



Understand
the Other
Sex

**AUSTRALIA
ON FIRE**



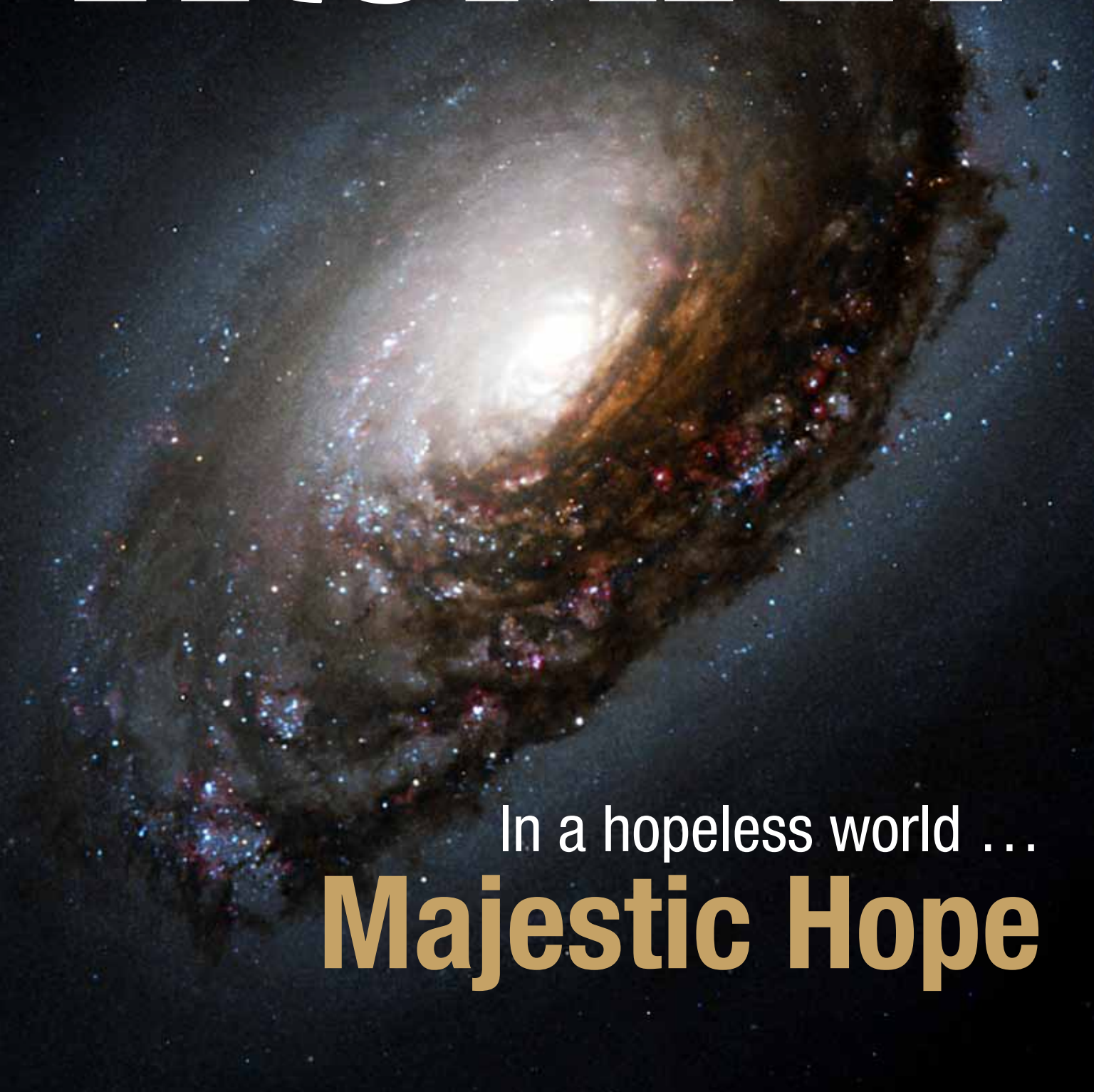
**Goodbye,
Britain.**

APRIL 2009

THE PHILADELPHIA

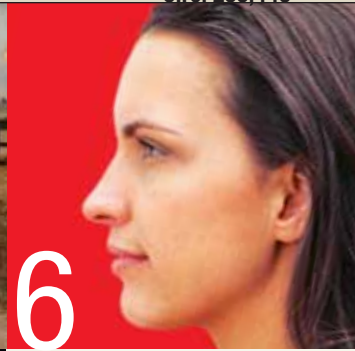
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In a hopeless world ...

Majestic Hope



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COVER A picture of Black Eye Galaxy M64, taken from the Hubble telescope. *NASA and the Hubble Heritage Team*

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Incredible Hope in a Hopeless World

I JUST ATTENDED THE JERUSALEM AND HERZLIYA CONFERENCES in Israel, only days before Israel held its election.

The conference speakers were some of the most brilliant leaders from around the world. But they are groping in the dark for solutions to the Middle East crisis and other global crises.

The speakers discussed all kinds of bad news. They tried to give us solutions and hope, but they failed miserably.

One world-famous writer believed that *imagination* could lift us out of our evil morass. But it was *human imagination* that led us into many of our present problems.

Several speakers touted *education* as the solution. But *education is the problem, not the solution!*

Winston Churchill warned his country and the world about Hitler in the 1930s. He was condemned by Oxford and almost every university in the Western world (including the educated media). Nevertheless, his warnings proved to be extremely accurate.

Many authorities say Churchill as prime minister saved Britain and the Western world in World War II. But academia did not learn one lesson from that experience. Our nations are making those same mistakes today on a far greater scale.

Educators refuse to learn from their own history! They are not humble enough to change course even when they have been proved wrong. That conclusion also applies to the media.

During the recent Gaza war, about 100,000 demonstrators in London screamed their support for the Hamas terrorists. The universities said and did nothing to condemn the demonstrations.

Many people are beginning to see that there is no hope that we will solve our nuclear nightmare and financial problems. Usually, the more we suffer, the more receptive we are to the hope that is literally staring us in the face.

If Churchill were still alive, you can be sure he would have condemned such behavior.

Some of our leaders have said that you make peace by talking to your enemies. But you could talk to Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and his terrorist proxies for a trillion years and never achieve peace.

These terrorists think and act like Hitler did. And our leaders should know—as Churchill did with Hitler—that we have gone far beyond the negotiation stage. Now is the time to fight!

Our liberal arts college in Edmond, Oklahoma, delivers a very different message from that of most educational institutions of this world. It is a message filled with solutions and hope. To learn about it, request a free copy of our booklet *Education With Vision*.



GERALD FLURRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Look to the People?

An Israeli speaker at one of the conferences said that Israel only needs to look to the people and all will be well. But I doubt if the speaker really believed what she said. Her nation is deeply and hopelessly divided as it is about to face a nuclear Iran that has vowed to wipe Israel off the map, and its terrorist proxies, undoubtedly armed with nuclear devices. Surely *strong leadership* is needed to help unify the people to face this unparalleled challenge. But would most of the people even respond to a strong leader?

Another outstanding columnist's hope was that more people were listening to the conservative message than the conservatives often think.

Of course, she is presuming *her message* is the solution. But that is at the heart of the problem of all the speakers: We face problems today that are totally beyond man's ability to solve. That is the deadly reality of all this.

Still another speaker thought that Arab countries in the Middle East may see the beauty of Israel's democracy and lead a big change in the Middle East. He believes some leader could start a democratic movement in Egypt, Iran, Turkey or Saudi Arabia. But he says that even as our strongest Western democracies are literally collapsing!

As an example, terrorists have been firing missiles into Israel for eight years and getting away with it. Any country that allows such attacks is in a dangerous stage of decline!

What Arab country would want to be a part of such democracy?

It looks as if the next prime minister of Israel will be Benjamin Netanyahu. He recently said that the nuclear threat from Iran is far greater than the global economic crisis—and I believe he is right.

However, the economic crisis of the U.S. and British peoples has the potential to destroy their economies and political systems.

Minutes From Disaster

Here is what Anne Davies wrote in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, February 12: "Just how close the U.S. banking system came to collapse last September was revealed in an extraordinary interview by the chairman of the House Capital Markets subcommittee, Paul Kanjorski, on C-SPAN.

"Answering a call from an irate woman who thought the spending on the banks unwarranted, the Democratic congressman recounted what he had been told by the former Treasury secretary, Henry Paulson, and the Federal Reserve chairman, Ben Bernanke.

"On Thursday [September 18], at 11 a.m. the Federal Reserve noticed a tremendous drawdown of money market accounts in the U.S.," he said. "The treasury ... quickly realized that they could not stem the tide. We were having an electronic run on the banks."

"The two men decided to announce a guarantee so there would be no further panic. 'If they had not done that, their

See **HOPE** page 17 ►

FIRESTORM

Australia's tragic environmental disasters are actually an emergency wake-up call. BY RON FRASER



THE BELOVED COUNTRY OF MY birth has been wracked by the trauma of devastating fires in the south and floods in the north. A massive fireball swept across Victoria and parts of South Australia in early February. These wildfires have caused unprecedented damage, taken some 200 lives, destroyed more than 1,800 homes, displaced about 7,500 people and burned almost a million acres. This is devastation

of record proportions, even in a hot, dry country so used to summer bushfires.

This inferno in the state of Victoria completely eclipsed the news of devastating floods in the northeastern part of the country. Sixty percent of my old home state of Queensland was inundated as massive floods swept in. Ingham had 12 meters of water in its downtown center. Crocodiles entered normally populated areas via the floodwaters, and venomous

snakes added to the challenges facing people displaced by the floods, which reached record levels. It's suspected one wayward croc killed a child.

What a paradox. Massive floods to the north, death and destruction by fire in the south.

It is suspected that at least some of the fires were set by Islamist terrorists or their sympathizers. The CIA warned Australia of this possibility after monitoring

ORRM



RING OF FIRE

Firefighters size up a gigantic inferno west of Melbourne, one of 40 blazes sparked by a once-in-a-century heat wave that scorched homes and took lives.

Islamist terrorist Web traffic, where a website called on Muslims in Australia, the U.S., Europe and Russia to “start forest fires,” saying it is an effective form of terrorism justified in Islamic law.

Yet there’s one overarching reality playing out as floods, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, record freezes and similar phenomena increasingly plague the Anglo-Saxon nations.

Anne Graham Lotz, the daughter of

Billy Graham, got close to that reality in an interview with Jane Clayson of the CBS *Early Show* after September 11: “I would say ... for several years now Americans in a sense have shaken their fist at God and said, God, we want you out of our schools, our government, our business, we want you out of our marketplace. And God, who is a gentleman, has just quietly backed out of our national and political life, our public life. Removing His hand of blessing and protection.”

As Job 4:8 says, “[T]hey that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.”

An unfashionable view, but the truth nonetheless. Yet few in this now largely godless country—where more people worship the sun on its golden beaches than ever deign to think of worshipping the great God who gifted to “the lucky country” its magnificent blessings—would understand that they are witnessing the very prophecies of that God in action.

Our editor in chief has often pointed to the imminent reality of the prophecies of the book of Amos. Gerald Flurry declared, clear back in 1996, both the source of this devastation, and the reason for it: “The Prophet Amos prophesied about this problem in the end time ... ‘And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered’ (Amos 4:7). God says, ‘I caused it’! God is the cause. We are being cursed by God! Do we really understand what that means? *When we continue to have serious floods and droughts at the same time, it is a warning sign from God.* And this is only the beginning” (*Trumpet*, April 1996).

Our continuing prayer will be for Almighty God to have mercy on those who cry out for understanding as to the reasons for the devastation, in particular in the inferno engulfing southern Australia, as well as those suffering loss from the unprecedented floods in Australia’s north.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd referred to those fires as being akin to “Hell in all its fury [visiting] the good people of Victoria.” Yet this inferno in Australia’s south is but a portent of far worse to come.

Our prayers and our work are dedicated to delivering the answers as to *why* these catastrophes are being visited on our peoples at this time. To those precious few who will heed and understand, then turn to their God to genuinely seek to comprehend the reasons for their very existence on Earth, the Creator offers the magnificent truth about their incredible human potential!

Log on to theTrumpet.com to read our electronically published booklet *Australia—Where to Now?* and request your own copy, free of charge, of our booklet on Amos, *The Lion Has Roared*, for real insight into the prophecies for these times and the great future that awaits mankind beyond the hugely corrective curses that are increasingly devastating our nations today. ■



Can the Financial Flames Be Stopped?

The price tag for all these bailouts and stimulus plans is so huge, it's approaching the cost of all American history combined! Still, there's no change yet. There's a good reason for that. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

THE ECONOMY WASN'T A BIG DEAL. Not as long as there was bread and circuses. The generous welfare system, the wars, and the public spectacles kept the masses distracted. Colossal-sized debt paid for colossal-sized public projects. People lived rich.

But when it came time to pay back the debt, the empire was in trouble.

Rome began cheating its creditors by taking the gold and silver out of its coins. Before long, Roman money was worthless—and Rome's wealthiest families were ruined. Society disintegrated. Unemployment and widespread food shortages ravaged the populace, soon after which the citizens of Rome had new taskmasters—the barbarians at the gate.

Is America Rome? Prosperity is still widespread today. But with unemployment rising and the dollar's value falling, more and more Americans are feeling the pinch personally. The parallels with Rome are ominous—and we shouldn't expect the trend to reverse course.

How to Make \$3 Trillion Vanish

Here is the sad fact: U.S. taxpayers have committed more than \$8.7 trillion to fixing the economy, and we haven't even made a noticeable dent!

Take a few seconds to reflect on what \$8.7 trillion means.

If you took the total cost of the

Marshall Plan, the Louisiana Purchase, the race to the moon, the savings and loan crisis, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Iraq wars, NASA's all-time budget—and adjusted them all for inflation into today's dollars—you would come to only \$3.9 trillion. You could even throw in every dollar spent on World War II, and you still would only get to \$7.5 trillion!

"It seems safe to say that, adjusted for the usual government underestimates, by oh, mid-2010 the bailout will have cost more than all of American history combined," quipped columnist Mark Steyn. "And by then we'll probably need a new round number."

To be fair, only around \$3 trillion has been spent or lent already. The majority of the rest is money the government has said taxpayers will pay to guarantee banks and other financial institutions in the case that they fail or find out their investments are worth less than they are pretending their value is.

The fact remains: \$3 trillion has vanished with no visible improvement in the lives of anybody besides some lucky bankers, who are the proud new owners of \$18 billion in bonuses—paid for by the people that politicians claim the bailout is supposed to be helping: taxpayers.

Now, with the latest \$780 billion stimulus package, taxpayers are expected to foot the bill for hundreds of billions more.

Wait a Minute ... We're Already Broke

But that is not the most dangerous aspect of this stimulus bill. Nor is the fact that politicians justified borrowing \$300 million in this supposed economic bill to go toward sexual health, \$245 million for Hollywood movie producers to buy film, \$650 million to help people convert to new television sets, and a veritable smorgasbord of other special-interest pork—somehow tying it in with "fixing the economy." It is not even the fact that government economists were so desperate that the government planned to borrow money to pay people up to \$15,000 to purchase homes.

No, the most dangerous aspect of this stimulus bill is that it distracted from the fact that *America is BROKE.*

We act as if we have \$8.7 trillion to spend in the first place.

The rage is to "spend, spend, spend"—yet there is barely a voice asking the burning question: *Where is the money going to come from?* America was already broke even *before* the financial landslide started hitting Wall Street last September!

The simple truth is that most politicians don't have a clue clue about how to fix the economy. That's because they don't understand the real cause of the problem.

Is Prosperity the Problem?

Economist Roger Babson became famous for warning that America faced "the worst

business depression that our generation has ever experienced.” That was in 1920 and early 1921. When he predicted it, people were amazed because America seemed to be at the height of prosperity. Babson knew something they didn’t.

“The test of a nation is the growth of its people—physically, intellectually and spiritually,” Babson said. “*Money and so-called prosperity are of very little account.* Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, Spain and France all had their turn in being the richest in the world. *Instead of saving them, their so-called prosperity ruined them.*”

Prosperity ruined the Roman Empire, and it is ruining America too.

Historian J.P. Bauzon, in his book *Roman Civilization*, notes that in Rome, by “the third century, the silver coins had become copper pieces washed in silver, and issues of gold had virtually ceased.” Little by little, the Roman emperors cheated their citizens and creditors, paying bills and debts with coins that had reduced precious metals content. Debasement of the coinage ruined the prosperity of its citizens.

America is doing the same thing today. The dollar has lost 95 percent of its purchasing power since the establishment of the Federal Reserve in 1913. And America continues to debase its currency in order to pay its bills. Every time you hear a politician use the term *stimulus*, or *bailout*, or *borrowing*, or *monetizing*, or *quantitative easing*, what it means is that the government is devaluing the currency a little more. Every dollar of debt makes the greenback worth a bit less. The dollar’s purchasing power is being compromised. When the current short-term dollar rally runs out of steam, expect the price of commodities and other imports to jump again.

In America, prosperity is no longer synonymous with actual wealth. Prosperity goes by an entirely different name today: *debt!*

It was the same in Rome.

What Won’t Save Us

“As an almost unavoidable corollary of the huge Roman fortunes, went the *accumulation of debts*. ... Even men of grave and respectable habits caught the mania of their age, that of *living beyond their incomes*,” wrote historian William Stearns Davis. “The typical Roman of birth and fashion,



[was] regularly in debt, and frequently on the brink of ruin” (*The Influence of Wealth in Imperial Rome*).

Just as in ancient Rome, America’s standard of living is financed by debt. The economy is financed by debt—even our so-called bailouts and stimulus packages are financed by debt. America is addicted to debt. Debt is burning America.

More borrowing and spending cannot fix the problems caused by too much borrowing and spending.

“Money will not save us,” warned Babson. “We must be filled with the desire to render service, to seek strength rather than security, to put character ahead of profits.”

Character ahead of profits. How many economists do you hear speaking like that today?

“Only a sane, spiritual revival which changes the desires of our people will save us,” Babson said.

Saving instead of spending, producing instead of consuming—these are badly needed reforms. But the ultimate source of America’s economic problems is a deeper fundamental problem. As Babson said, a whole new way of thinking is needed.

America Is Rome on Fire

The origin of America’s whole economic crisis can be characterized by three words: *fraud*, *greed*, and *corruption*. Ironically, today’s bailouts are more of the same.

If you can honestly express the idea that the fundamentals of our economy are sound, despite America’s very visible collapse, then you are welcome to join the chorus of commentators and citizens who

believe we are just one more spending bill, one more decision, one more quarter, one more election away from economic stability. But if your honesty dictates that you admit the obvious, that our economic *fundamentals* themselves are the problem, then you know America is Rome on fire.

