

**DOOMSDAY  
COUNTDOWN**  
Five minutes to midnight

**EUROPE GROWS EAST**  
The startling reason the European Union just absorbed  
Romania and Bulgaria—and where it is headed next

**SHIFTING  
CONFIDENCE**  
Dump a dollar, buy a euro

MARCH 2007

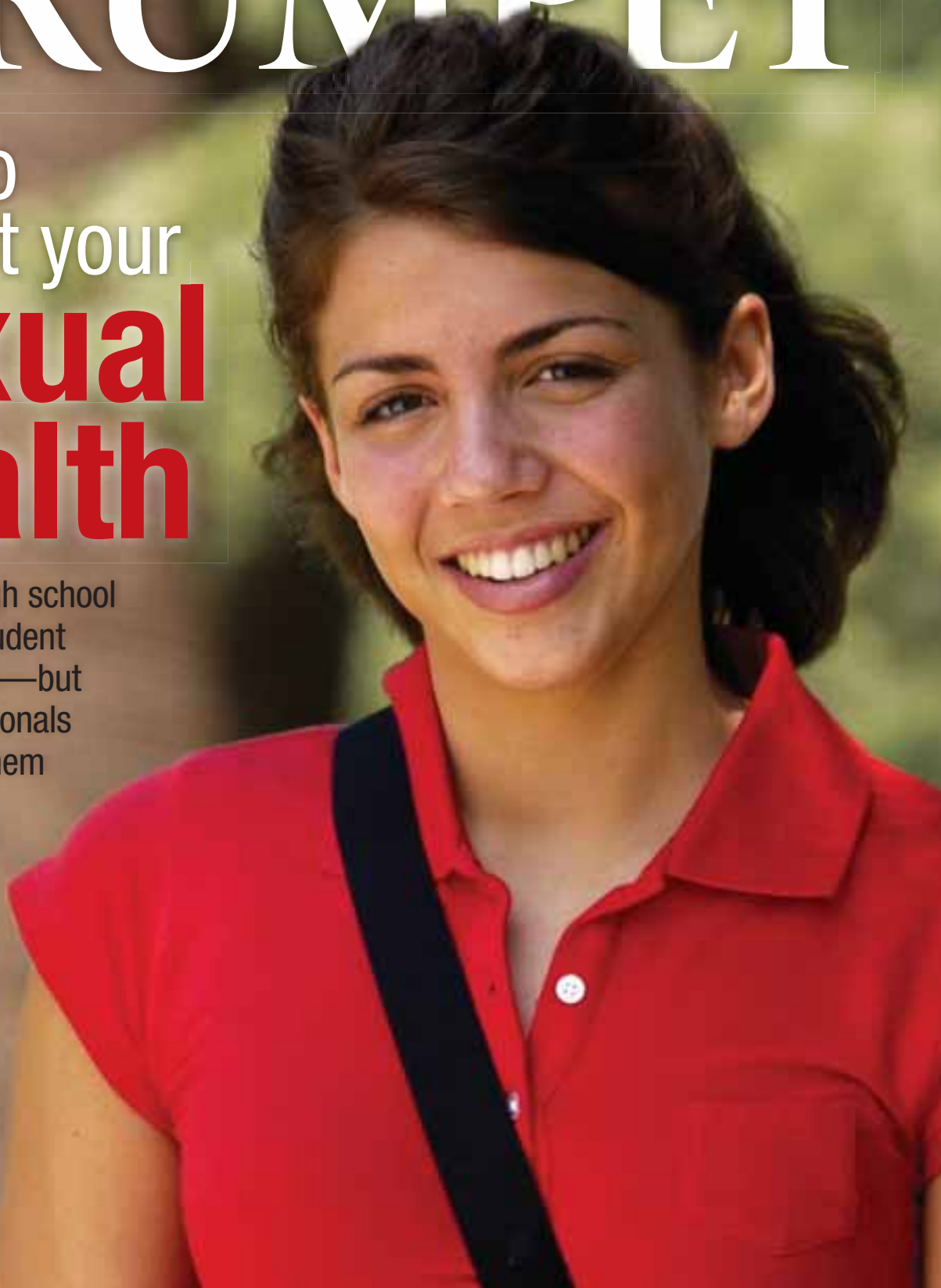
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How to  
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aren't telling them





2

## WORLD

- 2 The Startling Reason Europe Is Expanding East**  
Romania and Bulgaria have just joined the European Union. A colossal, historic empire is about ready to stand on its own two feet.
- 4 Swallowing the Balkans**
- 5 He Was Right!**



7



11



32

## WORLD

### FROM THE EDITOR

- 1 Two Minutes Closer to Midnight**
- 11 Why London Doesn't Need a Giant Mosque**
- 20 The Great Global Power Transfer**  
A trend that will hurt the U.S. and British peoples.
- 22 WORLDWATCH**  
**EUROPE** Getting Tough on Immigration ■ **Youth Racism a Concern in Germany** ■ **BRITAIN** Death of the British Navy ■ **UNITED STATES** Potential New War Front ■ **MIDDLE EAST** The Return of Rafsanjani ■ **U.S.** Halts Arms Sales to Israel ■ **JAPAN** Right-Wing Extremism Rising ■ **UNITED STATES** Crime Soaring in New Orleans
- 32 Russia's Deadly New Weapon**

## ECONOMY

- 16 New Global Trend: Dump a Dollar, Buy a Euro**  
How the currency shift has enormous implications for the global economy.
- 18 Europe's Beating Heart**
- 19 OPEC Unloads Its Dollars**

## LIVING

### COVER STORY

- 7 Sexual Health: What Every High School and College Student Needs to Know**

## SOCIETY

- 12 A Vital Key for Studying History**  
Modern education overlooks the most important history of all.
- 15 The Danger in Ignoring History**
- COMMENTARY**
- 37 "I Am the Next American Idol"**  
A lesson from America's most popular TV show

## RELIGION

### BOOK EXCERPT

- 26 Fingerprints**  
The principal players in the Tkach transformation left their fingerprints all over the crime scene during the 1970s—but they never got caught.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 34 Key of David Television Log**
- 36 Letters**

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COVER  
A teenager.  
Index Open

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**THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET** (ISSN 10766348) is published monthly (except bimonthly August-September and November-December issues) by the Philadelphia Church of God, 14400 S. Bryant Ave, Edmond, OK 73034. Periodicals postage paid at Edmond, OK, and additional mailing offices. ©2007 Philadelphia Church of God. All rights reserved. PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. Unless otherwise noted, scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Holy Bible. **U.S. Postmaster:** Send address changes to: THE PHILADELPHIA TRUMPET, P.O. Box 3700, Edmond, OK 73083. **How your subscription has been paid:** The *Trumpet* has no subscription price—it is free. This is made possible by the tithes and offerings of the membership of the Philadelphia Church of God and others. Contributions, however, are welcomed and are tax-deductible in the United States, Canada and New Zealand. Those who wish to voluntarily support this worldwide work of God are gladly welcomed as co-workers.

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Gerald Flury

# Two Minutes Closer to Midnight

**A**RE WE ABOUT TO ANNIHILATE ALL HUMAN LIFE ON this planet? Do you and your loved ones have a future? If you look to men for solutions, there is no hope. Even though we are facing mind-numbing perils, our future could not be brighter—after a short span of the worst suffering ever!

On January 17, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS) moved the minute hand of the Doomsday Clock up two minutes—so it is now five minutes to midnight, symbolizing human annihilation. The Bulletin Online explained, “REFLECTING GLOBAL FAILURES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS POSED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS and the climate crisis, the decision by the BAS board of directors was made in consultation with the Bulletin’s board of sponsors, which includes 18 NOBEL LAUREATES.

“BAS announced the clock change [January 17] at AN UNPRECEDENTED JOINT NEWS CONFERENCE held at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C., and the Royal Society in London. In a statement supporting the decision to move the hand of the Doomsday Clock, the BAS board focused on two major sources of catastrophe: THE PERILS OF 27,000 NUCLEAR WEAPONS, 2,000 OF THEM READY TO LAUNCH WITHIN MINUTES; and the destruction of human habitats from climate change. In articles by 14 leading scientists and security experts writing in the January-February issue of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (<http://www.thebulletin.org>), the potential for catastrophic damage from human-made technologies is explored further.

“Created in 1947 by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, the Doomsday Clock has been adjusted only 17 times prior to today, most recently in February 2002 after the events of 9/11.

“By moving the hand of the clock closer to MIDNIGHT—THE FIGURATIVE END OF CIVILIZATION—the BAS board of directors is drawing attention to the increasing dangers from the spread of nuclear weapons in a world of violent conflict, and to the catastrophic harm from climate change that is unfolding. The BAS statement explains: ‘We stand at the brink of a Second Nuclear Age. NOT SINCE THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMBS WERE DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI HAS THE WORLD

FACED SUCH PERILOUS CHOICES. North Korea’s recent test of a nuclear weapon, Iran’s nuclear ambitions, a renewed emphasis on the military utility of nuclear weapons, the failure to adequately secure nuclear materials, and the continued presence of some 26,000 nuclear weapons in the United States and Russia are symptomatic of a failure to solve the problems posed by the most destructive technology on Earth” (January 17, emphasis mine throughout).

Imagine that! THESE SCIENTISTS SAY THAT YOU AND I HAVE ONLY FIVE MORE MINUTES UNTIL ALL HUMAN LIFE HAS BEEN EXTERMINATED! Do we really get this message?

With the United States, Russia, Britain, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel all possessing a military nuclear capability, Iran on the verge of attaining it, and now, even “pacifist” Japan speaking about the need to get nuclear defensive weaponry, plus political voices in Germany seeking the same, THE WORLD HAS NEVER BEEN A MORE DANGEROUS PLACE. Add to this the missing nuclear weaponry that has been taken out of arsenals of the former USSR, combined with the increasing volatility of global terrorism, and we have a recipe for apocalyptic disaster.



So what are you going to do about it? Is there anything you can do? As a matter of fact, there is a great deal you can do. However, you must act now—while there is time.

These outstanding scientists who operate the Doomsday Clock see little or no hope for mankind. But there is abundant hope. It’s time we all faced the truth and the only hope there is or ever will be!

But first, let’s look more closely at the bad news. There is another dimension that makes it even worse. Iran is about to produce nuclear bombs. But there is much more to this frightening story. The Iranian leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is eager to plunge the world into a nuclear abyss for religious reasons! This is a frightening *new dimension* to the nuclear equation—a madman who will soon have nuclear power and who wants nuclear warfare!

We are facing dangers that are hard to even imagine. This planet has become a huge cauldron of violent and unparalleled

See **MIDNIGHT** page 31 ▶



# The Startling Reason Europe Is Expanding **EAST**



**NEW EUROPE** Romanians in Bucharest celebrate as the new year begins and their nation officially becomes part of the European Union. Citizens gathered in several major cities to commemorate their entry into the EU.

**“D**ICK CLARK’S *New Year’s Rockin’ Eve 2007* had nothing on the parties in Bulgaria and Romania during the wee hours of January 1. It was a “heavenly moment,” Bulgaria’s president said, when his country became a member of the European Union.

An EU flag ascended a pole near Romania’s capital building to the strains of the European anthem: Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”—the same piece Leonard Bernstein conducted in Berlin 17 years ago to celebrate the Wall’s fall, when he changed the German word for *joy* (“Freude”) to *freedom* (“Freiheit”).

Within 24 hours of accession, 9,000 Romanians experienced their own “ode

**A colossal, historic empire is about ready to stand on its own two feet. BY RYAN MALONE**

to freedom” when they crossed into Hungary. Most simply went for a cup of coffee and came right back home.

With the addition of Bulgaria and Romania, the 27-nation EU now borders the resource-rich Black Sea and governs half a billion people.

Romania and Bulgaria are the latest of a slew of former Communist, Soviet-dominated states to join the Union. Eight others joined in 2004. In 2010,

Croatia hopes to be the second nation, after Slovenia, that once comprised Yugoslavia to join the EU since the republic crumbled in the early 1990s.

Meanwhile, also on January 1, Slovenia joined the eurozone—the group of EU nations using the Union’s monetary unit. In the first two weeks of the year, its 2 million citizens gave up their toalars for euros, making Slovenia the first Eastern European nation to join the EU’s common currency.

So why is the EU so intent on absorbing Eastern Europe?

The answer has to do with the most dramatic news event occurring on Earth right now. It’s not the war in Iraq or the nukes in Iran. It’s not the ongoing hunt for Osama or the U.S. presidential cam-

paign of Obama.

What has been building in Europe—now for the past 50 years—is going to be the greatest single event to impact YOUR life to this point.

