should be taught that no one has the right to touch them inappropriately or make them feel uncomfortable. They should be taught that, under those circumstances, they should say "no" to adults or older children. They should know that anyone has the potential to abuse them, not just strangers, but even family members and people they know.

The AMA says, "Children should be taught not to keep secrets and should report any touching or behavior that makes them feel uncomfortable to their parents or an adult guardian. Listen when your child tries to tell you something, especially when it is difficult for them to talk about it. Know who your child is spending time with and ask the child about his or her visits with that person; this includes care-



PHOTOGRAPHIC

givers, such as babysitters."

Recent studies show that 83 percent of American teens age 13 to 17 are "online" on the Internet, spending an average of 10½ hours online each week. The World Wide Web now holds over 1 billion pages, many of which are filled with sex, hatred and violence. "Chat rooms" are interactive message centers where sexual predators can easily masquerade as young people and lie in wait for naïve children. Your child should be taught never to reveal personal information

to anyone online without your permission.

In self-control training, children must be taught to willingly cooperate with their parents and obey their instructions. Otherwise, children will learn patterns of deception which will prevent their parents from protecting them.

Part of teaching self-control is teaching children to take responsibility for their own actions. When wrong actions occur, the child should be told of his or her infraction of the rules in a calm manner and without



tution not because they 'choose' to, but because adults—pimps and customers—are expert at identifying and exploiting those that are vulnerable, child advocates say. Many children are running from sexual abuse at home, but end up finding more of it than they ever imagined on the streets....

"Young people are in hot demand in North America's sex industry—among pornographers, escort services, massage parlors and strip clubs....

"Canadians and Americans should quit wagging fingers at Asia and instead take a hard look at the fast-growing business of renting children for sex in their own North American backyard...places with squeaky-clean reputations like Wichita, Kans., Oklahoma City or Minneapolis...."

Experts report that more than 2 million cases of child abuse and neglect are reported each year in the

United States, with an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 new cases of sexual abuse occurring each year. Many of those situations in America will drive a child into prostitution, especially those involving sexual abuse by other family members. More than 80 percent of children who enter the sex trade say they were sexually or physically abused at home.

What a tragedy for a nation which is supposed to be one of the most religious of the industrialized democracies, with 95 percent of its population *professing* a belief in God. What hypocrisy! Matthew 7:5 quotes Jesus Christ as saying, "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye."

Man's inhumanity to man goes marching on, one generation after another. And children all over the world

are being exploited in as many ways as the twisted mind and imagination of man can conceive.

### The Mind as the Target

The mind of a child can be easily channeled into good or evil. An ancient Chinese proverb says, "A young branch takes on all the bends that one gives it."

The Hitler Youth movement which began in 1923 and produced boy soldiers for Adolf Hitler's war machine is a prime example of how children can be focused and channeled by a dominant adult mind. In 1933, Adolf Hitler said, "My program for educating youth is hard. Weakness must be hammered away. In my castles of the Teutonic Order a youth will grow up before which the world will tremble. I want a *brutal, domineering, fearless, cruel youth*. Youth must be all that. It

anger. Proper punishment should then be meted out to fit the offense. The relationship between offense and punishment should always reinforce the principal of taking responsibility for their own actions. Consistent reinforcement by the parents will begin to develop the HABIT OF SELF-CONTROL in the child, and the rewards and benefits of peace, happiness and harmony with family and friends will result.

Teaching self-control prevents violence. Self-control teaches proper problem resolution. Life, after all, is primarily a journey through problem solving. Children who are taught to control themselves when problems arise are able to work better with the people and circumstances involved to bring about a good solution. Without self-control, frustration mounts, tempers flare, and the problem worsens. Self-control teaches children that anger and violence are *not* solutions to their problems.

Self-control stops the mind from lusting and coveting, and therefore pre-

vents stealing, sexual sins, envy, jealousy and all the human emotions and actions which lead to pain, suffering and even war (James 4:1-3).

Our children must be taught early in life to respect themselves and others, and to control themselves when they have the impulse to act in anger or frustration. As the child grows older and sexual impulses are added to the list, those too can remain under control so that lust does not damage the child's mind or bring about suffering and pain through sex outside of marriage.

We should teach our children to be POSITIVE about self-control. With self-control, we can become MASTERS of ourselves and the evils which surround us and oftentimes tempt us. Jesus Christ was tempted exactly as all humans are (Heb. 4:15), but He exercised self-control so that the pulls of the flesh and human nature *never* overwhelmed Him. Because of that control over the self, Christ never once sinned. What more positive result could we ever want in our children's lives?

### Nature and Law of God

Controlling the self is the key to obtaining the nature of God, which is God's very purpose for man: to be made in the very image, or character and nature, of God (Gen. 1:26).

Galatians 5:22-23 show us God's nature through the "fruits" of His Holy Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and *temperance* (moderation or self-control). That final fruit is a major key in acquiring the other fruits. If we can *control* ourselves and teach our children to do the same, then with God's help we can *conquer* our sinful human nature.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 tell us to teach God's commandments to our children and to talk about them with our children in our daily lives. We are to teach and live by those WORDS OF LIFE at all times. And then, through willing, obedient repetition, God's law will be written in our minds and every part of our lives! We are to put God's law into action!

If all people kept God's

holy law (Rom. 7:12), there would be no child abuse. There would be no child soldiers and the horrors of war. There would be no lust, child prostitution or sexually transmitted diseases. God's Ten Commandments are the true solution to man's ills (Exod. 20:1-17).

Jesus Christ did not come, as some suppose, to do away with the law of God. Christ Himself said He came NOT to "destroy the law," but to fulfill or magnify the law (Matt. 5:17-18)—not just the letter of the law, but the spirit and intent of the law as well. Verses 21-22 reveal that anger, which is the spirit of murder, is the same as physically killing someone. Verses 27-28 show that sexual lust is the same as committing the physical sex act of adultery.

If only wrath and lust were stopped, many children and adults would be living happy, peaceful, God-centered lives! We must have God's law and His ways at the center of our nations, our families and our very being—and we must teach this to the human family! ♦



must bear pain. There must be nothing weak and gentle about it. The free, splendid beast of prey must once again flash from its eyes.... That is how I will eradicate thousands of years of human domestication.... That is how I will create the New Order.”

Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Whether for bad, as Adolf Hitler showed, or for good, a child’s mind can be molded and shaped like soft clay.

In our own families, we should ask: How is my child’s mind being shaped? How are my own child rearing practices affecting my children?

We should also look around and ask other questions. For example, what kind of input is your child receiving from outside your immediate family circle? Do you know your child’s friends? Do you know their parents? Is your child spending a lot of time on the Internet? If your child is in school, have you met his or her teachers? Or what about your child’s scoutmaster or soccer coach? What information are other people funneling into the mind of your child?

These important questions unfortunately go unanswered in the lives of far too many children. Proverbs 29:15 warns us that “a child left to himself brings his mother to shame.” Children must be guided and channeled into good, or this “present evil world” (Gal. 1:4) and Satan-influenced monsters like Adolf Hitler will attempt to fill their minds with every hurtful evil possible.

Revelation 12:12 says that Satan the devil is filled with great wrath, and a large measure of that wrath is being directed toward the minds of children. This is especially evidenced by the numerous and savage school shootings of students by students in the recent past. Verse 9 says Satan has deceived the whole world and is now cast down to the Earth with very little time left to complete his diabolical assault on mankind to try and thwart the plan of God for mankind’s salvation.

The minds of all humans, especially children, are Satan’s targets as he broadcasts through the air (Eph. 2:2) his violent, sadistic, rebellious nature and every sexual perversion and evil. Satan knows that if he can distort and harden the minds of children, then perhaps they will never accept God’s merciful repentance, and therefore they will not be in God’s Kingdom.

Some people ask, “Why doesn’t God prevent all of this evil affecting our children? Why does God allow little children to be influenced by Satan and abused by all the evil in our society?” We should ask, “Why can’t *human beings* prevent these evils?”

## Humanity’s Wrong Choices

God has given mankind freedom of choice since the beginning of the human experience in the Garden of Eden. Mankind has had the freedom to act rightly or wrongly for almost 6,000



Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

**Whether for bad, as Adolf Hitler showed, or for good, a child’s mind can be molded and shaped like soft clay.**

years, and we are paying the price for our wrong choices.

Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of Genesis lay the story out clearly. God gave our first parents, Adam and Eve, a choice. They could follow His instruction, or they could strike out on their own. Those two choices were symbolized by two trees in the garden: the tree of life, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life represented God’s way of doing things, the way of “give” as the late Herbert W. Armstrong put it. Taking of that tree would have shown a willingness to be submissively obedient to God’s authority and to accept His revealed knowledge, which would eventually lead them to eternal life in the God family.

God warned Adam and Eve against choosing the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, telling them that such a decision would lead

to unhappiness and ultimately to their death. By taking of this tree representing the way of “get,” mankind set out on a course of rejecting God’s revelation and deciding for themselves what was good or evil. After eating of that tree, their minds began to reason apart from God and to acquire knowledge through *experimentation* and trial and error. Pain and suffering of *enormous* magnitude has resulted.

Quite simply put, our first parents chose **WRONG!** They rejected God and His ways of love, peace and happiness. They chose to *reject* God’s authority over their lives. And so mankind launched itself into a grand experiment to found its own governments and religions, to establish its own laws and rules of conduct. Mankind developed science and education as its guiding authorities, based on the unproven and false *theory* of evolution, which is presented as proven fact. All technology and industry we see today has been developed by man while in **REBELLION** against God.

And that is the answer to *why* we see all this suffering and misery today. That is *why* mankind’s history has always been filled with heartache, tears and blood. Mankind as a whole has chosen to reject God and His way of life. God has always allowed mankind to have freedom of choice. And mankind has simply made the wrong choices!

On the whole, mankind has rejected God’s revealed truth and refused to live God’s way of life as set out in the Bible (Gen. 3:6; 1 Sam. 8:7). God has allowed mankind to go its own way and has, for the most part, kept His hands off this world; He does not get involved in the lives of those who reject Him and His teachings. That is how it has been for the nearly 6,000 years of mankind’s history.

Mankind is writing in its own blood the lesson of what happens when we are cut off from the righteous God. Because men have lost His guidance, protection and revelation, man’s evil nature—which we so willingly acquired from Satan the devil (the snake in the Garden of Eden, and “god” of this world; see II Cor. 4:4)—has led us to the brink of **SELF-ANNIHILATION** and to all *misery* and *abomination!*

That’s **WHY** mankind and millions of little children suffer! Man has made **WRONG CHOICES** down through history and must now learn to live the way of life which prevents the mistakes and abuses of the past and present. ♦



# Not-So-Fab Youth Mags

Wading through information about sex, makeup, fashion and celeb gossip, you may wonder if there is a decent periodical for the younger generation.

BY RYAN MALONE

**W**HEN CONSIDERING ALL THE media that influence our teens, perhaps we give little attention to the print media—next to the Internet, video games, music and television. Despite all this though, teen magazines have never been more popular. *Seventeen* boasts a circulation of nearly 2.4 million. *Young and Modern* (YM), in print since 1955, comes in at just over 2.2 million.

Because of increasing popularity in this genre, major publications have launched youth spin-offs. There is *Time for Kids*, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *React* (begun in 1995 as *Parade* magazine's younger sibling). In 1998, *Teen People* hit the newsstands with 500,000; within 10 months its circulation hit 1.2 million. (It is now at 1.5 million.)

But what kind of mental diet are these millions of teens getting from this abundance of magazines?

## Shallow Reading

The articles are short, and the pictures are big. Most of what is written deals with trendy subjects that are usually frivolous and superficial. Almost every popular teen magazine will have a behind-the-scenes look at either a famous TV series, a new youth movie or a hot, young celebrity. Articles about crushes, dating, "hooking up" and breaking up encourage teens to get involved in an exclusive relationship before they are emotionally mature enough, which encouraging fornication; and they feed young girls' crushes by including stories and quizzes that will cause them to waste their time on lustful daydreams.

On the other hand, some articles discuss positive, inspiring teens. But these don't take center stage by any means. Certain articles tackle even deeper subjects—from racism to sexual harassment. But most don't get to the heart of an issue; they address merely the effect rather than the cause.

*Teen People* did a story on a young couple who committed suicide because the girl's parents forbade the relationship, and they wanted to "be together forever." But, other than discouraging suicide, the article ended before it gave kids any real guidance on a number of other related subjects—emotional ma-



JOEL HILKNER

turity, true values in teen dating and real love, to mention just a few.

Also filling up space are stories from teens about their most embarrassing or appalling moments—ranging from the cute to the mean to the downright gross. Then there are the fashion and cosmetic stories, which take the young girl's focus off developing her mind and on to making her developing body "perfect."

## The Model Look

Within many teen publications are messages about how looks don't matter. *Teen People*, unlike *Seventeen* or YM, dictates that professional models never be used in its photos. Still there

are many pictures of celebrities—many of whom are "model" material. Then there are the advertisements that fill up page after page with "beautiful" bodies. Looks don't matter? At best, our teens are getting mixed signals.

*Teen* magazine had a two-page spread about 16 different female celebrities and the cosmetics they used. *Seventeen* went into an in-depth explanation of Jodi Lyn O'Keefe's makeup rituals. On the cover of the same issue was singer Jessica Simpson, the caption on the inside reading, "For a look like Jessica's try:..." It then went on with a list of countless cosmetic and clothing products, as if following this simple formula would solve any awkward adolescent's beauty dilemmas.

Cindy Webb, in the Oklahoma City publication *Metro Family*, wrote, "Teen magazines are like subtly controlling mothers. Their advice columns say, 'No dear, of course you're not fat. You're beautiful just the way you are. It's what's inside that counts. You don't need those old boys anyway.' While their features, layouts and advertisements say, 'Are you sure you want to eat that cookie? You know it will go right to your hips. Try wearing a little blush; boys like girls who have a little color to their face'" (Sept. 1999, p. 12).

## Attempt at Spirituality

In an attempt to give youth something that's not so skin-deep, the teen periodicals will devote many pages to horoscopes and "spiritual" articles. Sadly, these too provide little of value and, on the whole, are terribly misleading.