America’s financial core—its biggest banks—are charred cinders. Now the flames are moving toward the commercial and residential sectors. Almost 600,000 jobs were lost in January. Around 1.5 million were lost during the last quarter of 2008. Mass unemployment is on the

way. The backdraft will be huge.

Bread and circuses will not be enough.

Long foodlines are coming to America. Social unrest will grow. The fire has passed the point of containment.

Only by understanding the cause of the problem can it be fixed. Borrowing and spending vast amounts of money may be part of the cause of America’s economic problem—but as Rome found out, it is certainly not the solution.

The real solution, as Babson said, must be *spiritual*. The only way that people, and therefore a nation, can enjoy real lasting prosperity is if they follow God. In Deuteronomy 28, God describes the many national blessings for obedience. But as a warning, God also lists the economic curses for disobedience. It is those curses that are now ravaging America.

God is a merciful God. He measures out His punishment a little at a time, giving us time to turn from our wrong ways. But as long as America continues its godless pursuits, as long as it looks to money to solve its problems, then the financial flames and the other curses described in Deuteronomy will only intensify.

Nevertheless, God wants people to prosper. And despite America’s rapid decline, individuals still have the opportunity to be blessed. You can be protected from the financial inferno sweeping the nation. But it involves living a certain way of life. To learn about it, order a free reprint of our article “How You Can Prosper in a Recession!” and a free copy of the book *Mystery of the Ages* by Herbert W. Armstrong. ■

Understand the Oppo

“WOMEN ALWAYS WORRY about the things that men forget; men always worry about the things women remember.” “A man falls in love through his eyes, a woman through her ears.” “Women marry men hoping they will change. Men marry women hoping they will not. So each is inevitably disappointed.” “The woman’s vision is deep reaching, the man’s far reaching. With the man the world is his heart, with the woman the heart is her world.”

The differences between men and women have delighted and puzzled us throughout human history.

In ideal relationships, these differences make it so the two can work together as a team, with the strengths of one complementing the strengths of the other. Often, however, those differences create friction, sparks, even explosions.

For singles, those frustrations can be magnified as you navigate the shifting waters of dating life, and each person you encounter presents fresh challenges in how to behave without being misinterpreted or hurt. At times, the complications of opposite-sex relationships capsize what actually could have developed into a deeper friendship—even a happy marriage.

The key to resolving these frustrations requires knowing why men and women are different. There is a reason—one that many people reject. Once it is understood, however, it brings tremendous clarity to the matter.

The truth is that the Creator God designed men and women to be different!

Not only that, He has given us some ground rules for how to make our relationships with those of the opposite sex work. He knows exactly what makes men and women tick. In His Word He gives us insight into how to avoid the pitfalls that can sink a friendship or a marriage—and also, how to satisfy the needs of those of the opposite sex.

A Problem That Affects Us All

We are all naturally selfish. And selfishness is the number-one obstacle to having meaningful relationships—especially with people of the opposite sex. It is a common trap to look at those relationships—whether friend or spouse—primarily in terms



of what we *get* from them, and when the other person doesn’t fulfill our needs and expectations, we can get very impatient. All those beautiful, God-designed differences become sources of irritation and frustration.

Here is some great advice on correcting this problem: “Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4, Revised Standard Version).

Why do you suppose Paul wrote this to the church in Philippi? Because there was a lot of selfishness and conceit—a lot of people looking after only their own interests—esteeming themselves first! We’re all prone to do that.

How easy is it to have a fundamentally *selfish* approach toward the opposite sex? Within marriage, to think mostly of how the other person should be serving you? As a single, to look at other singles in terms of who can best fulfill your needs?

How to Kill a Friendship

Here are some ways our selfishness can manifest itself. See if you spot yourself in any of these descriptions.

You can be so preoccupied with your own interests or problems that you are

oblivious to other people’s needs, desires and feelings. Or you can be so absorbed in your own insecurities and doubts—so aware of your own imperfections and deficiencies—that you stay cloistered up and don’t really give of yourself to others.

You can try too hard to project a certain image in order to impress others, and not be sincere and genuine. Or you can fail to open yourself up to others because you don’t want to be vulnerable to getting hurt, so you never really draw close to anyone.

As a single, you can consistently shut people of the opposite sex down because you interpret any sign of friendliness as proof positive that they want to marry you. Or you can deliberately lead someone on because you like the attention, even though you have no intention of ever pursuing a closer relationship with that person.

You can have overly sensitive feelings, and pull away or get pouty whenever your feelings are bruised. You can hold on to past grievances, even for years, and tend to give a person the cold shoulder in order to punish them.

You can be very picky and negative about what you perceive as another person’s faults. You can have unrealistic expectations of how that person should treat you and end up constantly disappointed.

You can have a firm idea of how an ideal person of the opposite sex should act, and harshly judge someone who fails to live up to that standard. You can so cling to a personal idea of what kind of mate would be best suited for you—maybe a certain physical ideal or personality trait—that you prematurely judge and reject someone, limiting a friendship.

These manifestations of selfishness are friendship killers and marriage wreckers. The tricky thing is, in many of those cases, we can feel *justified* in holding on to our selfishness.

But here is the beautiful truth: If you want to overcome your own selfishness, building quality friendships with those of the opposite sex is a fantastic way to do it!

The selfishness that hurts those relationships can be knocked down to size if you step out and put a priority on building good, close friendships—if you commit to conquering those barriers created by selfishness whenever they crop up.

LOVING AND BEING LOVED

THE BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION REGARDING the marriage state is not only extremely deep, it is also very practical in how to relate to the other sex—even for singles.

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25). Look at this from a woman’s point of view. God equipped women mentally, physically, emotionally and temperamentally to appreciate a man who demonstrates sacrificial concern for her. She wants a man who keeps her on his mind and watches out for her as she makes her way in the world.

Men: A woman loves it when you make her feel special and treat her with respect. Look for ways to express honor for her. Show her that you notice her and are concerned about her feelings. Uphold her dignity. Even as a single man, get in the habit of treating single women with respect—noticing them—giving them the loving concern they need.

God also made men mentally, physically, emotionally and temperamentally to feel fulfilled in *providing* this love to a woman. He made us to want to protect her, provide for her, look out for her. A man feels deep satisfaction when he sees the look of appreciation in a woman’s eyes for some kindness he has shown her.

Women: Realize that men are flattered when you call on them for help. We like to be the hero. So call! Don’t abuse the poor guy; don’t expect him to up-end his life because you happen to need some help. But don’t be too bashful about asking him if you need an escort, or help in fixing something or moving heavy objects, or you just need a shoulder to cry on. Don’t “drop hints,” being sly and coy and expecting that, if he’s a real man, he’s going to “get it.”

Women need this love—and men need to give this love. This is the way God designed us to function and thrive.



LEADING AND HELPING

“WIVES, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS, AS UNTO THE LORD” (Ephesians 5:22). This verse sends many people into fits of indignation. But the truth is, God made men to be the leader in the relationship. He equipped men mentally, physically, emotionally and temperamentally to fulfill that role. A man feels fulfilled when he’s being a leader, taking charge and making things happen.

At the same time, God made the woman mentally, physically, emotionally and temperamentally to appreciate it when the man takes charge and is decisive and strong.

Of course, society today is so hostile to that divinely inspired order that we may find ourselves resisting it. Some men think, *I don’t really want to be the leader. Why does it always have to be me?* And some women think, *I’ve had some bad experiences, and I’d just as soon take charge myself. These “men” don’t really know how to lead anyway, and someone’s got to do it.*

But here is the truth: This is how God designed men and women, and anytime we step outside that divine order, there will be problems. Our relationships won’t

be as fulfilling. There will likely be friction. There will be hurt feelings, frustrations, anxiety and discontent. If we break this spiritual law, curses will result.

Women: You have found the way to a man’s heart when you understand true submissiveness. This doesn’t mean being his slave. It means being willing, even eager, to help him and see him succeed. Take an interest in his goals and ambitions. Realize, too, how beautiful and attractive you are when you show inner charm, refinement and culture. Western culture favors loud, boisterous women. But godly men love femininity, charm and grace. Gentleness of speech. A woman who is kind-spoken, courteous, concerned about others.

Practice these principles even in simple conversation. Men: Women do admire you when you try to lead in conversation. It’s difficult, but it’s important to learn how to do so naturally. Try to have a few subjects to fall back on in case of an awkward silence. Ask good, open-ended questions to draw her out—but don’t get too personal. Make sure there’s a give-and-take, and neither of you is dominating the conversation. And women: Make it easier for the man to communicate by showing an interest and being responsive. Realize too that men actually appreciate a difference of opinion from time to time. If you disagree, however, don’t be argumentative—be feminine in how you present your point.

NEEDING AND GIVING RESPECT

“NEVERTHELESS LET EVERY ONE OF YOU IN PARTICULAR SO LOVE HIS WIFE EVEN AS HIMSELF; AND THE WIFE SEE THAT SHE *reverence* her husband” (Ephesians 5:33). The word *reverence* means to venerate, to treat with deference.

Women: *All men secretly crave your respect.* God hardwired us to really want that veneration, deference and reverence. So in your relationships with men, if you give that to them, the relationship will go much further. It will have far less frustration and friction.

Nowhere in Scripture does it say women need to be obedient to *all men*—only wives to their husbands, children to their parents, servants to their masters. But if

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America's new president
will irreversibly alter
relationships across the Atlantic.

Goodbye, Britain. Hello, Europe.

BY RON FRASER

YOU CAN TELL A LOT ABOUT the path a presidency will take by the first decisions a president makes. Fresh in the office, any new leader is very conscious that his early decisions will set the tone and the public image of his presidency.

Realists will observe President Barack Obama's early decisions with a deal of concern for the future of America.

Mr. Obama promised change. Few have detected just how radical that change has already been in the foreign-policy arena in particular.

It is worth remembering that as Mr. Obama stomped the presidential campaign trail, he gave only one speech in a foreign country. As the location for that speech, he chose Berlin, capital of the nation that dragged Britain, America and the rest of the world into the two greatest wars in history.

There was something portentous in that choice. For of all the moves President Obama is making, it is those regarding America's relations with the nations across the Atlantic that will prove to have the most devastating effect on its future.

This is a moment of enormous importance for the U.S. and the world. In the wake of America's massive economic decline, a struggle is unfolding to establish the new global order. In the process, the Obama

administration is being grandly fooled into yielding up irrecoverable ground.

The President's First Moves

The new administration made itself plenty busy with other initiatives before addressing its relations with Europe.

Writing for the *Guardian* newspaper, Martin Kettle declared on January 30, "Never mind the vaunted first 100 days. The first 10 days alone have already seen an opening to the Muslim world, the abandonment of military tribunals at Guantánamo Bay, the dispatch of a senior Middle East envoy, the unveiling of a new green agenda, the removal of the abortion bar on foreign aid programs, an eye-wateringly large fiscal stimulus package, major moves to increase government transparency, and ... a decisive change of approach towards revolutionary Iran."

By the president's second day in office, it was becoming apparent that this is a new appeasing administration that risks gravely endangering America's future. Consider.

President Obama's first telephone call was not to any of America's traditional allies, nor to the leader of any established nation, but to the leader of a non-state, the Palestinians, the declared enemy of the nation of Israel.

Those "major moves to increase government transparency" refer to an action by Mr. Obama on the second day of his presidency, when he issued an executive

order to create new Freedom of Information Act rules, making it harder to keep the workings of government secret. The extent to which this will impact America's security is yet unclear. However, it has a nasty ring about it; it appears to be borne of the same mindset that gutted the CIA under the Clinton administration and made the struggle for national security harder.

The same day, the president made clear via a draft executive order that he intends to close the Guantánamo Bay terrorist detention facility within a year, release some of its remaining 245 accused terrorist detainees, and transfer others to different sites for trial. This sends a signal to enemies that America's days of getting tough with those who threaten the nation with terror are over.

The new president's first television interview was given to a television station sponsored by a nation whose religion seeks to overthrow traditional Judeo-Christianity and impose its own teachings on the world, a nation whose ruling class has dirtied its hands in supporting terror against Israel, Britain and the United States: the Saudi-sponsored Al Arabia tv network.

Finally, the Obama administration chose to reveal its anxiously awaited foreign-policy hand. And what location did the president choose? Interestingly, it paralleled the choice he had made in speaking abroad on the campaign trail. The administration made its statement at a

global security conference, held February 6 to 8, at the city of Munich—in Germany.

Conference chairman Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger said he was proud that President Obama again chose a German city from which to first air details of his foreign policy. That sounds an awful lot like a spider luring the fly into its web. Why? Because biblical prophecy indicates that eventually, it will not be *Washington* calling the tune on America's foreign policy—but Berlin!

Setting America Up

Germany's vice chancellor, Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, is no great fan of either the U.S. or the previous American president. Nevertheless, at this high-profile forum on global defense and security, he set an expectant tone in his opening address with a nod to the new Obama administration, declaring that "The window of history had been opened for a while ... with a new U.S. president who offered new thinking on the whole spectrum of disarmament and security policy" (Munich Security Conference, February 6).

All sensed that an appeasing administration now rules Washington at a time when American power is on the wane. A new conciliatory tone was evident. This served to mask the true intentions of each major nation: to strengthen its individual national power, forging backroom alliances to isolate the U.S. and counter American military might.

Some of the better observers noted certain realities surrounding the Munich Security Conference. Before the conference, under the apt headline "Searching for a New World Order," Spiegel Online made this remark: "Our current, terribly interesting times ensure that this year's Munich conference will attract unprecedented international attention. It will provide pointers as to what will be possible during Obama's first year in office—and what not" (January 30).

It became apparent at the conference that the U.S. is being squeezed in a foreign-policy pincer movement between two imperialist powers, Germany and Russia. Germany's Vice Chancellor Steinmeier and Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin are playing a game, each intent on cementing a strong anti-American alliance with the other. While the Obama administration is working to appease America's enemies in lieu of confronting them, the U.S. is being set up as the fall guy for German and Russian power plays.

America to Europe: Stand Up!

In his speech at the conference, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden laid out the parameters for the Obama administration's foreign policy. In it he emphasized that the American government's "new willingness to engage in dialogue was combined with *the expectation that the partners of the United States stand up more often* for their shared values and objectives. In Munich this was seen as a *clear invitation to provide more military support* to the U.S., for instance regarding Afghanistan" (Munich Security Conference, op. cit.; emphasis mine throughout).

This announcement would have been very good news to the German power elites. They have been quietly seeking to strengthen the German presence in Afghanistan for some time—notwithstanding German media opinion to the contrary. Germany views a stronger presence in Afghanistan and a revived involvement in Middle Eastern security as being vital to advancing its interests to control Iran and gain access to Middle Eastern oil.

Severing a Historic Relationship

As soon as President Obama appointed his new secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, Frank-Walter Steinmeier became quite persistent in seeking her ear. The day she was confirmed on January 21, Steinmeier quickly dispatched a letter of congratulations. He followed up with a telephone call the next day, with events in the Middle East very much on his mind. Barely a week and a half later, Steinmeier had hightailed it to New York to meet her directly.

The fact that Secretary Clinton had hosted British Foreign Secretary David Miliband only two hours before meeting with Steinmeier apparently didn't bother the German vice chancellor. Miliband's visit was given scant media coverage; as the *Telegraph* noted, "It has been said that the new president *does not share the affinity for Britain of his predecessors*, while in speeches since his election he has lumped Britain in with other European allies" (February 4). Though the *Telegraph* called the Miliband visit "something of a coup for Foreign Office officials, after speculation that the special relationship

with the United States might weaken under Mr. Obama," realists understand there is little reason to celebrate. Britain is losing its national sovereignty and becoming a mere appendage of the European Union. Under Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government, its clout in international relations is shriveling. This, President Obama clearly understands.

The reality is that, despite Mrs. Clinton acknowledging the historic nature of the "special relationship" between the U.S. and Britain, that relationship in President Obama's mind is secondary to that which he sees Germany and the EU fulfilling. This is especially the case when it comes to helping to get the U.S. off the hook in the Middle East and Afghanistan and becoming more directly involved in NATO- and UN-sponsored forays into foreign climes.

Yet in the whole equation of the foreign policy of the new radical-left American administration, nothing is more glaringly apparent than the severing of the partnership between the U.S. and Britain, a natural union of brother nations that joined to save the world from the tyranny threatened by two great world wars and a 40-year Cold War.

Each of the above foreign-policy maneuvers of the Obama administration drives another nail into the Anglo-American alliance. The mass media are largely ignorant of this radical shift in U.S. foreign policy!

**Glaringly
apparent is the
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a natural union
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nations.**

The coming of the Obama administration has mortally wounded the natural symbiosis of diplomacy between Britain and America. This is a radical departure from the 200 years of mutual support and cooperation between the U.S. and Britain, particularly in matters of defense and security. The Blair-Bush years were the swan song for that strongest of natural, yet unwritten, alliances.

And which power stands ready in the wings to take full advantage of this break in the U.S.-Britain partnership?

None other than the European Union!

Slouching Toward Brussels

Journalist Martin Kettle astutely observes of President Obama, "If he seeks an effective global partner for his efforts on

Iran, the Middle East, climate change or the restructuring of financial institutions, he will not look first to Britain He will look to the EU” (op. cit.).

There is a reason why Mr. Obama and his advisers chose Berlin as the only foreign city within which the presidential candidate would give a public speech as he stomped the campaign trail. There is an isolationist portfolio. Increasingly, the Obama administration will seek to hasten the day when American troops will withdraw from their 65-year residence in Europe and hand European security over

veal that the U.S. is fundamentally broke, it will increasingly, and willingly, hand over the security of Europe to the EU. This will accelerate the military agenda of the elites that frame EU foreign policy, in the process drastically upping the expression of EU “hard power.”

Additionally, it will encourage those who have long held to the idea that the European Union should provide a “peacekeeping” force to complete the surrounding of the tiny nation of Israel with a multinational force intent on securing stability in the strife-torn Middle East.

The first six months of this year feature a number of high-profile international conferences at which the new U.S. administration will be able to gradually reveal its shaky hand on its new diplomacy. In addition to the Munich conference, there is the EU summit in March, the April G-20 meeting in London, followed by the 60th anniversary summit of NATO in June, which promises to be full of surprises.

Threaded throughout each will be a more strident voice from a Germany caught in deep crisis and in need of markets for its manufacturing industries. We predict that Germany will be invited to take on a more involved role in European, Middle Eastern and African security, a future reality that will lead to a revival of that nation’s heavy industries and prove to be the trigger to revitalize its currently deeply recessive economy.

If you fail to see these realities taking place before your eyes, it is because you need to understand the Bible prophecies that have declared their inevitability and their timing for these very days we are living through, right at this very moment!