**Why Eastern Europe?**

How the eastern half of Europe is being incorporated into a united Europe is a HUGE element in this developing story. It is something the *Trumpet* has been watching for years. The *Plain Truth* magazine before us, until the death of its founder in 1986, was also monitoring these developments—amazingly, as far back as the 1950s, when Eastern European nations were mere pawns of the Soviet Union.

Again, let us ask: Why is the European Union so intent on absorbing Eastern Europe? What benefit does it gain from uniting with poor, underdeveloped, corruption-ridden countries still reeling from years of Soviet oppression and Communist dictatorships?

In the case of the recent two entrants, the living conditions in some slums in Romania are notoriously worse than those in Third World countries, while Bulgarian cities host packs of often-dangerous stray dogs.

Romania’s parliament is arguably now one of the most unreformed institutions in the Union. EUobserver.com reports, “Former secret police officers, apparatchiks and pillars of the Communist Party are still doing and undoing party alliances, hindering reforms and mutilating laws beyond recognition” (Dec. 22, 2006).

Bulgaria is now the only EU state where Muslims, 12 percent of its population, are not recent immigrants but a centuries-old local community—remnants of the Ottoman Empire.

In addition to political and social risks, there is also simple economics.

Absorbing poorer countries into the Union is expensive. Back in 2004, nine of the 10 new members all had per capita incomes lower than the average among the 15 existing EU members. Forty billion euros in aid has been earmarked for the two newest members, in addition to all the aid they have already received to help them prepare for accession.

Europe is also expecting—and placing temporary legislative measures to guard against—mass migration from the newer members into the developed west part of the Continent. When Poland joined the EU, for example, tens of thousands of its citizens registered for work in nations like Ireland and the United Kingdom. Net migration to the UK nearly doubled between 2004 and 2005; 400,000 came from the East. Britain is expecting 50,000 to 60,000 new workers in 2007 from the EU’s newest members. This trend raises all sorts of concerns for Europe’s more developed nations, some of which have record un-

making process so much that many experts wonder if this European experiment is doomed.

So why take on two more members? Why promise to take on still more, even if that won’t be until 2010? Are Eurocrats simply signing their own death warrant—sure to choke on the gluttony of federal expansionism?

Considering these apparent risks, it is fascinating that EU leaders continue to press forward with the absorption of these Eastern nations. Let’s examine some of their reasons for doing so.

**Resources**

Historically, Western European thinkers at the helm of the European unity movement have always wanted to incorporate Eastern Europe to serve as a hedge against Russia. Otto von Habsburg, in his 1957 book *The Social Order of Tomorrow*, called for the liberation of the Balkans in order for this to happen.

In the case of influential German dignitary Franz Joseph Strauss, unifying Europe and enticing the Eastern nations to join the growth and power of the West was the only way to *reunite Germany*. Western Europe had to become economically and politically attractive to encourage Eastern countries to break away from Soviet domination, which would re-unite Germany—and, of course, place it geographically at the *center* of Europe.

European leaders continued to pursue this strategy even AFTER the Cold War ended and the Soviet Communist empire was no more. This suggests that the strategic value in extending EU borders remains.

First, Western Europe sees in these Eastern states an attractive bounty of critical resources. This is vital to Europe’s ability to shield itself from any future unpredictability from Russia.

To prepare for EU entry, Bulgaria was required to privatize seven of the government’s power distribution companies, enabling them to be snapped up by companies in Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria. Romania is Central and Eastern Europe’s largest producer of natural gas; it has the largest oil reserves in Central



employment and a history of xenophobia toward the Slavic East. In addition, with the Eastern nations having lower labor costs, fears abound that companies may relocate to these countries once they become EU members, taking jobs from the higher-cost Western states.

Add to this the fact that Europe seems to be suffering from “enlargement fatigue”: It’s just tired of getting bigger. About half of Europeans don’t want the EU to grow any more—the percentage being higher in larger, wealthier nations. Many officials argue that the EU is getting too big and is headed for disaster. Its meetings are too long and boring, they say, and usually produce nothing but resolutions to hold more meetings. Bureaucracy weighs down the decision-

REUTERS/TRUMPET MAP



and Eastern Europe; and it contains 10 of southeast Europe's 11 petroleum refineries. On the coast of the Black Sea, Romania is a major energy transport point via the ports of Constanta and Tulcea.

These two nations are also home to several major pipeline plans, with infrastructure designed to transport resources from the Black Sea (a major route for world oil exports) into Europe and to feed Europe the resources it needs from the Caspian Sea without Russia having to be involved.

Some argue that these poorer nations will not bring the EU down economically but will do just the opposite. Finnish Parliament member Alexander Stubb,

for example, writing for the *Financial Times*, stated, "Some claimed the 'Polish plumber' would lead to the downfall of the whole Union. In fact, the new, mainly Eastern and Central European countries, have provided a much needed new dynamic" (Dec. 7, 2006). These countries—being relatively new to the free, capitalist world—are experiencing rapid growth. Eurocrats argue that the East's highly motivated work force will be an asset for the EU economy.

As compelling as these factors may appear, there is another reason—and far more historic—that drives Europe's push east.

It lies in RELIGION.

Religion

In his book *The Clash of Civilizations*, groundbreaking political scientist Samuel Huntington asks an important question: Where does Europe end? Its northern, western and southern borders are all outlined by great bodies of water. But where does it end in the east? He answers:



# Swallowing the Balkans

ONE advantage to having Romania and Bulgaria in the European Union, according to the European Commission, is that both countries will be able to help strengthen the EU's foreign policy and security policy: Romania as a bridge to the east, and both as interfaces with the Balkan region.

That second point is particularly interesting given Europe's history with the Balkans. Stratfor made this observation: "With Romania and Bulgaria joining the European Union ... the Balkans are nearly surrounded by EU member countries, meaning the European Union will have to address rising tensions and instability in southeastern Europe" (Dec. 29, 2006).

Consider these "rising tensions." Serbia, for example, stripped of its former republics and geopolitical relevance thanks to European intrusion, now stands at the threshold of a political revolution. When Serbia held its national parliamentary elections in January, the pro-West, pro-EU Democratic Party garnered enough votes to form a coalition government that excludes the Serbian Radicals. This gives Serbia the opportunity to pursue EU membership. EU officials said, shortly after the election, that Belgrade "could begin accession talks as soon as"

the coalition government was formed. Those were the words of Erhard Busek, spokesman for the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, stating that Serbia had a better chance than Turkey of gaining EU membership (EUbusiness.com, January 23).

Also, with the Serbian Radicals sidelined—a party opposing the independence of Kosovo—the barriers to Kosovo breaking away have fallen. This makes way for the EU to cement its hold on Kosovo. It is now planning to have its police force take over security operations from NATO troops. This will be the EU's biggest security operation ever in Kosovo, involving not only policing, but also institution building.

Meanwhile, in Bosnia, the United Nations is supposed to hand power over to the national government this spring, when European forces are set to withdraw from the country. No one quite knows how successfully the deadlocked government (split among Muslims, Croats, Serbs) will function on its own.

Added to that is the possible energy crisis into which the EU has purposefully plunged the Balkans. To be an EU member, Bulgaria—the Balkans' biggest electricity supplier—had to shut down two functional nuclear reactors that violated the EU's strict safety regulations. This means Sofia will lose up to

€10 billion in export revenues and face possible increases in energy imports and shut-down costs; at the same time, electricity may become more scarce and costlier. It will "destroy the delicate energy balance in a region that continues to be economically and politically unstable" (Deutsche Welle, Dec. 28, 2006).

But have no fear. Europe is poised to address these "rising tensions."

The EU's increased presence in the Balkans through Romania's and Bulgaria's accessions has coincided with Germany's six-month presidency of the EU. Stratfor asserts, "Whether or not Germany likes it, these Balkan issues have fallen in its lap. Keeping the Balkans from returning to its previous chaos, then, could become Germany's unintended presidential legacy" (op. cit., emphasis ours).

Unintended? Hardly. Germany and the Vatican were at the helm of slicing and dicing the Balkans in the first place. Back when Germany stood firm in recognizing Croatia and Slovenia, the *New York Times* said the incident "underscored Germany's growing political power within the 12-nation European Community" and that "it marked the single most visible demonstra-

tion of that power since reunification of the two Germanys ..." (Dec. 16, 1991). In his booklet *The Rising Beast*, editor in chief Gerald Flurry called Yugoslavia the first victim of World War III, just as Czechoslovakia was the first of the Second World War.

As Stratfor maintained only a few years back, "Germany is seeking to reassert itself at the center of Europe, and the Balkans play a big part in that strategy. It is an area where Germany can expand its military reach without frightening either itself or its neighbors. Berlin also would like to build on its ties with Slovenia, Croatia, Albania, Bosnia and Bulgaria to pull both southern and Eastern Europe under its wing as the EU expands" (March 6, 2002).

How interesting is the timing of Germany's presidency, along with the accession of two large Balkan countries, while the former Yugoslav republics stand at political crossroads. It won't be long before these countries, now surrounded by the EU—and essentially vassal states of it—join a united Europe.

RYAN MALONE

“Europe ends where Western Christianity ends and Islam and Orthodoxy begin.”

Yet, if that is true, Europe has already overstepped its bounds, inviting nations in that are largely Orthodox. It did so in 1981, when Greece joined the Common Market, and is doing so again by letting Romania and Bulgaria enter.

But *religion* is indeed the key. In fact, the Vatican has played a significant role in this entire eastward push.

Pope John Paul II, originally from Poland himself, was the catalyst for bringing his homeland out from under Soviet tyranny. Just six months after the fall of the Berlin Wall, he was in Czechoslovakia proclaiming the ideology that Christianity needed both its “eastern and western lungs” to breathe. Fourteen years later, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and six other Eastern European countries joined the EU club.

Less than two years after communism’s fall, the pope (supported by Germany) bucked world opinion and recognized the predominantly Catholic breakaway states of Croatia and Slovenia, which led to about a decade of grisly conflict and the disintegration of Yugoslavia. Now Slovenia is a full-fledged member of the EU and part of the eurozone, and Croatia is set to join the Union in 2010. It was only five years ago that Bulgaria, steeped in Orthodoxy, received its first-ever papal visit—and now it is the newest EU state.

What John Paul II was doing the last two decades of his life—from helping tear down the Iron Curtain to inspiring religious revivals in once-Communist nations—was actually building the eastern leg of a historic empire.

His successor, Benedict XVI, is holding the same banner of drawing the East in politically and religiously. He has made his drive for increasing cooperation between the Orthodox East and the Vatican a defining mission of his papacy.

Catholics and Orthodox, he said, “have the duty to defend the Christian roots of Europe, which have formed the continent down the centuries .... [W]e must increase collaboration among Christians in all European countries in order to face the new risks that challenge the Christian faith: growing secularization, relativism and nihilism” (Catholic News Agency, Dec. 14, 2006).

Eastern Orthodox countries actually have more in common with the Vatican than some of the secularized Western members of the Union. They are typi-

cally more right-wing on social issues and more devout about their religion. If the Vatican can appeal to their sense of moral uprightness, it can go a long way in repairing the breach of the Great Schism of A.D. 1054, when the Holy Roman Empire officially split between these two great religions.

What is at play here is a decades-long strategy. Go back to Habsburg’s 1950s book in which he set out the goal of regaining Russia’s East-Europe satellites as part of a united Europe. Then 1965, when Strauss said Europe (ah yes, and Germany) needed to be reunited, and the yoke of communism broken. Then 1967, when Germany normalized relations with Ceausescu’s Romania. Then March 1971, when Tito became the first Communist dictator to visit the Vatican. Several years later came the pope’s visit to Poland and the eventual economic downfall of the USSR leading to the breakaway of the Eastern European satellites, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the execution of Romania’s dictator. Add to that the crisis imposed on Yugoslavia shortly thereafter, the ensuing wars, the strategic occupation, the move of Germany’s capital back to once-divided Berlin, the accession of eight Communist states in 2004 and now two more.

The eastern leg of this empire has been built, slowly and steadily, over the past 50 years. And the strategy has been nothing short of genius.

### Prophecy

As we stated in our July 2004 issue, throughout the Middle Ages and through the end of World War II, “empire” in Europe has been sought through two primary methods: 1) “the effort to *rejoin the eastern and western legs* of the old Roman Empire under a *single imperial rule*, and 2) the *imposition of a universal religion*. These are the twin foundations upon which six of the seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire were built: a *political* foundation backed up by military force and a *spiritual* foundation established by the imposition of a state religion.”

What is building to include these seemingly poor, crippled nations will be a resurrection of an age-old empire, spanning Europe and split relatively evenly between East and West. It will follow the historic form of the Roman Empire—which was divided between the Latin West with its capital in Rome and the Greek East with its capital in Byzantium (Constantinople, now Istanbul), a region termed by the



## He Was RIGHT!

How will the EU be divided East and West? As far back as the 1950s, *Plain Truth* editor in chief **HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG** forecast the following:

### 1956

“There will be 10 dictatorships, exerting iron rule over 10 European nations. These 10 will give all their military power to the central overall leader—pictured under the prophetic symbol ‘the beast.’ ... The strong indication of these prophecies, then, is that some of the Balkan nations are going to tear away from behind the Iron Curtain.”