The March 2000 issue of *Twist* had a special horoscope spread including a page of tarot cards (12 cards, with a different Zodiac sign on each) that the reader could tear out. Playing with the cards, while following the directions in the magazine, would help the subscriber know her future. *J-17*, a British teen periodical, has the "Psychic Sam's Mystic Mailbag"—a psychic who answers teens questions about their future. And on page 48 of its February 2000 issue was a two-page spread, "How Deep Is Your Life?" Half of the spread was taken up by a full-page photo of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi—a Hindu made popular by the



Beatles—representing the growing Eastern, neo-pagan influence in Western youth culture.

## Here's Some Advice

Besides the spiritual talk, the cosmetic tips and the articles, it would be safe to say that you could determine the worth of a youth magazine by the advice it gives—particularly in the Q&A sections—since this is the closest thing to “direction” that magazines offer young people.

So what kind of advice are they giving?

Some teen magazines give good advice occasionally. Issues about finding good jobs or redecorating your room are frequently discussed. *Teen* had a short bit about breaking bad habits and one about organic foods. *Twist* had some tips on how to get a better night's sleep and had a sidebar on how to stay safe from stalkers on the Internet.

But on the whole, the advice is shamefully poor—often lacking depth, usually devoid of proper, sound principles of living. These periodicals push the “do whatever YOU think is right” philosophy, which does not give teens direction.

Questions about sex and dating are perhaps the most popular and most representative of an advice column. *J-17*, ave a boy advice on how to arouse his girlfriend, saying “Experiment. Improvise. There are no rules, except that you should both enjoy yourselves.” That usually sums up the type of sexual advice given to teenagers.

Advisers will answer questions about condom irritation, masturbation, oral sex, sex during menstruation, without giving any guidelines or guidance—leaving the distinction between right and wrong as a vague gray line that the teen must figure out for him or herself, basing it on whatever “feels right” instead of what truly is right!

Kissing advice is also rampant. Most magazines will try to ease youngsters' tensions about it. *YM* wrote a detailed sidebar on “Five Tasty First-Kiss Tips” next to celebrity testimonials about how they like their kisses, topped off with survey results about whether guys like their eyes open or closed during a kiss.

Then there are the major questions that the magazine editors let the youth an-

Left to fend for themselves morally, many teens look to things in society—the corrupt media being a heavy influence—for how to live.

swer. Questions like, “What’s the difference between love and infatuation?” Now here was a chance for an article of real substance and real education. But the magazine that ran it merely posted head shots of eight good-looking college gents on a page with a short sentence from each quoted below each guy’s picture.

## True Education—True Happiness

Many teens today are living empty lives, devoid of any major guidance from their parents (who are usually absent from the home, trying to get ahead in the job world). Left to fend for themselves morally, teens look to things in society—the corrupt media being a heavy influence—for how to live. Part of this unfortunately strong media influence is seen in the plethora of youth magazines on the newsstands. In many cases, some essentially replace the parents—giving very personal advice that kids are not receiving at home. (Some even compare themselves to an understanding big sister.) But no teen magazine will come out and give teens boundaries or absolutes. The “do what YOU think is right” ideology will

NOT give young people happiness.

Some magazines simply try to entertain young people—showing them a skewed, superficial version of “fun.” But if they were showing teens real fun, would kids be as bored, unhappy and prone to criminal activity and suicide as they are today? If there are going to be millions of copies of youth periodicals on the newsstands, shouldn’t there be some that actually show young people what to do with their lives?

Is there a youth magazine in print that gives young people direction? Is there a periodical for teens and young adults that shows the way to true happiness and fun? Is there a magazine that gives teens real PURPOSE for living?

The answer is, YES!

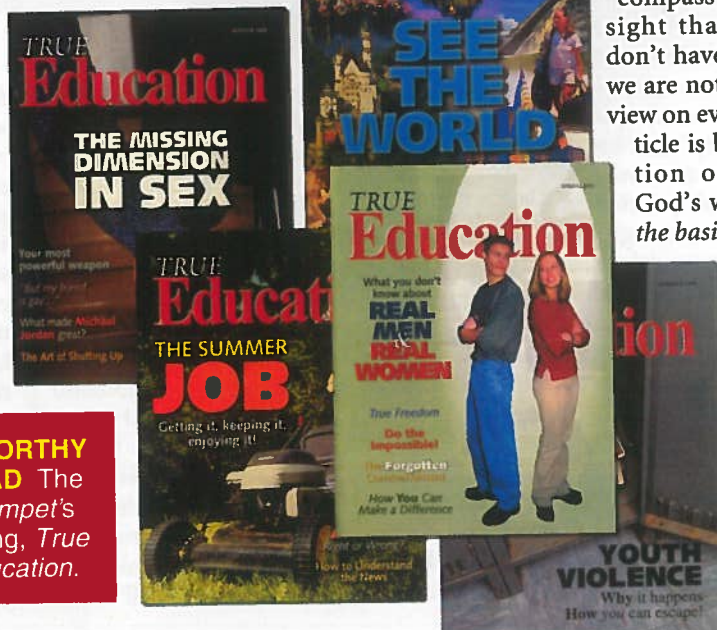
It is a magazine not afraid to teach teens the truth, despite how politically incorrect it may be. Its articles dare to give proper moral boundaries and absolutes. It bolsters already strong parenting in the home, yet can truly fill a void left in the lives of children with no parental guidance.

The name of the magazine is *True Education*. It is sponsored by the Philadelphia Church of God (PCG), the same organization that sponsors this magazine. Its goal is to live up to its title, giving young people a proper education in printed form—to help them wade through the vast amount of information they will receive through many other worthless teen magazines, websites, television shows and movies.

“A compass in the information age” is its motto.

Yes, these are bold claims. What makes us able to be a “compass”? What gives us insight that other magazines don’t have? The answer is that we are not afraid to give God’s view on every subject. Every article is based on the foundation of all knowledge—God’s written word. That is the basis of a true education.

Because we look to God, we can give proper guidance about dating. We can tell teens that there is an appropriate age for certain types of dating. We can tell them that there is a good age to begin thinking romantically



A WORTHY READ The Trumpet's sibling, *True Education*.



about one special person—and that any sooner will not bring happiness. All on the authority of God's word!

Because we look to God, we can teach young people that there are things their minds shouldn't even be considering at their age—honing in on how their minds should really be developing during these formative years.

Because we look to God, we can show teenagers how to have a truly deep spiritual life based on the one true God and Creator of the universe.

So, what constitutes a TRUE education? Each issue contains at least one deep, spiritual subject relating to youth. Also, there is a column to help teens get to know their Bibles better, called "True Bible Education." A two-page spread, "Trends," briefly tackles timely, pertinent events relating to young people today—from health tips to media violence to current events pertaining to education.

Further helping teens understand their volatile world is a section titled "The World You Live In." This column generally tackles one major event or aspect of the news and puts it in terms that young people can understand—educating them in *why* the world is the way it is and how they can learn from its mistakes.

History is an important part of a true education. That's why every issue includes a two-page "Lessons from History" section focusing on the virtues of great men and women throughout history that young people should be cultivating in their character.

Then there is a section where young people can learn lessons from other young people: "Reader By-Line" showcases teenagers' writings—usually an autobiographical article that contains a good lesson.

Other articles, from the pensive to the light, that have appeared in the magazine have discussed violence in schools, the work ethic, travel, sportsmanship, achieving goals, music, proper gender roles, the right uses of sex, and the list goes on.

The PCG is so dedicated to helping the younger generation find its way that it pays for all printing and distribution costs. This quarterly magazine is absolutely FREE to its subscribers, with no obligation. Ordering information is on this magazine's table of contents. Write for a free one-year subscription (four issues) to the only magazine that can give young people a TRUE education. ♦

# The Simple Solution to the AIDS Epidemic

The seriousness of the AIDS problem is severe. But people fear to combat this, the world's most lethal virus, as they should.

BY MARK NASH

**M**ANY PROBLEMS IN THIS WORLD consume mankind's time, energy and money: bickering over borders, international trade regulations, religious differences, political and ethnic disagreements and, in several cases, outright war.

Of these, one problem has not gone unnoticed, but should produce outcries from every political leader in the world. It should mobilize multiple thousands of officials to take protective measures for all of human societies. The problem is that of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) infections and AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

The most unusual aspect of this problem is the fact that it could have been easily controlled and stopped if world leaders would have simply used some common sense and followed

some ancient directions to control it. Seldom has such a serious problem had such a simple solution, and yet our leaders are not brave enough to look the problem in the face and attack this enemy called AIDS.

What is their cowardice costing us? Just how serious and far reaching is the disease of AIDS today?

## Stunning Statistics

When looking at statistics about AIDS, it is easy to miss the physical suffering of those infected and to overlook the mental and emotional anguish of the people around them. It is easy to skip past the facts surrounding the infants born HIV-positive and those whose parents die, leaving them as orphans. In other words, the impact of this disease is much deeper than just the number infected. The toll on the lives of the

people involved is immense, not to mention AIDS' considerable economic impact.

Several agencies (including the National Institutes of Health) placed the number of people living with HIV around 33.6 million at the end of 1999. By the end of 2000 that figure could easily be over 40 million. An estimated 1.2 million of those infected are under age 15, and slightly less than half of all victims are women. In 1999, 2.6 million people died from HIV-related illnesses, including 470,000 under age 15. This brings the estimated total deaths from HIV to 16.3 million men, women and children since the disease was first recognized.

The number of new cases of HIV in 1999 was about 5.6 million, of which 570,000 were people under age 15.

UNAIDS, the United Nations' anti-AIDS agency, estimates that over 9 million children under age 15 have lost their mothers to AIDS. Of these AIDS orphans, 90 percent live in sub-Saharan Africa.

There have been many reports about the number of school teachers dying from AIDS in Africa. But, it seems, no one stops to consider what the students are learning about lifestyle from these teachers. We know for a fact that people

who do not participate in premarital sex and who have a monogamous marriage do not get AIDS (except for very rare situations such as medical or drug-use transmissions).

The loss of the teachers will have a great impact on the growth of these nations, yet if the teachers were setting the proper example for the students, AIDS deaths among them would be minis-

## NO SMALL PROBLEM

The HIV infection rate in some countries is frighteningly high (percentage of total population infected with HIV):

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Zimbabwe      | 25.9 |
| Botswana      | 25.1 |
| Namibia       | 19.4 |
| Zambia        | 19.1 |
| South Africa  | 12.9 |
| India         | 0.82 |
| United States | 0.76 |

SOURCE: CNN



cule. God's rules are clearly spelled out in His word, the Holy Bible, but it is politically incorrect to teach His principles, even though they would prevent so much human suffering and tragedy.

About 80 percent of new HIV cases result from heterosexual transmission. Over 90 percent of children under the age of 15 who have become infected receive it from their mother.

Close to 70 percent of all infected people live in sub-Saharan Africa, while only about 10 percent of the world's population lives there. The worldwide rate of HIV-infected people is about 1 percent; countries in southern Africa have rates between 8 and 25 percent.

What do these figures really mean? Since the average time from HIV infection to actual symptoms of AIDS is ten years, we may be seeing the infection rate from ten years ago. What would that mean ten years in the future? The figures could easily increase four-fold.

One sign of the seriousness of the situation is the declaration, by the president of the United States of America, that AIDS is a national and global threat to security. It is explained that the disease can have a destabilizing effect on countries, especially on developing nations.

The social and economic impact of HIV/AIDS is astronomical, especially in Africa. CNN reported that the life expectancy in some sub-Saharan countries has dropped from 70 to 39 years, and it is estimated that approximately one quarter of the population of this region is likely to die from AIDS. As early as 1994, Uganda reported that 10 percent of their railway workers die each year from AIDS.

According to Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of UNAIDS, AIDS causes more death than any other infectious disease. The UN reports that about 25 percent of the people in Zimbabwe and Botswana are HIV infected and will probably develop AIDS and die.

### Too Severe?

People by the millions are dying, and our leaders refuse to apply methods proven throughout history to control the spread of contagious diseases. Instead, they want to talk about "better communication between sex partners" and "safe sex." As they repeat this use-



**NEEDING A SOLUTION** A 3-year-old Kenyan boy with AIDS sits in a home for AIDS orphans. Though AIDS is officially a national disaster in Kenya after killing half a million people, the Kenyan government is doing little to solve the problem.

less rhetoric, millions more become infected and will die.

The quarantine laws of the Bible, properly coupled with God's perspective on sex and marriage, would have brought a quick end to the AIDS epidemic. Countless people would have been spared the suffering and tragedy they are now experiencing.

The "experts" feel God's rules are too harsh and cause too much suffering, but that does not make sense. Explain to a child whose parents are dead that it would have been *too harsh* to quarantine the person who passed HIV to his or her mother. Explain to the infant born HIV-positive that rules preventing his mother from getting AIDS would have been *too severe*.

Another problem our leaders have with regard to AIDS is the acceptance of inappropriate behavior. One prominent author, in an article about AIDS, uses the sterile phrase "commercial sex workers" for prostitutes—lending dignity and acceptance to this ungodly "profession."

It is attitudes like his that have prevented health officials from taking a stand for quarantining infected people and protecting the rest of mankind. The unwillingness of our leaders to

stand for morals and decency is a main contributing factor in the continued spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the world. If the people in authority would take a stand for proper human values and a stand against sexual immorality, this disease would be a small problem.

### What Is the Cause?

While there has been much speculation about the source of the AIDS epidemic in man, one recent study conducted by the University of Alabama and others suggests that it came from the killing of chimpanzees for food in central Africa.

These same researchers would scoff at the instruction in the Bible about eating only clean meats (Deut. 14), and yet, if they were correct in their assessment of the origin of AIDS in mankind, God's rules for food would have prevented the problem completely.

The World Health Organization/UNAIDS report dated December 1999 stated, "There is evidence that safe sexual behavior is being eroded among gay men in some Western countries." THIS IS PURE LUNACY. There is no such thing as safe sex between gay men! It is this type of godless thinking that produced the



scourge of AIDS in the first place. And it is simply another example of man trying to do things without God's input. Mankind relying on the thinking of men is what has produced this terrible epidemic; relying on the thinking of men will only allow it to continue.

Since it is the tradition of man to throw money at a problem rather than to stop the activities which cause the problem, it should come as no surprise that the same thing is happening with HIV/AIDS. The United Nations has suggested that we need to commit US\$2-3 billion per year in a prevention campaign to control the continued spread of the disease. The problem is, their idea of a prevention campaign is to instruct people in the use of condoms and how to clean needles for intravenous drug use, and to encourage more open discussion about health between sex partners.