Request a free copy of each of our booklets *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* and *Daniel Unlocks Revelation* for a detailed exposé of vital Bible prophecies for these times. And while you are about it, request our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It is the one book that places the Anglo-American alliance in its true perspective—past, present and future.

These three publications will serve you as constant aids as you seek to make sense of the present global turmoil. In fact, they will reveal to you the only source of real hope for a better future that lies just beyond the turmoil of today! ■



to Brussels/Berlin. In the process, the U.S. will continue to hand over its bases and its military hardware to EU control. This will spell disaster for both America and Britain in the not-too-distant future.

Martin Kettle declares the new reality that has come to the fore in international relations in the wake of the diminution of American power: “If you want peace in Sudan or Congo or Somalia, you have to want not just international aid but international peacekeeping. Existing peacekeeping efforts, though large and expensive, are also ineffective. Western engagement in these efforts would be controversial, but it could be very effective. *Yet it will only happen—to the extent it happens at all—through the EU*, not through nation states. There is a pressing need for an intelligent post-Iraq debate about *how Europe can best develop, organize and use hard power*” (ibid., emphasis mine).

When the light eventually dawns on this new American administration to re-

This, as we have consistently pointed out over the years, is all prophesied in your Bible!

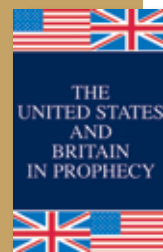
Do You See Prophetic Reality?

Put all this together with the reality to which former Clinton aide Dick Morris awakened last September—that the U.S. is already dancing to the European Union’s tune in its business and finance regulations—and the prophecies of the books of Daniel and Revelation leap into perspective!

The most radical of foreign-policy change in which the Obama administration is presently engaged is the breaking of the U.S.-Britain alliance that has maintained the peace of the world for the past 200 years. In the process, President Obama will be not only handing over the baton of “hard power” to the EU to fill the gap created by the breaking of the pride of Anglo-American power, he will be signing the death warrant of his own nation!

Read the PROOF

Meticulously researched, using secular history along with biblical history and prophecy, Herbert W. Armstrong’s book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* proves that these nations are prophesied about in the Bible. Request your free, eye-opening copy today.



Want to Know What a FORMER SUPERPOWER Looks Like?

You don't
need to scour
the history books.
Just look at Britain.

BY JOEL HILLIKER

“THE SHORES OF HISTORY are strewn with the wrecks of empires,” Churchill once said. How quickly the empire over which he presided has joined those wrecks.

It's easy to forget just how great Great Britain was, and how recently. At the turn of the last century, its wealth and power were immense and unmatched. It was the world's number-one or -two producer of petroleum, coal, steel, pig iron, gold and nearly every other precious metal. Its electricity output dwarfed every other comer. Its Royal Navy—by law larger than the world's next two largest navies combined—extended the empire's presence around the globe. The company of nations over which it ruled comprised one out of every four people and one of every five acres on the planet.

Today, Britain is having trouble governing its own children.

In place of an empire is a weakened, fractious little nation about to collapse under its economic woes. It is besieged by social breakdown; it is plagued by radical subcultures; its police are conceding the battle against crime; its military is a shell of its former self and continuing to shrivel.

This is a cautionary tale particularly worth scrutinizing as an unstable world lurches into a new geopolitical era.

Military and Economy—Decimated

After years of budget cuts and neglect, Britain's armed forces have been decimated. While politicians speak of technological advances with words like “modernization,” “flexibility” and “efficiency,” steep and steady cutbacks in troops, vehicles, weapons and equipment have devastated the nation's defenses.

As an example, the Royal Navy—almost 900 warships strong at its peak—currently has 22 warships, only a third of

which can operate at any one time.

Britain has surrendered its once-prized military self-sufficiency in arena after arena. The latest of these came in December, when the Defense Ministry scrapped an order for 2,000 armored utility vehicles. The manufacturer that lost the order, BAE, happens to be Britain's only remaining heavy-duty combat vehicle maker—and it said it may soon have to abandon the business. This would mean the nation that invented the tank would be forced to trust other nations for its military needs, parts and maintenance.

Not a good position to be in, considering the fracturing stability of our world.

While a loss of national pride in British power is certainly to blame, so too are the economic constraints facing a nation in decline and sinking under its own ridiculous welfare commitments. (Recent figures show, for example, that 140,000 British households are receiving tax-free

government handouts that *exceed the average British salary*.)

The global financial crisis has walloped the precariously balanced, debt-laden British economy. Its biggest banking houses have crumbled. The Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyds Banking Group and others have been nationalized. London's reputation as a center of global finance is likely gone for good.

Bank of England governor Mervyn King has warned that the British economy could shrink up to a staggering 6 percent this year. Labor cabinet minister Ed Balls said the recession is the most serious in over a century, and that the country faces "seismic events that are going to change the political landscape."

To address the contraction, the government is expected to borrow between \$172 billion and \$190 billion—up from "only" \$52 billion last year. These figures are certain to balloon to even more perilous heights in the longer term, considering

the scale of the "stimulus" initiatives being discussed. But with indications that foreign investors are abandoning the UK, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced he may turn to the printing presses to create the vast sums needed to pay for all the spending and to prop up the banks—at the risk of destroying the British pound.

Britons' notoriety for keeping a stiff upper lip in trial is proving to be a thing of the past.

The International Monetary Fund says the UK will face the worst recession of any industrialized nation in 2009. The British people are facing the simultaneous economic pressures of a depreciating pound, abnormally high inflation, exorbitant and rapidly rising taxes, and exploding unemployment. This in a nation *already* known as one of the most expensive in the Western world.

Britons' notoriety for keeping a stiff upper lip during tough times is proving to be a thing of the past. The UK is already seeing a rise in thefts, domestic burglaries, knife-point robberies and fraud—economically related crimes that the government directly links to the crippled national economy.

Falling Apart and Turning to Crime

Other factors are clearly contributing to the problem as well, however—most notably the wasteland that once was British family life. The broken homes that dot the landscape are proven breeding grounds for future criminals.

"The offspring of the first big generation of single mothers were children in the 1980s," deputy head teacher Ralph Surman told the *Daily Mail*. "Now they are adults with their own children, and the problems are leading to higher crime rates and low participation in the labor force" (February 10). In Surman's view, Britain is raising a

CHILDHOOD TROUBLES The Root Cause

IF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE TEACHINGS OF HERBERT W. Armstrong, you might recall his profound synopsis of human existence. "There are two main ways of life—two basic principles—two fundamental philosophies," he explained. "One is the way of GIVING, the other of GETTING. One is LOVE, the other LUST. One believes it is more blessed to give than to receive. The other insists that acquiring, taking, accumulating, in the way of competition, leads to progress and happiness" (*Plain Truth*, February 1983).

What are the consequences of living the "get" way of life? Mr. Armstrong continued, "*It has produced every wail of human woe. It is the way that now threatens the extinction of humanity*" (emphasis mine throughout).

You need only contemplate human history or steal a glance at modern society to recognize the truth in those statements.

For the more skeptical, however, one recent comprehensive study confirms Mr. Armstrong's God-inspired observation. Commissioned by the Children's Society in Britain in September 2006, the Good Childhood Inquiry was Britain's first independent national inquiry into the conditions that lead to a good childhood. On February 5, after more than two years of in-depth investigation of over 30,000 children, parents and professionals, the Children's Society launched its report, *A Good Childhood*.

It's a blockbuster. It's a landmark. It's a "wake-up call," Children's Society Chief Executive Bob Reitemeier said. "It says that the AGGRESSIVE PURSUIT OF INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS BY ADULTS TODAY IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR CHILDREN."

Don't gloss over that statement. Stop a moment, mull it over, digest it. The "greatest threat" to children today—despite what most authorities tell us—is *not* obesity, or gang violence, or online predators, or drug abuse, or alcohol, or suicide, or sexual abuse.

It's selfish parents and adults!

The Get Way

The *Telegraph* described the study's findings thus: "The Good Childhood Inquiry claims that ALMOST ALL of the problems now facing young people stem from the *culture* of 'EXCESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM' that has developed in recent decades.

"It says the 'ME-FIRST' ATTITUDE OF ADULTS is *causing* family breakdowns, competition in education, a growing gap between rich and poor, unkindness among teenagers and premature sexualization by advertisers" (February 2).

Humbling stuff, particularly for parents. But it's also refreshingly honest. Finally, a study has probed beneath the nasty, outward sores affecting Britain's children and exposed the *root cause* of their woes!

Which woes? British childhood, as the report shows, is marked by trial and tribulation: emotional and behavioral problems at home and at school; violence; anxiety, depression and mental ills; promiscuity and sexual perversion; teenage pregnancy—the worst in Western Europe; youth gangs; knifings; drug and alcohol abuse; suicide.

It's about time we began to recognize that parents and adults preoccupied with satisfying their *own* lusts, forging their *own* personal success, AND BASICALLY LIVING THE "GET" WAY are the *root cause* of these problems!

"There is unease about the unprecedented speed with which children's lives are changing; the commercial pressures they face; the violence they are exposed to; the rising stresses of school; the increased emotional distress they feel," Mr. Reitemeier stated. "There is *one common theme that links all these problems*: EXCESSIVE INDIVIDUALISM. This is the widespread belief among adults that THE PRIME DUTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL IS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR OWN LIFE, RATHER THAN TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LIVES OF OTHERS."

generation with no social skills or work ethic, and that cannot be educated.

Surman was responding to figures released in January showing that the number of 16- to 24-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (known as NEETS) is increasing across Britain—from 94,000 in 2003 to a remarkable 850,000 just four years later. What are these hundreds of thousands of unproductive young people doing with their lives?

Unsurprisingly, antisocial behavior like drunkenness, vandalism and verbal abuse has become epidemic: An estimated 35 million such acts occur each year in England and Wales, which averages out to more than one per second, round the clock.

The government's own patently anti-family welfare policies also bear their share of blame for these pathologies. Since the Labor Party came to power in 1997, the British government has eroded tax breaks for families and replaced them with a

system of tax credits that benefit single mothers rather than couples. Recent figures show, shamefully, that a couple with children can become over \$7,200 a year *richer* simply by splitting up. Under this system, the number of single-parent homes has soared. Today it stands at 2.3 million British households.

The broken homes that dot the landscape are proven breeding grounds for future criminals.

"There are now so many children growing up in broken homes or with disruptive backgrounds that the self-restraint taught to previous generations is no longer there," Robert Whelan, a member of a British think tank, told the *Mail*. "They think when they are angry they can just lash out" (January 30).

And that's just what they're doing. Government figures show that one in

three British youth carry knives. On average, more than five people die from knife crime each week, and a British *child* dies in a knife attack every two weeks.

Violent crime is now the *most common offense* committed by *females* in England—recently overtaking theft. Additionally, crimes of violence—which include assault, street brawls, grievous bodily harm and even murder—committed by girls *under age 18* rose almost 50 percent over the past five years. "Half of all violent offenses are linked with alcohol," the *Telegraph* reported, "causing concerns that the 'ladette' culture of binge drinking is turning more and more violent" (January 31). Last year, 10- to 18-year-old girls carried out almost 58,000 crimes in England.

How the Police Are Handling the Problem

In major cities like London, Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, whole areas "have become lawless enclaves, places

That statement backs up the reality Mr. Armstrong explained for years. It is proof that the *get* way produces "every wail of human woe."

The positive upshot of this understanding, though, is that it contains the SOLUTION to the problem. Implementing this solution can provide health-filled happiness, joy and rock-solid stability for our children.

That solution can be explained simply: Embrace the lifestyle *opposite* to the *get* way. Live the GIVE WAY!

The Give Way

Here's a practical suggestion. Cement the following principle in your heart and mind: I MUST CONSIDER THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS BEFORE MYSELF. Make it a goal to allow the *give* principle to permeate every nook and cranny of your life. Before you perform any action, conduct any conversation, make any decision, ask yourself: Does this serve *me* only, or does it serve others *first*? Analyze every impulse in this context.

The end result is guaranteed. Live by that principle. Choose to serve others, *including God*, before yourself, and your life will be revolutionized. More importantly, by embracing the *give* way of life, you can change the lives of those around you!

THIS is the solution to childhood woes!

Imagine a marriage in which the husband and wife each put God's law of give and the interests and well-being of the other person before him or herself. Adultery vanishes, divorce ends.



Both husband and wife are mentally and emotionally fulfilled, happy and stable. These conditions produce safe, stable, happy children. Imagine a family where siblings are taught to value the well-being of others before their own. Fighting, bickering and division diminishes. Each child becomes happier, more successful, more fulfilled, more lovable, more loving, more loved. Imagine teens taught to obey God's laws, teens putting the well-being of others before themselves. Tensions melt. Teen violence vanishes. Alcohol and drug abuse dissipates; unwed teen pregnancy is impossible. High schools are a joy to visit.

If living the *GET* way of life is the *cause* of Britain's (and the world's) childhood woes, then living the *GIVE* way of life is the *solution!*

Of course, changing our very character and nature from *get* to *give* is more impossible than it sounds. To successfully transform our human hearts, which the Prophet Jeremiah warned are selfish and vain and evil (Jeremiah 17:9), requires power and discipline beyond what the human mind and body is capable of producing.

It requires nothing less than the mind and power of God!

God wants to give you access to His power! To learn what you must do to draw on it, request a free copy of *Repentance Toward God* and *The Incredible Human Potential*. For a picture of what this planet would be like if every human, using God's power, lived the way of *give*, request Mr. Armstrong's wonderfully descriptive, hope-filled booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.

BRAD MACDONALD

where even the police fear to tread,” says South Africa’s *Argus Weekend*.

The public’s confidence in the police is plummeting. The *Brussels Journal* reports, “In the last few years violent crime has risen sharply, with the police seemingly unwilling to investigate or prosecute even many serious offenses and government guidelines requiring judges sentence those found guilty to little or no prison time.” Concurrent with this erosion in civil order, Britain is losing more and more of its sovereignty to Europe (“well over 300 European laws have been established in Britain against the wishes of Parliament,” the *Journal* says)—and it is turning over more and more cases to the parallel Islamic judicial system it is fostering in its midst.

The gradual surrender of British law enforcement to antisocial forces is perhaps nowhere more chillingly illustrated than in Britain’s capitulation to hate-filled Muslims. Throughout the recent Gaza war, public demonstrations of condemnation against Israel and support for Hamas filled the streets of London. Israel’s embassy in Kensington was the object of daily violent siege. “Certainly, there have been anti-Israel protests around the world,” wrote Melanie Phillips. “But in Britain, not only have these been particularly violent but the authorities have done nothing to stop such incitement of hatred” (*Wall Street Journal*, January 19).

At least once, police demanded that pro-Israel demonstrators *put away their Israeli flags* so as not to be “inflammatory”—even while allowing some Hamas demonstrators “to dress up as hook-nosed Jews pretending to drink the blood of Palestinian babies.” “One recent video clip,” Phillips wrote, “captured the astonishing spectacle of Muslims stampeding through London’s West End hurling traffic cones and other missiles at the police, all the time shrieking ‘Allahu akbar’ and ‘cowards.’ *The police ran and stumbled backward rather than standing their ground and stopping the rampage*” (emphasis mine).

It is a fitting metaphor for what has become of the world’s mightiest empire.

Four Decades Ago—a Warning

Remarkably, the *Trumpet’s* parent publication, a monthly prophetic newsmaga-

“STOP THE VIOLENCE”? Hamas supporters attack a police horse and rider in London outside the Israeli Embassy in protest of Israel’s Gaza incursion.



zine called the *Plain Truth*, began warning in the interim years *between the two world wars* that Britain would lose its empire! To understand how this dramatic collapse was written about in advance in your Bible, order a free copy of Herbert W. Armstrong’s masterwork *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Through its several decades under the editorial eye of Mr. Armstrong, the *Plain Truth* reported in detail the curses that were increasingly plaguing Britain, all the while forewarning that they were merely

Whole areas have become lawless enclaves, places where even the police fear to tread.

the prelude to far worse curses.

A number of notable *Plain Truth* articles throughout the 1960s in particular detailed Britain’s woes at the time, which were considerable: economic problems, low food production, struggles with defining its commonwealth, racial tension, a burgeoning and unsustainable welfare system, notorious laziness and preoccupation with immoral entertainment. The *Plain Truth* even laid out, on more than one occasion, detailed steps that would turn Britain around and set it back on a course lined with blessings.

Consider, as an example, this statement from a December 1964 *Plain Truth* article: “[T]he British public remains apathetic! ... The new generation insists only on less work and more benefits. The wel-

fare state, supported by each government in turn, encourages just such an attitude. ... But as the cry grows louder for wage increases, unemployment pay, sick benefits, pensions, allowances, national assistance, grants and payments—the *entire economy staggers*, unable to stay afloat!”

Now, having stumbled through those tough times with no appreciable change in its behavior, Britain faces an intensification of its problems.

What Is Britain’s Fate?

God makes and unmakes nations. “He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again. ... Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing” (Job 12:23; Isaiah 40:15). He *made* Britain what it once was, and He is *unmaking* it today.

But God has not yet given up hope on reaching the British people. Strange as it may sound, the very fact that the nation is suffering is evidence of His perseverance and mercy. “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons” (Hebrews 12:6-7).

Shortly after Herbert Armstrong’s death in 1986, the warnings issued by the *Plain Truth* were taken up by Gerald Flurry and published in the *Trumpet* to be delivered to a new, largely more corrupt generation. His booklet explaining God’s condemnation of Britain in the biblical

book of Hosea is a must-read—and we will send you a free copy upon request.

The leaders of Britain responsible for its 60 million citizens would think this message silly or quaint. But even so, at least the 1 million readers of this issue of the *Trumpet* will have this warning set before them. Perhaps some of *you* will heed.

God told Britain what would happen. He has explained His reasons for bringing curses upon it. Still, Britain toils on, trying to solve its problems with its own muscle and ingenuity. And instead of looking to God, Britain is relying on its “allies” like Europe—or, as the Bible refers to them, its “lovers.” “They are gone up to Assyria, a wild ass alone by himself: *Ephraim hath hired lovers*” (Hosea 8:9). (For the astounding proof that *Assyria* refers to Germany, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.)

In October 1966, the *Plain Truth* made this important statement: “The big question: ‘What will it take to wake up the people of Britain?’ Will it take a terrible economic depression, or will it take *national military defeat* at the hands of a German-dominated United States of Europe?”

There the article referred to the prophesied ultimate fall of Britain!

As the *Trumpet* has often explained, and as the Bible makes clear to those who have the key to understand it, God prophesies that Britain will not learn its lesson except through total defeat and subjugation as slaves to a united Europe!