### Sept. 20, 1979

Reporting on the pope’s visit to Poland, Mr. Armstrong suggested that a “‘resurrected’ Holy Roman Empire ... may include such nations ... as Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia.”

### Feb. 18, 1980

“There will now be an effort to bring Yugoslavia into the Holy Roman Empire alliance! There will be strong pressure from the Vatican, in view of the pope’s visit to his native Poland, to bring Poland into the new United States of Europe. If Yugoslavia and Poland go in, then expect at least Romania also to go in.”

### Dec. 27, 1981

“But suddenly, unexpectedly, as biblical prophecy reveals, the whole world will be startled and shocked into wonder to learn that a new third super world power has suddenly burst forth onto the world scene—a resurrection of the medieval Holy Roman Empire by a union of 10 nations in Europe—very possibly five in Western Europe, and five broken loose from the Communist orbit in Eastern Europe!”

### May 20, 1982

“The uprising against Soviet domination in Poland can easily lead to Poland, and such Eastern European nations as Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and even Greece, joining in a union with Roman Catholic nations in Western Europe. The Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church could join with the Roman Catholic. The 10 nations of Revelation 17 will be *Catholic*.”



Greeks, interestingly, *Romania*.

The political framework of this Union will consist of 10 nation-blocs—likely with half in Western Europe and half in Eastern Europe.

As Herbert W. Armstrong proclaimed, the seven-headed beast of Revelation 17, ridden by a woman (symbolic of a church in the Bible), is a type of the seven resurrections of the Holy Roman Empire (the last one of which has been building since World War II). The Roman Empire, united by the Catholic Church, has fulfilled this prophecy. This final resurrection is comprised of “ten horns, which ... are ten kings” (Revelation 17:12).

Despite the growing size of the EU, Bible prophecy indicates that the ultimate assembly of European nations will be ruled by 10 kings, implying 10 nations or groups of nations.

This interpretation gels with another key prophecy in Daniel 2—where Daniel showed King Nebuchadnezzar how the image in his dream was a prophetic timeline of the Gentile kingdoms that would succeed his Babylonian Empire. The two iron legs of this image depict the Roman Empire with its western and eastern divisions, each with a capital.

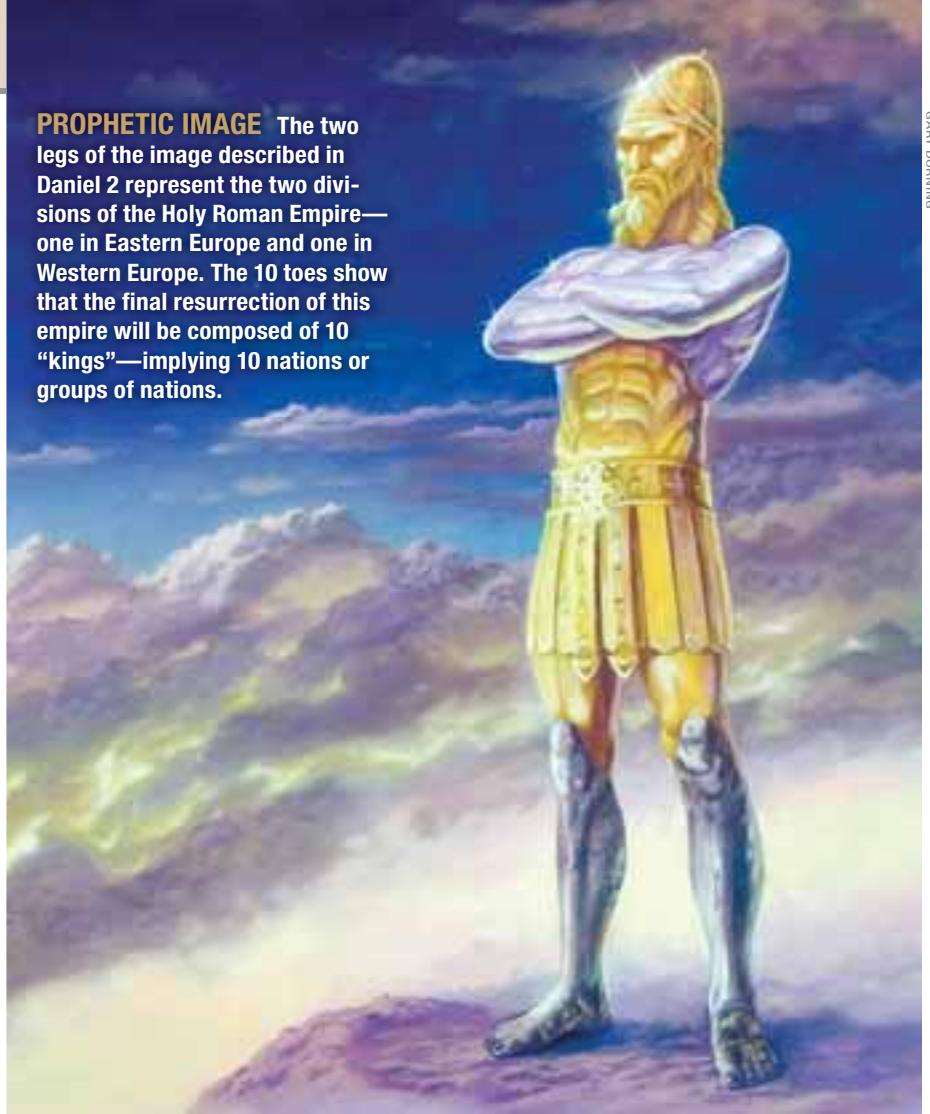
Moving down this image, we come to the feet of iron and clay, of which Daniel draws special attention to the *ten toes*. This is the final resurrection of the Roman (now “Holy” Roman) Empire.

A basic understanding of human anatomy, world history and European geography would teach us that this final resurrection is divided as it historically has been between East and West. More specifically, we can even speculate that with five toes on one foot and five on the other, the East-West division of this 10-nation bloc will be relatively equal.

The *Plain Truth* stated back in January 1986, “Notice further that the ancient prophecies of Daniel picture this system as a human image standing on *two legs*. ... Thus it is probable that the coming reconstituted Roman Empire will also be composed of two distinct yet cooperative parts: one comprising nations of Western Europe, the other incorporating nations released from Soviet dominance in Eastern Europe. ... Given the fact of five toes on each foot, it is possible that five entities will come from Western Europe and five from the East.”

The image of Daniel 2 does not stand on one strong Western foot and another, weaker, crippled foot. The image implies a sense of equality—meaning the

**PROPHETIC IMAGE** The two legs of the image described in Daniel 2 represent the two divisions of the Holy Roman Empire—one in Eastern Europe and one in Western Europe. The 10 toes show that the final resurrection of this empire will be composed of 10 “kings”—implying 10 nations or groups of nations.



GARY DORNING

Eastern European nations will grow in strength to add vitality to this resurrected empire. And when Europe can stand on this foot, watch out!

Of course, Daniel 2 does say the kingdom is “divided” and that it is “partly strong, and partly broken” (verse 42). The glue that holds this union together is *religion*.

As destructive and horrific as the Holy Roman Empire’s reign will be, however, it will also be short-lived. Thank God for that. As Daniel 2 goes on to describe, a huge stone comes from heaven to smash the feet of the great image! The lineage of world-ruling kingdoms will be replaced once and for all by the government Jesus Christ will bring at His Second Coming (verse 44).

Before Jesus Christ returns, this 10-nation colossus will plunge our globe into the worst world war ever in our history. Don’t be deceived by the pomp and circumstance of a seemingly harmless economic and political body expanding its borders to charitably include feeble neighbors.

Watch for Eastern Europe to use its EU membership to grow in strength. Watch for any chaos economically or politically to be quickly remedied by a strong leader who comes to the fore in Europe—streamlining the EU’s operations into 10 major divisions. Watch for the Vatican to increase its efforts to reunite Eastern European Orthodoxy with Catholicism under the common denominator of Christian values in an increasingly secular (and Islamicized) world.

Europe is about to stand on its own two feet! ■

We have ample *free* literature offering more detailed explanations on all these areas to be watching, as well as how you can be protected from the calamity this final resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire will instigate. Request our free booklets *Who or What Is the Prophetic Beast?* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* for more. You may also be interested to read our December 2002 article “Mixing Iron and Clay” and our July and August 1999 article series “Return of the Old World Order,” available on theTrumpet.com.



# SEXUAL HEALTH

## What Every High School and College Student Needs to Know

Your school health clinic isn't telling the whole truth. **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

**O**UR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE BEING lied to. Sold a damnable bill of goods that is wounding them physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Some few, these lies are killing.

You probably realize that a majority of unmarried college students—80 percent or more in America—are having sex. Almost two thirds of high schoolers have had sex by their senior year; over one in five has had four or more partners by that point.

What you may not realize is how much this sexualized culture is hurting these students. One quarter of sexually active teens contract a sexually transmitted disease. Teenaged girls are over three times more likely to feel depressed a lot, most, or all of the time if they are sexually active, and almost three times more likely to have attempted suicide, according to one study; teenaged boys are *eight times* more likely to try to kill themselves if they are sexually active.

Other surveys show that sexually active high schoolers are 50 percent more

prone to drop out of school and 60 percent more likely to be expelled. They are also half as likely to graduate from college.

Even among teens from identical socio-economic backgrounds, sexual activity dramatically hurts academic performance. Sexually active college students, living out the dramas of making and breaking sexual relationships, have lower grade-point averages than their chaste peers, they seek counseling more often and are more apt to consider their relationships stressful.

The risks associated with early sex experience are many, and the younger it begins, the higher the risks. It boosts the probability of unmarried pregnancy and abortion, births and



DREAMSTIME

single parenthood, and poverty among mothers and children. The danger of infection by STDs is higher not only because of increased exposure but also because of the biological susceptibility of less-mature sex organs. At the same time, early sex experience is proven to lower happiness and decrease the odds of later marital stability.

What makes this tragedy more than merely sad—what makes it truly outrageous and angering—is the fact that these students are, at least in part, acting in ignorance, having been *deliberately fed false information* that obscures how destructive their behavior really is.

Unscrupulous educators—people more committed to politically correct principles of “sexual freedom” than to protecting our youth—are *suppressing* solid, scientific evidence, damning facts that might endanger their own perverse social agendas.

If you are a young person contemplating or having premarital sex, you desperately need the whole truth. If you are an adult who has teens or children off at college, or with friends who have, you owe it to those young people to get these truths into their hands.

Truth is power. As Jesus Christ said, truth can set us free.

### The Biology of Bonding

One book that exposes this devastating reality and supplies some of the truths our young people need is *Unprotected*. It was authored by “Anonymous, M.D.,” an Ivy League-trained psychiatrist working at a prestigious American university, trying to treat the physical and emotional wreckage in the lives of thousands of ace students caused by reckless sexual conduct. She won’t publish her name for fear of censure by colleagues who demand that those in her profession toe the politically correct line.

This book speaks of a hormone called *oxytocin* that is released in a woman’s body during sexual activity and while nursing a baby. Oxytocin is proven to increase maternal attachment, devotion and trust. In married women and mothers, such effects can be wonderfully beneficial. In college girls, however, the premature release of this hormone can make a young woman emotionally vulnerable as she bonds with and trusts a

guy who has no intention of sticking around.

*Unprotected’s* author says she deals every day with students, particularly women, wounded by the heartache (and other, sometimes quite serious related problems) of failing and failed relationships. Surely such information about the body’s “bonding” hormone could help these women make better-informed decisions regarding sex. “Why isn’t oxytocin—likened to a ‘love potion’ by one neuroscientist—part of the vocabulary of our youth ...?” she asks.

She answers: “I submit that the notion of being designed to bond is to

**There are people who need not fear such terrible diseases at all: those who wait until marriage, and marry someone who waits until marriage.**



some an unwelcome finding. It implies that sexual activity, especially in women,

might be more complex than, say, working out. It suggests women may be vulnerable, unprotected.” The trouble with that concept is, it runs directly counter to the fallacy—heavily promoted by radical social engineers—that men and women are essentially the same, virtually interchangeable. Is this why the truth about this hormone hasn’t been more widely publicized?

You will never hear this in a school health clinic, but it is beautifully true: The woman who chooses to wait until marriage ensures that this hormone binds her emotionally to just the right individual: the man with whom she plans to spend the rest of her life.

### The Myth of “Safer Sex”

Information handed to students from official college sources about sexually transmitted diseases runs through a distorting filter.