The simple solution escapes the intellectual mindset completely. That is this: Do not use intravenous drugs, and do not participate in premarital or extramarital sex.

#### Prevention

God pronounced severe punishment on those who have sex outside of marriage (Deut. 22:20-24). Mankind continues to try to get around God's rules. HIV and AIDS *prove* that God's rules were given out of love for all people. Following them would result in the elimination of these dreaded diseases.

In an August 1982 *Plain Truth* magazine article about sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), the following statement was made: "Prevention by proper living—both sexually and hygienically—is the only sound way to stop these epidemics...."

"That means premarital, extramarital, homosexual and perverted sex practices—all heinous sins in God's sight—must be completely avoided by single persons or married couples wanting to keep clear of these diseases as much as possible!" The article went on to say, "The Creator, for now, is letting human beings, for the most part, reap the natural consequences of their own ways of living. But He always intervenes and punishes nations in due time for violation of His laws, given for the well-being of mankind."

Quarantine laws were recorded in Leviticus 13, where leprosy was discussed. The model was reinvented in the 13th and 14th centuries when lep-

**Human beings have decided that it is a demonstration of love to tolerate anything that anyone wants to do.**

**But how can a loving and compassionate position lead to the preventable death of over 16 million people?**

rosy was a problem in northern Europe and England. Since that time, quarantining has been applied to many contagious disease epidemics, with excellent results.

Why, then, have the medical authorities refused to apply quarantining to AIDS sufferers and those testing positive for HIV? Isn't it irresponsible to ignore the most basic of health practices? Why are people who carry a deadly and incurable disease allowed to continue spreading it at will?

The answer to this too can be found in the word of God: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7). Today's political and medical leaders do not FEAR GOD. They do not want to recognize the fact that there is a higher authority to which they must answer. These leaders are relying on their own faulty knowledge.

There is a movement to make homosexuality an acceptable practice. Man can accept it if he wants to, but God has declared it a sin (Rom. 1:26-27), and "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

This problem is not new. It existed in the days of Abraham and Lot. You can read about the problem and God's solution in your own Bible, beginning in Genesis 13:12. You can see that homosexuality was defined as evil by God and dealt with severely. God has not changed His opinion. It is still evil and generates consequences today just as it did then.

#### Human Logic

Human beings have decided that it is a demonstration of love to tolerate anything that anyone wants to do. That is pure absurdity. How can a loving and compassionate position lead to the preventable death of over 16 million people? What love is there in tolerating the practices that have produced 9 mil-

lion motherless children? How much love is there in a policy that will lead to the unnecessary death of one quarter of the people in sub-Saharan Africa?

That is human logic. It is not God's, and it is not correct. True godly love leads to prosperity and life, not poverty, homelessness, orphans, suffering and tragic death.

But we have been warned. It was recorded centuries ago in the word of God, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:28-30).

Jesus Christ is about to return (that is the meaning of "revealed"), but not until mankind has suffered more than at any time in history (Jer. 30:7). Man will suffer until he has learned the lessons recorded in the Bible. We could learn from the past, but it seems we will not. Instead, we will have to learn through the needless suffering of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The Creator loves all the people infected with HIV. But God hates anyone's rejection of His laws and His rules for living. They will suffer until all mankind has learned to fear God and keep all of His laws. Until that time, people will continue to try to live life by their own rules and will continue to reap the consequences of that life. HIV/AIDS is just one of the problems we face today. Soon the very existence of mankind will hang in the balance.

But one day soon we will see the Son revealed, and mankind will finally begin to learn how to live. We will fear God and do ALL His commandments—and subsequently receive ALL His blessings. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Rev. 22:14).

God our Father will send Jesus Christ to intervene in the misguided affairs of men and cause a great healing (Matt. 24:22). Then we will be able to rejoice together as the diseases of men cease to exist.

There is hope, but not in the leaders of this world. Our only true hope resides in God the Father and Jesus Christ. With them all things are possible. ♦





VLADIMIR PUTIN (left) with Amato during his visit to Italy.

◆ RUSSIA

## Friends in high places

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in his first official foreign visit since his inauguration in May, visited Italy in the first week of June. He met with Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato and the officials of several leading Italian companies, but not before he first held a much-anticipated meeting with Italy's most renowned leader, Pope John Paul II.

Why did President Putin choose Italy as his *first* official (and high-profile) foreign visit? Putin emphasized the importance of his meeting with the pope, saying, "It was my decision [to come to the Vatican]. For me, this is a very significant visit."

Mr. Putin mainly talked to the pope about his vision of a Russia better integrated with the West, as well as security concerns common to Europe and Russia. Referring to the relationship between Russia and the Vatican, Putin said, "We are working actively with the Vatican, particularly in international organizations, in the cause of maintaining peace."

"Maintaining peace" in the large and volatile region sandwiched between Rome and Moscow is a lofty goal at any time. So why would Putin turn *first* to the *Vatican* as a partner in securing peace in

the region? Maybe because he is fully aware that the papacy has had almost 2000 years' experience in learning how to be a very influential, if at times underling, *regional power*.

The Vatican's underwriting of Poland's solidarity movement in concert with the CIA ten years ago certainly proved that it is capable

of affecting political outcomes as far away as Moscow, to the point of initiating the collapse of the Soviet Union. Putin, in seeking first to make friends in Rome, was merely giving due credit to the fact.

◆ U.S./TAIWAN

## A security threat?

The Clinton administration has revealed another major foreign policy shift by naming Taiwan as a hostile security threat to the U.S.

According to a recently publicized 1999 memorandum from Attorney General Janet Reno to FBI Director Louis Freeh, Taiwan is among 13 nations designated as priorities for U.S. intelligence and counterespionage activities.

Based on FBI, Justice and State Department reports, the other 12 potential threats are Russia, China, North Korea, Cuba, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbian-controlled Bosnia, Vietnam, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya and Sudan.

The addition of Taiwan to that list is a massive change from previous U.S. policy. Disclosure of the threat list came just as the U.S. House of Representatives was preparing to vote on a bill that would grant mainland China permanent normal trade relations.

According to a May 24 report in the *Washington Times*, current and former U.S. intelligence officials said the inclusion of Taiwan on the list appears based on the administration's pro-China policy. "This is just for political purposes," one of the officials said. "The Taiwanese are not in the same league as the other threats, and they are the one country on the list that is not a mortal enemy of the United States."

Senator Jon Kyl, Arizona Republican and a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said: "It's very strange to me that Taiwan would be on this list, especially since other countries that spy on us are not."

If Taiwan is on the threat list, then India, Pakistan and France should be included, since those nations also spy on the U.S., said a former senior U.S. intelligence official.

"It's absolutely appalling to group Taiwan with countries like Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria—rogue states whose agenda is anti-American," said Marc Thiessen, spokesman for the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Taiwan's representatives in Washington D.C. issued a statement saying Taiwan was "shocked and dismayed" to be named a major national security threat. The statement said Taiwan and the U.S. "have always shared close and friendly ties" and that the

Clinton administration's designation is "regrettable."

James Soong, runner-up in Taiwan's March 18 presidential elections, said his country has "mutually beneficial" bilateral and security ties with America. "According to any standard, the United States is... the most friendly country we have ever had," he said in an interview.



James Soong

◆ BRITAIN

## Fears of EU law

"Britain's leaders' fears that a charter of fundamental rights being drawn up by the European Union is turning into a federal constitution that could undermine Britain's sovereignty and flexible labor market were played down by the government yesterday" (*Financial Times*, May 27).

This statement demonstrates an ongoing and intensifying debate in Britain over fears that Britain's cherished sovereignty and respected parliamentary system are gradually being eroded through its EU membership as the balance of legislative power is increasingly tipped in Brussels' favor.

"British officials said Mr. Blair had asked for a progress report on the charter to be put on the agenda [at an upcoming summit at Feira, Portugal] in order to 'inject a bit of realism' into the work of the drafting convention. His intervention reflects fears that the body is straying from its original remit as a summary of the rights currently available in member states and is drawing up instead what amounts to a *manifesto of policy aspirations* that would rival the European Convention on Human Rights" (*Scotsman*, June 9).

There is reason for concern. Already in several instances British law has been superseded by the rule of the European "big brother." For example, Euro-MPs recently approved a new code that will force European employers to prove their innocence in court when accused of racial discrimination. This will reverse the burden of proof in cases related to the workplace and education, thus eroding a fundamental principle of British law that maintains



that defendants are innocent until proven guilty.

British common law is founded on the basic principle that everything is permitted unless it is specifically forbidden. European Roman law, on the other hand, assumes that individual freedoms and rights are best protected by *codification*; in other words, everything is forbidden except that which is made legal through legislation.

To what point will the British government and its citizens allow their laws to be written by EU politicians whose judgments are based on a different set of values? Perhaps, as author Adrian Hilton has stated, "It depends to what extent the citizens of the United Kingdom wish to retain their common law rights, in essence. It is going to become more evident when people realize that *Magna Carta has been ditched*, and people's rights to trial by jury have been eroded essentially under the *corpus juris* proposals of the European courts, Commission and Parliament."

#### ◆ EUROPE

## Left or right for the east?

On the surface, it appears counter to the trend in Western Europe: Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic have witnessed a seeming revival of communism.

Eastern Europe is being pulled by two opposing forces in its effort to come out from under the economic and social ravages of its Soviet past: The gleam of "Eurocapitalism" draws them toward the European Union; but at the same time, Russia is lurching back to a semblance of vitality under new leader Vladimir Putin.

Each of these opposing powers plays on the gnawing need for security that Eastern

Europeans feel, a void which has yet to be filled since Soviet-style communism collapsed.

Communism may well have largely destroyed their economies, but at least these countries enjoyed the *predictability* of a life that monotonously ground on for 40 years in the cold war behind the Iron Curtain. That predictability has gone out of the equation since the Soviet Union collapsed and nationalism once again came to the fore in Eastern Europe.

So the people of Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic clamor for some element of security and stability in their lives. But those who are pressing them into joining the EU have not offered, so far, a more pleasant alternative to the old communist lifestyle. The onerous economic requirements imposed upon aspirant nations seeking to join the EU, cut deep into these nations' economies as they rush to reduce their national deficits, grapple with unemployment and reduce expenditures on social welfare.

What we are really seeing in Eastern Europe is not so



much a hankering for a return to life under the hammer and sickle. It is rather a desire to return to the *security* of the life of the socialist state.

As numerous commentators have pointed out, there is a fine line between the various brands of socialism. The Brussels bureaucrats know this. Hence, before long, the social charter of the "Third Way-EU" will be presented to these Eastern European nations in subtle propaganda to their populations. This will endeavor to show that it will be but a

small leap for the Eastern European communists to make to the emerging fascist form of socialism touted by the EU.

Until the minds of the masses are convinced that life in the EU will give them the predictability of life which they crave, the communists and the democratic parties in these nations will continue to wage inter-nicene war. Such is the miry clay of the feet upon which the emerging Europower will stand in the near future.

One key as to which way these nations will fall is religion. Poland and the Czech Republic are Roman Catholic countries, with cultural roots that weave their way to the ancient seven-hilled city. Romania is Eastern Orthodox, making it more prone to the tussle between East and West as the EU and Russia exert their diplomatic efforts to draw the line separating their emerging empires on the European continent.

#### ◆ U.S.

## Plagues of violence

On a hot summer day in New York's Central Park last month, a pack of young men viciously attacked some 32 girls and women—stripping, groping and sexually abusing many of them. The assaults, which police say were instigated by at least seven men and involved as many as 40, happened during a Puerto Rican Day parade on June 11.

All the attacks took place in broad daylight, in heavily populated areas—near major hotels, apartment buildings and a zoo. Several witnesses and some victims have alleged that the attackers were intoxicated.

At a news conference, New York City's police commissioner denied that the officers

assigned to the Puerto Rican Day parade were told to relax public drinking regulations to avoid tension between police and the mostly Hispanic crowd. He also said that no officers were near Central Park when the incidents occurred, but some witnesses said they saw police ignoring the commotion.

One victim, a 29-year-old woman, said a policeman she approached "acted like it was nothing" and two others told her to file a report at a nearby precinct.

Eight days later, another riot broke out—this time in California. Exuberant sports fans turned violent following a championship basketball game in Los Angeles on June 19; revelers set a police car aflame and destroyed or damaged several other vehicles, including a limousine and TV news van. More than a dozen injuries were reported.

Incidents such as these are seriously damaging the credibility of America's law enforcement. Moreover, because of increasing public outcry against police brutality and racial profiling, many policemen fear to aggressively act against some violent crimes in minority areas.

The Bible indicates that these problems are only going to worsen. Plagues of savagery and rioting will cripple U.S. cities in the near future—and authorities will be too afraid to forcefully stop the fury! The violence in New York and Los Angeles is merely a shadow of things to come.

Please write for a free copy of *The Ezekiel Watchman* for more details about the prophesied future of America's riots.



**A POLICE CAR** burns in L.A. riot.





# Europe's African Pillage

In our May edition, you read how Europe has planned to move south into Malta and east into Jerusalem. This month, learn the advance news of Europe's long-planned domination of the resource-rich continent of Africa.

BY GARETH FRASER

**A**FTER CLEARING AWAY THE RUBBLE of World War II, Germany set about unifying Europe and corporately dominating key international markets. But to achieve its ultimate global ambitions, it needed to secure the natural resources of Africa.

Germany's intentions to gain an upper hand on the African continent were nothing new. Ever since its emergence as a unified European power in the late 1800s, the very cornerstone of German design for world rule has been the control of both Europe and Africa.

Arriving late on the colonial scene, the Germans embarked on their grand scheme. At the turn of the century, they quickly acquired southwest Africa and German east Africa, now Tanzania (see map, p. 18). This was to have been the beginning of the new German empire of *Mittel-Afrika*, the intention being to span the continent from

Kenya in the east to the Gold Coast (Ghana) in the west, from southwest Africa to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

With the control of this central core area, and conspiring with the Arabs in the north and the anti-British Boers (Afrikaners) in the south, the Germans hoped to shove the British out of Africa. This would have seriously challenged Britain's role as world leader. However, the grand plan came crashing down with Germany's defeat in World War I. In the war's aftermath, Germany was stripped of the few colonies it had.