“I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled. They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord. ... Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria. When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard. ... Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb. My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations” (Hosea 5:3-4; 7:11-12; 9:16-17).

Yes—what will it take to wake up the people of Britain? Will *you* wait until being besieged by a frightful foreign army, rounded up and thrust into captivity? Or will you accept God’s correction and heed God’s warning *now*? ■



THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE GENERATION

Should we be bothered about the decline of language?

THE British Empire is dead. But one aspect yet wields the same influence over the world that it did in Britain’s glory days. Even today, the sun hasn’t set on the English language.

English has a legal or official status or heavy influence in 115 countries. *Language Today* lists it as the most influential language in the world. But in its birthplace, the home of some of its greatest orators, Britain’s last great institution is vanishing. An entire segment of British society is simply unable to communicate effectively.

“Dere was somefing minging in de State of Denmark which was making ‘Amlet all uncool,” begins a translation of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, based on today’s “street” English. “Verona was de turf of de feuding Montagues and de Capulet families,” begins the modern-day *Romeo and Juliet*. “And coz they was always brawling and stuff, de prince of Verona told them to cool it or else they was gonna get well mashed if they carried on larging it with each other.”

Almost anyone who’s been in England can recognize this slang; it’s in major cities, on television, and all over the schools—in many cases at the direction of the teachers. One school performed an irreverent nativity play, in which teachers had actually prompted children to get up on stage and deliver their lines in “street” lingo. Teachers have largely turned their backs on teaching obedience to English rules, and no longer “bovver” to teach children correct spelling. No wonder standards of literacy are sinking like the Titanic!

University professors are finding that many of their students cannot communicate effectively at all. “Spelling and punctuation is only part of the problem,” said Prof. Tony Marcel. “Their vocabulary is poor and mistaken; they have little idea of syntax, cannot punctuate and seem to have no idea of what constitutes a sentence.” The *Telegraph* reports that “thousands of children leave school too innumerate and illiterate to hold down a job.” Illiteracy equals unemployment.

But this is about more than communicating well enough to get a job. In “Politics and the English Language,” George Orwell drew the connection between language and *thought*. Our language, he wrote, “becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts.” *We are what we think!* Sloppy thoughts lead to sloppy speech and sloppy writing. And the same is true in reverse: If we cannot speak clearly, we cannot think clearly.

As Jesus Christ said, “[O]ut of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34). The inability of a person to speak properly reveals a weak, undisciplined heart and mind.

How can a people with a confused, muddled and garbled language have a clear sense of national identity? If you cannot define something, you do not understand it. If you cannot say it in words, then it is not clear in your mind.

In 1984, Orwell described a totalitarian government restricting the language of its people so much that they cannot even *think* about being free. The word *freedom* no longer exists in their vocabularies, and thus they can’t say it or think it.

Is that nightmarish scenario becoming reality? Many are not truly able to explain what democracy is, or what freedom is. Many are capable only of repeating prepackaged phrases coined by someone else: “No blood for oil” or “Bush lied, people died,” *without understanding any of the issues behind them*. If a person cannot articulate his or her thoughts, that person is not truly free.

America’s Founding Fathers understood this principle. “An *enlightened* citizenry is indispensable for the proper functioning of a republic,” said Thomas Jefferson. “Self-government is not possible unless the citizens are educated sufficiently to enable them to exercise oversight. It is therefore imperative that the nation see to it that a *suitable education be provided for all its citizens*.” Healthy societies are comprised of competent, effective thinkers. And you can measure that thought by language.

Britain’s language problem is not just an annoyance. It does not just mean an unintelligent workforce. It comes from the destruction of Britain’s core. Men were once proud to be British. Now, many can’t even define it.

As Jefferson warned, “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.”

RICHARD PALMER

Don't Let Sex Predators Into Your Home!

BY ROBERT MORLEY

A STAGGERING 90,000 sex offenders have been identified and removed from the popular networking website MySpace. When law enforcement officials made this announcement on February 3, it begged the question, how many thousands more remain lurking in the anonymity of cyberspace?

The lesson: Monitor your children, or the perverts will do it for you.

Over 280 million people use the two social networking websites MySpace and Facebook. Millions more use not-so-distant Web relatives Bebo, MyYearbook, WePlay, Friendster and others.

Is your son or daughter one of them?

If your child has access to the Internet, chances are he or she has at least visited one or more of these sites. They are where users go to chat and converse, share pictures, post stories, and meet new friends. Thus these social networking sites can be a great way to keep in touch, plan outings, vent frustrations to the world or just relax and have fun.

And therein lies the danger.

It gives *complete strangers* an open doorway direct into the lives and minds of your children and teenagers. And if your children are not careful, they could unknowingly give away dangerous information about where they live, the schools they attend, the working hours of their parents—a pervert's or stalker's dream.

It is unknown how many underage Internet users were contacted by the 90,000 sex offenders who were removed from MySpace's pages just over the past two years. Hopefully it wasn't one of your children. But 90,000 is a lot of sex offenders roaming cyberspace—and that number doesn't include untold numbers not yet caught.

"These sites were created for young people to communicate with each other,"



says North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper. "Predators are going to troll in these areas where they know children are going to be."

There are over 700,000 registered sex offenders within the United States (though some within this category could include, for example, 19-year-olds who had sex with a 17-year-old, or others who committed crimes not usually thought of as "sex crimes").

The fact is, just about anyone can create an online profile and gain access to these popular social networking websites. And a person's online identity can reflect just about anything he or she wants. A 42-year-old Asian man living in Long Beach, California, can present himself as a blond 15-year-old girl from New Jersey who loves partying with friends and listening to Christina Aguilera. You simply don't know who your children are talking to.

"Our kids don't realize the danger they can get themselves into," says North Carolina Special Agent E. Michael Smith. Every time they post a message, they reveal things about themselves that a predator could potentially use. According to Smith, even if MySpace or Facebook users

set their sites to "private," savvy predators may still find ways to view your site without your permission.

And it is not just sexual predators who are the danger. Some predators seek information so they can steal a child's identity to obtain phony credit cards and create fake identities to sell, and commit other crimes. Children could also be exposed to online bullying and harassment. And then there is also the risk that they may post photos or text messages that they are later embarrassed about and which could later influence employers conducting background checks. Once something is in cyberspace, it can be very difficult if not impossible to get rid of.

But even if the "friends" your children are talking to turn out to be who they say they are, and your children are careful about what information they post (which most are not), they could still be exposed to much more graphic behavior than you are comfortable with—or thought possible.

A recent study by the Seattle Children's Research Institute examined 500 profiles posted on MySpace by people claiming to be 18 years old. The study found that 41 percent of the profiles mentioned sub-



estimation is that by 2 p.m. that afternoon, \$5.5 trillion would have been drawn out of the money market system of the U.S.

“It would have been the end of our economic system and our political system as we know it.”

THE U.S. WAS MERE MINUTES FROM DISASTER! Do our people realize that the \$2 trillion deficit this fiscal year will plague America as long as it exists? It is a monstrous problem.

Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times* said “the U.S. financial crisis has the potential to get far worse—it could be terrifying!”

And still, the nuclear crisis is far worse than the economic crisis. Both of these crises are going to become catastrophes.

Many people *are* beginning to see that there is no hope that we will solve our nuclear nightmare and financial problems. Usually, the more we suffer, the more receptive we are to the hope that is literally staring us in the face.

The strange paradox is that there is hope galore presented in our weekly media, such as the revelations from the Hubble telescope. But we refuse to see it.

Hubble Telescope Revelation

The human eye can see many blank spaces in the sky. And astronomers saw many empty spaces in the universe with their telescopes before they invented the Hubble telescope.

But those blank spaces in the universe are not really empty. Hubble revelations shocked and inspired astronomers and just about everybody else in this world. That mighty space-based telescope re-

vealed the universe as we have never seen it before. *Those blank spaces in the universe contain clusters of galaxies, each one having a hundred billion stars!*

Those awesome galaxies have everything to do with our incredible human potential.

Shamefully, however, astronomers and scientists *choose* to exalt that magnificent creation above the Creator!

Hubble was by far the greatest telescope revelation ever! It ought to fill all of us with stupendous hope. Here is why. “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For *the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made*, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:19-20).

The Hubble telescope has shown us “things that are made”—by God. They did not evolve, nor did God create them through evolution. The Bible makes that very clear.

THE INVISIBLE GOD CAN BE SEEN THROUGH HIS MIND-STAGGERING CREATION. Scientists are left without excuse. The whole creation groans today, waiting for the glorious liberty of the sons of God (Romans 8:21-23). This world and those clusters of galaxies groan as they await the rule of those who heed God’s majestic message today.

You really need to request our free book *The Incredible Human Potential*. It will show you how our problems *are* going to be solved. It will also fill you with an eternal hope—a hope that never dies. ■

stance abuse, 24 percent talked about sex, and 14 percent referenced violence. All of the profiles were public and available for anyone to view and communicate with.

Internet access is a two-way door. It opens windows to the world, but can also let a world of filth and trash enter your home.

If you want to protect your children and teenagers, one rule stands above all: Know what they are doing on the computer. Make sure you have access to their accounts, whether MySpace or others. It is *your responsibility* to know who they are talking to and what kind of information is being passed.

Use passwords, use security programs that block sites containing specific words, use whatever it takes—but *know* what they are doing!

Never let a child have a computer in his or her bedroom, says Don Cantrell, a South Carolina-based cybersafety professional. “Allowing a child to have a computer in their bedroom is kind of like taking them to Times Square and leaving them. They might think they’re perfectly safe, but anything can happen.” ■



The Hubble telescope has shown us “things that are made”—by God, not evolution. The invisible God can be seen through His mind-staggering creation.

WORLDWATCH

EUROPE

THE ECONOMIC STORM continues to batter Europe. In **Iceland**, violent protests in January brought down the government. Iceland's worst street riots forced the end of nearly 20 years of uninterrupted right-wing rule. Prime Minister Geir Haarde called for early elections after 2,000 protesters—out of a population of just 320,000—took to the streets of Reykjavik, hurling paving stones at Iceland's parliament building. Haarde's coalition government was dissolved, and the left has now taken power. New elections are scheduled for April.

France has also been hit hard by protests. **About a million French workers went on strike on January 29**, as unions and opposition leaders protested their government's handling of the economic crisis. Despite the disruption, the general strike was very popular; one poll found near 70 percent public support or sympathy for it. Europe is taking note. Such demonstrations brought down Iceland's government—could they bring down others? It should be remembered that social unrest brought radical groups like the fascists and Nazis to power in European countries in the past.

The 45th Munich Security Conference made major news in February. A record number attended the highest-profile annual gathering of government, defense and security chiefs worldwide. **Germany** and France staged a show of unity. "We Europeans must speak even more with one voice," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy in a joint statement. They called for Europe to "further bundle and increase our capabilities,



both civilian and military." To highlight the partnership, German troops will now be stationed in France for the first time since World War II as part of the 5,000-strong joint rapid reaction force. European states working ever more closely together to "bundle and increase" their military capabilities fulfills a biblical prophecy we have highlighted for over 70 years. Soon, once again, Europe will be a major military player.

During the conference, delegates discussed topics such as nuclear disarmament and the future of NATO in **Afghanistan**. Chancellor Merkel voiced her desire that **Russia** be more involved in Europe's security. She called upon Europe to intensify the dialogue already begun by the NATO-Russia Council and pay attention to Russian President Dimitry Medvedev's earlier proposal for a regional pact for Europe that would include Moscow.

The Vatican continues to demonstrate its sway in Italian politics. The Union of Rationalist Atheists and Agnostics attempted to display an advertisement saying, "The bad news is that God doesn't exist, the good news is that you don't need Him," on buses in January. Similar ads have been unveiled in **Spain**, the UK and the U.S. In **Italy**, however, the government shut the campaign down. The union blames the Catholic Church. "Our Constitution says that there is no state religion, but in reality that isn't the case," said event organizer Giorgio Villella. A former member of Parliament stated that Italy is now "a clerical dictatorship."

The German military is training a special unit of cyberwarriors, known as the Department of Information and Computer Network Operations, to scout out and destroy foreign computer

networks. This unit of German cyberwarriors could pose a major security threat to American security and information systems in the future.

MIDEAST

ISRAELI ELECTIONS HELD ON February 3 failed to produce a clear winner, with the centrist party of Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni gaining one more seat than right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud, but right-wing parties collectively winning a broad majority. This makes it more likely that Netanyahu will become the next leader of **Israel**. One thing is clear: There has been a strong shift to the right in the Israeli electorate, which will be reflected in the new coalition government. This is





something the *Trumpet* has forecast for some time based on biblical prophecy that indicates a coming clash between Palestinians and Jews over Jerusalem.

Turkey again demonstrated its hostility toward supposed ally Israel when its prime minister delivered a lengthy condemnation of the Jewish state at the World Economic Forum in Davao, **Switzerland**, in January. While **Recep**

Tayyip Erdogan's speech was dismissed by some as a personal tirade, it is part of a significant and growing trend in Turkey. That nation's geographic location and military power make it a pivotal country in the Middle East and give it the potential to cause great harm to Israel.

In advance of the U.S. swelling its forces in Afghanistan, and as the weather warms up, the Taliban is

intensifying its fight against U.S. and NATO forces. On February 11, it carried out multiple attacks on government buildings in Kabul. Suicide bombers and gunmen killed more than two dozen people and wounded nearly 60 in one of the most complex and bold attacks in the Afghan capital since 2001. Such attacks will likely continue, making the U.S. and NATO's job in Afghanistan increasingly difficult.



The Taliban also stepped up its attacks on NATO supply lines into Afghanistan when it blew up a bridge along the main route in northwestern **Pakistan** on February 3. This was

the first time the terrorists had attacked infrastructure, as opposed to the convoys or supplies themselves, in order to disrupt the flow of supplies through Pakistan. The attack highlights how unreliable the



Pakistan supply route is, increasing pressure on the U.S. to look for alternatives as it seeks to intensify its efforts in Afghanistan. The alternatives, however, require America kowtowing to unfriendly powers—Russia and/or **Iran**.

Iran carried out its first successful satellite launch on February 3. Experts worldwide fear that Iran can now launch missiles into southern Europe. "The technology that is used to get this satellite into orbit," said Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrel, "is one that could also be used to propel long-range ballistic missiles."

Meanwhile, the new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, reiterated President Barack Obama's new approach to dealing with

Iran: "direct diplomacy." Though behind-the-scenes diplomacy has been going on for some time, the U.S. now wants to hold public direct talks.

The U.S. may even do a deal with Tehran to assist in its war in Afghanistan. Stratfor reported January 27 that "Iran has been heavily involved in arming the jihadist insurgency in Afghanistan The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) also has plenty of intelligence that the United States would appreciate concerning the movements of al Qaeda operatives [W]ith the U.S. military focus shifting from **Iraq** to Afghanistan, there is strong potential for a meeting of the minds between these two on how to contain the Taliban and eradicate al Qaeda."

This of course would boost Tehran's position in the region, a trend to watch closely due to its prophetic significance.

In Iraq's January 31 provincial elections, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's Coalition for the State of Law came out on top. Maliki, a Shiite Islamist with close ties to Iran but who campaigned as a secular nationalist, favors a strong central government. Though the more staunch Shiite religious parties did not do so well, Maliki and his Dawa party are still very pro-Iran. Just the previous month, Maliki had visited Iran and pledged closer cooperation, calling it Iraq's "most important partner in all fields of cooperation." A more unified Iraq will allow U.S. forces to leave Iraq even earlier than anticipated—which will benefit Iran.

ASIA

AS THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC crisis worsens, the Russians are allocating funds to only the highest priority projects. One of these is weapons dealing. "Despite the financial crisis, we are planning to boost our arms exports in 2009," said the deputy director for the Russian Federal Service on Military-Technical Cooperation on February 12. "I believe I would not be mistaken if I were to mention a figure of around \$8.5 billion." In other words, Russia is planning to boost arms sales by 6 percent over last year. Traditionally, the two largest buyers of Russian-made weaponry are **China** and **India**. These trade relations can form a basis for what can expand into a larger relationship in the future. Russia is welding the rest of Asia to itself through the strategic dealing of arms.

Another high-priority project for Russia is the attempt to pull **Ukraine** back under its control. In February, Ukraine requested a \$5 billion loan

from Moscow to cover its budget deficit. The deteriorating Ukrainian economy simply cannot stand up under the high natural gas prices Russia is charging. Since the Europeans are in no position to bail out Ukraine, Kiev is being forced to look to Moscow for money. If this money does come, it will undoubtedly have strings attached—strings that will tie Ukraine to Russia.

The Kremlin has sent a clear message to U.S. President Obama that it fully intends to pull the former Soviet states of Central Asia back into its sphere of influence. On February 4, President Medvedev announced that the states of **Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan** and **Tajikistan** would be joining with Russia to form a collective security alliance on par with NATO. This declaration came only one day after Kyrgyzstan announced its plans to evict the U.S. from the base it has been using to ferry American troops into Afghanistan. The Russians want to use the base for their own troops instead. Expect



America to continue to lose ground in Central Asia as Russia moves back in.

The U.S. is urging **Japan** to reinterpret its pacifist constitution in order to allow the Japanese Self-Defense Forces to take on more global security responsibilities. On January 21, **outgoing U.S. Ambassador Thomas Schieffer** urged Tokyo to become a stronger American ally against authoritar-

ian regimes **China** and **North Korea**. The fact is, however, that Japan no longer regards its East Asian neighbors as enemies. In February 2008, Japan's chief of the Joint Staff Office of the Self-Defense Forces met with China's defense minister in Beijing; the two agreed to enhance their countries' military cooperation. With its own state-of-the-art defense force and growing military alliance with China, Japan needs America as a military partner less and less. In the future, it will cooperate with its Asian neighbors instead. By exhorting Japan to increase its military spending, the U.S. is ultimately strengthening, not countering, its Asian rivals.

LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA

DESPITE **Mexico** CITY'S windfall from locking in high-dollar oil contracts, its petroleum industry faces a potentially devastating problem: supply depletion. At its height in 1994, the state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) produced about 3.8 million barrels a day. That dropped to 2.8 million in 2008, primarily because of declining production in the super-giant oil field Cantarell. The govern-

ment relies on Pemex for about 40 percent of its budget. If supplies continue to decline, the Mexican government will find itself in an untenable financial position.

China is continuing its efforts to develop strategic relationships in Latin America and Africa. In February, for the first time, three of its top leaders—the president, vice president and vice premier—took

trips to those regions at the same time. Stratford observed that "China is attempting to turn lemons into lemonade, converting the financial crisis into an opportunity to improve its long-term economic advantage and energy and food security" (February 11). It pointed out that China views any gains in Latin America as an opportunity to "take a bite out of U.S. trade with the region, [while] gaining new destinations for its exports." Ultimately, we can expect Europe to sew up resources in both Latin America and Africa, but in the meantime, China is gradually eroding U.S. influence and economic power there.