Consider. First, these pamphlets and websites tend to overpromise on the amount of protection offered by “safer sex” precautions like using prophylactics and “limiting” your number of partners (what does that mean, exactly?). Thus, many students engage in terribly risky behavior and think they’re safe.

At the same time, these materials play down the harmful health costs of STDs. And as a result, *millions* of college

students are shocked when they end up with diseases that often have uncomfortable, painful and disgusting effects—and sometimes irreversible consequences like infertility, cancer and death. Human Papilloma Virus (HPV), a highly contagious infection rapidly spreading on college campuses, afflicts *43 percent* of college women getting annual check-ups, according to one study. The American Social Health Association says *one out of two* STDs occur in people younger than 25.

Many clinicians would have you believe that such diseases are just part of growing up. For example, of HPV, health center pamphlets say, “HPV infection is

very common ... almost everyone gets HPV at some time. ... [H]aving only a single lifetime partner does not assure protection. ... [A]nyone who has ever had sexual relations has a high chance of being exposed to this virus ... most men and women are infected with HPV at some time in their lives.”

Reassuring as these statements may be, they are misleading at best, false at worst. There *are* people who need not fear such terrible diseases at all: those who wait until marriage, and marry someone who waits until marriage.

You probably won’t hear this in a school health clinic, but some STDs, notably the dreaded HIV, almost *exclusively* affect homosexuals and drug users—not because the virus is politically incorrect, but because it spreads primarily through behaviors engaged in by homosexuals and drug users. That is a proven fact that gets papered over because some people consider it “judgmental,” and because certain powerful segments of society simply refuse to consider curtailing their behavior.

Information about HIV and AIDS says that *everyone* is at risk—that *no one* is safe. Wrong. If you don’t use illegal drugs and don’t sleep with anyone other than the person you’ve married, and your spouse has done the same, you are approximately 100 percent safe. That’s the truth.

### Infertility

Also conspicuously absent from these professionals’ health advice is information on how to protect fertility. Appar-



ently they are concerned only with *preventing* parenthood, not with facilitating it once someone desires it.

Though virtually all women in college plan to have children at some point in their lives, they generally do not hear information about fertility and about planning for children. Professional counselors generally focus instead on helping women overcome “sociocultural indoctrination” (that is, having a desire for anything that might look like a traditional family), encouraging them to put off children so they can aggressively pursue careers.

The problem is, STDs aren’t the only thing that can make a person infertile. Age can too. A female doesn’t manufacture new eggs—she is born with all the eggs she’ll ever have. As she ages, so do those eggs. Many women are led to believe they can easily have children into their late 30s, early 40s or even later. But by the time they finally decide they want a baby, many are devastated to discover that—even with the help of expensive drugs and fertilization procedures—it’s a lot harder than they thought. For the great majority of these older women, they physically can’t.

Sylvia Ann Hewlett, setting out to write a book about high-achieving women turning age 50, realized in her research that there is a remarkable amount of childlessness among these women. “There is a secret out there, a painful, well-kept secret,” she wrote in what turned out to be the book *Creating a Life: Professional Women and the Quest for Children*. “At mid-life, between a third and half of all high-achieving

a younger woman for today—foregoing the big career in order to be a wife and mom.

### The Trauma That Doesn’t Exist

*Unprotected* also speaks of another unmentionable problem in today’s universities: the pain—particularly emotional—suffered by women who decide to abort their babies, and even the men who fathered those babies. Health-care professionals patently deny the painful facts.

*American Psychologist*, for example, says that “severe negative reactions” to getting an abortion “are rare. ... [A]bortion is usually psychologically benign.” Planned Parenthood dismisses abortion trauma as a “non-existent phenomenon” and says most women consider it “a maturing experience.” “Women who have had one abortion do not suffer adverse psychological effects. In fact, as a group, they have higher self-esteem, greater feelings of worth and capability, and fewer feelings of failure than do women who have had no abortions. ...”

Does that even make sense? That a woman would feel *better* about herself after accidentally getting pregnant and then having the unwanted child evacuated from her body?

A million abortions are performed each year in the United States, *over half* in women younger than age 25. And the truth is, for many of these women it is very traumatic. A study cited by Planned Parenthood (which it used as proof that “most women do not experience psychological problems or regrets”) indicates that after two years *two out of seven* women said

**Though virtually all women in college plan to have children at some point in their lives, they generally do not hear information about fertility and planning for children.**

women in America do not have children. ... The vast majority of these women did not choose to be childless. Looking back to their early 20s, when they graduated college, only 14 percent said they definitely had not wanted children. ... When I talked to these women about children, their sense of loss was palpable. I could see it in their faces, hear it in their voices, and sense it in their words.”

Here is something your college clinic won’t tell you: These high-powered professional women wish they could go back and do what society generally ridicules

they felt more harm than benefit from their abortion; almost one in five wouldn’t do it if they could make the choice over again; one in five were depressed; and 1 percent had post-traumatic stress disorder. That last statistic amounts to *10,000 women a year*. Support groups attract thousands of them (e.g. [afterabortion.com](http://afterabortion.com)—“This website contains information, help and resources for women dealing with Post

Abortion Stress Syndrome .... Regardless of whether your abortion was three weeks ago, three years ago, or 30 years ago, you can find other women who understand, and lots of support”). In some, the pain grows with time rather than subsiding; many experience tremendous sadness, anguish and guilt, and become overwhelmed with emotion over seemingly minor triggers.

Why, then, do young pregnant people who receive professional counseling not hear about these individuals? Why are they encouraged to view murdering a fetus as a simple procedure akin to a tonsillectomy? Simply because too many feminists and feminist-sympathizers are married to abortion as a political issue. They want no obstacles in the way of women being able to terminate their unwanted babies, and thus flatly reject and ignore the psychological damage it can generate. By putting “the cause” ahead of actual people, they encourage countless youths into making choices with tragic consequences.

The vast majority of abortions are performed as a form of birth control—for people who wanted to enjoy the “recreational” aspects of sex without its responsibilities. Young people should not be lulled into carelessness by false promises regarding abortion. It is not like having a wart removed—it is eliminating the life of a child who exists because of your decision to procreate.

Don’t expect to hear this from your school counselor, but think seriously about it: If you wait to have sex until you are ready for the responsibilities of parenthood, you will *never* have to face the possibility of having to make such a devastating choice. You will be free to view the conception of a new life as the pure blessing that it is.

### Unrealistic?

A lot of people will react angrily to the facts in this article. They don’t like things that repudiate their vision of how society should work and how they should be able to live their lives. They want to disregard the indisputable consequences of the poor choices they have made. But facts are facts, and ignoring these facts simply imperils lives.

Many people also think waiting until marriage is unrealistic—practically impossible—and hence not even worth seriously discussing.



That is ridiculous. I know this because I waited until marriage, and so did my wife. We are *free* from the emotional, physical and spiritual traumas associated with STDs, unwanted pregnancies, abortions or infertility. We have two lovely daughters and are about to have our third child. This is not to say that waiting until marriage guarantees a problem-free life. But the problems associated with sexual looseness are virtually non-existent for anyone who chooses this path. It works.

I also know this because I am an instructor at Herbert W. Armstrong College, a privately funded liberal arts college in Edmond, Oklahoma. The students here date, and date a lot—but they date around; school policy forbids *exclusive* dating until just before a student graduates; sexual activity is forbidden. This means that these students' education isn't befouled by distracting and destructive trysts and dangerous "experimental" behavior. The students are *free* to develop strong friendships with all different ones; *free* to enjoy and develop their personalities through regular dates with dozens of people of the opposite sex; absolutely *free* of the depression, diseases and pressures associated with unmarried sex. As a result, they are happier, more care-free, and better able to concentrate on the ed-

ucation they came here to receive.

This is not boasting—it is merely meant to demonstrate that there exists a real *alternative* to the half-truths and outright lies being promulgated in the educational world at large. *Our young people need the truth.* ANYONE WHO AVOIDS UNMARRIED SEX WILL AVOID PROBLEMS AND REAP WONDERFUL LONG-TERM BENEFITS.

And the truth that will *truly* set you free—in your family and sex life—is an understanding of the real God-ordained *purpose* for sex and family. This is a dimension completely ignored by the "experts" in health and family planning; and it is their ignorance on this subject that leads them to advocate—even in the face of overwhelmingly contrary facts and logic—behaviors that are destroying the very people they have pledged to help.

If you would like this truth—if you would like to understand why God made male and female, marriage, sex and family, if you want to understand how to prepare for marriage and family during your youth, and how to make these things work in your adulthood—then we want to send you a free copy of a book called *The Missing Dimension in Sex*, by Herbert W. Armstrong. Just request it via e-mail, telephone or letter, and a

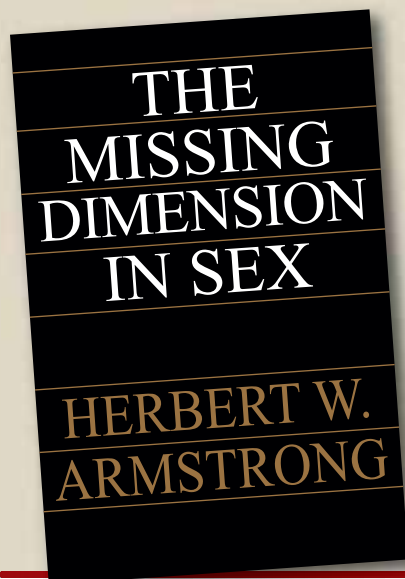
copy of the book is yours (see the back cover of the magazine for details).

It so happens that the way of life free from the troubles we've discussed, and that leads to wonderful blessings, is spelled out in the Bible. God tells us to "Flee fornication" (1 Corinthians 6:18), which is all sexual activity before marriage. He forbids adultery (Exodus 20:14), which is all sexual activity outside of marriage. He forbids homosexuality (e.g. Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:24-27) and bestiality (Exodus 22:19). He does this for *our good*—to increase our happiness and personal fulfillment! Anyone who believes these laws are "done away" should honestly consider the curses plaguing those who break them.

If you have made mistakes in your life, know that—although at times we may have to live with certain physical consequences—*there is no sin too great for God to forgive.* If you repent, Christ says to you, as He said to the adulteress in John 8:11: "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and SIN NO MORE."

The truth is simple and beautiful. We need to cling to that truth in order to remain committed to going against the grain of a society bent on feeding its own lusts. As we do so, that truth will set us free. ■

# Here's something you don't know about **sex.**



We live in an age where sexual images, innuendo and information pummel us from every direction. If it has to do with sex, surely we know all about it by now, right?

*Wrong.*

There is a vital dimension to this subject that is missing from the onslaught of sexual information out there. Education doesn't teach it. Religion hasn't revealed it. Medicine hasn't discovered it. Hollywood doesn't show it.

There is only one place you will find it.

Discover what over 1.5 million readers have already learned about the *missing dimension* in sex. It contains information that will revolutionize your social life, your family, your marriage—and it will answer the most basic yet profound questions about sex.

Information on how to receive a personal copy of this profound, eye-opening book is located on the back cover of this magazine. Request your free copy of *The Missing Dimension in Sex* today.



REUTERS  
A major mosque in London has sold copies of a DVD that prophesies “mass extermination of Jews around the world on a ‘day of judgment’ and attacks Christian groups,” according to Arutz Sheva (January 12). London has become an epicenter for radicalized anti-West thinking.

What Mayor Livingstone is offering is a symbol—a symbol that Islamist thinking has taken permanent root in British culture. A mosque isn’t the same as a bomb in the subway, but the same groups that recognize the effectiveness of terror recognize the value of a 17-acre symbol of Islam in the heart of London. But opposition among non-Muslims is feeble. Right now the British are involved in a great debate over how deeply involved they should be in the “war on terror.” Britain is barely able to maintain its determination to oppose active terrorism. How much effort will Britain exert to stop a mere symbol?

Even as Mayor Livingstone and his ilk preach tolerance of Islam in Britain, they seem oblivious to the lack of reciprocity in Islamic countries. If the Church of England tried to build a cathedral, even one the size of a snow-cone stand, in Saudi Arabia, it would quickly discover how one-sided Britain’s tolerance is. There are no churches or synagogues in Saudi Arabia; in stark contrast, there are 300 mosques and 500 madrassahs in London alone. In Britain, multiculturalism is official doctrine, and citizens are bullied into investing their faith in it with no explanation for how it truly benefits Britons or strengthens the state, and much evidence to suggest exactly the opposite effect.

Britain has been hamstrung by political correctness, an entrenched belief that whatever the minority does is justified by virtue of its having been supposedly oppressed by the majority. In this case, that means tolerating this particular minority’s goal to live within Britain’s borders but not under its laws and, ultimately, to wipe out the British majority’s way of life.