Despite its defeat, Germany continued its plans to seize Africa. Even before assuming power, Adolf Hitler, writing in his book *Mein Kampf*, expressed his desire for the establishment of "a formidable and compact colonial territory stretching from the Rhine to the Congo." As Nazi leader,

**PARTNERS** European and African leaders at the first EU-Africa summit

he followed the same blueprint as his predecessors, seeking cooperation with the Arabs in the north and the Afrikaners in the south.

The defeat of Rommel's Afrika Korps at El Alamein by General Montgomery's Allied forces once again put a halt, but not an end, to German designs for "Eurafrica." Yet, by this time, the German leaders in business and politics had learned a powerful lesson. War was no longer the way to win an empire! Immediately after World War II, Germany's geopoliticians, working underground from Spain and Argentina, began formulating a new and bolder strategy. This time the objective was to be achieved through *economic*, not military, warfare, using a federation of European nations with Germany at its heart.

In September 1966, the *Plain Truth* magazine warned of Europe's African ambitions: "A captured document circulated from the Nazi geopolitical center in Madrid in 1951 outlined the new plan.... This startling document lays bare plans for a powerful united German-led Europe with Africa as its raw materials storehouse."

The article went on to further quote the startling 1951 Nazi document: "Our [Germany's] entire economic



and political efforts in the future must be directed towards bringing about the unification of Europe as quickly as possible.... The development for achieving a unified Europe must come [first] from the economic side.

"Political propaganda must be carried out cleverly, and the unification of Europe must not appear as an enterprise holding out particular attraction for German interests.... Germany's problem is this: to gain an economically dominating and politically influential position from within. Force of gravity and the logic of development will later on allow us to automatically grow into the role of leadership."

Since that time, the German plan of "the battle from the boardroom" has worked like a charm. The briefcase battalions have worked hard to bring together their fractured region. The goal of a united Europe has seemed so right to the English-speaking world. *What better way to stop the tide of advancing communism, the West thought, than to build a huge anti-communist bloc in "free" Europe?* The majority in America and Britain have not seen the clear and present danger posed by this European juggernaut.

T.H. Tetens warned in his book *Germany Plots With the Kremlin*, "A European Union with Germany as its strongest pillar will turn out to be the greatest blunder. Germany's industry will not only dominate the markets in Europe, in competition with the British and the USA, but it will also conquer additional markets in Latin America, Africa and Asia."

Africa, a continent rife with AIDS and stricken by famine and endemic leadership problems, can offer little resistance to the European Union's (EU) march southward to seize the resources which it will require to energize its extending empire. Resource-rich Africa is a plum ripe for the plucking by the global corporatist EU.

The corporate elites of Europe have now firmly laid the groundwork for plundering Africa's treasure chests.

#### EU and OAU

On April 3-4, Egypt hosted the first-ever Africa-Europe Summit. Under the aegis of the European Union and Organization of African Unity (OAU), the 15 EU member states and 52 OAU member states convened in Cairo to formulate and sign a joint "Plan of Action." This extensive document stated that both

## Africa, a continent rife with AIDS and stricken by famine and endemic leadership problems, can offer little resistance to the European Union's march southward to seize the resources it requires.

EU and OAU members are "committed to work towards a new strategic dimension to the global partnership between Africa and Europe...." The summit was seen as the key to furthering the "special bond" of the two continents. The new agreement supercedes the 1995 Lome Convention signed by the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

The Plan of Action promotes Africa's networking with EU partners in everything from economic issues, external debt, human rights, terrorism, health, education and the environment, to the real prize of industrial development of Africa's vastly untapped, rich natural resources.

#### Basket Case

Today, Africa is a basket case. It is home to over 70 percent of the world's least-developed countries. Over 15 armed conflicts currently rage from Algeria to South Africa, with a combined death toll in the millions. Famine, drought and poverty continue as cruel torments. The continent has been decimated by the AIDS virus (see story, p. 11). Algeria has continuing internal problems. The border conflict between famine-struck nations Ethiopia and Eritrea continues to flare, despite the OAU and EU's recent peace accord and deployment of UN forces. The region of central Africa is in constant turmoil. Now Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone are imploding. Kenya is also at risk of following suit.

Billions of dollars of financial aid have not solved Africa's woes. Its total external debt is a staggering US\$350 billion, and African states are spending \$23 billion, or 30.9 percent of their exports, to service their annual debts. Africa's annual economic growth stands at 3 percent, while its debt growth rate is a skyrocketing 23

percent per year.

So what can such a tragic scenario offer to the European Union? Simply put, cheap resources (extracted by unlimited cheap labor) for its industry—raw materials that are there for the taking.

Seven of the 15 EU member states are former colonial powers in Africa. France, in particular, has played a dominant role in EU negotiations with African states. *The EU provides Africa with \$15 billion every five years, more than they receive from any other single source. In addition, the EU is Africa's major creditor.* According to the German Economic Ministry, over 400 German firms are active in southern Africa, and there are more on the way. Foreign investors earn, on average, a return of 25 percent on their investments in Africa, which is double the international average.

Speaking at the start of the recent Cairo summit, European Commission

President Romano Prodi told attendees, "*The plight of Africa is essentially Europe's problem, not that of the U.S. or other powers, because of past links and proximity...*" (*Financial Times*, April 4).



Prodi

He went on to declare that EU-African cooperation had "deep roots, and we should return to them" (ibid.). During the summit, Mr. Prodi met privately on the sidelines with key African leaders to work to initiate the swift integration of the Plan of Action.

One key player in this Euro-African drama is South Africa. As we reported in our July 1999 edition, the EU and the Republic of South Africa (RSA) entered into an extensive trade agreement that opened EU markets to 95 percent of RSA exports. In addition, the RSA will allow 86 percent of EU goods to freely enter its domestic market. This is a huge concession to the EU.

Since Nelson Mandela has been put out to pasture, making way for the youthful Thabo Mbeki, South Africa has eagerly taken up the mantle as Europe's African star pupil. At the Cairo summit, Mbeki boldly rattled the begging bowl in front of EU delegates, thus pleasing his African comrades, and then spoke in support of the EU and its African policy, pressing for a united



Africa linked with a united Europe.

On April 29 in Austin, Texas, the *Trumpet* interviewed Richard Parker, executive editor at Stratfor Systems, a Texas-based intelligence agency. Mr. Parker commented on the future of Africa in light of the EU's overtures:

**PARKER:** "It appears to us that if anybody can make some sense of that part of the continent, it is the South Africans. In many ways they are attempting to assert a regional hegemony. They have the resources with which to do it. The other thing, which is probably an unfortunate and sad side effect of what is going on on the continent right now, is *the possibility that multi-national firms, that have a strong interest in the natural resources there, would be able to carve out their own miniature states, essentially.*"

**TRUMPET:** "Corporate colonization, you could say?"

**PARKER:** "That's exactly correct. Ultimately, we believe that towards the end of the decade, given the lack of political direction in Africa's largest states, that that is *the likeliest outcome in areas with important natural resources, whether that be diamonds, or viable minerals that are of strategic value, or petroleum.*"

**When in Rome...**

The June 1971 *Plain Truth* article "How Rome Destroyed North Africa" chronicled the Roman Empire's ancient plunder.

Once the "granary of the world," northern Africa was turned to empty desert by the pillaging Romans who stripped the area of its lush forests and destroyed its rich soil and vast array of exotic animals. Emperor Augustus alone killed 3,500 animals for gladiator shows during his popular Roman festivals.

Today, with Africa in economic, political and military disarray, under the guise of the EU-OAU Plan of Action the resurrecting Holy Roman Empire is



TRUMPET MAP

essentially Europe's problem, not that of the U.S. or other powers." The EU is right now busy securing Africa as a vital raw-materials ace in the hole.

**Africa in Prophecy**

Did you know that Europe's policy in Africa was foretold in the pages of your own Bible? Long ago God revealed to the Prophet Daniel what was to happen in our time today.

Daniel prophesied that the EU, described as a "little horn," would push *south* into the Mediterranean and Africa, then *east* into the glorious land, or Jerusalem (Dan. 8:9). He also revealed that the EU would possess the key to the African treasure chest: "But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps" (Dan. 11:43).

With Europe's own natural resources waning, it needs raw materials. This is

**What does the EU want? Simply put, cheap resources (extracted by unlimited cheap labor) for its industry—raw materials that are there for the taking.**

where Africa fits into a German-led European grand plan.

once again about to plunder the African treasure chest to help fire the engines of its expanding global ambitions. Europe simply needs energy resources to drive its industries. In December 1998, the *Trumpet* warned of the effect of the U.S. withdrawal from Africa. "Watch for France and the EU countries taking advantage of the U.S. withdrawal to consolidate their oil interests in Africa," we wrote.

Having taken advantage of U.S. free-trade gridlock and snapped up the key Latin American market, Europe has once again trumped the U.S., this time in Africa. As the U.S. pulls out of Africa, the EU is moving in. Now EU Commission President Prodi is not afraid to tell the world that "the plight of Africa is es-

where Africa fits into a German-led European grand plan.

Quoting again from the captured document circulated from the Nazi geopolitical center in Madrid in 1951: "For its industrial development, Germany requires—much more than in the past—raw materials, sources of energy and a market with strong purchasing power. All this it can attain only in a *unified Europe* and through the simultaneous development of *Africa in a common European undertaking*" (op. cit., *Plain Truth*; emphasis theirs).

In the guise of a united Europe, Eurocrats and Eurocorporatists are carving out a new economic empire—energized from Brussels but dominated by Berlin. In the process, they are picking up the economically shattered pieces of the British Empire! It is all happening exactly as they planned.

**Watchman Warning**

As the Afrikan Korps retreated from El Alemain, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of the *Plain Truth*, warned the world in advance of a German-led European revival. A re-



vival of the *Holy Roman Empire!* America, Britain and its Commonwealth nations have not heeded this warning. Today, the *Trumpet* magazine provides the only true watchman warning revealing the *real agenda* behind a uniting Europe. It is the final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire (Rev. 17:12).

The impact of this powerful union will not be limited to Europe alone. "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (Rev. 18:3). Prophecy clearly shows us that the European trade giant will stretch its economic tentacles to all parts of the Earth, including the continent of Africa. Read it for yourself in Ezekiel 27:15, 22: "The men of Dedan were thy merchants; many isles were the merchandise of thine hand: they brought thee for a present horns of ivory and ebony.... The merchants of Sheba and Raamah, they were thy merchants: they occupied in thy fairs with chief of all spices, and with all precious stones, and gold."

As Britain and America march out of Africa and into the archives of superpower has-beens, the dark shadow of Europe, guided by a great false church, positions itself to conquer Africa. The suffering in Africa will continue, as rich Eurocrats get richer and poor African countries get poorer.

World events are in a time of *no more delay* (a correct translation of "time no longer" in Revelation 10:6). Continue reading the *Trumpet* and stay informed on God's perspective and purpose for you in the closing hours of man's self-inflicted suffering, pain and sorrow.

Soon, in blinding brightness and unstoppable power, Jesus Christ will return and, with the saints of the Most High, break in pieces the failed governments of man, and establish His loving law and family government over ALL NATIONS (Dan. 2:35; Isa. 9:6-7). Europe's historic fleeing of Africa will be stopped. There will be no more famine, war, poverty or disease. Africa's deserts will again blossom as a rose (Isa. 35:1), the wolf, lamb, calf and lion will dwell together, and little children will lead them (Isa. 11:6-7). Yes, very soon this Earth will be filled with the knowledge of God, as the waters cover the sea (v. 9). ♦

# Fascism Revives!

More plain facts on Europe's frightening right-wing swing

BY RON FRASER • *the second of two parts*

**S**TATE THE FACTS ON THE RISE OF FASCISM in Europe—the *right-wing swing* bleeding from the south and east into Germany—and broadcasters will either shun or seek to minimize your message. If published in the press, the realist's treatise will be allowed a barrage of "balancing" commentary in reply from those of ostrich-like tendencies who would want us to bury our heads in the sand of the illusion that "it could never happen again."

Well, it *is* happening again, and we can be thankful to the editor of this magazine that we are here to give you the plain, non-partisan, unblemished *facts* connecting the proof of history with current reality, leading to inevitable conclusions which have been prophesied in your Bible for millennia.

Fascism grew out of a period of social and economic disruption in the early 20th century, leading to a feeling of dissatisfaction with the prevailing state of nations by the masses. History will repeat itself.

For almost 70 years, initially under the leadership of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, and latterly under the direction of our editor-in-chief, Gerald Flurry, we have maintained that Europe, led by Germany, will undergo a period of social

and economic instability that will allow the rise of an extreme right-wing movement in Europe, producing a prominent leader with similar aspirations to those who rose to power in the 1930s.

*The signs of this destabilization in Europe, in particular Germany, are now becoming evident. Reaction to that destabilization is becoming apparent in the right-wing swing in European electorates.*

## Creeping Unrest

The catalyst that spurred the European Union (EU) into renewed action, leading to the Maastricht Treaty in 1992, followed by the more recent Amsterdam Treaty, soon to be followed by the Treaty to be concluded in Nice, France, this December, was the *unification of Germany*. Paradoxically, the union of East and West Germany also contained within it the seeds of impending social and economic disruption in Germany and thus the EU. West Germany accepted a huge economic burden when the Berlin Wall fell. Since 1990, the Germans have struggled to absorb the massive cost of reconstruction, together with trying to control endemic unemployment, east of Berlin.

Added to the economic problems with which Ger-

### CATALYST

The fall of the Berlin Wall changed all of Europe.





many has struggled for a decade is the German electorate's massive lack of support for the euro, the European monetary unit which Helmut Kohl masterminded and ramrodded into adoption by most of the EU member countries. About two thirds of the German people still oppose replacement of their beloved deutschmark with the euro. Recently, Angela Merkel, the new Christian Democratic Union (CDU) party leader, was shocked by the hostility toward Brussels (EU headquarters) and the euro which she found among CDU constituents.

Germans are also increasingly expressing their deep concern at the prospect of Poland gaining early entry to the EU. East Germany's skilled workers fear that their prospects of employment will be severely hampered by Polish workers and other central Europeans as *Mittleuropa* joins the EU. They fear a flood of East European workers into Germany. In addition, xenophobic attitudes to migrant workers, particularly Turks, have hardened into periodic violence over the past decade.