In **Bolivia**, as President Evo Morales increases his control over the country, he faces opposition from two sources. The first, the media, he is doing his best to muzzle. He has also, however, stepped out against the Catholic Church. In March 2008, a group of Catholic bishops, the Bolivian Episcopal Conference, came out against him officially, saying that the "excessive concentration of power in the executive breaks the necessary balance and independence between the branches of government." Catholicism is ubiquitous in Latin America, and its influence is profound. By warning the church to stay out of Bolivian politics, Morales guarantees his own days of power are numbered.

Acknowledging the failure of its economic practices, **Zimbabwe** dropped its control over foreign currencies in January, allowing businesses to accept U.S. dollars and other currencies. The finance minister also announced that Zimbabwe would drop price controls that have forced shop owners to sell staples at unsustainably low prices. According to a UN report, only 6 percent of the population is employed, and over half need emergency food aid. This has forced aid agen-



cies to cut cereal rations in half so more people can receive aid.

The Zimbabwean cholera epidemic is now entrenched in South Africa as well: More than 3,000 South Africans are infected, and over 30 have died. More than 2,750 have died in Zimbabwe, and over 16,000 have contracted the disease.

On February 5, the U.S. Navy watched as pirates received payment in **Somalia**. The military even provided Associated Press with pictures. Pirates were paid \$3.2 million in return for releasing one boat, the MV Faina. After expressing the military's pleasure at the resolution of the situation, Vice Adm. Bill Gortney of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command stated that the Navy is working with the international community to "find a long-term, shore-based solution to this maritime crime." In other words, it doesn't plan to go after the pirates.

ANGLO-AMERICA

PRESIDENT OBAMA PASSED A \$789 billion spending package in February that will notionally stanch America's fiscal hemorrhaging. The spending bill, the largest since World War II, was almost dwarfed by

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's announcement of the price tag for the rescue plan for the financial sector: \$2.5 trillion. The bill's stimulus potential was severely diluted when the Obama administration was forced to water down the "buy American" provision. **Canada** and Europe threatened retaliation if America did not follow World Trade Organization procurement codes, to which it is a signatory. Thus, tax dollars spent on the stimulus bill could now go toward supporting steel manufactures in Europe and textile workers in Central America. Thirty-two nations have signed the WTO rules and are eligible for a piece of the stimulus pie. China and Russia are the only major countries currently excluded.

One of President Obama's first executive orders in January was to close Guantánamo and CIA secret prisons. Two former Guantánamo detainees—the number-two al Qaeda terrorist in **Yemen**, and an al Qaeda field commander—subsequently appeared on a jihad video, taunting America. Then **Saudi Arabia** announced it had re-arrested nine Islamist terrorists, including at least two former Guantánamo inmates.

In early February, California, the eighth-largest economy in the world, halted \$3.5

billion that it had committed to pay to citizens, contractors, counties and others. With a \$42 billion deficit through 2010, California has little choice. But the state's counties threatened rebellion and said they will withhold their money. Some constitutional officers refused to accept Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's authority to make their employees work reduced hours.

As their economies get slammed by volatile markets, state governments are turning to an even shadier source of funds: gambling. Lawmakers in at least 14 states are considering proposals to expand slots or casinos. While income and sales tax revenues have fallen, some gambling revenues have remained comparatively steady, even during the recession. Casinos impoverish lower-income households, provide no long-term economic growth, foster crime, take money from other businesses, and cause gambling addiction problems. Turning to gambling to solve economic crises is a sure bet to make the problem worse.

In February, **Dutch MP Geert Wilders**, an outspoken and controversial but

democratically elected critic of Islamic extremism, was scheduled to give a screening of his film *Fitna* at Britain's House of Lords. In response, Lord Ahmed—a Pakistani-born Muslim—threatened he would bring 10,000 Muslims to lay siege to the Lords. The government decided to ban Wilders from the country. Remarkable: The British government allows people to march and scream support for Hamas—but cowers before a Muslim politician who threatens mass intimidation of Parliament, and bans a democratic European representative from addressing religious fascism and its threat to society.

The term "British school" is coming to mean something quite different from yesterday's smartly uniformed students speaking impeccable English and growing up to become builders of society. In fact, English is becoming a second language—literally. At 10 schools in England, not a single student speaks English as his or her first language. At nearly 600 other primary schools, 70 percent or more children primarily speak a foreign language. One in seven pupils ages 4 to 11 does not speak English as a first language; almost half a million children instead speak Middle Eastern or Eastern European languages.

The British school is not only a place where young people experiment with drugs, but they get taught how to. One National Drugs Education Program booklet is outraging parents. *Know Cannabis* includes advice on how to "properly" use marijuana paraphernalia and waits until page 14 of 20 to tell teens that cannabis is actually illegal, just before telling them that those under 18 can be arrested three times before they will be prosecuted.



The Key to Understanding

RUSSIA

Keeping abreast of Russia and understanding the Kremlin psyche can be challenging. Here's the simple key to modern Russia. **BY BRAD MACDONALD**

WHAT WAS THE GREATEST geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century?

Tough question. The candidates are plenteous. Tens of millions were killed in World Wars I and II. Other wars have eliminated countless lives and left states smoldering. Africa largely devolved into a basket case of failed states; millions have suffered. The Balkan wars dismantled a sovereign state and remapped an entire peninsula of Europe. The shah of Iran's fall in 1978 conceived a radical terrorist-sponsoring state, and perhaps the most dangerous country on Earth.

The catalog of contenders runs long—but the answer is clear to Vladimir Putin. Russia's strongman believes the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe" of the 20th century was *the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union*.

The significance of that telling revelation is hard to overstate. That statement, made in his state of the union address in April 2005, provides an invaluable glimpse into the mind of the man who runs Russia. It lies at the core of current international relations, and it gives much-needed clarity and simplicity to the sometimes

confusing and contradictory movements of Russia—the nation Winston Churchill identified as a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

Putin's statement furnishes a *key* to understanding Russia!

Russia: Relevant Again!

Keeping pace of Vladimir Putin is practically a full-time job. When Putin took the reins of Russia in 2000, he undertook a strategy to put Russia front and center on the stage of international relations. That strategy has been successful. The Kremlin has since gained a place in every conversation and issue of major significance on the world scene. These days, when it comes to discussions among world powers on issues relating to the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, Europe, East Asia, Africa and Latin America—as well as issues relating to energy, NATO, nuclear weapons and proliferation—a seat must be reserved for Russia at the table.

The Russians are everywhere—be it loudly voicing their opinions and pushing others around at major international conferences; establishing naval and air bases

on the Black Sea; signing air defense treaties with Belarus; kicking the U.S. Army out of Kyrgyzstan and meddling with American interests throughout Central Asia; agreeing to form a "rapid reaction force" with Central and East Asian nations; cutting off gas supplies to Ukraine and precipitating widespread energy crises throughout Europe; sowing discord in the EU; conducting naval exercises in Latin America; directing the renegotiation of longtime treaties; assisting Iran's rogue nuclear program; leading calls to undermine the U.S. dollar; interfering in America's war in Afghanistan; undermining NATO expansion; or laying claim to resources at the North Pole.

All of those events occurred in the first six weeks of this year—most of them in the space of a *single week!*

The Supreme Motivation

If tracking Russia's activities is challenging, *understanding* them can be nearly impossible. Nuanced at times and brutally transparent at others, Russian dialogue and foreign policy, at face value, are famously schizophrenic. The Russians are masters of obfuscation and circumlocution, and they continue to ply their crafty trade.

Consider a recent example. The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START I) governing the strategic nuclear arsenals of Russia and America expires in December. In a speech delivered during the prestigious Munich Security Conference on February 7, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said that Russia wants to renew the treaty and indicated that Moscow would be willing to abolish a significant number (some reports said up to 80 percent) of its nuclear weapons under a renegotiated treaty. Such overtures may seem counterintuitive to the brunt of Russia's foreign policy, which—under Putin and particularly since Russia's invasion of Georgia last August—is clearly designed to restore Moscow's Soviet-style reputation of supremacy and strength—a reputation, ironically, *founded* in Cold War times on possession of massive stockpiles of nuclear weapons. A realist would read Moscow as being duplicitous. A liberal might consider it a sincere gesture. Who's right? How can we know?

How can anyone keep abreast of Russia, let alone decipher the truth behind the morass of conflicting dialogue and decisions? By understanding Putin's statement: "The collapse of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century." The key to understanding mod-

ern Russia furnished by that declaration is this: that the Kremlin's *supreme motivation* is to REVERSE the "greatest geopolitical catastrophe" of the 20th century and restore Russia to the status of an empire!

What Underpins Russia's Decisions

In recent years, some of the best analysis of the Kremlin's activities has come from Stratfor, a premier, well-connected think tank. Among the reasons for Stratfor's quality analysis on Russian affairs is its recognition of the reality that the Kremlin's *primary motivation is to restore Russia as a global power.*

"The war in Georgia ... IS RUSSIA'S PUBLIC RETURN TO GREAT POWER STATUS," Stratfor founder Dr. George Friedman wrote last August. "This is not something that just happened—it has been unfolding ever since Putin took power, and with growing intensity in the past five years. ... The war was far from a surprise; it has been building for months. ... Russia has been an empire for centuries. The last 15 years or so were not the new reality, but simply an aberration that would be rectified. *And now it is being rectified*" (Aug. 12, 2008; emphasis mine).

It is a defining reality in international relations today: Russia was an empire for centuries, and it's working furiously to be one again!

That goal *underpins* every move made by Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin. Every major action, every major decision, every major speech, every major agreement, every major treaty and *even every concession* by the Kremlin is carefully calculated in the context of the broader goal of restoring the Russian empire.

This key explains *why* Russia invaded Georgia. That war was a warning to America, Europe and NATO against further encroachment into the Russian periphery. It was a warning to former Soviet satellite states that their national security swings on a Russian hinge, and that they had better avoid slipping into bed with America and Europe. The same goes for the Ukraine/Europe gas crisis, the furious debate between America and Russia over the slated U.S. ballistic missile installations in Poland and the Czech Republic, and the decision to establish military bases in Abkhazia on the Black Sea.

Through each of these actions, the

Russian bear is either defending or reclaiming its influence over the geographic territory of the former Soviet empire.

Russia now appears ready to reduce its strategic nuclear arsenal. How does this serve the ultimate goal of furthering its ambitions of restoring its empire? In a nutshell, for Russia the cost of maintaining its nuclear deterrent is taxing. By renegotiating START I and forging an agreement whereby *both* America and Russia reduce the number of their strategic nuclear weapons, the Kremlin can downsize a costly program while at the same time enticing America to reduce its nuclear arsenal. It's quite canny. Ultimately, Russia concedes little, as many of the costly nukes would have to go at some point anyway.

Russia was an empire for centuries, and it's working furiously to be one again! That goal underpins every move made by Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin.

Of course, Washington is simply using START I as a means of enticing Moscow into making concessions in other areas. "In fact, negotiations seem to already be affected," wrote Stratfor February 10. "Russia gave a little on the U.S. plans for a Central Asia route to Afghanistan: On Monday, Kazakhstan—which hardly moves these days without checking with the Kremlin—announced that it would permit U.S. logistical supplies to be shipped to American troops in Afghanistan." Clearly, the Russians are not averse to making concessions to America, particularly in instances where such concessions can result in a massive drawdown of U.S. nuclear power.

But remember: Every concession by the Kremlin is weighed against the broader strategy of restoring the Russian empire.

Pushing the Reset Button

Lastly, it is important to consider the time frame within which the Kremlin seeks to achieve its end goal. The Russian economy is tanking, and time is running out on its opportunity to cut itself a position of lasting significance. Its conventional military and its nuclear arsenal are both aging quickly. Demographically, birth rates are plunging precipitously. "The Russian leadership is well aware that it is operating on borrowed time," Stratfor observed. "This is not to say Russia as a state will die in the

next few years, but instead that it needs to push back Western influence as far as possible before its own (probably terminal) decline begins" (ibid.).


Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin are running out of time to restore Russia to empire status!

Don't expect Russia to drop from the headlines in coming months. In fact, expect Russia to ramp up its efforts to restore the Soviet empire. Among other activities, this will likely mean the forging of a major agreement with Germany and Europe that will assuage both European and Russian vulnerability. Expect Russia to continue to be highly active in defending and enlarging its periphery; Ukraine will likely continue its gravitation toward Moscow. It's highly unlikely we will see

NATO expand much further eastward.

Most importantly, don't be surprised if the Kremlin tramples on and exploits the United States' naive willingness to, as Vice President Joe Biden put it in Munich, "push the reset button" with Russia. The Kremlin is already pushing the reset button—it's just a different button than America wants to push. Washington wants to push a button that will create a clean slate with Russia. That's not going to happen.

Reality is, the Kremlin is pushing a reset button that is returning Russia back to the glory days of its empire! ■



KINGS OF THE EAST

To learn more about Russia's future and how it is related to the future of other Asian nations, request our free booklet *Russia and China in Prophecy*. This free booklet will open your eyes to the biblical identity of the Eastern nations and reveal what is ahead for them in the future. To order, look on the back cover of this magazine.

THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH. THE allure of the do-nothing, just-drink-this, little-effort-required fix for health problems is as deceptive as it is intoxicating.

We all like to look and feel good. And it would be great if all we had to do was take one of these supposedly magic elixirs advertised on television to make our troubles melt away. The appeal of pharmaceuticals can be very compelling. That's a big reason the drug industry has become one of the most powerful in America.

Americans spend hundreds of billions on medicines each year. Over \$2.3 trillion is spent on "improving" health. That is about 16 percent of the nation's gross domestic product.

However, the sad reality is that if you are taking drugs, you are probably getting a whole lot more than you asked for.

Reduce Cholesterol—and Get Cancer

2008 was a dangerous year for drug-takers.

Take the Vytorin scandal, for example. That disaster put drugmakers Merck and Schering-Plough at number six on Fineman PR's list of 2008's top 10 public relations blunders. In a year of public relations disasters that included automakers flying to Washington in private jets to ask for taxpayer bailouts, big banks paying out billions in bonuses while accepting government emergency money, and AIG executives lavishly partying it up on the taxpayer's dime, that is no small feat.

If you recall, the two drug companies ran extensive advertising campaigns that claimed Vytorin was the remedy for high cholesterol from two sources, "food and family." The miracle drug was supposed to block the absorption of cholesterol from food, and also reduce the type of cholesterol that our bodies naturally produce.

What did the drug pushers do to deserve such a ranking?

After spending an astounding \$100 million to win friends and influence doctors, the drug producers withheld study results—for 21 months—that showed the drug did not work as claimed. Meanwhile, the two companies pulled in a whopping \$5.2 billion in sales in 2007 alone.

But it gets much worse. Later, three studies indicated that people who take Vytorin may be more likely to die of cancer—40 percent more likely.

Think Twice Before You Pop That Pill



Take the blue pill: It will be like none of this ever happened. Or take the red pill and see where the rabbit hole goes. What drugmakers don't tell you is that there is another way! BY ROBERT MORLEY

Additional side effects associated with Vytorin—beyond the possible headaches, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches and pain, possible liver damage and allergic reactions—now include "widespread consumer backlash, around 140 civil class-action lawsuits, and the unwelcome attentions of Congress, the U.S. Department of Justice and a coalition of 35 state attorneys general," reports Fineman PR.

But not to worry. As pharmaceutical companies are only too happy to point out, patients can find relief from many of these side effects by taking other drugs such as pain relievers for headache and muscle pain, antiemetics for nausea and vomiting, and antidiarrheals for diarrhea.

Relief from cancer is much more elusive, however.

In Case You're Healthy and Want Diabetes

The makers of Vytorin are not alone on the 2008 pharmaceutical wall of shame. AstraZeneca, makers of the cholesterol-busting drug Crestor, also deserves a place.

Believe it or not, pharmaceutical companies and some doctors may now be prescribing Crestor to healthy people who have no inkling of heart disease. Why? As *USA Today* reported, it cuts the risk of heart attacks, strokes and death roughly in half. Bloomberg News trumpeted that Crestor is "potentially opening a way to save the lives of thousands of seemingly

healthy people." MSNBC News blared the same announcement and then quoted a high-profile doctor saying: "This takes prevention to a whole new level." The *Wall Street Journal* added: "The findings could substantially broaden the market for statins, the world's best-selling class of medicines."

Instead of revolting at the idea of giving drugs to perfectly healthy people with normal cholesterol levels, the media engorged itself on magic potion. Unfortunately, the magic potion turned out to be two parts deadly poison.

The basis for the recommendation of this drug to healthy individuals was a study produced by the drug's maker! Of nearly 18,000 healthy people monitored, the drug supposedly cut the risk of heart-related problems roughly in half—or so we were led to believe. But what we were not told, and what was largely missed or glossed over by a media in search of big headlines, is that the drug not only offers little benefit, but also has—you guessed it—a costly side effect.

Among people with normal cholesterol levels, the drug apparently reduces the risk of cardiovascular trauma from 1.36 percent of people to 0.77 percent. That is a difference of just 0.59 percent of individuals. And unfortunately, even this tiny fraction of potentially helped people is offset by a comparable increased risk of getting *diabetes* (0.6 percent).

According to Donald W. Light, writing for AlterNet, real headlines should have read: “Major study finds patients taking Crestor for systemic inflammation experience less than 1 percent reduction in cardiovascular events and an equal increase in diabetes.”

And that headline wouldn’t take into account all the other known side effects that go along with taking Crestor, including kidney problems. There have been more reports to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of kidney problems from taking Crestor than reports for all other statin drugs combined. This led the Health Research Group in Washington, D.C., to recommend that it be taken off the shelves.

Beware Those Nasty Side Effects

Here are some other goodies, straight from the FDA’s Medwatch site, compiled by Tracy Woolrich for the *Tampa Wellness Examiner*.

January 2008 brought us news that bone-building drugs Boniva and Fosamax could cause severe and sometimes incapacitating bone, joint and/or muscle pain. And the kicker, according to Woolrich: The pain may or may not go away when you stop using the drug.

February brought warnings of agitation, depressed mood, suicidal ideation and attempted and completed suicide with Chantrix, a drug designed to help smokers quit. February also brought us the first warnings about the diabetic drug Avandia.

In March, it became known that the influenza drug Tamiflu was, according to the FDA, “associated with a variety of neurologic and behavioral symptoms leading to injury, and in some cases resulting in fatal outcomes, in patients with influenza who were receiving Tamiflu.”