This delusional reaction to predatory Islam is a sickness, a homegrown infection that was prophesied over 2,700 years ago. For more information on the cause of that illness and where this situation is headed, please read “The Sickness in Britain’s Heart” in the November-December 2006 issue of the *Philadelphia Trumpet*. ■



**FILLING THE SCENE** This mosque in south London holds 6,000 worshippers. A proposed mosque complex across town will hold 70,000.

# Why London Doesn't Need a Giant Mosque

BY MARK JENKINS

**T**HE HEADLINE ABOVE VIOLATES just about every rule of political correctness. And you should know that the mayor of London totally opposes its sentiment: He is, after all, one of the primary forces behind the proposal that a 17-acre mosque complex—the largest outside of the Middle East—be built for 70,000 Muslims in London. His intention is to provide an Islamic quarter for the 2012 Olympic Games—one that will hold only 10,000 fewer people than the Olympic stadium itself.

Consider the mayor’s view carefully because no one has shown more understanding of the Islamic cause than he: Mayor Ken Livingstone has publicly embraced the spiritual head of the Muslim Brotherhood, who openly supports suicide bombings in Iraq. Once a supporter of the terrorist Irish Republican Army, the mayor now backs the Palestinian cause and has identified Ariel Sharon as a war criminal. Livingstone has expressed his concern with calling Muslim suicide bombers terrorists: “If a young Jewish boy in this country goes and joins the Israeli army, and ends up killing many Palestinians in operations and can come back, that is wholly legitimate,” he said at a press conference in July 2005. “But for a young Muslim boy in this country, who might think, I want to defend my Palestinian brothers and

sisters, and gets involved, he is branded as a terrorist.” He maintains that the Islamists “only have their bodies to use as weapons.” That, and whatever explosives are strapped to them.

Perhaps the mayor of London is not the best backer for this project after all.

Look also at the mega-mosque’s Muslim backers: an Islamic missionary group called Tablighi Jamaat. The FBI identifies it as a recruiting ground for al Qaeda. Two of the bombers on 7/7 were associated with Tablighi Jamaat, as was shoe bomber Richard Reid. Counterintelligence officer Alex Alexiev calls Tablighi Jamaat “the first step on the road to extremism.” Is allowing a terrorist-backing organization to build a fortress in London intended for use during the Olympic games such a super idea?

Put another way: What are the British thinking? The signs that radical Islam is out of control in Britain are not subtle. In a poll last year, nearly a quarter of Muslims living in Britain said they felt the July 7, 2005, London terrorist attacks were justified. The estimated Muslim population in Britain is 1.6 million people (not accounting for a widespread illegal immigration problem), which amounts to nearly 400,000 Muslims living in Britain with sympathies toward those who indiscriminately set off bombs.



LIVINGSTONE

# A Vital Key for Studying History

**Modern education shows a dangerous contempt for history. And the most valuable history of all is the most overlooked. Here is how you can gain the greatest personal rewards from your study of this precious treasure trove! BY DENNIS LEAP**

**H**E WHO DOES NOT LEARN FROM history is doomed to repeat it. Winston Churchill was a student of history, especially military history. William Manchester, one of his biographers, said he “saved Western civilization” during World War II. How? Churchill *practiced* history.

Are you a practicing student of history? Most people are not. In fact, the people of Britain and America see little value in teaching and learning history. “Today we hear many academic voices telling people that learning history is of little or no value,” the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief wrote in January 2006. “This is an *extremely dangerous* trend that may be too entrenched ever to correct.”

The Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), after conducting a comprehensive study of freshmen and seniors at 50 American colleges and universities, concluded last September that these schools “fail to increase knowledge about America’s history and institutions.” College seniors flunked a civic literacy exam, averaging a score of 53.2 percent. At many schools, seniors knew “*less than freshmen* about America’s history, government, foreign affairs and economy”—a fact ISI labeled “negative learning” (emphasis mine). Why would college seniors know *less* American history as they conclude their “higher” education than those who are just beginning it? ISI stated, “[S]tudents don’t learn what colleges don’t teach.”

Why don’t colleges and universities teach more history? Actually, the answer to this question *is* a matter of history.

## Contempt for History

The roots of today’s contempt for history go back to 18th-century Europe and America. Writers, philosophers and scientists dubbed the time period the Age of Enlightenment, or the Age of Reason. They were confident they were bringing the world out of medieval darkness and ignorance into the glorious light of human reason and the advances of science.

Those of the Enlightenment held the Roman Catholic Church primarily responsible for the mental slavery of the previous centuries, so scholars began the war against religion and the Bible. As the age progressed, all authority—religious and civil—came under fire. Many see the Age of Enlightenment as the spark that ignited the American and French revolutions.

Smug in their self-conceit, the so-called enlightened ones belittled most knowledge gained in the past. Even famed Greek philosopher Aristotle came under attack. The rationalists became the new source of knowledge—the educators of *how* to produce knowledge. Their methods of knowledge production (including the scientific method) required reliance on human reason alone.

It should not be surprising, then, to realize that the leaders of that age viciously attacked the subject of history. The *enlightened* rejected it as a source of knowledge. Alan Richardson writes that history “was held in low esteem by all except a handful of antiquaries and their circle of devotees; to the philosophical mind in the Age of Reason all history

was vitiated by the credulity [gullibility] of historians ...” (*History Sacred and Profane*). The idea that recorded history could inform current decision-making “was utterly foreign to the Age of Reason, as it is to rationalists in every age.”

In essence, the only history important to the rationalists was the history they were making. No one needed to look to the past; the present was all that mattered.

Unfortunately, the influence of the Age of Enlightenment on our modern educational system is now pervasive. Our world is suffering as a result. But do we see it?

## Bible History Scored

During the Age of Enlightenment, rationalists promoted human reason to *chief judge* of all truth. The Bible as a book of special revelation was maligned by rationalist criticism. Rationalists viewed the Bible as a confusing book. In fact, the men of that age believed *they* could have done a better job with the writing and design of the Bible. Richardson states: “They did not find in it what they thought they had a right to find. They would have expected the Intelligent Author of Nature ... to speak clearly, as Locke and Newton did; he could not be regarded as the author of the jumbled collection of tales and legends, prophecies and portents, which comprised the allegedly sacred history of the Bible.”

The rationalists subjected the Bible to intense scrutiny—more than any other ancient text. The five books of Moses they pulled to pieces and belittled. At this time, the so-called higher criticism



of the Bible developed in Germany. Influenced by both evolution and anti-Semitism, German rationalists led the way in attempting to destroy the Bible's impeccable reliability. They insisted that Moses did not write the books attributed to him; some ridiculously suggested that writing had not been developed by Moses's time. They regarded the Bible as a collection of highly suspect sheepskins. They viewed the miracles of the Bible as the attempts of undeveloped, pitiful men to explain events without the knowledge of science. They saw the *history* recorded in the Bible as a mixture of half-truth, myth and legend.

Essentially, German rationalists stole Bible history from humanity.

Who believes the Bible today? The majority in this world have come to greatly disrespect the Book of books. Most scholars scorn its history. Even some of the religious do not take the Bible seriously. Few use it as the authoritative guide of life.

Here is something truly amazing. Even though biblical archaeology has proved the Bible's history true, many still hold to the views

of higher criticism. Why? Human nature. A few—and only a few—rationalists admitted that they discredited the Bible because they wanted to throw off all authoritative restraints in their pursuit of a sexually immoral lifestyle.

Here is the point. You must decide if you are going to believe men who worship their own minds, or men who know and speak for the true God—the all-powerful Creator and Ruler of the universe.

The truth is, the Bible provides the all-important key to studying history.

### A Coded Book

The Bible is unique because its contents and design were divinely inspired. It covers three main categories: history,

prophecy and instruction from God.

Herbert W. Armstrong wrote, “Through history and prophecy the Bible covers all God intended to cover of Earth and world events from the creation, on into the future and the eternity beyond. But, in a sense, this Book of God—His revealed knowledge for His people—leaves a most conspicuous GAP in the progress of world events” (*Good News*, December 1980). Please note what he said about Bible history: It is *revealed* history—specially selected by God. Why? Many people understand God as Creator; few see Him as Educator. We all need to see God

But you do not need to be confounded. There is a specific reason why God planned the Bible as we have it today.

Here is vital information only a few know.

In *Mystery of the Ages*, Mr. Armstrong called the Bible “a coded book, with answers to the paramount mysteries confronting all humanity.

“The revelation of these mysteries was lost, even to the Church of God, although the revelation of them has been preserved in the writings of the Bible,” he wrote. “Why, then, has the world not clearly understood? Because the Bible was a coded

book, *not intended to be understood until our day ...*”

This is a shocking statement, but it is true: Although men have read, studied, translated and recorded a lot of factual knowledge about the Bible over the centuries, it has not been *understood* until our time.

Mr. Armstrong continued, “I learned that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle—thousands of pieces that need putting together—and the pieces will fit together in only one way. Then the picture becomes crystal clear to the one willing to believe what God our

Creator says.” God greatly desires that all men, women and children understand the Bible. But He has decided that only He can unlock the code.

### Let's Not Be Ignorant

Do you want to know the deep mysteries of the Bible, including why its history is mostly about Israel? Then you must approach your study with a humble, open mind. Why? God does not intend for the scholarly—those who worship human reason—to understand today.

Here is what the well-educated Apostle Paul wrote on this issue: “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath cho-



INDEX OPEN

as a brilliant Historian. Also note, Mr. Armstrong stated that the Bible does not contain *all* history. There are gaps.

“For example, in its history, the Bible gives no history of anything concerning such populous nations as China, India and Japan,” Mr. Armstrong explained. “None regarding Russia except in yet future prophecy. History is concerned to the one nation Israel and the few other nations only as they were involved in contact with Israel” (*ibid.*). Many have been offended by the fact that the Bible is so focused on Israel's history. Rationalists saw the gaps, and thinkers of that time downgraded the Bible's history to story and legend. The gaps in Bible history have confused men for centuries.

sen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise ..." (1 Corinthians 1:26-27). Many educated people would consider it beneath them to pick up a Bible and read it, let alone study it. In time, however, they will read, study and love it. And the irony is, they will be taught by those once thought of as unschooled or uneducated.

A large part of the education of the future will be Bible history.

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, showed that ancient Israel's history is important for all mankind, not just the Jews. During his ministry, he spent much of his time giving history lessons from Israel's past.

To the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea" (1 Corinthians 10:1). The Corinthian church was in real spiritual trouble. Paul knew that the Corinthians were ignorantly repeating mistakes that Israel had already made and suffered for. He wanted to prevent further suffering.

Take the time to study the entirety of 1 Corinthians 10. Most of this portion of the letter is taken from the book of Numbers. Twice Paul tells the Church members that the history was recorded for them. "Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ... Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come" (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).

As Paul said, let's not be ignorant. Because the Bible was not to be completely understood until our time, it follows that Israel's history was recorded *specifically* for us! This should dazzle us with excitement.

Many today are bewildered and distraught over current events. Few have real hope in a future. Realize that a true understanding of the Bible—including its history—provides great hope and comfort. "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope," Paul wrote (Romans 15:4).

A great future lies ahead for all mankind. God is working out an incredible master plan on Earth. This wonderful plan involves all men and women from every nation, race and religion. The Bible describes this plan in detail and records the history of how God is working it out. That history is tied directly to Israel's

history because that was the nation God worked with directly to fulfill a specific purpose in that plan.

Mr. Armstrong stated, "So finally, WHY does the Bible not record the history of all the Gentile pagan nations? Why this gap in the Bible?"

"The Bible is the revealed knowledge of God. Its PURPOSE is to reveal GOD'S PURPOSE, His master plan and its working out.

"And that has involved Adam, the Flood, ancient Abraham and his family, national Israel and Israel's prophets and His Church" (*Good News*, op. cit.).

Israel's history teaches us lessons about obedience, faith, leadership, how God plans to rescue humanity from sin, etc. It provides powerful physical exam-

ples of the spiritual principles expounded on by Christ and the apostles in the

New Testament. In fact, the record of Israel's history with God was the foundation of its teachings. It's time to bring back Israel's history and restore a proper respect for it. Let's shake off any prejudice we may hold toward the history of Israel. It was written as an example for all people of every nation.

If you study Israel's history, you will find that much of it is positive and inspiring. Of course, there is the negative as well. Both can provide intense and profitable education. We must learn the lessons of Israel's history. Doing so will give us the success, happiness and bright future we all desire. ■

**Many today are bewildered and distraught over current events. Few have real hope in a future. Realize that a true understanding of the Bible—including its history—provides great hope and comfort.**

# DIG IN to Israel's ancient history!

**A series of articles on the history of Old Testament Israel by *Trumpet* senior editor Dennis Leap will appear in *ROYAL VISION*, a bimonthly Christian living magazine. You can read it by becoming a subscriber—absolutely free.**



Written and produced by many of the same people who bring you the *Philadelphia Trumpet* each month, *ROYAL VISION* includes a wide variety of practical, biblical articles about Christian living and doctrine, Bible history and prophecy. For information on how to request a free subscription, see the back cover of this magazine.