Exacerbating all these perceived woes of the German populace is the impact of a new style of journalism that is starting to depart from slavish devotion to the EU and is increasingly intent on smashing taboos. As the London-based *Spectator* magazine observed, "Since November [the new-look German journalism] has smashed Helmut Kohl's reputation to smithereens. It now seems to be turning its attention to the Kohl legacy: Europe or rather EU integration.... The German press could soon be doing much more to float shocking new attitudes to the EU."

#### New Attitudes

Shocking new attitudes are already spreading, not just in Germany but throughout the EU.

"Immigrants were targeted... throughout Western Europe, where a racial assault occurred once every three minutes in the mid-1990s, according to the European Parliament. The alarming frequency of xenophobic violence on the Continent coincided with the rise of several radical, right-wing populist par-

ties that successfully tapped into widespread uncertainties precipitated by the end of the cold war" (Martin A. Lee, *The Beast Reawakens*, p. 365).

In fact, Western Europe's reaction to 20 million immigrants flooding across its borders over the past decade has done much to spur the rise of xenophobic fascists on the Continent. From Vlaams Bloc (Flemish bloc), the most extreme of right-wing populist parties in Western Europe, to the French Jean-Marie Le Pen's insurgent Front National; from the Freedom Party of Austria's Jörg Haider and Gianfranco Fini's Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), to the recent strengthened vote of Jose Marie Aznar's rightist

in a coalition government in February this year. This time the EU member nations engaged in the charade of imposing sanctions on Austria. Less than three months later this token gesture of "disapproval" was already weakening, with half of the EU members indicating they would suspend the short-lived sanctions.

Politics in Europe are in for a sea change. The more astute commentators have grasped the connections which link the platforms of the Green (peace and ecology) parties, the so-called *center-left*, and the *right* in European politics. The eco-parties and center left have sought to forge a *third way* beyond capitalism and communism.

The *extreme right* has its roots in the Third Way—old-fashioned *fascism!*

"The massive defeat they suffered during World War II did not refute the innermost convictions of many fascists, who kept pining for the day

when they might again inflict their twisted dream of a new order on much of the world" (*ibid.*, p. 11).

Fascism embraces a whole diverse field of weird concepts described by Italian intellectual Umberto Eco as a "fuzzy totalitarianism, a collage of different philosophical and political ideas." But fascism is clear on one point: Its ultimate goal is *power* under totalitarian rule. To arrive at that point, it does not discriminate among its bedfellows.

"The abracadabra of fascism casts a spell over people by diverting economic and social resentments toward national and racial preoccupations. Proclaiming the need for a new spirit and a new man, fascist demagogues have extolled action for its own sake and romanticized violence as regenerative and therapeutic" (*ibid.*, p. 10).

This is the specter stalking Europe today. This is why thinking people express concern about British Prime Minister Tony Blair chiming in with the pope and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder to promote the idea of a *Third Way*—a "new world order," which, when you scratch the surface, turns out to be old-style *fascism* rising from the ashes. To the simple minded it all seems to offer simple solutions.

### Europe's New Right: Rising Xenophobia



France: Le Pen



Austria: Haider



Italy: Fini



Spain: Aznar

Popular Party in Spain and Christopher Blocher's right-wing Conservative People's Party's win in last year's Swiss elections, the undercurrent in European politics through its period of flirtation with the center-left over the past decade has been a strengthening of populist right-wing expression. This was acknowledged by Martin Lee when he wrote just three years ago about the first post-war alliance between a far-right-wing party and a conservative party—between Italy's Berlusconi and Fini.

"Although Berlusconi's government was short-lived, the participation of the MSI had huge implications, not only for Italy but for all of Europe. It broke a long-standing, antifascist taboo and established a precedent for conservative politicians, who had previously shunned alliances with the ultra-right. A momentous political threshold had been crossed, which made governing coalitions with neofascists disguised as right-wing populists more acceptable, and more likely, in the future" (*ibid.*, p. 374).

Barely five years later, Austria witnessed the same phenomenon when Haider's right-wing Freedom Party joined the Conservative People's Party



"The brutalization that has articulated itself on the right, and the increase in fascination with it, demonstrates that a growing number of people are allowing themselves to be swayed by simple 'solutions'" (Daniel Cohn-Bendit, essay: "The Brutal Republic," *The Future of German Democracy*, p. 29).

As German author Wilhelm Von Sternburg, born the year that Hitler rolled his tanks into Poland, astutely observes in relation to the resurrection of fascism in his own country, "For it is not the gangs of skinhead thugs who threaten the German republic, but rather the spirit, whose victims they have become. Right-wing extremism, nationalism and racism are spreading again, like cancerous tumors, throughout Germany" (foreword to *The Future of German Democracy*, p. 16).

### Spirit Driven

Von Sternburg points to the *spirit* that keeps fascism alive. It's a *spirit* which permeates both left and right in European politics, a spirit seeking to create a radical Third Way, neither capitalist nor communist. It's the same *spirit* which had its modern roots in the reaction to intellectual developments rising out of the late 18th century on into the early 20th century. Yet this *spirit* has *earlier origins*, which may be traced back to that old alliance between the Vatican and the German states in Charlemagne's *Holy Roman Empire*.

"According to the Vatican there is a spiritual Europe, but it stretches from the Atlantic to the Urals; an *Ostpolitik* that pre-dated even that of the former Federal Republic.... Spiritual matters transcend frontiers" (*The Great European Illusion*, p. 197).

And, realistically, that's where we end up every time when we bring this whole question of the *spirit* driving the EU back to its *source*—the repetitive drive of Germany to revive the old Holy Roman Empire dream. As Alain Minc, a highly esteemed French intellectual, has observed, "The question we are addressing is not one of Europe, but of Germany. *Germany is regaining its place at the center of Europe....* Let's stop fooling ourselves. Time is running out; the future is unfolding under our very eyes. If the evolution of Germany is allowed to run its course, Europe will stretch from the Atlantic to the Urals" (ibid., p. 13).

This is no crackpot! This is one of the most clearly thinking and respected contemporary intellectuals in Eu-

rope today! A high-profile French businessman, associate of Carlo de Benedetti (CEO of the Global Olivetti corporate empire), Minc returns to the same theme time and time again in his acute analysis of the European dream—that at its center is *Germany*. Germany and its *history*, Germany and its *legacy*, Germany and its inevitable drive for *space* and superior *power!*

And with the U.S. in retreat, Mr. Minc sees the German question as being even more crucial now than at any time since the cold war ended: "[T]he future of a unified Europe depends on Germany, and that Germany is the fiscal point for the drift in the continent. The question of Europe is based around the question of Germany.... To recognize this is...simply to live in the real, rather than the dream world" (ibid., p. 171).

Yet, incisive as Alain Minc's analytical approach is to the subject of Europe, as astute as are his observations, he admits to *not being able to predict* the future of current trends in Europe today, nor trends in its region of central focus, Germany.

Mr. Minc likens the 30 years prior to the conclusion of the Maastricht Treaty to three snapshots. The first is of a Europe huddled in the 1960s under the protective wing of the U.S., with "France...exhausted, and Germany full of shame." The next shot shows, from the '70s, a more distant America and a stubbornly nationalistic France, and "Germany's *Ostpolitik* [eastern foreign policy] is a syrupy version of 19th-century *Drang nach Osten*" [eastward push]. The third shot, taken in 1992, the year of Maastricht, shows America turning away from Europe toward the Atlantic, "a Western Europe hoping that its identity will miraculously be born out of the single market, and a Germany re-weaving the threads of *Mitteleuropa*." Unable to predict the outcome at the time, Minc states, "The fourth or fifth snaps are left to our imaginations" (ibid., p. 226).

Let us fill in the final two frames.

### The Future of Fascism

The fourth snapshot shows an isolationist U.S. in the current decade withdrawn to its home continent, the New York Stock Exchange playing poor second fiddle to a Euro *bourse* based in Frankfurt and measuring performance in something called "the mark." France, with furrowed brow, is tagging

along behind a thrusting Germany as it leads over 20 nations under the 12-star banner of the EU across the Mediterranean, leap-frogging from Gibraltar and Malta into Africa and via Crete and Cyprus into the Middle East. A perplexed Britain, cut adrift from Europe, attempts vainly to board a steamer to America.

The fifth snapshot is painful to view. The lamps burn brightly on the European continent—but all is dark across the English Channel and the Atlantic. It is a mirror image of the first snapshot. But this time, France huddles as part of a group of ten national blocs under the iron wing of Germany, the U.S. is exhausted and Britain is full of shame.

Sound far-fetched? Clever people like you and I no longer think so. Their thoughtful treatises are there in abundance for you to read in books like British politician Rodney Atkinson's *Europe's Full Circle*, British author Adrian Hilton's *The Principality and Power of Europe*, and numerous others such as those quoted in this and other issues of the *Trumpet*.

But what about the *answers*—the *outcome* of this concerning scenario? This can be learned from but one source—*your Bible!* Write now for our booklet *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and begin to see the future revealed before your very own eyes. *Write now! Study* the immutable prophecies that predicted this unfolding scenario millennia ago. *Follow these events* as they continue to unfold to the point where we all shall feel their impact. ♦

### For further study...

More about the future of Europe can be found in these booklets:

#### The Rising Beast

Dramatic events through the past decade in former Yugoslavia, culminating in 1999's Kosovo conflict, are fulfilling one of the most frightening prophecies in Revelation!

#### The United States and Britain in Prophecy

Herbert W. Armstrong's explanation of the biblical identity of modern nations has given understanding to over 5 millions readers!

Look for how to order your free copies in this magazine's table of contents.



# Trouble in Paradise

The recent coup in Fiji shows the potentially big impact the small islands of the South Pacific can have worldwide.

BY RUSSELL WILLIAMS

◆ CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

**T**HE FALKLANDS WAR FLASHED INTO action through somebody raising a flag. World War I was triggered by an assassin's bullet. World War II and the Gulf War were started by despots invading relatively defenseless neighbors. The aggressors all had causes they believed were justifiable, but their actions had disastrous results.

When enough racial, ethnic, political or religious heat is generated, it only takes someone to light the fuse and the world map can change its colors and boundaries overnight. People's lives can change instantly—and for most it usually means for the worse.

Never before has this planet been so unstable. The *Trumpet* has long focused on the events in Britain, the United States, Europe and the Middle East and will continue to do so, because of their enormous significance in Bible prophecy. But Southeast Asia is also featured in Bible prophecy. We need to know what is really happening behind the news in this region, because, in the short term, greater trouble lies ahead.

The once-standing dominos of the South Pacific are falling one by one, with worldwide repercussions. The pictures of white sands, blue coral reefs and renowned tourist resorts are rapidly changing into war zones. In recent months world news has recorded upheaval in Indonesia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji—and the instability continues to spread. Which Pacific domino will fall next?

## Chaos in Fiji

Fiji is approximately three hours' flying time from both Australia and New Zealand and consists of 300 islands covering 7,085 sq. miles (18,350 sq. km). The population, over 772,000, comprises 51 percent indigenous Fijian and 44 percent ethnic Indian. The army consists of 3,700 men, mainly Fijians. Main industries are sugar,

tourism, garment manufacture, gold, copra, timber and fish. The country's average wage is approximately us\$25-40 per week, with a GDP per capita of \$1903. Following two coups in 1987, the economy has only just been recovering, and now, with a bumper sugar-cane crop ready to harvest, Fiji has anticipated a boost in wealth. But the sugar may well stay on the ground unless Fiji's problems are quickly and appropriately solved.

On May 19, nine terrorists toting AK47s and Uzi machine guns stormed the Fiji parliament building in Suva. They hijacked the Fiji government, including the prime minister, deputy prime minister and cabinet members—over 30 hostages, including the president's daughter. Relatively unknown terrorist leader George Speight (locally born as Ilikini Naitini), who was due to appear in court on extortion charges, demanded the resignations of the whole government, including Prime Minister Chaudry (an Indian) and President Ratu (chief) Sir Kamisese Mara. Speight didn't stop there: He demanded the revocation of the Fiji Constitution.

When news of the terrorist attack broke on Fiji radio, indigenous Fijians who were previously law-abiding citizens went on a rampage against anything Indian. Here is an example of how the human mind can switch from one of order to lawlessness, and how an orderly capital can be turned to devastation.

The *New Zealand Herald* of May 26 quoted a 26-year-old Fijian named Jone: "We heard on the radio that the parliament was taken over—that's when we knew it had started. We ran outside and went straight to Tappoo's [a duty-free store]. We talked about only doing Indian shops, not Fijian, because the Indians have been trying



**GEORGE SPEIGHT**  
Leader of the recent Fiji coup

to take our land from us.

"Two guys tried to rob a Jap fella and some cops stepped in. Someone whacked the cop and he fell down and from then on it all started—people were yelling, 'Break the windows, break the windows—Tappoo's, Tappoo's.' Then everyone was smashing windows and looting... The police tried to stop it, but there was nothing they could do. They just said,

'Be careful, don't cut yourself on the glass. Take what you want and move on...'. People were taking their stuff home with them in buses or Indian cars they took. Some people made three or four trips back into town."

Jone said he had no criminal convictions and had never looted before. Asked why he taken part, he said, "It was just for fun." The police officers themselves were seizing loot and taking it home, he said.

Even uniformed school children joined in the violence. Indian shops and business places were burned to the ground. The Goodman, Fielder Wattie chicken factory, the largest in Fiji, was also torched and lay in smoldering ashes. New Zealand vegetables valued at more us\$12,000 lay rotting on the wharves and were later dumped at sea. The supermarkets, which were mainly Indian-owned, were looted, causing even greater food shortages and escalating prices.

Because of unsympathetic press, Speight supporters burst their way in and ransacked FijiTV. One of the terrorists murdered an unarmed policeman by shooting him in the back while he manned the doors.

Speight then demanded amnesty from prosecution for all offenders, including himself. Treason still carries the death penalty in Fiji. The Great Council of Chiefs capitulated and agreed to Speight's demands in return for the eventual safety of the hostages. Several days later the military stepped in and, again, Speight was assured amnesty. Violence in the towns inevitably spread to rural areas, where



Indians have had to hide in fear of rape and murder while their properties have been ransacked.

### Implications

Fiji faces financial, trade and cultural penalties from Australia, New Zealand, the U.S. and Europe unless the hijacking of the government is resolved by the restoration of democracy. British Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon, who endeavored to negotiate with Speight, warned of Fiji's likely expulsion from the Commonwealth again. If this occurs it will likely be permanent, being the second time (see sidebar below). Referring to Speight's terrorist action, Mr. McKinnon also said, "He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword," a quote from Matthew 26:52.