As the year progressed, the FDA also issued warnings about the arthritis drug Enbrel, which included serious infections leading to hospitalization or death. In addition, the entire class of arthritic medications such as Remicade, Enbrel, Humira and Cimzia were linked to the development of lymphoma and other cancers in children and young adults.

Then there were more warnings about

the asthma drug Singulair relating to suicidal tendencies. More warnings came about Fluoroquinolones and Floxin, Levaquin and Cipro.

Finally, December 2008 brought reports of suicidal behavior in individuals taking anti-seizure medications such as Tegretol, Neurontin, Lamictal and others.

Remember, this list is only a *sample* of some of the revisions and new revelations about side effects that came to light over the past year.

The lesson: Drug companies don’t always know the ramifications of putting foreign chemicals into your body, especially over the long term. Even when they are known, Big Pharmaceutical is adept at creatively interpreting the facts, and at using big money in all the right places to ensure its message gets out.

And Big Media—and even your doctor—may unknowingly buy the magic pixie dust.

An Ironclad Promise

The fact is, the medical industry is woefully inadequate. More pills just cause more problems.

But if modern medicine can’t be relied upon to fix society’s health problems, who or what can be?

There is only one Being who has all the answers: the one who designed and created man in the first place—who created the physical laws by which our bodies function correctly. Following these physical laws eliminates the *causes* of many of the diseases afflicting people today.

These laws include regulating what and how much we eat and drink, upholding cleanliness and hygiene, getting plenty of sunshine and fresh air, sufficiently and properly exercising, sleeping and resting the right amounts, avoiding bodily injury, and maintaining a positive mental attitude.

In addition, only God has the power to *heal* you—and in His Word, He has spelled out ironclad promises to heal those who satisfy certain basic conditions. Herbert W. Armstrong expounded upon these in his booklet *The Plain Truth About Healing*, which we offer to you free upon request.

There is a time coming when all disease will be eradicated and perfect health will be the norm. For a vision of this soon-coming time, request our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. ■



you want to improve your relations with any man, here is how: Show him respect. Show him that you value his opinions and appreciate his ideas.

If you criticize him or focus on his weaknesses, be assured that will break down the relationship. Instead, focus on the positive. Try to make him feel like royalty. The more you respect a man, the better that relationship will be.

Notice: God’s ground rules for improving these relationships are all about the WAY OF GIVE. A man must be willing and able to GIVE love to a woman. A woman must be willing and able to GIVE reverence and submission to a man.

In addition, a man must be willing and able to GIVE godly leadership to a woman—leadership that earns her respect and that is a joy to submit to. And a woman must be willing and able to be a LOVABLE woman, and prepare herself to recognize and encourage and to receive a man’s love.

Love Is Difficult—So Start Practicing!

The people around you should be some of the highest priorities in your life. These are the people with whom you can learn how to love!

If you’re practicing politics when you should be practicing love, then you are going to have a hard time making a marriage work.

A single person who believes everything will work out once he finds “the right one” is kidding himself. Selfishness doesn’t just vanish in a marriage—it comes roaring out in many ways. And it kills marriages just as readily as it kills friendships. It must be conquered, and the time to start conquering it is yesterday.

Whether you are single or married, overcoming these obstacles will allow your relationships to blossom. Take advantage of that opportunity! Give. ■



The people around you should be some of the highest priorities in your life. These are the people with whom you can learn how to love!

MELTDOWN Shacks burn after an arson in a squatter camp outside Johannesburg.



The Next Zimbabwe

In South Africa, discontent is fueling communism, and economic collapse looms. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

“APARTHEID WAS A TERRIBLE crime against humanity. It left people with deep scars,” Faleni Mzukisi of the Presbyterian Church of Africa said last October. “But I can assure you *poverty is worse than that.*”

He was referring to the current state of the Republic of South Africa. Fourteen years after the end of apartheid, some people are longing to return to its relative prosperity. For millions of South Africans, the Mandela “rainbow” revolution has become a gloomy cloud.

While apartheid denied people rights and privileges, the poverty that has grown to strangle South Africa deprives them the ability to meet even more basic human needs, Mzukisi told the participants of the 2008 World Association of Christian Communication Congress: “People do not eat human rights. They want food on the table.”

An astounding 40 percent of South Africans now live below the poverty line. And the Southern African Regional Poverty Network says that since the official end of apartheid, “households living in poverty have sunk deeper into poverty and the gap between rich and poor has widened.”

The exact unemployment rate is under debate. Government statistics say it is “only” around 23 percent; unions peg it at around 40 percent. Either way, it is horrendous. Unemployment in the U.S. during the Great Depression peaked at around 25 percent.

And, although government ministers claim that South Africa is still growing and will avoid “recession,” conditions on

the ground show recession has already arrived. Barclays Bank has warned that the economy is contracting. Over 200,000 jobs were lost during the last quarter of 2008—a huge number for a country of only 44 million people.

An Economy in Collapse

House prices in South Africa fell 4 percent last year. Add to that the 11 percent inflation the government reported, and in real terms homes actually lost 15 percent of their value.

The auto industry is another clear indicator of economic turmoil. New vehicle sales were down a massive 27 percent in December 2008. For the whole year, new vehicle sales fell 20.3 percent across all categories compared to the year before.

The metals and mining industry is getting pummeled. Though gold prices remained firm and even rose over the past year, the prices of virtually every other metal—including platinum, palladium, manganese and chrome—plummeted. Platinum, which makes up more than 14 percent of all South African exports, plunged from over \$2,000 per ounce to around \$960. Mining is the single most important employment sector for the South African economy. It is also the most important source of foreign revenue. But with commodity prices plummeting, revenues have fallen, and more job losses could result.

South Africa’s energy infrastructure is old and decaying. Due to government corruption and lack of new investment, much

of the country now suffers the same widespread power outages the rest of the continent has grown used to in the post-colonial era. Last year, the state introduced electricity rationing; after the national electrical grid almost collapsed, much of the mining industry and other heavy electricity users started receiving only 90 to 95 percent of their power needs. Eskom, the state power company, is trying to borrow money to upgrade the grid, but the global credit crunch has made it difficult to find willing lenders.

Meanwhile, the cost of eating is skyrocketing. National food price inflation hit 17.1 percent in December. Coffee, tea and cocoa products became a fifth more expensive than the previous year. Grain products were up over a third; fats and cooking oils jumped more than 27 percent. Prices for vegetables, dairy products and meat all climbed significantly as well.

No jobs, and higher-priced food—not a good combination. It is no wonder that crime continues to escalate.

Fifty Murders a Day

South Africa’s social problems have progressed right alongside its economic woes.

HIV infection rates remain tragically high. Almost one in three pregnant women visiting hospitals is infected, according to a 2006 government survey.

Unchecked violence besieges much of the country. About 19,000 people were murdered last year—more than 50 per day. On average, a woman is raped in South Africa once every 26 seconds; less than 1 percent of those rapes lead to a conviction.

Rule of law has become the rule of organized crime. In February, 500 police in South Africa’s crime-ridden commercial capital, Johannesburg, went on strike, accusing authorities of failing to bring senior officers to task over corruption. Three days earlier, the government had disbanded the country’s elite anti-crime investigating unit, known as the Scorpions. The Scorpions had a much better track record than the police at solving crime, but according to Agence France-Presse, they fell afoul of the ruling African National Congress party for their corruption investigation of ANC leader Jacob Zuma. Zuma is expected to become the country’s next president when elections are held April 22.

But as bad as conditions are in South Africa, they may be about to get dramatically worse.

The Plan to Bankrupt the Nation

Under Jacob Zuma, South Africa’s government has shifted radically to the left. In a

move to placate angry voters and cement power, Zuma is pushing a manifesto largely dictated by the South African Communist Party. His election promises, if adopted, could easily bankrupt the country.

The ANC already promises a *free* allowance of water and electricity to all people and has introduced “the largest welfare state ever seen in a developing country,” according to the *Sunday Times*. More than 40 percent of the population currently receive state handouts.

But these handouts are only beginning. The possible new state manifesto is said to call for universal health insurance, free education, increased child allowances, new maternity grants, wage subsidies, an old age savings scheme, subsidized housing for farm workers and military veterans, and free food handouts to all poor families.

On top of that, the manifesto proposes to transform the private sector through the “development of cooperative financial institutions.” In other words, to nationalize and communize the economy. Steps in this direction have already occurred, with far-reaching affirmative action laws forcing mining companies to place non-white people in managerial and executive positions regardless of qualifications.

Zuma’s program also calls for the state to take over South Africa’s central bank.

Economists are astounded. Servaas van der Berg, professor of economics at Stellenbosch University, says that just the proposal for a basic income grant of R100 (US\$10)

Lest we forget, Zimbabwe used to be even more prosperous than South Africa was at its peak.

a month would force up marginal income tax rates from 40 percent to 66 percent.

So where will South Africa get the money to finance all these reforms? Zuma, who knows relatively little about economics, seems unconcerned. Most likely, he’ll get the money he needs the same way his friend Robert Mugabe gets the money he needs.

Lest we forget, Zimbabwe used to be even more prosperous than South Africa was at its peak. But then Robert Mugabe set off on his post-colonial reforms, social programs, government handouts and land grabs. How did he pay for it all? First, he redistributed the land in order to fill his coffers and buy favors. Next, he started nationalizing other sectors of the economy, including some of the world’s richest mines. Eventually he nationalized and asserted complete control over the nation’s

reserve bank so he could print whatever money he wanted to pay the bills.

This policy destroyed the value of Zimbabwe’s currency, wiping out what little savings his people had left.

The ANC’s apparent desire to nationalize the central bank indicates what may well lie ahead for South Africa: Zimbabwe economics. That would mean a Zimbabwe standard of living for the vast majority.

The Reason Behind the Blessings

Africa is filled with nation-states in various stages of post-colonial collapse. South Africa was a notable exception to this rule for several decades after becoming an independent republic. But now that is changing—and rapidly.

Why the rapid collapse? Why such a turn of events for a nation virtually overflowing with the richest mineral and agricultural resources on Earth? The true cause is rooted in the nation’s historical connection to the British Empire.

The Bible reveals that South Africa’s considerable national blessings were the direct result of promises God gave to the descendants of Abraham because of his obedience to God. Those blessings extended through Abraham’s grandson Jacob, and to Jacob’s grandsons Ephraim and Manasseh and their descendants: “... he [Manasseh] also shall become a people, and he also shall be great: but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater than he, and his seed shall become a multitude of nations” (Genesis 48:19). Beginning in the early 1800s, Manasseh quickly rose to become the greatest single nation on Earth, and Ephraim, the greatest empire this world has ever seen.

Ephraim once comprised a mighty commonwealth and empire of nations upon which the sun never set—including Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. South Africa was also settled by other Israelitish stock, such as Zebulun and Issachar (the Dutch), and Reuben (the French Huguenots). The United States became the inheritance of Manasseh. (For proof, request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

But the continuation of the blessings that God gave to Abraham’s descendants hinged on the people’s obedience to His laws. Because of disobedience, God has now withdrawn those blessings from these nations—including South Africa—and replaced them with curses. Among

those curses: “The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail” (Deuteronomy 28:43-44).

God gets specific in His description of the curses to befall Abraham’s progeny because of their refusal to obey Him. So great will be the fall of South Africa and its fellow Israelitish nations that God says they will become a scene of great astonishment (verse 37). God prophesied Ephraim’s loss of empire, loss of power, loss of the ability to effectively govern nations. Read Hosea 7:8-12 to see God’s powerful chastisement of biblical Israel.

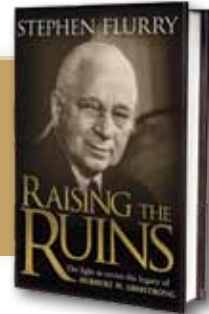
Our loving God, who so lavished the greatest of physical blessings upon the nations of Israel, has great purpose in prophesying and bringing about their rapid decline and descent into broken, wrecked economies, dominated by their traditional enemies. In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong stated, “The prophecies do not stop with revealing the unprecedented multiplied intensity of punishment already beginning to descend upon America and Britain. The prophecies record also the result of that intensified punishment. The result will be a corrected people. The result will be an eye-opening realization of what we have done to ourselves. The supreme punishment will teach us, at last, our lesson! The punishment will break our spirit of rebellion! It will lift us up from the cesspool of rottenness and evil into which we have sunk. It will teach us the way to glorious peace, prosperity, abundant well-being!”

And therein lies the hope for South Africa and all people the world over.

God is correcting the nations of Israel so that, upon the imminent return of Jesus Christ to this Earth, there will be humbled people willing to submit to His rule—people who can help usher in a new way of life and prosperity to all peoples, as described by Isaiah the prophet.

But even though times of trouble are upon South Africa today, God still promises protection to individuals who are willing to repent. As Mr. Armstrong declared, “[U]nderstand this: Although the nations as a whole are to be put through this unprecedented punishment, yet those individuals who yield to accept God’s correction without the punishment shall be protected from it! No one need suffer this intense tribulation!” (ibid.). God will protect and prosper all those who obey Him. ■





In his book *Raising the Ruins*, available in bookstores, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the Worldwide Church of God. Here is part two of the 23rd chapter.

STEPHEN FLURRY
 © Philadelphia
 Church of God
 PART TWO

“We are pleased to announce that the Worldwide Church of God ... has reached a successful conclusion in its lawsuit against the Philadelphia Church of God.”

— Ralph Helge, *Worldwide News*, April 2003

WHILE FORMULATING A DEFENSE AGAINST OUR counterclaim, the WCG also had to prove how badly they had been “damaged” by our distribution of *Mystery*—a book we gave away for free; one that the WCG had distributed FOR FREE during Mr. Armstrong’s life, and now had a “Christian duty” to keep out of print. The bulk of evidence in this regard fell on the shoulders of a “forensic economist” named John Crissey, who had worked as an expert in numerous cases for Allan Browne’s law firm. According to Crissey’s Sept. 18, 2002, preliminary expert report, WCG had been denied “profits” totaling \$3.84 million—\$4.3 million with interest—by our distribution of nearly 100,000 copies of *Mystery*. He also calculated the *future* “losses” of WCG to be \$3.3 million. All totaled, WCG would be seeking \$7.63 million in damages at trial—just for *Mystery of the Ages*. (They would also be seeking millions of dollars in attorneys’ fees.)

Crissey based his findings on the fact that *Mystery* recipients gave more money than non-recipients of the book—never mind the fact that *Mystery* recipients might be more inclined to agree with the PCG’s overall message and work. What Crissey ignored was that pre-1997 data showed that *Mystery* recipients had *already* been giving at a higher rate long before PCG even started distributing the book! He ignored this data (which we supplied him) because it completely contradicted his “expert” analysis. Many of our own members and their children were the first ones to request copies of *Mystery* once we began distribution. These people were already “pre-disposed” to giving more—they were already tithing members of the church!

In PCG’s motion to dismiss Crissey’s report, Mark Helm argued that the court should not admit Crissey’s testimony, calling it bogus, fatally flawed and defective junk science, among other things.

Judge Snyder agreed. She wrote in her tentative order, a few days after a November 25 hearing, “[T]he methodology employed by Mr. Crissey has not been shown to be sufficiently

reliable to allow it to be presented to the trier of fact, and therefore his quantitative estimate of the amount of contributions that are attributable to distribution of MOA is not admissible.”

Thus, on the eve of the damages trial, the WCG was faced with the prospect of not having any real evidence to show how much they were “damaged” by our *Mystery* distribution. Of course, they had much difficulty with this argument long before Crissey came along.

When we started distributing the work in 1997, we absorbed all the printing and mailing costs, and then gave it away free of charge. Under any circumstances, it would be difficult to show how this was some sort of moneymaking scheme for PCG. But for WCG to then claim that our free distribution was actually stealing “profits” from them is the height of hypocrisy. Aside from the unfathomable logic of the idea to begin with, why would they now seek “profits” from a book they had been ridiculing for years and had vowed to keep out of circulation?

■ THE CULT “EXPERT”

Besides John Crissey, the WCG relied on other biased “experts” like Ruth Tucker, the self-proclaimed authority on “cultic movements.” Of course, when we brought up Tkachism’s personal beliefs, like during the Schnippert deposition, the WCG legal team would blow a gasket. But when they brought up *our* personal beliefs and tried to make us look like a dangerous cult, to them it was completely relevant to the merits of the case.

Tucker’s report was a boring rehash of what Tkachism had been saying all along. *Mr. Armstrong was a dictator with bizarre teachings; Mystery of the Ages was a huge money-making scheme; the Tkaches courageously transformed the church; Gerald Flurry thinks he’s above the law*, and so on.

Tucker said our claim that Mr. Armstrong wanted every prospective member to read *Mystery of the Ages* before

baptism had “absolutely no merit at all,” even though the requirement was clearly stated in the *Pastor General’s Report* in 1986. Relying instead on page 26 of *Transformed by Truth*, Tucker said Mr. Armstrong’s baptismal requirements were, if anything, “lax.” She also said “there is no evidence that the PCG ever had a baptismal prerequisite” for reading *Mystery*, even though we had stated the policy verbally and in print numerous times between 1989 and 1996.

On the point of government, Tucker said Mr. Armstrong “was an authoritarian leader. His personality and leadership style dominated the WCG for five decades” In an article she wrote for *Christianity Today* in 1996, she characterized the WCG as a “classic case study of an authoritarian cult.” Mr. Armstrong, she wrote, “held tight reins over his diverse empire. His authority was unquestioned by most church members”

So at her deposition, we asked if she believed Mr. Tkach Sr. had inherited the same degree of control from Mr. Armstrong in 1986. She confidently said NO, even though Feazell and Schnippert had both said the opposite earlier at their depositions. We told Tucker about how Tkach Sr. designated himself as an apostle in 1986 and about Tkach Jr.’s empty promises to modify the church’s form of governance—and she started backpedaling: “I’m not an expert in the area of church government.” But mention *Herbert Armstrong* or *Gerald Flurry* and she immediately becomes one.

Tucker wrote, “Former members of the PCG have told how Mr. Flurry’s words were often presented as the very words of God.” We asked about the identity of these “former members,” but she couldn’t remember which *website* she got it from. She assured us that “there are a number of sites that have postings from former members of the Philadelphia Church of God.” She did not, however, personally contact any current or former members of the PCG, nor any PCG officials, while preparing her “expert” testimony about our church.

Regarding our supporters, she said the people attracted to Mr. Armstrong’s teachings are book readers. “They might not be terribly sophisticated thinkers, but they were certainly people that read books” That’s how she characterizes hundreds of thousands of members who joined the WCG over the course of Mr. Armstrong’s ministry and millions more who read his literature and donated to his work—they’re all *simple-minded*.