# The Danger in Ignoring History

**C**URRENT WORLD LEADERS—SOME OF THE MOST HIGHLY educated of our time—are making fatal errors in managing international crises. Why? The solutions that would work require knowledge and respect for history.

Prior to World War II, Churchill warned Britain and the Western nations about Hitler's rise to power. Because he learned the lessons taught by World War I, he saw the extreme danger of the bold (and illegal) German moves to rearm. Churchill saw the German youth ready and willing to fight for the Fatherland. As Germany rearmed, British leaders wanted to *disarm*. Churchill was aghast! But his warnings were met with a vicious attack from leaders in Parliament and at Oxford. A group of Oxford undergraduates officially declared they would *not* fight for "king and country." Still, Churchill remained determined and only grew stronger in the face of their hostility.

"Oxford was the leader of the pacifists," Gerald Flurry wrote in his booklet *Winston S. Churchill: The Watchman* (this vitally important booklet is yours free upon request). "Other colleges and universities thought similarly in America and Britain. Have our educational institutions learned a lesson from the Hitler experience? No they have not! Neither have our political leaders, nor the press."

Today, Germany is again rising to power in Europe. The Roman Catholic Church is gaining influence globally. Iran is boldly prancing on the world stage. The United States, Britain and the tiny nation of Israel are being pushed into the background. What does this all mean? History tells us that a 21st-century crusade is coming. It will violently involve a Roman Catholic-inspired and German-led Europe. Israel will be swallowed in the coming clash. The U.S. and Britain will be powerless to intervene. But who believes that?

Referring to the perilous danger of Germany's current rise to power, Mr. Flurry reported in the January 2002 *Trumpet* how Tony Blair's government is contemptuous of history, as was former U.S. President Bill Clinton. "It is a dangerous problem—THE KIND OF THINKING THAT DESTROYS NATIONS!" Mr. Flurry wrote.

"Bill Clinton, when he was president, totally ignored the 1945 United Nations warning" about the likelihood of Germany starting World War III. "Many of our own citizens personally lived through that history. Even worse, Mr. Clinton actually *pushed* Germany into dominating Europe—the ultimate contempt for extremely recent history! ...

"How utterly contemptuous Mr. Blair and Mr. Clinton have been of World War II history that cost 50 million lives! Our nations are going to pay dearly for such dangerous

contempt of history" (ibid.).

Do we see how our contempt for history is putting us in harm's way?

Just after World War II, leaders like Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted to make certain that Germany would not start World War III. Where are men like these today?

Let's face the truth. The pool of rightly trained, effective leaders is nearly dried up. There is a cause for every effect.

Education has promised us that with sufficient knowledge we can solve all of our problems. Do we see that, in regards to leadership training, our education system is failing us?

Will we experience a turnaround? God's textbook, the Bible, shows clearly that our modern education system will not produce any more Churchills. The Prophet Isaiah wrote of our time: "For, behold, the Lord, the Lord of hosts, doth take away ... The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, The captain of fifty, and the honorable man, and the counselor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator"

(Isaiah 3:1-3). God is working out His purpose on Earth. He has always been the unseen hand preparing and establishing the leadership of nations.

God prepared Churchill to save Britain, the U.S. and all of Western civilization. Martin Gilbert, one of Churchill's biographers, even referred to him as a *prophet*.

Where is the world leader today willing to stand against the tide as Churchill did? Understand this: God is not preparing such a man to lead a national government today. In fact, He is allowing ill-equipped leaders to deal with our severe international crises. Do you see a world leader stirring up people, warning them about Germany's rise to power? Let's be honest: Even if God did raise up a political leader to warn the nations of Britain and America, people would not listen. Our people and our educational institutions are far more liberal than at the time of World War II.

Isaiah continued, "And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them" (verse 4). Our world's ships of state are now being commanded by babes. These childish leaders lack knowledge of critical history. Of course, we do not want to oversimplify the causes of our leaders' mishandling of international crises, but we should be able to recognize that not learning the lessons of history is an important cause. For this reason and others often discussed in the *Trumpet*, our world is about to enter the worst trouble in man's history! Just after that, though, true world peace is coming.

**DENNIS LEAP**



**WINSTON CHURCHILL.**  
His knowledge of history helped save Western civilization.

CLARENCE WHITE/PGETTY IMAGES

# NEW GLOBAL TREND: Dump a Dollar, Buy a Euro

**A trend of enormous significance for every reader: Investors the world over are beginning to pull away from the shaky dollar—and to bank instead on a young, up-and-coming currency. This is a sign of a massive economic earthquake you can expect soon!** BY BRAD MACDONALD

**D**O YOU KNOW WHAT UNDERPINS, even drives, the global economy? It's not the Federal Reserve Bank or any other central bank. It's not the International Monetary Fund. It's not a specific country. It's not gold, oil or any other commodity. It's not currency traders. It's not even the almighty greenback.

What drives the economy is a force that cannot be seen—that is untouchable, intangible. It's a phenomenon that can be shaped and molded; it's fickle and susceptible to spur-of-the-moment change. In reality, the truth about what drives the global economy at the most fundamental level is alarming, sobering—even frightening.

The answer: *confidence!*

That's right; our globe-girdling financial system—this interrelated, seemingly convoluted web of banks, industry, government, trade, stock markets—is underpinned and driven by an unseen force lodged within the unstable minds of men. The global economy is driven by the *decisions* of millions of individuals, CEOs, private investors, stockbrokers, industry leaders, manufacturers, government officials. The economies of the world are shaped and molded by these people. And what is motivating and influencing the decisions made by these individuals?

Perceptions. Feelings. Morals. Emotions. Convictions. *Confidence.*

Take the American dollar, for example. Its role on the world scene is hard to overestimate: As the currency

of choice for global trade and commerce since World War II, it has greased the global economy for decades. *Why?* Fundamentally, it's because the world's perception of the United States—that it is a superpower with a strong, consistent and stable economy—has caused individuals and nations to invest their confidence (and subsequently their money) in American power and stability.

The American dollar, like all other fiat currencies, has no intrinsic value of its own—it is not underpinned by anything of real, tangible value. Its value lies in the global demand for the dollar, which is motivated by the confidence that global consumers have in the U.S. economy. Thus, if the global perception of America and its economy changes, if individuals begin to lose confidence in America's financial stability, serious dilemmas arise.

This is precisely what is occurring.

The *Trumpet* has reported extensively on the progressive crumbling of America's economic foundation: the unprecedented high budget and trade deficits, the housing market bubble, the massive Social Security and Medicare liabilities, the massive decline in savings and the outrageous personal debt among Americans, the loss of manufacturing, the reliance on foreign powers to finance American spending. Now, alarmed and growing increasingly edgy because of the critical condition of the American economy, the rest of the world is losing confidence in the U.S. as a stable economic system.

As people the world over increasingly perceive America's dire economic condition, they are searching for a more solid alternative in which to invest their confidence. Recent months have revealed an alternative economic power the world is turning to: *Europe.*

After years of stagnation, many European economies and the overall Europe-



an Union economy are now being considered alternatives to America's. In 2006, the European Union showed signs that it could become the global economic powerhouse it has always sought to be. This trend looks set to continue, and as it does, watch for the merchants of the earth to shift their confidence away from America and begin to invest it in Europe.

### Global Confidence Shift

In December 2006, the *Wall Street Journal* spoke of this growing economic powerhouse. "Europe's economy is firing on all cylinders after years of feeble growth, helping sustain global expansion as the U.S. economy slows and surprising many economists who doubted the Continent could muster enough demand to break its reliance on exports" (Dec. 6, 2006; emphasis mine throughout). Ignited at first by rising exports, the Continent's economic resurgence is now spilling over to impact other facets of the European economy, including investment, job creation and consumer spending.

An increasing number of financial gurus and investors now see Europe as an alternative to America. "It's looking increasingly like Europe hasn't caught a cold from the U.S. sneezing," commented economist Neville Hill from Credit Suisse in London.

In November last year, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported, "[T]he U.S. economy is running out of steam, but a European resurgence and the boom in Asia will prevent the world economy from derailing as it did after the stock market crash of 2000 ..." According to the OECD report, the comeback of the European economy in 2006 contributed to the "rebalancing" of global demand and output, "mitigating the impact of a U.S. slowdown" (*International Herald Tribune*, Nov. 28, 2006). America's economy is stumbling while Europe's is quickening its pace. In fact, America's economic malaise is dramatically enhancing Europe's reputation as a viable and attractive global financial center.

The euro is a good thermometer of Europe's success. This young currency's strong performance, particularly on the international scene, has taken many by surprise, as it has emerged as the primary currency after the American dollar. The last quarter of 2006 was especially momentous, as the value of euro notes in circulation broke the €600 billion mark (US\$787 billion), nearly double the value

of the national currencies the euro replaced when it was first adopted in 2002. The *Financial Times* stated, "The U.S. dollar bill's standing as the world's favorite form of cash is being usurped by the five-year-old euro" (Dec. 27, 2006). According to calculations performed by the *Times*, the value of euro notes in circulation in December 2006 exceeded the value of American dollars in circulation.

This is truly remarkable for a currency only five years old!

This global shift in confidence is stopping the mouths of critics. When the euro was released five years ago, many critics said it could never share the field with the dollar, pound or yen. On its five-year anniversary in January, the value of the euro was near its all-time high, and it shows no signs of coming down; it rose 14 percent in 2006 alone. As short as it is, this impressive history is causing demand for the euro to grow rapidly.

In a startling announcement in October last year, former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned that both private investors and central banks were beginning to dump dollars in favor of the euro. "We're beginning to see some move from the dollar to the euro, both from the private sector ... but also from monetary authorities and central banks," Greenspan said at a conference sponsored by the Commercial Finance Association on October 26. As the value of the dollar slides and as banks and governments grow concerned about America's long-term economic stability, more and more nations—including Russia, China, Japan, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Syria and South Korea—have begun to talk about diversifying their holdings away from the dollar, which in many cases has meant purchasing more euros.

"Indeed, there is the very real possibility that several countries could switch a proportion of their foreign currency reserves out of dollars over time to the euro," said Howard Archer, chief European economist for Global Insight in London (Associated Press, Dec. 30, 2006). Even in some non-EU states, the euro is being used alongside the local currency in trade and commerce. Asso-

ciated Press explained recently that "at least half a dozen other European mini-states and territories are using the currency as legal tender without approval from the European Central Bank.

"The euro was introduced five years ago to provide economic cohesion among EU countries. *But euros also are in circulation in dozens of countries and overseas territories ranging from the North Atlantic to the Pacific.* In Europe, Montenegro, Vatican City and San Marino and the principalities of Andorra and Monaco have used the euro since its inception. And in the province of Kosovo ... the euro circulates alongside the Serbian dinar" (January 1).

The euro's success, as AP noted, doesn't bode well for America: "[T]he

**The significance of the world diversifying away from the dollar by buying more euros cannot be overstated. It is one of the most powerful proofs that global confidence in the American economy is eroding and global confidence in Europe is taking its place.**

rise of the euro has made inroads into the dollar's international dominance." For a young currency that the European Central Bank has not excessively promoted, the growing use of the euro in international markets and in foreign exchange is testimony to the mounting confidence of banks, investors and governments in the European economy. Global demand

for the euro has been organic; it started at the grassroots level and is being driven by growing faith in the Continent.

The rise of the euro is proving a boon for America's oil-rich enemies too. The strengthening euro has equipped Iran with the option of demanding its clients pay for oil in euros rather than American dollars. Iran already receives payment for more than half of its oil in euros. Now Venezuela, another top oil producer, is strongly considering selling its oil in euros.

Russia, another major oil producer, is also switching to the euro. On April 20 last year, Russian Finance Minister Alexei Kudrin said, "Russia cannot consider the U.S. dollar as a reliable reserve currency because of its instability. This currency has devalued by 40 percent against the euro in recent years. The international community can hardly be satisfied with this instability." Over the next four weeks, the dollar plunged 6.6 percent. In June, Russia announced it had reduced its U.S. dollar foreign exchange



reserves from 70 percent to 50 percent, while increasing its euros from 25 percent to 40 percent. The same month, Russia also socked the dollar by starting to trade futures contracts for gold and crude oil denominated in Russian rubles as opposed to dollars (in which most of the world's commodities are traded) in the Russian Trading System.

By reducing their reliance on the dollar and investing in the euro, America's enemies have a new weapon to use against the U.S.

A weakening dollar and strengthening euro is even making trade and commerce more difficult for America's allies.

During the last half of 2006, nations that accepted payments for goods and services (such as oil) in dollars saw the value of their dollars decrease dramatically against the euro and other currencies.