Fiji's chaos is unlikely to be resolved easily. The wealth is on the west side of Viti Levu, where Nadi International Airport is located. The west also has a seaport at Lautoka. On the east side, Suva has a harbor and a small international airport at Nausori. The Fijian chiefs in the west who live harmoniously with the Indians are considering forming a separate government.

Where is all this leading? The Brisbane *Courier Mail* stated on May 27, "In just seven days, Fiji's political and economic structure has been blown apart and its future as a functioning state placed in serious peril by a common terrorist."

Dr. Satish Chand, a Pacific economist specializing in Fiji and visiting fellow at the Australian National University, is among others who see little hope of the country recovering in the foreseeable future. "It is hard to judge how far this has put Fiji back, but you can measure it in decades," he said.

### Another Domino

Which will be the next domino to fall? Following Fiji's crisis, an almost copycat terrorist act occurred in the Solomon Islands on June 3 when the prime minister was taken hostage. Diplomacy from the barrel of a gun is catching on. Could this action rub off on Australia or New Zealand?

During George Speight's negotiations with the Great Council of Chiefs and the military, at least one notable New Zealand Maori activist flew to Suva while most New Zealanders were racing to get out of the country. Sporting his moko (facial tattoo), he enjoyed the photographic publicity with Speight in support of "indigenous people's rights." Another Maori activist, a lawyer, said that if the New Zealand population was 50 percent Maori, a coup would have happened years ago. While these people are of the extreme, where there is smoke, there is fire.

Recently, Sydney Harbor Bridge was opened for one of Australia's biggest rallies. Up to a quarter of a million people marched to apologize for past wrongs against the Aborigines

(indigenous Australians). Many carried Aboriginal flags and wore "sorry" badges, while a signwriting aircraft wrote SORRY in the sky above them. Could this be the thin edge of the wedge for Australia too?

The dominos in the South Pacific are not shaking just by chance. God Almighty warns that there is a powerful evil force at work to weaken the nations: "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How are you cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations!" (Isa. 14:12).

When nations become weak, they invite intruders. Remember the importance of the Pacific islands in World War II—Midway, Guam, Okinawa, New Guinea, the Solomons, Fiji, Hawaii, just to name a few. The Republic of Fiji is of great strategic significance, with two seaports and two international airports.

Stratfor analysts took this view of the South Pacific situation: "This region has, of late, been a bit of a strategic backwater. But it was not always. During the U.S.-Japanese competition for preeminence in the Pacific from the 1920s until 1945, these islands made up the centerpiece of a great strategic struggle. American power projection into the Western Pacific toward China and Japan, Australia and the Philippines depended on the ability of the U.S. fleet to navigate past these islands. Japanese airfields denied

the U.S. fleet passage during World War II. Brutal fighting from Guadalcanal to Tinian revolved around the use of these islands as unsinkable, if immobile aircraft carriers....

"For about 50 years, no one has had any interest in increasing their influence in this region. This may not continue to be the case for much longer. China's need to counter American power—combined with Beijing's limited naval capability—makes a Pacific island strategy as natural to them as it was to the Japanese decades ago.

"There is, however, ample time for the United States, Australia and New Zealand, acting in concert, [for] developing a blocking

## Fiji's Problem History

**F**IJI'S PROBLEMS STARTED developing years ago. In 1858 Britain appointed a consul, then in 1874 assumed sovereignty. Between 1880 and 1920 the British arranged for 63,000 Indians to travel to Fiji to work the sugar-cane industry in the west. Most settled there, and the generations to follow built up successful businesses, mainly in the south and west of the main island, Viti Levu. The indigenous Fijians own the land, but had granted long-term leases to the Indians. Many of these leases are now up for renewal, but the

Fijians are loathe to renew them, because they wish to gain a greater share of the country's wealth.

In 1970 Fiji was granted independence from Britain. In 1987 army Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka led two coups, and Fiji was declared a republic. The country was expelled from the British Commonwealth of Nations, although it has continued to retain Queen Elizabeth's image on its currency. Expulsion set Fiji back years economically, and it has only just been getting back on its feet—that is, until Speight's recent coup attempt.

In 1990 a new Constitution redefined the parliament, giving 37 seats to Fi-

jians, 27 to Indians, general voters 5 and Rotumans 1. Sitiveni Rabuka was elected prime minister in 1992.

In 1997 the Constitution was amended, giving indigenous Fijians 23 seats, Indians 19, Rotumans 1, and general electors 3, leaving a total of 25 seats open to all races. It was then that Fiji was readmitted to the British Commonwealth of Nations. Rabuka remained prime minister until losing to Mahendra Chaudry on May 19, 1999.

Now George Speight and his supporters demand that the Indians be prevented from voting and that the government be run by indigenous Fijians.



strategy that is both effective and cheap. The governments in Australia and New Zealand, however, are relatively impervious to strategic thinking these days, tending to look at events piecemeal instead of eyeing long-term threats. And right now U.S. strategy is on autopilot.

“A potentially important chapter is opening in the Pacific. It will be interesting to see if Beijing takes advantage of it and whether anyone will care enough about this ignored region to devise a counter-strategy. Effective counter-strategy in the eyes of the USA would be to allow Japan to move in and fill the vacuum” (GIU, June 12)

Australians and New Zealanders are mainly of British descent and part of the “company of nations” or “commonwealth” of nations that God prophesied to emerge through Jacob’s lineage (write for a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for proof). Isaiah 49:12 refers to the land of *Sinim*, which is translated “Australis” in the Vulgate. As our people have rejected God, He is breaking the pride of our power (Lev. 26:19) and unless we repent, our peoples will go into a time of severe punishment such as the world has never seen before.

The instability of the South Pacific is part of the softening-up process for the greatest upheaval in man’s history. The Bible refers to this period as the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord. ◆

REUTERS



**SUNRISE SERVICE** Muslim rebels guard the entrance to their mountain hideout in the province of Maguindanao.

# The Philippines Flashpoint

Can the conflict between the Christian government and Muslim rebels on the island of Mindanao ever be resolved?

BY PEDRITO CARA

◆ MANILA, PHILIPPINES

**T**OWARD THE END OF APRIL THIS YEAR, negotiators from the Philippine government and the radical Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) agreed to resume peace talks, which had been stalled for three years. Barely six hours after the two sides agreed to talk, fighting broke out again on Min-

danao, the largest southerly island of the Philippines. Each side blamed the other for starting the conflict. An intense battle raged for 19 days; hundreds of thousands of families were displaced in four provinces. More than 500 people were killed or wounded on the side of the Filipino government, and the MILF reportedly suffered twice as many casualties and injuries.

During the height of the conflict, Muslims cried for “jihad” (holy war), and Christians formed vigilante groups calling for a “Muslim-free Mindanao.” Throughout the archipelago, citizens feared the worst. Despite Philippine President Estrada’s assurances that he would not tolerate the dismemberment of the republic, many were concerned that the fighting would escalate northward into a nationwide civil war.

**A Look Into the Past**

The Republic of the Philippines, like most countries, has had its share of conflicts and war.

During the early 16th century, Mindanao was part of the Sultan of Sulu’s domain. The native Filipino Muslims, who were converted to the Islamic religion many years before, were under the rule of the sultan. They had a high sense of dignity and were steeped in the rich royal trappings that were handed down from their rulers. They





were proud to be a part of a kingdom which extended as far away as Manila and Pampanga, both on Luzon Island, more than 600 and 700 miles away respectively.

When the Spaniards arrived in the mid-1500s, they attempted to colonize the native Filipinos (called *Moros*) and convert them to Christianity. Although the islands were dominated

by the Spaniards, and even officially named after the king of Spain, Philip II, the *Moros* of Mindanao resisted fiercely and were never subjugated fully.

The Spanish colonial government ceased to function in 1898, and was succeeded by a military government under the United States. The Americans, too, tried to enforce a way of life that was contrary to Filipino customs. For nearly half a century, the *Moros* continued to fight to preserve their religion and culture. They did it all in the name of their faith.

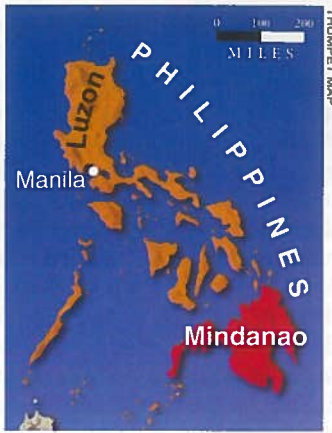
In 1945, the Philippine Islands became independent. The island of Mindanao and its Muslim inhabitants became a part of the Republic of the Philippines, along with the other 7,099 scattered islands.

### A Land of Promise

After the Second World War, Mindanao was viewed as “a land of promise” because of its vastness and overall potential. Its soil was rich enough to support various crops such as coconut, corn, rice, coffee and pineapple. Its hills and mountains were thick with wood for lumber. Everywhere, it seemed, there were God-given resources and plenty of opportunities for anyone willing to labor. The Philippine government thus opened the region to settlers.

Thousands of Filipinos answered that call, including many of the industrious tribes from the north islands. Nearly all of the northerners were Christians. Mindanao’s population increased greatly as people migrated southward. The newcomers bought either already developed acreage from the *Moros*, or they simply cleared the timber in the flatlands and made way for new agricultural plots.

In time, Christian Filipinos established their own culturally diverse com-



munities alongside their native neighbors. For a time, Christians and Muslims co-existed peacefully, and the next generation of Filipinos even began intermarrying. Mindanao seemed to be well on the way to becoming what everyone expected it to be: the republic’s breadbasket.

### The Price of Neglect

Rich in resources, Mindanao Island easily could have been as prosperous as the regions nearer to the Philippines’ center of power: Luzon Island and its capital city of Manila. Because of its great distance from Manila, however, Mindanao was often left out, or, if remembered at all, given less in the allocation of the much-needed government funds for development.

The situation was aggravated further by misappropriated funds. Corrupt officials at the top often embezzled money for their own selfish ends, and thus Mindanao’s progress lagged far behind its northern island neighbors as time went by. The economic gap between the rich minority and the poor, soil-dependent majority widened. The politicians who promised a better life to the masses failed to deliver as expected. Because of their neglect, a voice of discontent resulted—quietly at first, but gradually rising to a cacophonous din.

### The Awakening

Toward the end of the 1960s, the public’s dissatisfaction grew—particularly among the dwindling Muslim populace on Mindanao, which shrank considerably after the influx of Christian Filipinos. The *Moro* residents felt that the national government was not at all concerned about their welfare. They felt cheated as they saw the vast wealth and resources of their former ancestral lands serving others—mainly those greedy few at the top.

Matters came to a head in the 1970s when the awakened Muslim minority, led by a former professor, formed the *Moro National Liberation Front* (MNLF). Other smaller groups were formed later, but the MNLF was the most vocal and dominant. Many joined the movement because of the “economic difficulty” and “abandonment” they felt they were experiencing from the

national government. They waged war against the government, and they called their war “ideological” because they were fighting for “economic survival and their own rights.”

Reaching peak strength in the tens of thousands, the MNLF waged a costly armed struggle (in terms of lives and property) against the government. The use of vigilante groups further deepened the rivalry between Christians and Muslim groups, pitting Filipino against Filipino. To date, more than 100,000 lives have been lost in this ongoing civil war—including civilians, military personnel and rebel fighters. Many who died were considered the elite, the cream of the crop, of the nation. This conflict has benefitted no one. Indeed, the peace that once reigned in Mindanao has been shattered, along with the hopes and dreams for the island’s development.

During the mid-1970s came a glimmer of hope. At the behest of concerned Muslim states around the world, a breakthrough was reached, finally, in December 1976 with the signing of the Tripoli Agreement in Libya. The agreement called for the cessation of hostilities and a speedier development for Mindanao. At that time, other Muslim groups consolidated with the MNLF in negotiating with the government.

The following decade saw “the peaceful revolt of the masses,” culminating in the overthrow of dictatorial President Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. His immediate successor, President Corazon Aquino, continued to stave off the Christian-Muslim conflict. Mrs. Aquino’s administration prevailed, for a time, because of its unified vision, style and strategy.

The new government began to allow regional autonomy, in accordance with constitutional processes. It initially promised autonomy to 13 provinces and nine cities in Mindanao. A law was created subsequently paving the way for the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Meanwhile, the government’s armed forces went on the offensive because its leaders sensed that they were winning and that total victory was in sight. However, the civilian government’s efforts for a peaceful political solution won, much to the displeasure of the military. A plebiscite conducted in 1989 revealed, surprisingly, that only the four Muslim-dominated provinces favored autonomy; and no city wanted to be part of the



ARMM. The hope of autonomy began to fade for Mindanao's Muslims.

### A Temporary Lull

When Fidel Ramos took over the presidency in 1992, he inherited the unsolved problem of Mindanao. Moreover, he faced a troubled economy brought about by the inefficiencies of the previous administration. He tackled both problems head on.

Using his West Point skills, coupled with a fierce determination to turn the economy around, he succeeded after a year of steady, yet often-criticized, efforts. Mr. Ramos' efforts to reduce business restrictions, break up monopolies, and encourage foreign investment, were credited with stimulating economic growth of some 6 percent. Exports of electronics, textiles and other industrial products increased.

Mr. Ramos also negotiated a settlement to the Mindanao dilemma. He was able to implement the Tripoli Agreement and address the need for autonomy in Muslim areas—but "within the realm of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Philippines." The Muslim MNLF leader, Nur Misuari, became governor of the ARMM. Former MNLF rebel fighters, upon passing a screening check, were integrated into the police and armed forces in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

The Mindanao quandary, however, did not go away as quickly or as neatly as was hoped. Even the formation of a National Unification Council, which suggested a formula of "Six Paths to Peace," was not adequate to solve the problem permanently. The creation of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, composed of Muslims, Christians and highlanders of Mindanao, raised strong hopes for solutions. However, progress was slower than expected because of various limitations placed on the council.

While the Moro National Liberation Front accepted negotiations as a road leading to regional autonomy for Muslims, many former MNLF comrades who became disgruntled over the governor's alleged ineptitude and cor-

ruption, defected to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and built a jungle army of some 30,000 guerrillas.