Far from being hired for her expert testimony, Ruth Tucker was brought in because she is pre-programmed to heap praise on Tkachism no matter what. Her intimate relationship with the Tkaches goes way back. In 1988—two years after Mr. Armstrong died—Michael Snyder, the WCG’s assistant public relations director, contacted her about the doctrinal reforms taking place in the WCG. He wanted her to have the most up-to-date information for a book she was writing about cults. In 1991, Tucker invited Snyder’s boss, David Hulme, to speak at the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School about the progress the WCG had made in accepting the trinity doctrine. In 1996, the WCG returned the favor and invited Tucker to speak at its ministerial conferences. “Dr. Tucker was excited about our reforms and encouraged us in every way she could,” Tkach Jr. wrote in 1997. “We consider her a gift from God.”

■ GUTTING THEIR CASE

Judging by Ruth Tucker’s expert report, Mike Feazell’s preface and questions we were asked during our depositions, the WCG

clearly intended to label us as a cult in court. They wanted to show how we were supposedly a racially bigoted, misogynistic fringe group, led by a self-proclaimed dictator.

But in her tentative order after the November 25 hearing, Judge Snyder said she would not allow the trial to turn into an “attack on Flurry” because it would “distract the jury from the issues at trial” and “unfairly prejudice PCG.” Later, the court concluded that the “WCG should not be permitted to describe specific religious tenets—either its own, or PCG’s—regarding racial issues because such evidence will be unfairly prejudicial and will confuse the issues at trial.” In explaining why they discontinued *Mystery*, the judge said she would allow WCG to say that it considered its message to be “no longer *socially* acceptable.” But so far as the judge was concerned, they couldn’t even use the word “race.”

Another huge breakthrough for us. Added to the ruling on Crissey, we felt the tentative order would pretty much gut the WCG’s case for damages. Not only were they unable to prove damages, now they couldn’t sling mud. Added to that, they still had to tackle our counterclaim, not to mention subject themselves to a rigorous PCG defense dead set on exposing their lies and deceit.

■ SEALING THE DEAL

The damages trial had now been pushed back to March 4, allowing both sides more time to argue over what evidence would be allowed at trial. At a December 18 hearing, as a follow-up to her tentative order, the judge said she wasn’t inclined to change her tentative ruling.

Two days after that hearing, the WCG seemed all the more eager to settle, lowering its licensing offer to a \$3 million bottom line. Sensing desperation on their part, my dad was inclined to be patient. On December 24, we put together a \$2.5 million package offer for all the copyrights to the 19 works involved in the litigation.

We didn’t hear back from WCG, despite their insistence to get things done quickly, until after their executives returned from their Christmas/New Year’s holiday celebration.

On Tuesday, January 7, the WCG came down to \$2.8 million for perpetual licenses, but with these added concessions: The copyright notice, agreed upon by both sides before finalizing the deal, would say something like “© Publishing Inc.,” but we would not have to print any disclaimers under the copyright.

But buying the copyrights altogether, at a price range this “low,” was not possible, they told us. Their offer intrigued us: no disclaimer and a copyright notice that was at least inoffensive. For the most part, that’s what we had at the beginning of our distribution in 1997. We printed the works without a disclaimer and a notice that read “© Herbert W. Armstrong.”

In weighing their offer, we took a step back and considered our ultimate objective at the outset of our distribution of Mr. Armstrong’s works. It was to keep the WCG from destroying those writings forever by making them freely available to all who valued them. With that in mind, we began to see a scenario in which we actually could live with a license.

After weighing our options for several days, we reached a final decision on Monday, Jan. 13, 2003: \$2.65 million for the WCG to “grant PCG a worldwide, nonexclusive, perpetual, irrevocable, fully paid-up, non-royalty-bearing license” to all 19

works. Under the agreement, the copyright notice would read “© Herbert W. Armstrong.”

The next day, to our utter amazement and shock, the WCG asked us to submit an alternative offer for buying the copyrights outright. Thus, by the end of the 14th, we had two final offers on the table—one for licenses and one for full copyright ownership. We offered \$2.65 million for perpetual licenses and \$3 million to buy everything outright.

On Thursday morning, January 16—17 years to the day after Herbert W. Armstrong’s death—the WCG agreed to sell us all the copyrights for \$3 million. Apart from contributions from our insurance carrier, the total cost to the PCG was an even \$2 million. With about \$1 million on hand, we planned to finance the other \$1 million.

Later that day, Mark Helm and the WCG’s attorney conference-called Judge Snyder to tell her that both sides had agreed to terms of settlement. Thus, for all intents and purposes, six years of litigation ended the afternoon of Jan. 16, 2003.

■ WCG’S “SUCCESSFUL” CONCLUSION

After settlement, Ralph Helge wrote to the members of the WCG, “We are pleased to announce that the Worldwide Church of God ... has reached a successful conclusion in its lawsuit against the Philadelphia Church of God.” This is how he spun the negotiation process: “During the last year or so, PCG made different offers to license or purchase some or all of the literary works in question, and thereby settle the litigation. As the church did not consider that the amounts offered were sufficient, the offers were rejected. But then PCG made a substantial offer of \$3 million to purchase 19 of the literary works written by Mr. Armstrong, and settle the litigation.”

That version of the story, as is customary with Tkachism, leaves out all the essential facts. But it didn’t matter to us. We knew that deep in his heart of hearts, Helge knew who came out victorious in this case.

Think about it.

Their publicly stated goal, from the very beginning of the battle, was to keep Mr. Armstrong’s teachings out of circulation. Joe Jr. had to eat those words.

They told the court early on that they had suffered irreparable harm by our “unlawful” action because in distributing *Mystery of the Ages*, we were “perpetuating beliefs no longer followed by Worldwide Church.” They loathed the thought of Mr. Armstrong’s teachings resurfacing.

The WCG owned the copyrights, Greg Albrecht said in 1997, and they “DO NOT ALLOW OTHERS to publish our former teachings and doctrines for a variety of reasons.” Flurry understood, they told the court in 1999, that the WCG “refused” requests to reprint *Mystery of the Ages*. This was common knowledge. They refused to make Mr. Armstrong’s works available—and they wouldn’t allow OTHERS to do it either.

After Judge Letts ruled that we could rightfully distribute *Mystery of the Ages*, Helge called the judgment an “erroneous view of the law” and said our reprinting was “in violation of both the commandment of God and the copyright law of the United States.”

They brought up the annotated plan in an attempt to overturn Judge Letts’s decision. After that happened at the Ninth Circuit, Helge said we only had “certain limited rights.” But for all practical purposes, he continued, the Ninth Circuit’s

decision “would seem to be final in all material respects.” That, as it turns out, was wishful thinking.

Then, in April 2001, Tkach Jr. told *Christianity Today* that if the Supreme Court refused to hear our appeal, “WCG lawyers will go after several overseas websites that post the complete text of *Mystery of the Ages*.” Intimidating words!

After the Supreme Court decided it would not hear our appeal, Ralph Helge’s assistant, Earle Reese, incorrectly asserted, “This is the end of the PCG’s ability to appeal to a higher court.”

After that, the WCG worked to make the literature available through print on demand. Not because they wanted to—they had to. But they still had the upper hand, they were convinced, because all the literature downloaded would include a nasty preface. Yet this turned out to be yet another stronghold position they gave up on.

Then, when asked about the likelihood of licensing Mr. Armstrong’s works to a potentially dangerous sociopath like my father, Joseph Tkach Jr. testified to this: The WCG had to be in a position where it could “police or control” the literature if there was to ever be a settlement in terms of licensing. More words they would have to eat.

And what about Helge’s letter to Bob Ardis, where he portrayed my father as a stiff-necked rebel attempting to thwart the legal process? We were completely out of options, he said. We were staggering along, acting on sheer desperation, but with no place to go, except before the bar of justice to be judged guilty and sentenced to pay up to the Worldwide Church of God. Of course, none of that ever happened either.

What did happen is this: They sold us a storehouse of literature for an amount of money that, by our estimate, barely covered their legal costs, if even that. They retrieved no “profits” or “damages” from us. All their “overwhelming” victories in court were conditioned on them making Mr. Armstrong’s works available. And in the end, they were exactly where they started before the case, money-wise, but having forfeited ownership of all 19 copyrights.

■ ETHICAL QUESTIONS

Writing in *Christianity Today* after the lawsuit settled, Marshall Allen said, “At one point, the WCG said it was fighting the countersuit because it didn’t want to see the heretical works republished.” But the church had since reversed its course, he wrote. Allen quoted Reginald Killingley, a former WCG pastor, as saying, “They’re willing, in effect, to support what they condemn—to permit the perpetuation and promotion of heresy for the sake of money.”

The article sent shock waves through the WCG, even prompting a response in the *Worldwide News*. The last thing the WCG wanted from this whole ordeal was for their friends in the evangelical community to turn on them. *Christianity Today* had long been a staunch supporter of Tkachism.

In its coverage of the lawsuit in 2001, the magazine summarized the case this way: “[T]he Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled on a 2-1 vote that Armstrong legally willed his copyright of *Mystery of the Ages* to the WCG, which could restrict its distribution. The court majority said that despite the WCG action to suppress the book, PCG could not claim fair use in reprinting the entire book. Because they now believe *Mystery of the Ages* is ‘riddled with error,’ WCG officials say they feel a Christian duty to withhold the book.” Believing many of the same doctrines

Tkachism accepted, *Christianity Today* had no problem reporting on what they viewed as the WCG's attempt to "withhold the book." They didn't want the book in circulation either!

So when the WCG granted us unrestricted ownership of all the copyrights, you can see why they were disturbed by the WCG's about-face.

The WCG surrender also bothered another Tkachism advocate, Philip Arnn. Writing for *Watchman Expositor* in 1993, Arnn said, "The current doctrinal revisions being brought about by the efforts of Joseph Tkach and his team are to be applauded as extraordinary in light of their spiritual benefits to the church membership." But their decision to sell the copyrights 10 years later, according to Arnn, raised ethical questions about the WCG. "These are heretical doctrines that are destructive to the eternal life of anyone who comes under their influence," Arnn said. "To have profited from the release of the copyrights is a matter that I would think [would be] very troubling to the conscience."

Even the WCG's hometown newspaper, the *Pasadena Star-News*, called into question the church's ethical standing. "The settlement ... allows Armstrong's followers in the Philadelphia Church of God to reproduce the books. ... Present Pastor General Joseph Tkach Jr., however, once wrote that it was their 'Christian duty' to keep the book out of print 'because we believe Mr. Armstrong's doctrinal errors are better left out of circulation.'" The lawsuit had finally ended. It had been six years since Tkach Jr. wrote his book. And here he was still getting pummeled for the "Christian duty" statement—and from a newspaper in his own backyard!

According to the *Star-News*, Bernie Schnippert said it would have been financially "imprudent" for them not to accept the settlement offer. "We came to an end where we received a considerable sum of money and the other party received a number of works that are out of date and inaccurate according to most of the Christian world," said Schnippert.

Just nine months earlier, we listened to Schnippert testify smugly that Tkachism had supposedly taken the moral high ground by *not* milking revenue from teachings they didn't believe in—which is precisely what they did in the end.

■ TO THE VICTOR GO THE SPOILS

Contrast the WCG's sellout with what the Philadelphia Church of God obtained in this struggle. Our ONE GOAL at the outset, stated clearly in all our literature, was to make *Mystery of the Ages* available to a wide audience. In the end—something we could not have imagined in our wildest dreams before the case—we OWNED *Mystery of the Ages*, as well as SIX OTHER BOOKS by Mr. Armstrong, 11 booklets and a 58-LESSON Bible correspondence course.

On top of the literature, we obtained access to thousands of internal documents through discovery—letters, reports, bulletins, interoffice memos, board minutes, e-mails, interviews, books, magazines, newspapers, sermons, announcements, transcripts, financial disclosures, contracts, surveys, spreadsheets and statistics. We obtained multiple thousands of pages of sworn testimony in affidavits, declarations and depositions. There was six years' worth of court documents that we and the WCG had filed—briefs, rebuttals, motions, opposition motions, petitions, claims and counterclaims. Add to that all the documents filed by the judicial branch—courtroom transcripts, orders, tentative orders, summary judgments,

injunctions, opinions and dissenting opinions.

Without these documents, it would not have been possible to write *this* book. And without this book, we could not have exposed Tkachism's deceptive agenda nearly to the extent that we now have.

Besides *Raising the Ruins*, we had the opportunity to expose their lies during litigation—before judges, magistrates, attorneys, clerks, law students, reporters—even the general public. This case, after all, did attract national attention, including a feature story on the front page of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Then there were the depositions—particularly those during the summer of 2002. What an opportunity for a little "peanut shell" supposedly going nowhere. After the Tkaches absolutely wrecked the church we loved, we found ourselves in the enviable position of making them, under oath, ANSWER FOR ALL THEY HAD DONE.

For their predisposed hatred for Mr. Armstrong and their slanderous assassination of his character.

For all the lies they told to the membership.

For the ministers they bullied or fired.

The selfish will they FORCED upon an unsuspecting flock.

For the reputations they destroyed.

The marriages and families they split apart.

For the work, the property, the publications and programs they either sold off or discontinued.

For their inept mismanagement of all the money and resources they inherited.

And for their self-righteous ARROGANCE. A *Christian* duty to keep Mr. Armstrong's doctrines "out of circulation"? I mean, really, who do they think they are?

They hated answering for all this. And the fact that we were in the same room, giving our attorneys suggestions and input along the way, made it that much more awkward and upsetting for them. In fact, at the very first deposition we had in the case, in the summer of 1998, their attorney objected to the fact that we had three PCG representatives in attendance—my father, Dennis Leap and me.

They wanted to strip away all the *historical* intrigue—the PASSIONATE spiritual and emotional involvement we had invested in this case, in this *way of life* under Mr. Armstrong. They knew we were righteously indignant—even angry—about what Tkachism had done. They knew we would intensely fight for our spiritual livelihood—so they didn't want us around. They wanted this battle to be fought between lawyers only—and over what they considered to be purely a legal matter involving the Copyright Act and "stolen" property. But we insisted on being there for all of it. And we were. All three of us attended every major deposition—sometimes we even brought a fourth representative from our church. And besides the first hearing with Judge Letts, we attended every major hearing after that, even though it meant frequent flights between Oklahoma and California.

If they couldn't prevent our attendance, they worked to prevent us from saying anything about the lawsuit. Early on, they designated just about *everything* as confidential. They didn't want their story going public which, in itself, is a story. We, on the other hand, wanted complete transparency, which is why we later moved to have the confidentiality seal removed. I'm not saying we weren't nervous when they deposed us. *But we had nothing to hide.* Our position was clear from the start. *Yes, we printed Mr. Armstrong's works—and we firmly believe, before God and the authorities of our land, that it was lawful.* Besides

that, we looked upon being deposed as if we were testifying on behalf of Herbert W. Armstrong's legacy. What an honor.

There were many other moments we were proud of during our six-year struggle: The miraculous start to the case, when Judge Letts whipped the WCG into a tailspin, essentially saying, "I think you are going to lose." Then at the Ninth Circuit, even though we lost, to appear in court a few blocks from the Pasadena headquarters *Mr. Armstrong built*—it was a privileged opportunity I'll never, ever forget. I'm proud of the fact that we submitted a petition to the United States Supreme Court, even though it didn't hear the case.

Besides all the proud moments, there were the many profound lessons we learned: the unwavering faith of my father; the willingness to stand up and fight for a worthy cause and the abundant fruit that came from that; how we must go on the offensive to overcome evil—like printing *Mystery of the Ages* irrespective of what they might do, or filing the counterclaim, or kicking off the ad campaign, or our response to the preface.

These all were powerful lessons I will never forget. What an education. I think of the many sermons and articles our struggle has *already* inspired—and now this book.

None of this would have happened without the lawsuit.

Honestly, I find it difficult to pinpoint anything negative about the litigation. Naturally, no one wants to be sued, but even in the midst of the litigation, our work prospered. Four out of the six years, we were able to freely distribute *Mystery of the Ages* to 100,000 recipients. For two years during the lawsuit, we freely distributed five other works by Mr. Armstrong.

Even looking at it financially, it was a blessing. Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a pearl of great price. Upon finding that "pearl," it says in Matthew 13, the merchant went and sold *everything* he had to obtain it. In Matthew 19, Jesus told a rich man who wanted to inherit the spiritual riches of God's Kingdom that he had to be willing to give up *EVERYTHING* of *physical* value.