The significance of the world diversifying away from the dollar by buying more euros cannot be overstated. It is one of the most powerful proofs that global confidence in the American economy is eroding and that global confidence in Europe is taking its place. In a system where currencies are underpinned by perception and confidence, this is a trend with gargantuan ramifications.

U.S. Congressman Ron Paul from

Texas commented on the situation on January 1: "There are now more euros in circulation worldwide than dollars. This alone is not necessarily troubling, as the dollar remains the world's most important reserve currency. About 65 percent of foreign central bank exchange reserves are still held in dollars, versus only about 25 percent in euros. ... *Still, the rise of the euro internationally is another sign that the U.S. dollar is not what it used to be.* There is increasing pressure on nations to buy and sell oil in euros, and anecdotal evidence suggests that drug dealers and money launderers now prefer euros to dollars. *Historically, the underground cash economy has always sought the most stable and valuable paper currency to conduct business.* More importantly, our greatest benefactors for the last 20 years—Asian central banks—*have lost their appetite for holding U.S. dollars.*"

With 65 percent of central bank reserves comprised of American dollars, the dollar remains, at this point, the currency of choice. But for the young, relatively unproven euro to comprise 25 percent of international currency reserves is impressive.

Many financial analysts anticipate that the euro will grow even stronger this year—particularly against the dollar and the yen. As this trend persists, consider the psychological changes it portends. The shift in confidence from the American currency to the European suggests that some dramatic changes are occurring on the world scene. Though it may not occur next week or next month, if this trend persists, America's easy days of plentiful money and low inflation will be over; interest rates will rise; consumer confidence will plummet, and so will the economy.

2006 was the year the world accelerated its diversification away from the dollar. Watch what happens in 2007.

### A New Superpower

As we see the world remove its confidence from the American economy and invest it in the European economy, we should be concerned. Such a radical shift will upend the American economy, which will drive other nations to invest in Europe all the more. The U.S. is facing an economic calamity far worse than the stock market crash of 1929; the scale of this financial crisis will be unprecedented.

Of course, in a globally interconnected economic system, a collapse of the dollar will have massive ramifications around the world—including in Europe.



**PRODUCTIVE** A worker operates textile machines in Borken, Germany. Global demand for German-made goods is rising.

REUTERS

## Europe's Beating Heart

As the third-largest economy in the world and the largest in Europe, the German economy is pivotal to the health of the European economy. An underperforming German economy generally portends an underperforming European economy, and vice versa. This is why it is particularly significant that, after a period of sickness, the German economy, in comparison with the previous decade, had a stellar year in 2006.

Economic reports released by Germany's federal statistics office show that the nation posted an economic growth rate of 2.5 percent last year, more than double that of 2005. The impressive growth, reported Expatica, was fueled by "exports and rising corporate investment" (January 11). By November 2006, German exports—thanks to increasing global demand for German-made goods—had leaped 19.6 percent over the same period in 2005. Germany's trade surplus at the end of November last year totaled €19.3 billion, the highest level since German reunification in 1990.

The nation literally exported itself out of a six-year economic hibernation.

Greater global demand for German products proved a boon across the nation. Business confidence is up. Throughout 2006, industrial output soared. German companies seeking to take advantage of booming demand bolstered output, investing money in new machinery, technology and employees. Germany's unemployment rate—a contentious issue among politicians ever since the Berlin Wall fell and thousands of unemployed East Germans entered the work force—dropped nearly a full percent to a five-year low.

The impacts of Germany's economic upswing reverberated across Europe. The stronger the German heart pounded, the more life it pumped into the surrounding national economies. The German economy, reported Deutsche Welle, "has won back its place as the driving force in the European economy" (January 11). Germany's economy is once again the engine empowering Europe's growing economic power and influence.

Europe is emerging as a global economic power, and the German economy is unequivocally the driving force behind this trend.

**BRAD MACDONALD**

# OPEC Unloads Its Dollars

**T**HE nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are selling U.S. Treasuries at the quickest pace in more than three years, according to U.S. Treasury Department data. Concerned analysts predict a dollar sell-off coupled with rising interest rates.

In the three months ending in November 2006, oil-exporting nations including Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela sold 9.4 percent of their U.S. government debt—a significant amount, considering these countries own more than \$100 billion worth.

Over the past few years, oil producers have become very important dollar supporters, rivaling the United Kingdom, and even China and Japan.

Since most oil is sold in dollars, rising oil prices meant that OPEC countries' dollar reserves ballooned. In fact, during 2006 alone, oil producers amassed a whopping \$500 million in dollar-denominated savings. Fortunately for Americans, the dollar's historic role as a stable store of wealth influenced many of the world's oil exporters to either save those dollars or recycle them into U.S. Treasuries.

However, some economists worry that mounting dollar sales and slowing Treasury purchases indicate the dollar is losing its reputation as a stable reserve currency.

"The dollar has been subjected to a great amount of exchange-rate volatility, and it's not a good store of value anymore," said Joseph Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate and economics professor at Columbia University in New York. "There will be a significant sell-off."

In many cases, dollar reserves are being replaced with euros. However, oil-producing nations will likely also "convert some of their reserves into gold," according to Dorothee Gasser, a Middle East and Africa economist at ING Bank NV in London. Either way, it's "bearish for the dollar."

OPEC members are not the only countries diversifying away from the dollar. Central banks in China, Romania, Italy, Russia, Kuwait and Venezuela have all recently announced intentions to reduce dollar-denominated assets.

Reduced dollar support from China, if felt in its full intensity, would be just about the biggest blow to the dollar imaginable. China is the second-largest holder of U.S. debt and has one of the largest U.S. dollar reserves of any nation. Although China's central bank has announced its intention to cut its dollar holdings, most analysts do not predict a major dollar sale by China, yet. However, during the first 10 months of 2006, the Chinese central bank did trim purchases of U.S. Treasuries by 1.7 percent.

The bottom line for America is that prolonged dollar sales mean the Federal Reserve will need to keep interest rates high or even increase them to support the dollar—not good news for the economy. Yet if America doesn't defend the dollar, it runs the risk of angering its many creditors who are loath to see the value of their dollar holdings decrease along with the dollar's value.

That's the trouble with debt: You become beholden to your creditors. America is the world's biggest debtor, and indications are it will soon pay the price. **ROBERT MORLEY**



The spillover effects of an American economic crisis may well trigger the fulfillment of specific Bible prophecies related to Europe: namely, its unification under one strong leader—a scenario Herbert W. Armstrong spoke of for decades. History shows that crisis can force nations to band together and to look to a political savior for a way forward.

But in the end, the European economy will be in a position to take advantage of America's downfall and fill the vacuum it will create—and is already creating. The economic ruin of America portends the formation of a deadly economic and political force in Europe. Ultimately, the Continent will amass the power and influence to become the greatest economic superpower of the age. Like America after World War II, Europe will become the center of global activity, growing wealthier and more influential, garnering more global power. And, like America these past 60 years, when Europe comes to underpin the global financial system, it will become the greatest, most dominant power on Earth.

This is a sobering thought, but it is also more exciting than you can possibly imagine. Why?

This is thrilling because the Bible speaks of such an event occurring right before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!

God revealed to the Apostle John almost 2,000 years ago that a European superpower would be at the helm of global trade and commerce prior to the return of Jesus Christ. Read Revelation 17 and 18.

These chapters warn of a terrible political superpower that is ridden by a sinister religious force. To learn precisely who this European superpower is, its history and how it forms in modern times, request our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*. This church-state duo establishes dominion and economic control over the entire globe. Revelation 18 discusses the eventual downfall of this terrible beast and all those associated with it.

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies" (verse 3). From this verse we can tell that at the time of its destruction this great beast will be the center of global trade—the economic power around which the merchants of the earth orbit. Read verses 9-18 of the same chapter.

The whole world will revolve around this political and economic superpower. When we see the world investing its confidence in Europe today, we are witnessing the seeds of this trend being sown. Over the coming months and years, global confidence will continue to shift away from America and toward Europe. The world will begin to orbit around a European axis.

In the context of Bible prophecy and world history, the thought of a European superpower possessing absolute power is frightening: Bible prophecy warns that this European empire will exert its pow-

er and influence in a deadly manner.

The seriousness of this future should move us to positive action in our lives—to learn more about these end-time prophecies, to investigate them and learn how to escape them. The God of this universe is not a pessimist. His Bible is not filled with terrifying, gloom-and-doom prophecies that are inescapable. When you read about these prophecies, you should be alarmed—but if you are moved to action and stirred to seek out God and His protection, then there is nothing more exciting on the face of this planet! ■

From the  
News Bureau

RON FRASER



# The Great Global Power Transfer

“WITH THE APPROACH of a new year, the most conspicuous trend in global affairs is a proliferation of disasters, real and potential.” So Alan T. Sorensen, associate editor of *Current History*, summed up his views on what the world could expect in the year 2007.

Not too heartening, to say the least.

Yet we here at the *Trumpet* remain, even *increase*, in great *optimism* about the future! There is a reason why.

All of our news watching is focused on following a definite trend in world affairs. It is a trend closely watched by our editor in chief, Gerald Flurry, in the tradition of Herbert W. Armstrong. This easily observable trend in global affairs is leading to a very definite and most positive conclusion. It is a *conclusion*, indeed an *end of history*, to borrow a phrase from Francis Fukuyama, that will prove to be but a great *beginning*—the beginning of that which mankind has painfully sought for 6,000 years of documented history: WORLD PEACE, believe it or not!

## A Definite Trend

Over the past 10 years, our news bureau has continually tracked one particular trend as it has threaded its way through the news we analyze daily. It is the trend toward the transfer of power—financially, economically, industrially, commercially, technologically, and, *increasingly*, politically and militarily—from the dominant Anglo-Saxon peoples to the non-English-speaking peoples. This trend has been particularly strong in this first decade of the 21st century.

An ancient prophecy anticipated this current trend. It was addressed to the nation of Israel, and it predicted precisely the outcome of its history if it failed to heed and obey its Creator (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). Biblical Israel became the progenitor of the Anglo-Saxon peoples, those largely English-speaking nations of today. Herbert W. Armstrong summarized many proofs of this fact in his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. Since that book was pub-

lished, archeological finds and scholarly research have added a plethora of additional and inarguable facts that verify Mr. Armstrong’s conclusions, which were based on biblical revelation.

Prophesying of the end of the era of the dominance of these Israelite nations

## Ten years of news watching reveals a definite trend, and it's not to the advantage of the American and British peoples.

in modern times, the Creator declares, “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee” (verse 15). There follows a litany of ill effects that would come upon the largely Anglo-Saxon nations as a consequence of their breaking God’s law.

This prophecy matches with that of Jesus Christ, who declared that there would come “the times of the gentiles” (Luke 21:24). *Gentiles* is simply a term to describe non-Israelite peoples. Though those misinformed by the politically correct might disagree, the term *Gentile* does not imply that non-Israelite nations are inferior. It is just a simple adjective employed in the Bible to differentiate, not between the Jewish and other peoples, but rather between the Israelite (comprising 12 distinct nationalities) and all other nations.

The Gentile nations comprise, by far, the great majority of the Earth’s population. Yet, paradoxically, for multiple generations, these peoples historically enjoyed only a small component of the tremendous advantages that the minority Anglo-Saxon nations have experienced over the past few hundred years. *Current events demonstrate that situation is, quite dramatically, changing.* In fact, the equation is fast *reversing* as the power of the Anglo-Saxon nations quickly fades.

Nowhere is this reality currently more apparent than in the fields of *finance* and the *economy*, in the waning ability of the Israelite peoples to secure their borders against incursion from foreign peoples, and in the diminution of their military prowess.

## Cursed Economy

Among those penalties that God declared the Anglo-Saxons would suffer in their decline, the following was prophesied fully 3½ thousand years ago: “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). In the light of that ancient prediction, consider the following.

The English-speaking peoples established economies of great wealth during the 17th through the 19th centuries. Following World War I, that situation began to change in Britain irreversibly. By the end of the 20th century, a similar change was becoming apparent within the United States. Now these nations, which once largely financed much of world trade between them, are hugely in debt to the very two foreign nations that only 60 years ago they defeated in the greatest contest for world power in the history of mankind!

“Two nations effectively control the world’s credit: *Germany* and *Japan*. Between the two of them, they provide more than half the world’s surplus savings. If they ever decided to stop lending to the United States, the world economy would change quickly” (*Daily Reckoning*, Sept. 13, 2005; emphasis mine throughout). It’s as though the Anglo-Saxon nations are *blinded* to the plight they have put themselves in, financially and economically, through the mass sell-off of their industry to foreign holdings—transferring jobs and wealth to foreign nations in the process—and their devolution from self-supporting economies to being more and more dependent on foreign nations for supply



of the very basics of life. If not blinded, then certainly deluded!