Initially the MILF, which was already in existence prior to 1996, was also supportive of President Ramos and ready to participate in the new autonomous government. Yet, as its leaders believed the formula for peace and development was failing due to the national government's foot-dragging in the release of needed funds, they finally distanced themselves from the whole process. Other close watchers of the process blamed the new leadership in the region for the misappropriation of funds for Mr. Misuari's "pompous trips abroad."

Those MNLF rebels who did not join the MILF joined either the extreme splinter group Abu Sayyaf ("Sword of the Father") or the Islamic Command Council. These three factions—including others posing as rebels but in reality just plain bandits—carried out kidnappings and terrorist activities to embarrass the new government. They also put more emphasis on their desire for a separate Muslim state.

In his 1996 book *Break Not the Peace*, President Ramos wrote that he foresaw, as early as 1992, that the most serious threat to the stability of Mindanao was the emergence of extremist Muslim groups supported by equally radical entities from Muslim countries. He had witnessed the wave of Islamic extremism experienced by Egypt, Algeria and Pakistan in previous years and predicted that a similar movement

might develop in the Philippines. He challenged the Muslim fundamentalists of his country to seek peace through further negotiations, not terrorism. However, the rebel factions did not listen. They failed to see that they also were, through their terrorist activities, part of a worsening situation.

Wanting to forestall a massive Muslim uprising, the Ramos administration embarked on an aggressive effort to propel Mindanao forward. He launched construction on roads and other vital infrastructures, and established plans to maximize remaining resources to sustain more than 70 million Filipinos.

Part of the development singled out the city of General Santos in southeastern Mindanao. Because of its strategic location relative to America's geopolitical and economic interests, a modern airport and a deep-water seaport were built.

### Another Warning

When President Ramos' term expired at the end of 1998, a peaceful transfer of government occurred. Incoming President Joseph Estrada promised to continue on the path toward economic relief for Mindanao. However, a financial meltdown was occurring in Asia at that time and, consequently, economic growth in the Philippines was stunted.

Late in 1999, the ARMM governor warned that lack of adequate progress in the development and autonomy agreements could lead to further restlessness and frustration among the Muslims. Already, the MILF was readying itself to call for a separate Islamic state by establishing more camps outside its main camp in Maguindanao. Financial assistance from sympathetic Muslim countries was used to construct fortifications and a network of supply tunnels, much like Vietnam's famous Ho Chi Minh trail, and to train more fighters in the camps. Adding to the intensity of the whole situation, Philippine government sources charged that the MILF was waiting for a massive arms shipment, allegedly purchased with funds provided by Saudi terrorist Osama bin Laden.

## Filipino Christians vs. Muslims: The Acronyms

### MNLF Moro National Liberation Front

After the Muslim population of Mindanao waned in the late 1960s, the remaining Moros felt the Christian government was not concerned about their welfare. This group was formed and waged war against the government in the 1970s.

### MILF Moro Islamic Liberation Front

In the mid-1990s, many disgruntled MNLF members defected to this organization, building a jungle army of some 30,000 guerrillas. Its goal is a separate Islamic state in the Philippines.

### ARMM Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

A region created by the government in 1990 to help solve Muslim problems and hasten economic development in Muslim areas. After a 1989 plebiscite, only four Mindanao provinces formed the ARMM—Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, the islands of Sulu and the islands of Tawi-Tawi.



The Estrada administration countered these moves by building up its strength in troops and matériel in the potentially explosive areas. The seemingly small skirmishes were designed to put a check on the separatist tendency of the MILF.

### The Cost of Conflict

The conflict in Mindanao has put much strain on the nation's economy. A dominant force in Southeast Asia during the 1960s, the Philippines today lags far behind its Asian counterparts. The struggling nation is almost on a



**WAR WEARY** President Estrada says he hopes for peace talks with the MILF.

par with Indonesia economically. It is the world's leading exporter of manpower. There simply are not enough jobs for its millions of graduates that exit college every year.

The Philippines no longer ranks as a favorite investment area due to its unstable political climate, which is said to be rife with cronyism, corruption and other social ills. Due to the unrest, investors, who were seen as a boon to the ailing economy, have been scared away. Moreover, the recent hostage crisis in the southern islands has eroded the confidence of many tourists, although most of the skirmishes have occurred hundreds of miles away from the main tourist havens. Sporadic bombing incidents, which have taken place in various parts of Mindanao, have now spread to Manila—and have adversely affected the local stock market and peso-dollar exchange rates.

At the height of the conflict, it was estimated to have cost the Philippine government nearly 30 million pesos a day (us\$700,000) to carry on the war,

which involved more than 80,000 troops. One congressman was so concerned that he warned against applying appropriations for health and education for the war effort. Some civilian employees in the military have complained that some of their benefits were withheld and possibly diverted to the war effort.

In a country where one M-16 bullet costs as much as a kilo of rice, the cost of conflict is felt deeply. In Mindanao 50 percent of families are below the poverty line, as compared to Manila's 34 percent. The money that is being spent to ward off terrorist activities of ragtag rebel armies of independence seekers could go a long way to help Filipinos rebuild burned-out homes, restore war-damaged farms, construct farm-to-market roads, build more schools and health centers, and so on. For a developing country so long ravaged by internal conflict, such as the Philippines, the list of needs for social and economic advancement is endless.

### Peace Talks For Peace?

While representatives from both sides often meet in peace talks to address the simmering conflict and its alleged causes, little progress is ever made.

Due to the seeming insincerity of Muslim leaders in the talks, the government has adopted a fight-as-you-talk strategy, which has resulted in the dismantling of several MILF camps. According to the Philippines' defense secretary, the main objective of the recent offensive strategy is to degrade the armed capability of the MILF and to prevent its carrying out attacks on civilian targets such as national highways.

Sadly, such strategies will never bring about lasting peace. Throughout mankind's 6,000-year history, talks and negotiations between warring groups have never produced permanent solutions. More than 19 centuries ago, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Romans about the fact that men, notwithstanding their sincerest desires, DO NOT KNOW THE WAY TO REAL PEACE. Paul said—and so does the *Trumpet* magazine today—that peace can only be achieved when God's laws are obeyed!

### The Coming Peace of God

In his column "Roses and Thorns," published in the *Philippine Star*

*Daily*, former Education Secretary Alejandro Roces wrote about the solution to the Mindanao problem. He wrote, "Peace is the highest law of nature. What is needed in Mindanao is peace through reconciliation. To achieve it, both parties are to be subdued for the mutual benefit. In Arabic, it is called 'Rahmat Allah,' the Peace of God."

Whether he realizes it or not, Mr. Roces' statement comes very close to what the Bible says about peace. Soon this world will finally experience the peace of God. However, it will not come through mankind's peace talks or his peace processes. It will come through the return of Jesus Christ, in full power and glory as King of kings and Lord of lords! Isn't it amazing that men will literally have to be FORCED to live by the way that produces peace, prosperity and happiness?

Most of humanity today refuses to live by God's word—and yes, so do most so-called Christians. They often scoff at the prophets of old and label them doomsayers. Yet, the Bible is full of prophecies of HOPE and PEACE.

The Prophet Micah, for example, foresaw a time when men will not "learn war anymore" (Mic. 4:1-4), after God's government is established here on Earth. The ancient Prophet Isaiah looked forward to the time when Jesus Christ would be the Prince of peace on earth and therefore "of his government and peace there shall be no end" (Isa. 9:6-7). Even the New Testament speaks of a time in the near future when God will bring about the "restitution of all things" (Acts 3:21).

For the war-affected tribes in Mindanao and elsewhere, the "times of restoration" will soon be a reality. The ruling family of God will guide reconciliation among humans, God's way, and harmony will be achieved at last.

One day, in that world soon to come, school children in Mindanao will only know of the present conflict through history books. No more will they be fleeing for their lives in the mud and pouring rain just to be safe from bullets and bombs. They will instead sing a song their forefathers sang in the past: "Upon the grassy plain of fair Bukidnon, contented cattle graze, with herdsmen gazing on. Full streams of water clear, that flow from verdant hills, give life to homes and farms, and feed the busy mills." ♦



## Personal *from page 1*

complete repentance and an implicit belief in Christ as well as believing what He says. Repentance can only follow admission of being wrong—of wrongdoing and wrong believing. The most difficult thing for any human seems to be to admit being wrong—to confess error of belief and conviction.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Bible is the book that nobody knows or understands?—or certainly almost nobody.

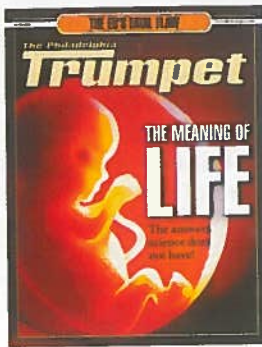
God deliberately coded His book so that it would not be understood until our modern time. In the 12th chapter of Daniel we read even that a devout man of God could not understand that which was given to him to write as part of the Bible. He said he heard, but understood not. The revealing angel said, “Go thy way, Daniel. The words are closed and sealed until the time of the end.”

Today we have reached that time, God has opened to understanding His word to those He has chosen, who have yielded and surrendered to Him and to His blessed sacred word. In the 12th chapter of Daniel, it says at this time of the end the “wise” would understand, “but none of the wicked shall understand.” Who, then, are the “wise” who may understand the Bible?

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Ps. 111:10) and “a good understanding have all they that do his commandments” (same verse). Yet traditional Christianity has generally denied God’s commandments—says they are done away, nailed to the cross. The clergy and theologians of organized “Christianity,” therefore, cannot and do not understand the Bible.

*More than a million people have already requested this book—most of them doing so between 1986 and 1989. After that, the church Mr. Armstrong had guided for more than 50 years reudiated his teachings and withdrew Mystery of the Ages from circulation. It remained out of print for eight years.*

*In 1997, we brought it back, despite an impending lawsuit over our right to print it. (We eventually won in court.) More than 60,000 people have requested the book since its reprinting. We want to add you to that number. And remember, all the literature we produce is offered without cost to you. Simply locate the office nearest you on the inside front cover, and request your free copy today!*



## The Meaning of Life

“I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy and appreciate my subscription to the *Trumpet*. There is nothing I look forward to more than Christ’s return. Your magazine gives me hope and helps me see the truth and accuracy in God’s word.”

*Perry, Okla.*

I HAVE A STRONG BELIEF IN THE PRINCIPLES you write your articles around. In my personal research into our worldwide situations, I come to many of the conclusions you write about; however, I do not have the biblical knowledge/expertise of your staff. My conclusions are based on common sense and my instincts. Thank you for the clarity!

*Renton, Wash.*

I RECEIVED A COPY OF THE *TRUMPET* FROM my mother and I just loved it. I really appreciate the straightforward and technical approach that your staff uses to get the truth across, without all of the psycho-babble horse-pucky that most so-called “evangelists” or “ministers” spew forth. I find your material and views on history and current events refreshing and enlightening. I look forward to your next copy of the *Trumpet*—truly fascinating reading!

*Menifee, Calif.*

## The Next Pope

I WAS NOT SURPRISED TO READ ABOUT “The Next Pope.” This is the time to warn those followers of the pope to know their history. I’m glad this article is written so those followers and believers of the papacy will know the truth. Some don’t want to know the history of the papacy, or they don’t want to believe that the Roman Catholic Church is so corrupt. Keep on reporting about the Vatican’s religiosity. To think that they have deceived almost a billion followers is sad.

*Las Vegas, Nev.*

I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHY PEOPLE from all religions think so highly of the pope. They will drive for miles and stand out in the rain just to catch a glimpse of this man or to have him bless them in some way. I appreciate the May issue of the *Trumpet* because it tells in great detail about the pope and

the Catholic Church. I wish other Christian programs, magazines and preachers would teach more on this subject. I know that it would probably upset many Catholics, but the world needs to know!

*Floral City, Fla.*

MY CONGRATULATIONS GO OUT TO THE magazine you all publish. I have recently read the May issue and, to tell you the truth, I’m astonished at the events going on in the world today. I also read a little booklet written by Gerald Flurry and I’m speechless. Never in my wildest imagination did I think that prophecy in the Bible (the ones the major prophets wrote) would be talking of our time. I’ve always believed that all that had already happened before Jesus Christ was born. Thanks to you my Bible is really coming alive and my interest in prophecy has been taken to a new level.

*Iowa Park, Tex.*

THANKS FOR THE HARD-HITTING ARTICLES and telecasts you are producing now. It is amazing to see what Mr. Herbert Armstrong predicted (with God’s guidance) would happen, and see that these predictions are coming to pass before our own eyes. He was right. He was a man of vision and principle.

*Delta, B.C.*

## The Philadelphia Trumpet

**Letters to the Editor** must include the writer’s name and address and should be sent to The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099, Edmond, OK 73083, or faxed to (405) 359-6280 or e-mailed to [letters@thetrumpet.com](mailto:letters@thetrumpet.com). Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

**Subscription** inquiries can be made by calling (405) 340-7474 or writing Trumpet Subscription, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. Please provide complete address, including zip code.



STEPHEN FLURRY

# Beware Sudden Destruction

What present-day arms reductions really mean

EVERY WEEK, THE UNITED STATES IMPLODES ONE OF ITS underground intercontinental missile silos that used to house nuclear warheads aimed at the Soviet Union. A lot has changed since the cold war ended. America's strategic arms reduction treaty with Russia (START) has slashed its store of nuclear warheads by one third—from more than 10,000 to 6,750. By 2007, as outlined in START II, the figure will drop below 3,500.

And since the Russians are following suit, most commentators are encouraged by this arms reduction pace. Journalist Rick Hampson, writing in the June 19 *USA Today*, even prefaced his article by quoting part of Isaiah 2:4: "He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks." Hampson noted that the very land North Dakota farmers were forced to sell to the government during the cold war is now available to buy back. Converting silo-sites into wheat fields, he says, is a fulfillment of "swords into plowshares."

Yet, as is often the case when the media quote prophetic scriptures, Hampson misunderstands the *time sequence* of end-time events.

Isaiah 2:4 is certainly prophetic. But it will not be fulfilled until the events of verses 2 and 3 take place: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." God's house, or government, must first be established on Earth under the direction of Jesus Christ. It will be headquartered in Jerusalem where it says GOD'S LAW WILL GO FORTH.

Then, to continue with verse 4, *He*—meaning Christ—will rule among the nations and rebuke, or correct, many people. *He*, it says in the last part of verse 4, which Mr. Hampson did not quote, will put an end to every form of war and all the suffering it has brought upon mankind. Mankind's devastating weapons of mass destruction will be rendered useless. All weapons will be converted into farming equipment.