Over the course of six years, including the \$2 million we were responsible for at settlement, we spent about \$5 million on this lawsuit—*less than one tenth of our total income during this same period.*

And considering what we obtained in return—it's by far the best money we've ever spent. ■



UNITED STATES

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun

Direct TV DBS ION Ch. 305 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network ION Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri

Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WTVY-DT 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMM/WBMM-DT 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KIMO-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KATN-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KJUD-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KSWT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KCWA 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KJOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30 am, Sun

California, Bakersfield KGET-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KUVU-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KESQ/KCWQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KHSL-DT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KION 9:30 am, Sun

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Santa Barbara KSBY-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KKCO-DT 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Delaware, Salisbury WMDT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WCJB-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC/WPXJ-LP 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WJHG-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee WTXL 7:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville WTLF-DT/WTLH-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tampa WXPX 6:00 am, Fri; WTTA 8:30 am, Sun

Florida, West Palm Beach WPXP 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WAGT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WLGA 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WGSA/WGCW-LP 9:30 am, Sun

Hawaii, Hawaii Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed

Hawaii, Kauai Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

Idaho, Idaho Falls KPIF/KBEO 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KPIF 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KMVT-DT/KTWT-LP 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri

Illinois, Peoria WHOI-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Rockford WREX-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Fort Wayne WPTA-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri

Indiana, Terre Haute WBI 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Austin KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Cedar Rapids KPXR 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Des Moines KPFX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KTTC-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KTIV-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka KSNT 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBKO 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KBCA 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KNOE-DT 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WABI-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri; WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WGTU/WGTQ 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADL 10:00 am, Sun



North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, New Bern WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Washington WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Valley City WDAY-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
Ohio, CincinnatiWSTR 8:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Lima WLIO-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, SteubenvilleWBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, ZanesvilleWBZV 9:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, LawtonKAUZ 8:30 am, Sun
Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
Oregon, Bend KTVZ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Eugene KMTR-DT 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00 am, Sun
Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
South Carolina, Charleston WCBD-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Florence WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WWMB/WWMB-DT 9:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH-LP 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXX 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KVII-DT/KVIH/KVIH-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont KFDM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Brownsville KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KRIS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Harlingen KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Longview KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KLCW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Port Arthur KFDM 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Sherman-Ada KTEN-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sweetwater KTWS-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler KCEB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Weslaco KSFE-LP/KTIZ-LP 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KAUZ-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Vermont, Burlington WVNY 10:00 am, Sun
Virginia, Charlottesville WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WVIR-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WJAL

12:00 pm, Sun; WPXW 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Kennewick KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Richland KCWK 9:30 am, Sun
Washington, Seattle-Tacoma KWPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle KVOS 8:30 am, Sun
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KCWK/KCWL-LP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Beckley KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Oak Hill KVVA-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Weston WVFX-DT 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Eau Claire WQOW-DT/WXOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse WQOW/WXOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Rhinelander WAOW/WYOW 8:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, Wausau WAOW-DT/WYOW-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Riverton 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA

Australia Nationwide Network 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Adelaide, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Brisbane, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Melbourne, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Perth, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat
 Sydney, Channel 10 5:00 am, Sat

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel 11:00 am ET, Sun.
British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30 am, Sun; CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
British Columbia, Victoria CHNU 5:30 pm, Sun
Ontario, Toronto WADL 10:00 am Sun; CHNU 8:30 pm, Sun; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
Quebec, Montreal WVNY 10:00 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu
El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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

Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WLAJ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBKP 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac WGTU-DT/WGTQ-DT 9:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Duluth-Superior WDLH 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Mankato KWYE 8:30 am, Sun
Minnesota, Minneapolis KPXM 5:00 am, Fri
Mississippi, Biloxi WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Laurel WBH 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WTOK-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Tupelo WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, West Point WCBI-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Hannibal WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Jefferson City KOMU-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Missouri, Quincy-Keokuk WGEM-DT 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KTVQ-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Bozeman-Butte KBZK-DT/KXLF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Great Falls KRTV-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Helena KMTF-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Missoula KPAX-DT 10:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Lincoln-Hastings KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, Kearney KCWL-TV 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KREN/KREN-DT 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri; WUTV 10:00 am, Sun
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WLNY 10:00 am Sun
New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Watertown WWTI-DT 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WNCT-DT 9:30 am, Sun

Misunderstanding Pope Benedict

A great cry went up from the press when the pope lifted the excommunication from a Holocaust-denying bishop. Yet again, the press got it wrong on Benedict XVI. BY RON FRASER

BACK IN 1992, JACQUES DELORS called for “a soul for Europe.” As president of the European Commission, Delors noted the fractious nature of the European Union—even before it grew to its present cumbersome membership of 27 disparate nations. He argued that if Brussels failed to inject a *spiritual dimension* into the EU, it wouldn’t be able to command the allegiance of Europe’s citizens.

The Vatican raised its profile in Europe powerfully under the papacy of John Paul II. Now it is pursuing an aggressive agenda to popularize its religion on the Continent. It is ratcheting up the use of mass media; it is intensifying its diplomacy with capitals from London to Moscow and beyond.

In this context, the consummate skills of Pope Benedict XVI are proving invaluable. He is a master diplomat, playing the role of balancer between the competing powers that seek to dominate Europe’s soul.

Yet few understand this complex and clever man, Joseph Ratzinger. Even fewer appreciate the unerring strategy that he pursues. A case in point is the recent kerfuffle over the Vatican’s lifting of the excommunication on the Holocaust-denying Bishop Richard Williamson.

The Chancellor Vs. the Pope

Pope Benedict XVI hit the headlines in January when he approved lifting the excommunication of the bishops who lead the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X (SSPX). The stated reason for the decision, according to a January 21 Vatican decree, was largely “to promote unity in the charity of the universal church and to try to vanquish the scandal of division.”

When it emerged that one of the four

bishops, Richard Williamson, was a devout Holocaust denier, this brought Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel out of her corner swinging. “This should not be allowed to pass without consequences,” Merkel declared, in a politically ill-considered, yet morally persuasive and powerful criti-



cism of the German pope. “This is not just a matter, in my opinion, for the Christian, Catholic and Jewish communities in Germany, but the pope and the Vatican should clarify unambiguously that there can be no denial and that there must be positive relations with the Jewish community overall.”

Such criticism of a currently sitting pope from a secular democratic leader is unheard of. Merkel’s outburst did not sit well with the right-wing Catholic elites that dominate the European Union.

While the German press largely joined Merkel in baying after Benedict’s blood for

his apparent glossing over of Williamson’s anti-Semitism, the more astute observers recognized her political error.

The center-right *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* noted, “[T]here is widespread unease among private individuals and church members who are critical of the church’s politics that Merkel—who was quick to visit Rome (after the pope’s election)—has ventured into forbidden territory. The Catholic Church is older than the Christian Democratic Union, and older than the German state” (February 5).

Pope Benedict’s brother, George, joined the fray in defense of his eminent brother. The German center-right daily *Bild* headlined, “George Ratzinger Slams Angela Merkel Over Criticism” (February 5). German Bishop Gregor Maria Hanke, *Bild* noted, “also slammed Merkel’s opinion, saying he finds it disconcerting ‘how the pope’s integrity is now being questioned by politicians and statesmen.’”

Bild also noted, “Even members of the German parliament are criticizing Merkel for involving herself in the debate surrounding the rehabilitation: CSU politician Bernd Posselt warned the chancellor about continuing to ‘act as the pope’s teacher’” (ibid.).

It quickly became clear that Merkel’s move could seriously hurt her political career in an important election year.

Feeling the heat, Germany’s chancellor took the initiative the day after George Ratzinger’s attack. She contacted the Vatican to request a telephone conversation to put things right with the pope.

The upshot was that at midday on February 8, the Holy See Press Office director and the spokesman for the German feder-

al government released the following joint communique: “The Holy Father Benedict XVI and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, in a telephone conversation which took place at the request of the chancellor, were able to reciprocally exchange of points of view, in an atmosphere of the greatest respect.”

The German government spokesman and Holy See Press Office director commented, “It was a cordial and constructive discussion marked by their shared and profound conviction that the Shoah represents an ever-valid admonition for humankind” (Vatican Information Service).

But the damage to Merkel’s political career had already been done.

The German chancellor now has one great black mark against her in the eyes of the most powerful political group within the German parliament, the influential right-of-center Catholic lobby. This also happens to be the case with the European Parliament where the European People’s Party (EPP), the largest political party within that body, is dominated by powerful Roman Catholic connections.

Waiting in the Wings

At this juncture, Europe is in crisis. Facing its toughest test since the European vision was launched with the Treaty of Paris in 1952, the EU is fragmenting along nationalist and protectionist lines in reaction to the deepening global economic crisis. Amid this crisis, Germany’s export-based economy is being hit hardest of all.

As 2009 unfolds, deep fissures are appearing within the EU that seem to some to spell the end of the great united European dream.

In the wings—observing, participating actively in and occasionally commenting on this crisis—waits an institution that, as FAZ noted, is far more ancient than any of Germany’s—or Europe’s—political parties. Its resilience is borne out by its almost 2,000-year history. It has survived contests between church and state to rebound, time and again, in the wake of failed empires, redundant dynasties and the ebb and flow of economic conditions.

The Vatican looks on and bides its time.

It is significant that in this latest verbal contest between church and state, it was the state that blinked first. Pope Benedict clearly won the day politically, within a crucial election year for the European Union’s chief law-making institution, the European Parliament, and the EU’s leading nation, Germany. His win was Merkel’s loss.

It is significant that in this latest verbal contest between church and state, it was the state that blinked first.

Strategy

Few observers read between the lines of Joseph Ratzinger’s crafty, carefully chosen and deliberately challenging public statements and power plays as he steadily follows his agenda to “Christianize” Europe, to give Europe its “soul.”

As Pope Benedict XVI, Ratzinger declared his hand against pan-Islamism and secularism in his infamous speech at Regensburg University in 2005. Shortly after that speech produced a great outcry against him from leading Muslim clerics, the pope met with leaders in the Muslim religious community to pour a calming diplomatic oil upon the turgid waters that he had stirred. But he did not recant his position, which behind closed doors remains powerfully anti-Muslim.

With the SSPX affair, Benedict did it again. This is an extremely astute pope, with long experience roaming the corridors of Vatican diplomatic power. There can be no doubt he knew that his reinstatement of Bishop Williamson, an unrepentant Holocaust denier, would cause an outcry. It did. It surely did from the Jewish community.

Just as he did with leading Muslim clerics after their being insulted by his Regensburg speech, Benedict met with leaders of the Conference of American Jewish Organizations on February 12 in a diplomatic maneuver to both assure world Jewry that they had the respect of the Vatican, and to create an official forum for his announcement that he had accepted the invitation to visit Israel.

This was followed days later by the Vatican announcing that Benedict would visit Israel in May of this year. Thus the pope remained headline news for the month of February.

The Vatican is expert at playing the world’s media machine. The airing of the Williamson affair, like the Regensburg speech, gave the pope an opportunity to declare a public stance on the Holocaust, subliminally casting further doubt as to

its historicity in the mind of a public being increasingly distanced by time from its reality. At the same time, it gave the pope opportunity to again publicly endorse in the mind of the people his claim to hold no ill will against world Jewry, though the Vatican still counts them as being outside God’s kingdom and prays for their conversion to the Catholic faith.

Benedict is a pope who out of one side of his mouth lauds ecumenical dialogue and out the other declares that Roman Catholicism is the one true faith and all other Christian denominations are spurious.

This is simply a pope for all seasons. He is a master diplomat, with a universal vision from which he will not retreat one iota.

“A Soul for Europe”

So what is really behind all this?

The Vatican needs a powerful political platform to progress the fulfillment of its universal vision. The Vatican state does not provide that. A regeneration of the Catholic faith within a federal collective, the European Union would provide the Vatican with a tremendously strengthened power base from which to spread its vision worldwide.

That is Benedict’s goal.

To this end, the combined media power of the Vatican television station H2O, the European Parliament’s extremely powerful television station EuroParlTV, the European Union’s cultural website, and the Roman Catholic-dominated EPP’s new Web television station, Dialogue TV, is designed to spark the European public with a common drive to establish that which Jacques Delors called “a soul for Europe.”

This “soul for Europe” will be Roman Catholic to its core. That fact is certain in the mind of Joseph Ratzinger.

Watch carefully how Benedict handles his upcoming visit to Israel. Watch the European parliamentary elections with a keen eye in June. And keep watching Germany for a powerful swing to the Catholic right in the federal elections of September.

In the latter respect, one thing is for sure: Angela Merkel shot herself in the foot when she criticized Pope Benedict. There is little doubt that she will fail to recover the ground lost before September.

The burning question then remains, who will Germany elect to lead it out of the crisis of 2009?

Request our free booklet
Nahum—An End-Time Prophecy for Germany for more information on this subject.



Egypt Beyond Mubarak

MUBARAK HAS KNOWN ALL ALONG about the missiles and mortar shells being sneaked into Israel through the tunnels (“Egypt Beyond Mubarak,” March). It is impossible to move around in Rafiah South without the Egyptians knowing of everything that goes through. When President Bush got upset, Mubarak destroyed 40 tunnels going into the Gazan Rafiah. That is less than one 20th. The question is: Why has Egypt been letting thousands of tons of munitions flow freely into Gaza? The answer is: the same reason that a great part of the American aid Egypt has been receiving is munitions. Egypt has no other enemies than Israel, and is carrying out its charade in order to collect American dollars. The Egyptians are not much different than the Libyans or Iran. The article is mostly correct. However, it gives Mubarak too much credit. His actions do not come from the love of Esau, but the hatred of Jacob. America beware: Egypt will stick a knife in your back. You are arming Egypt to its teeth.

Yaakov Hillel—ISRAEL

Israel-Turkey Alliance

THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR COURAGE, realism and insights (“The Israel-Turkey Alliance Is a Trap,” March). Yours is the highest level of journalistic professionalism. I have never been able to understand the rationale of the Israeli (and American ...) support for the Islamist regime of Turkey. Maybe Israel will wise up in time. If they would only open their eyes to your insights!

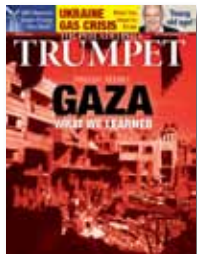
Prof. Emeritus Ares Pasipoularides—
DUKE UNIVERSITY, NORTH CAROLINA

Respect Your Mate

THIS ARTICLE IS OUTSTANDING! (“Do You Respect Your Mate?”, March). I used to nag my husband and talked down to him but then I realized I was committing a terrible sin and I needed to be corrected. My husband wanted a divorce after us being together for 13 years, and we were married for eight. I took the advice of a minister. ... I did exactly what this article said a year and a half ago. I am happy to say my

husband is back, and our relationship is better now than it was when we got married. This year will be our 10-year anniversary. This is the perfect example of learning to respect your mate. In the end, it always pays to listen to what God has been trying to tell us from the beginning. It’s too bad we always learn the hard way.

VIRGINIA



The Inaugural

YES, I PICKED UP FAIRLY EARLY on what was missing from Obama’s fascination with Lincoln (“The Inaugural,” March). It is very sad how much we have all forgotten, or not learned, about history, isn’t it? I found many similarities between the campaign of Obama and our Mr. Rudd. Most just follow blindly along. ...

Lincoln Litchfield—QLD., AUSTRALIA

Events Coming to Pass

ABOUT 25 TO 30 YEARS AGO, I WAS ORDERING a pizza at a corner store in Pennsauken, New Jersey. While I was waiting, I happened to see a stack of magazines called *The Plain Truth* on the counter. I took one and started reading it while waiting for my pizza to get done. I went home and finished reading the magazine. I couldn’t put it down because every article seemed so true and made so much sense. I started my subscription back then. I remember telling people ... about the events and things like a depression worse than the one in 1929. Of course some people laughed it off, but look at things now. I am now 55 years of age, and one night I was flipping through channels on TV and found myself watching the program [*The Key of David*], and then ... ordered the *Trumpet*. I am so glad to see that the truth is still going strong and that the Word will never die.

Elain Caccese—BARRINGTON, N.J.

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK. THERE ARE SO many great insights and messages in each issue. This is truly something that has challenged me and changed my outlook on the relevance of the Bible in today’s world. Thanks so much for your ministry.

Darryl Wilson—WATERLOO, ONT.

I ACCIDENTALLY STUMBLED UPON YOUR magazine while thumbing through a copy in the waiting room of a doctor’s office. After a second accidental encounter in the foyer of a restaurant several weeks later, I took notice, subscribed, and am now hooked on your publication. At the office during the day, I find myself looking for-

ward to arriving at home after work so I can change into some comfortable clothes, make a cup of tea, and curl up with my Bible, the *Philadelphia Trumpet*, and other literature made available through the Philadelphia Church of God. ...

Leslie Parker—WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICH.

Invasion From Within

I RECEIVED MY COPY OF THE *PHILADELPHIA Trumpet* today and read with interest the “Invasion From Within” article (February). The author of this piece certainly hit the mark! Every word he wrote is true; the British government has sold the British-born people down the river with their spineless capitulation to the Muslim mafia and politically correct brigade. Most people in the UK are not racist or Islamophobic, but in recent years, anyone just questioning the number of illegal immigrants entering the country or the rise of preferential treatment towards Muslims in education, justice, etc. gets branded as being a “racist.” It’s a clear case of “the tail wagging the dog,” but the British government prefers to ignore the wishes of the people it’s supposed to represent. What the article didn’t mention was that—due to this sad state of affairs—many thousands of British-born people are now leaving the country (the “white flight” as it’s been termed) as they see that nothing is going to change in the foreseeable future. They feel that their lives for themselves and for their children will be improved by leaving the land of their birth. And who can blame them? ...

T. Wilson

Pirates Expose Power Loss

VERY INTERESTING INFORMATION (“... And Some Secrets About Germany and Britain, Too,” February). As an American, I had no idea the socialists in Britain had succeeded so grandly in emasculating the naval forces of the nation that once ruled the seas. ...

Hale Meserow

What History Proves

THANKS FOR YOUR GREAT ARTICLE REMINDING us about God’s existence and biblical accuracy (“What You Might Not Know About History,” January). All schools everywhere should be using this literal historical proof as part of classroom curriculum.

Jennifer Blazak—CANADA

Correction

In the March 2009 issue, the map on page 3 incorrectly identified the Black Sea as the Mediterranean Sea.

Comments?

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Edmond, OK 73083

Aversion Therapy

Why is the world so plagued with problems? BY STEPHEN FLURRY

STOP AND THINK! IF THIS IS GOD'S WORLD, WHY DO WE FACE so many seemingly insoluble problems? Why is much of the world in poverty, uneducated and malnourished? Why are countless lives tragically cut short by war, violence and disease epidemics? Why, if God is trying to save this world now, have billions over the past 6,000 years lived and died never knowing Jesus Christ? Why have billions lived unfulfilled, unhappy lives?

If this is God's world—if He is trying to save it now—then He must be failing miserably!

In Galatians 1:4, the Apostle Paul refers to the age in which we live as "this present evil world." The natural mind of man, Paul wrote in Romans 8:7, is hostile toward God. Elsewhere, Paul referred to Satan the devil as the "GOD of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4). In Revelation 12:9, the Apostle John said that Satan has "deceived the *whole world*." If God is struggling against Satan to save this world *now*, these many verses reveal GOD TO BE LOSING THE BATTLE.

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

In his original created state, man was a perfect creation *physically* (Genesis 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 (Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 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.

While most people are well familiar with the Genesis account of Adam and Eve, few have ever understood its true significance. It's not about two fruit trees—it's about **TWO WAYS OF LIFE**.

The tree of life represented God's way of life. 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 loving relationship with his Creator and with fellow man.

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

More importantly, by taking from this wrong tree, Adam cut mankind off from having access to God and His Spirit. Genesis 3:22-24 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*."

Eating from the tree of life would have given Adam **ETERNAL LIFE**. God was not offering eternal life through an actual fruit

tree—He offered it *through His Spirit*, represented by the tree of life.

When Adam rejected God's way of life, God pronounced a sentence on all of mankind in general. 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 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

"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. ...

"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."

Mr. Armstrong referred to this 6,000-year lesson man is recording by his own experience as *aversion therapy*. The dictionary defines *aversion* as "a strong feeling of dislike or repugnance." God is bringing mankind to the point where we 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 according to *his own rebellious ways*.

In this end time, the majority of mankind will 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, 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" (Matthew 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, man will have *seen* the results of his 6,000-year experiment. The fruits of going it alone, without God, will be painfully and obviously visible. This is what it will take for mankind to finally turn to God in humility and sincere repentance.

The lesson in aversion therapy will have served its purpose. Jesus Christ 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, God will build a new world on a right foundation. And at last, He will offer salvation to every human who has ever lived. ■



Rabbits, eggs, and Easter?



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