Isaiah 2:4 is a prophecy of what will happen on Earth during the thousand-year reign of Christ—also known as the Millennium.

What then is the prophetic significance of North Dakota farmers converting missile silos into wheat fields *today*? Just the opposite of what Mr. Hampson suggested in his *USA Today* article. "For when they shall say, Peace and safety," the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, "THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMETH UPON THEM, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

Bible prophecy says that when commentators begin to trumpet man's successful peace initiatives, WATCH OUT! Sudden destruction is just around the corner. And it will get so bad that even ambassadors of *peace* will weep bitterly (Isa. 33:7).

The Bible repeatedly refers to this end-time sudden destruction—and to man's inability to see that destruction on the horizon. Jesus compared the time period surrounding His return to the days before the Flood, when people zealously pursued material things right up until the floodwaters came and "destroyed them all" (Luke 17:27). He also compared the latter days with the days of Lot. "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire

and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all" (v. 29).

Jesus referred to this end-time, worldwide destruction on numerous occasions. In Matthew 24:21-22, He said, "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was *not since the beginning of the world to this time*, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Man has never experienced anything like what will occur during the Great Tribulation. And it is prophesied to come upon us *suddenly*—and UNEXPECTEDLY!

In Luke 21:34-35, Jesus said it would be like a snare—catching us completely off guard. Isaiah compared it to the collapse of a high, swelling wall "whose breaking comes suddenly at an instant" (Isa. 30:13).

SUDDEN DESTRUCTION—that's what Christ associates with the events leading to His return. And it all unfolds at the very time most people *least expect it*.

Like NOW—when treaties are being signed, military spending slashed and weapons destroyed.

If anything, converting missile silos into farmland means we are *closer*, not further, to the cataclysmic events soon to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Rick Hampson would have been better off preceding his article by quoting from 1 Thessalonians 5:3, or something comparable. Then he could have *ended* his piece with Isaiah 2:4.



CORBIS

the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:3, "THEN SUDDEN DESTRUCTION COMETH UPON THEM, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

Bible prophecy says that when commentators begin to trumpet man's successful peace initiatives, WATCH OUT! Sudden destruction is just around the corner. And it will get so bad that even ambassadors of *peace* will weep bitterly (Isa. 33:7).

The Bible repeatedly refers to this end-time sudden destruction—and to man's inability to see that destruction on the horizon. Jesus compared the time period surrounding His return to the days before the Flood, when people zealously pursued material things right up until the floodwaters came and "destroyed them all" (Luke 17:27). He also compared the latter days with the days of Lot. "But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire

and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all" (v. 29).

Jesus referred to this end-time, worldwide destruction on numerous occasions. In Matthew 24:21-22, He said, "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was *not since the beginning of the world to this time*, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Man has never experienced anything like what will occur during the Great Tribulation. And it is prophesied to come upon us *suddenly*—and UNEXPECTEDLY!

In Luke 21:34-35, Jesus said it would be like a snare—catching us completely off guard. Isaiah compared it to the collapse of a high, swelling wall "whose breaking comes suddenly at an instant" (Isa. 30:13).

SUDDEN DESTRUCTION—that's what Christ associates with the events leading to His return. And it all unfolds at the very time most people *least expect it*.

Like NOW—when treaties are being signed, military spending slashed and weapons destroyed.

If anything, converting missile silos into farmland means we are *closer*, not further, to the cataclysmic events soon to wreak havoc on the entire world.

Rick Hampson would have been better off preceding his article by quoting from 1 Thessalonians 5:3, or something comparable. Then he could have *ended* his piece with Isaiah 2:4.



# THE KEY OF DAVID

## Television & Radio Listing

### United States

Nationwide satellite—Telstar 4/24 11:30am ET, Tue, 11:15am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)  
Northeast cable—WWOR 7:00am ET, Sat  
Nationwide cable—America's Voice 9:00am ET, Sun  
Nationwide cable—Goodlife Network 6:30am ET, Mon  
Nationwide cable—WGN 6:30am ET, Sun  
Nationwide cable—WSBK 7:30am ET, Sun  
National Radio—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F \*\*  
Alabama, Montgomery—WNCF 7:00am, Sun  
Arizona, Phoenix—KNXV 6:30am, Sun  
California, Fort Bragg—KFWU 10:00am, Sun  
California, Fresno—KNSO 8:00am, Sun  
California, Los Angeles—KCOP 7:30am, Sat  
California, San Francisco—KBWB 8:00am, Sun  
Colorado, Alamosa—KOBF 8:30am, Sun  
Connecticut, Hartford—WBNE 7:00am, Sun  
Florida, Daytona Beach—WFTV 10:30am, Sun  
Florida, Jacksonville—WJWB 9:00am, Sun  
Florida, Miami—WPLG 7:00am, Sun  
Florida, Orlando—WKMG 8:00am, Sun  
Florida, Tallahassee—WTLH 8:30am, Sun  
Florida, Tampa—WTSP 7:00am, Sun  
Idaho, Boise—KNIN 7:00am, Sun  
Illinois, Chicago—WCUI 9:00am, Sat  
Illinois, Chicago—WGN 5:30am, Sun  
Indiana, Indianapolis—WRTV 9:00am, Sun  
Indiana, Indianapolis—Radio 87.7 FM 9:00am, Sun  
Iowa, Waterloo—KXEL 1540kHz 10:00pm, M-F \*\*  
Kentucky, Louisville—WBNA 9:30am, Sun  
Kentucky, Paducah—WDKA 7:30am, Sun  
Louisiana, Lake Charles—KBMT 9:00am, Sun  
Maryland, Baltimore—WUTB 7:00am, Sun  
Massachusetts, Boston—WSBK 7:30am, Sun  
Michigan, Detroit—WADL 9:00am, Sun  
Michigan, Grand Rapids—WXMI 6:30am, Sun  
Michigan, Kalamazoo—WXMI 6:30am, Sun  
Missouri, Cape Girardeau—WDKA 7:30am, Sun  
Missouri, Kansas City—KCWE 8:00am, Sun  
Montana, Billings—KHMT 7:00am, Sun  
New Mexico, Albuquerque—KOB 8:30am, Sun  
New Mexico, Farmington—KOBF 8:30am, Sun  
New York, Buffalo—WIVB 6:30am, Sun  
New York, New York City—WWOR 7:00am, Sat  
North Carolina, Asheville—WASV 8:00am, Sun  
North Carolina, Charlotte—WAXN 8:00am, Sun  
North Carolina, Kannapolis—WAXN 8:00am, Sun  
North Carolina, Fayetteville—WKFT 8:00am, Sun  
North Carolina, Raleigh—WKFT 8:00am, Sun  
Ohio, Cincinnati—WXIX 7:30am, Sun  
Ohio, Cleveland—WOIO 6:30am, Sun  
Oklahoma, Lawton—KAUZ 9:00am, Sun  
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City—KOCB 7:00am, Sun  
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia—WTFX 6:30am, Sun  
Pennsylvania, Red Lion—WGCB 8:30am, Sun  
South Carolina, Greenville/Spartanburg—WASV 8:00am, Sun  
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach—WFXB 7:00am, Sun  
Tennessee, Memphis—WLMT 9:00am, Sun  
Texas, Amarillo—KAMR 7:00am, Sun  
Texas, Beaumont—KBMT 9:00am, Sun  
Texas, Dallas—KDFI 8:30am, Sun  
Texas, Houston—KHWB 8:30am, Sun  
Texas, San Antonio—KSAT 6:30am, Sun  
Texas, Tyler—KLTV 10:30am, Sun  
Texas, Wichita Falls—KAUZ 9:00am, Sun  
Radio 87.7 FM 9:00am, Sun  
Virginia, Norfolk—WGNT 8:00am, Sun  
Virginia, Richmond—WRIC 7:30am, Sun

Virginia, Roanoke—WDRL 10:30am, Sun  
Washington D.C.—WTTG 7:00am, Sun

### Canada

Nationwide satellite—Telstar 4/24 11:30am ET, Tue, 11:15am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)  
Nationwide satellite—America's Voice 9:00am ET, Sun  
Nationwide satellite—WSBK 7:30am ET, Sun  
Nationwide satellite—WWOR 7:00am ET, Sat  
Nationwide cable—WGN 6:30am ET, Sun  
Alberta—CKRD 7:00am, Sun  
British Columbia, Vancouver—CHEK 9:00am, Sun  
Manitoba—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F \*\*  
New Brunswick—CIHF 7:00am, Sun  
Nova Scotia—CIHF 7:00am, Sun  
Ontario—CFMT 8:30am, Sun  
KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F \*\*  
Prince Edward Island—CIHF 7:00am, Sun  
Quebec—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F \*\*  
Saskatchewan—KXEL 1540kHz 11:00pm ET, M-F \*\*  
Saskatchewan, Regina—CFRE 7:00am, Sun  
Saskatchewan, Saskatoon—CFSK 7:00am, Sun

### Latin America

Regional satellite—Telstar 4/24 11:30am ET, Tue, 11:15am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)  
Argentina—WGN 5:30am, Sun, WWOR 6:00am Sat  
Belize—WGN 4:30am, Sun, WSBK 6:30am, Sun  
WPLG 6:00am, Sun, Goodlife Network 5:30am, Mon  
Bolivia—WGN 6:30am, Sun  
Brazil—WGN 7:30am, Sun, WWOR 8:00am Sat  
Chile—WGN 6:30am, Sun WWOR 6:00am Sat  
Colombia—WGN 5:30am, Sun, WWOR 6:00am Sat  
Costa Rica—WGN 4:30am, Sun  
Dominican Republic—WGN 6:30am, Sun  
Ecuador—WGN 5:30am, Sun  
El Salvador—WGN 4:30am, Sun  
Guatemala—WGN 4:30am, Sun  
Honduras—WGN 4:30am, Sun  
Mexico—WGN 5:30am, Sun, WWOR 6:00am Sat  
Nicaragua—WGN 4:30am, Sun  
Panama—WGN 5:30am, Sun  
Peru—WGN 5:30am, Sun  
Puerto Rico—WGN 7:30am, Sun, WWOR 7:30am, Sat  
Venezuela—WGN 6:30am, WWOR 6:00am Sat

### Caribbean

Regional satellite—Telstar 4/24 11:30am ET, Tue, 11:15am ET, Thur (Key of David satellite uplink)  
America's Voice GE 1/19 9:00am ET, Sun  
Aruba—WGN 6:30am, Sun  
Bahamas—WGN 6:30am, Sun  
WPLG 7:00am, Sun  
Goodlife Network 6:30am, Mon  
Cuba—WGN 6:30am, Sun, WWOR 6:00am Sat  
Grenada—CCN 7:30am, Sun  
Guyana—DTV Channel 8, 8:00pm Thur\*\*  
Haiti—WGN 5:30am, Sun  
Jamaica—WGN 7:30am, Sun, WWOR 8:00am, Sat  
Tobago—CCN 7:30am, Sun  
Trinidad—CCN 7:30am, Sun

### Britain and Europe

The Inspiration Network \*\*  
(All times GMT on Astra 2A-22)  
United Kingdom—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
(cable & satellite on BSKYB Channel 653)  
Austria—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Belgium—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Croatia—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Czech Republic—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Denmark—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Finland—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
France—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Germany—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Hungary—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur

Iceland—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Ireland—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Italy—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Luxembourg—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Malta—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Netherlands—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Norway—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Poland—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Portugal—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Slovak Republic—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Slovenia—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Spain—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Sweden—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur  
Switzerland—7:30am, Sun, 12:00am, Thur

### Middle East and Africa

Algeria—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Bahrain—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Cyprus—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Egypt—Star World 11:00pm, Sun  
Ethiopia—Star World 12:00am, Sun  
Iran—Star World 1:30am, Sun  
Iraq—Star World 11:50pm, Sat  
Israel—Star World 11:00pm, Sat  
Jordan—Star World 11:00pm, Sun  
Kuwait—Star World 12:00am, Sun  
Lebanon—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Morocco—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Oman—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Palestine—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Qatar—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Saudi Arabia—Star World 12:00am, Sun  
Somalia—Star World 12:00am, Sun  
Sudan—Star World 11:00pm, Sat  
Syria—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Tunisia—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
United Arab Emirates—Star World 1:00am, Sun  
Yemen—Star World 1:00am, Sun

### Asia/Pacific

Cambodia—Star World 4:00am, Sun  
China—Star World 5:00am, Sun  
North Korea—Star World 6:00am, Sun  
South Korea—Star World 6:00am, Sun  
Hong Kong—WGN 7:30am, Sun, WWOR 5:00am, Sun  
India—Star World 2:30am, Sun  
Nepal—Star World 2:45am, Sun  
Pakistan—Star World 2:00am, Sun  
Kazakhstan—Star World 4:00am, Sun  
Uzbekistan—Star World 2:00am, Sun  
Georgia—Star World 12:00am, Sun  
Indonesia—Star World 4:00am, Sun  
Malaysia—Star World 5:00am, Sun  
Maldives—Star World 2:00am, Sun  
Brunei—Star World 5:00am, Sun  
Vietnam—Star World 4:00am, Sun  
Papua New Guinea—Star World 7:00am, Sun  
Philippines—IBC TV 7:00am, Sun, Star World 5:00am, Sun  
Fiji—Star World 5:00am, Sun  
Singapore—Star World 5:00am, Sun  
Taiwan—Star World 5:00am, Sun  
Maldives—Star World 2:00am, Sun

### Australia/New Zealand

Australia nationwide—Network Ten 4:30am, Sun  
Adelaide—Channel 31/ACE Ch.6, 7:00pm, Wed  
ADS-10 4:30am, Sun  
Canberra—Ten Capital 4:30am, Sun  
New South Wales—NRTV 4:30am, Sun  
Southern New South Wales—Capital TV 4:30am, Sun  
Queensland—TVQ 4:30am, Sun  
Victoria—Ten Victoria 4:30am, Sun  
Victoria—Channel 31 Melbourne, 6:00pm, Wed  
Western Australia—New Ten, 11:00am, Sun  
New Zealand nationwide—TV3 6:00am, Fri  
Nationwide satellite—Sky TV 6:00am, Sun

\*\* Indicates a new station or time change

PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD  
Post Office Box 3700  
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA 73083 U.S.