“We believe we can tell where we are in a financial ... cycle by studying *the delusions of the participants*,” the *Daily Reckoning* continued. “In the month of July [2005], for example, the personal savings rate in America went to a negative 0.6 percent. Not in 70 years had the rate been so low. The last time it was so low was in the Great Depression, when Americans felt their backs to the wall; they had to dip into savings in order to keep going. Now, they no longer dip into savings. Instead, every emergency sends them running to foreigners, asking for credit.”

There could not be a clearer example of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Deuteronomy 28 than that fact alone.

This trend of transferring Anglo-Saxon wealth to foreign nations is further exacerbated by the current steady flight from dollar holdings to that currency that Germany ramrodded through the European Parliament just five years ago—the fledgling euro (see story, page 16).

Add to this the underpinning of the U.S. economy by China’s willingness, to this point, to buy America’s massive debt, and we have a simple recipe for economic disaster.

### Arms Race

While the mass media remain fixated on Iraq and devote huge effort to pulverizing the current U.S. presidency, they largely miss the most important news events of the day. One such event is a definite new *global arms race* stimulated by foreign nations recognizing America’s failings in diplomacy and military strategy, and the U.S.’s lack of political will to deal decisively with its enemies. All the trends we see from our news bureau sources point to this new arms race.

Any arms race has, historically, always been a harbinger of war.

The major nations of the world know that America is far overstretched militarily. They recognize that it is tiring of its war on terror. The U.S. is approaching an extremely vulnerable point in its history. Look at the facts.

America has a lame-duck presidency, experiencing a paucity of clear-minded presidential advisers; this at a time when its reputation as a peace-loving, magnanimous nation has descended to an almost global perception of the nation as—next to the Jewish na-

tion of Israel—the chief enemy of world peace. The U.S. population is being brainwashed by its mass media into a mindset of politically correct appeasement of its rank enemies. Its capability as the world’s policeman—a role that certain powers, such as the European Union, have gladly hidden behind while they chased their own agenda for global domination—is diminishing month by month. Realizing this, those nations that since World War II have enjoyed the security of U.S. military presence are beginning to feel vulnerable.

“With hindsight, we may see 2006 as the end of Pax Americana,” wrote *Newsweek*’s Robert Samuelson. “Ever since World War II, the United States has used its *military and economic superiority* to promote a stable world order that has, on the whole, kept the peace and spread prosperity. But the United States increasingly lacks both the power and the will to play this role” (Dec. 13, 2006).

The danger of this 21st-century arms race is that it is now crossing the nuclear threshold. There is an increasing trend toward the proliferation of nuclear power. We hear much about Iran’s attempts to become a nuclear power. We hear little of the impending risk posed by those same two nations that control the lion’s share of world credit, though they fall into the same category as the maverick Iran. Japan is the most dramatic case in point. From what we detect, Germany may not be far behind.

When the only nation that has ever felt the cruel blow of nuclear destruction moves to acquire the very power it once feared to collectively endorse, it’s time to sit up and take notice! Stratfor called this “perhaps the most striking example of the changing view of nuclear weapons acquisition. *Tokyo wants its own nukes*, even if it continues to profess a non-nuclear stance. And *Japan has the capability and resources to produce nuclear weapons in short order*, and the capability to deliver such weapons in a time of conflict” (Dec. 19, 2006).

Meanwhile, voices in Germany are quietly calling for that nation to have access to a nuclear defense capability. Germany has already demanded that its high command have access to France’s nuclear weapons. With the U.S. still having upward of 400 nukes deployed on European soil, it may not be long, given the cozy relationship developing between Washington and Berlin, before a similar demand is made of America’s

nuclear weaponry. This prospect is of real concern to those attuned to the cycle of history as Germany’s profile as a world power currently leaps into perspective.

As Deutsche Welle put it, “Germany’s growing economic, political and military role is under the spotlight in 2007 with Berlin holding the rotating presidencies of both the European Union and the G-8 club of industrial nations. Germany’s military transition is one of the biggest ongoing shifts in the country’s global positioning since unification” (January 2).

### Keep Watching!

During the past 10 years, as we have tracked this definite trend toward the progressive transfer of power from the Anglo-Saxons to the non-English-speaking peoples, we have had an eye to history with its linkage to inerrant biblical prophecy. Now, in 2007, we see the inevitable cycle of history bringing back into focus, as global powers, two of the very nations that joined in a tyrannical axis to seek the enslavement of the Anglo-Saxon peoples less than 70 years ago—Germany and Japan.

The *Trumpet* magazine has, year by year, documented the steady return to global power potential of both these nations and the future alliances they are due to enter at the expense of the Anglo-Saxon nations. We will continue to do so, underscoring our message with the clearly documented proof of current events linked to the cycle of history and to prophecy. We will do this in the face of all who sneer and who remain blind to the clear facts. That is our task, and we accept it most readily. For we know with absolute certainty, even as the Anglo-Saxons descend in power and other major nations rise to overpower them, that these events are so fleeting. They are but a forerunner to the opening up of the most amazing and undreamed-of time of peace and security, of economic stability and of the fantastic unlocking of man’s potential to achieve true and lasting greatness. (Request your own copy, free of charge, of our book *The Incredible Human Potential*.)

Our hope will be that one day, many who continue to read the *Trumpet* will be thankful for what they read. Then many will realize that by its clear, unambiguous message, the *Trumpet* was of inestimable value in helping them to enter this undreamed-of future of tremendous hope that lies just ahead. ■

## EUROPE

### Getting Tough on Immigration



GETTY IMAGES

**BUSTED** Illegal immigrants, like those pictured here on a boat approached by Italian Customs Police, pose a thorn in the side for Europe’s leaders, who intend to crack down on the issue.

WITH GERMANY SERVING as European Union president until July, expect illegal immigration to be high on the agenda.

German Interior Minister Wolfgang Schäuble revealed the importance German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s six-month EU presidency will place on dealing with the issue. He warned fellow EU interior ministers in early January that their nations should be prepared to toughen their approach. As the EU expands, he said, “the German presidency will put a lot of emphasis on fighting illegal immigration across the Mediterranean but also from the east” (*EU Business*, January 12).

The problem is not small. About half a million illegal immigrants enter the EU each year.

Later in January, Schäuble hosted an informal meeting of EU interior and justice ministers in Dresden, in which illegal immigration was high on the agenda. He reinforced the need for solidarity and support against illegal immigration among member nations.

The EU’s migration and security commissioner, Franco Frattini, also addressed the gathering, warn-

ing member nations that unless urgent action is taken, border patrols will be unable to cope with the surge of tens of thousands of migrants expected this summer. Frattini warned member states that they must provide the agency with hardware no later than April if it was to be prepared. The Italian minister said, “I’m talking about vessels. I’m talking about helicop-

ters” (*Guardian Unlimited*, January 15).

At the meeting, EU officials also discussed other ways—such as boosting funding, resources and cooperation for the Europol police network—to enhance cooperation and improve efficiency in handling the growing number of migrants illegally seeking sanctuary in Europe. Strengthening cross-border cooperation among member nations was one of the primary themes of the meeting.

The issue of illegal immigration in Europe must be seen in the context of the demographic catastrophe inflicting the Continent. The populations of European nations are declining; the fertility rates of all EU countries are below replacement level. Meanwhile, decades of liberal immigration laws have allowed immigrant populations (particularly Muslims) to form large segments of European society.

Though Europe needs

more people, leaders believe an influx of foreigners from Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe—many of whom practice different religions, possess different customs and subscribe to different laws—is not the solution. While it may fill a temporary need for workers, immigration, especially illegal immigration, is costing European governments money and time. More importantly, however, Europe’s leaders are growing increasingly aware that the constant inflow of foreigners—with their foreign customs, religions and cultures—threatens to marginalize and choke those customs, laws, cultures and religion that have traditionally defined Europe.

The hand-wringing over the issue of immigration policy highlights growing cultural tensions and portends a far more significant clash between traditional European culture and non-European cultures.

### Youth Racism a Concern in Germany

THE JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL IN GERMANY’S Mitte district is an imposing building. Not only is it surrounded by a fence several meters high, but video cameras also keep watch, and policemen are posted at the front—all to repel anti-Semitic attacks.

“I always thought Jews were integrated in German society,” said school director Barbara Wittig. “I would never have thought it possible for anti-Semitism to express itself as virulently as it has recently” (*Spiegel Online*, Dec. 8, 2006).

A state department study on violence at Berlin’s schools showed a dramatic uptick in extremist crimes. During the 2004-05 school year, 62 incidents of “right-wing extremism” were logged, up from 39 the previous year.

One 14-year-old Jewish girl suffered from months of anti-Semitic insults, including being spat upon and beaten by a group of adolescents. In another example, one student blurted out, “All Jews must be gassed.” In another case, a group of youths locked a student in the chemistry lab and

taunted, “Now we’ll turn on the gas.”

Another 16-year-old was forced to march around the schoolyard with a sign reading, “In this town I’m the biggest swine because of the Jewish friends of mine.” Such treatment is reminiscent of Nazi-era practices, where Jews were treated as inhuman and German friends of Jews were belittled.

The Berlin Jewish community warns that this behavior represents “a new dimension in anti-Semitism.”

Racism has continually reared its ugly head across all levels of German society. While German youth commit such acts, German extreme-right-wing parties gain political ground. Efforts to eradicate this pestilence from elements of the German public after the Second World War have not succeeded. Racism in Germany is still a major problem we must watch.



GETTY IMAGES

**ECHOES** The far right rallies in Berlin.

BRITAIN

## Death of the British Navy

BRITAIN'S ROYAL NAVY, once a pillar of Britain's global power and the most formidable fleet in the world, is being gutted, with almost half of its warships slated to be mothballed.

Early in January, London revealed that 13 of the fleet's 44 warships are already in a state of reduced readiness. A further six vessels will possibly be cut, leaving just 25 warships. The Navy is expected to lose one of its three aircraft carriers, and furthermore, there is concern among naval officers that two new carriers, promised almost a decade ago, might never be built. In addition, the *Telegraph* reports that one of Britain's three major ports is under threat of closure.

"What this means is that we are now no better than a coastal defense force or a fleet of dug-out canoes," a senior officer currently serving with the British Fleet in Portsmouth said. "The Dutch now have a better navy than us."

The *Telegraph* commented: "Our status in the world, as well as the security of these islands, depends chiefly on sea power. For the better part of 500 years ... foreign vessels had to dip their colors when passing our ships, in acknowledgment of our sovereignty of the seas. That chapter is to be closed" (January 5).

In London's *Mail on Sunday*, Peter Hitchens wrote: "My father served in the Navy when it was our pride and power—and the envy of the world. So why have we thrown it all away?" He reflected: "Almost without a fuss, the great tradi-

tions of centuries are quietly coming to an end. A service that once took British power to all the corners of the Earth is now shrunk to a pathetic remnant, largely stuck in harbor for lack of fuel and money. Go to what was once the world's premier naval station to see for yourself. ... My old Edwardian encyclopedia describes Portsmouth as the most strongly fortified city in the Kingdom, and the home to a great fleet of warships unmatched in the world. Look at it now, denuded and empty. In the muddy creek at the top of

the harbor you can make out the hulks of mothballed destroyers and frigates" (January 14).

The *Telegraph* reports, "Defense sources said it would be unlikely that the Navy could now launch an armada of the kind that retook the Falkland Islands in 1982" (op. cit.).

Ironically, the diminution of Britain's navy proceeds apace even as the world is getting increasingly dangerous, with terrorism and piracy on the seas becoming a



**RETURNING TO BASE** Britain is planning a major downsizing of its navy.

greater threat, and other nations (e.g., China) *strengthening their navies*. This is not only a sad reminder of the slide from global relevance that Great Britain is experiencing, but also a demonstration of the great global power transfer under way.

UNITED STATES

## Potential New War Front



**TARGET** An artist's concept of the Jason 1

ON JANUARY 11, CHINA tested a satellite-demolishing weapon, destroying an outdated Chinese weather space satellite by hitting it with a warhead launched from a ballistic missile.

For the technology-reliant United States, this is bad news. Rob Hewson, London-based editor of *Jane's Air Launched Weapons*, called the test a "big fat challenge" to U.S. space superiority, and "an overtly military, very provocative event that cannot be spun any other way."

The Chinese test occurred just a month after a speech by Undersecretary of State Robert G. Joseph on Dec. 13, 2006, to the George C. Marshall

Institute, in which he warned that a number of countries are "acquiring capabilities to counter, attack and defeat U.S. space systems."

Joseph feels that the U.S. space system stands as "a highly lucrative target" for terrorists or enemy nations like Iran and North Korea.

Space capabilities "are essential" to the U.S. economy and government, Joseph said. "Joseph listed telecommunications, transportation, electrical power, water supply, gas and oil storage, transportation systems, emergency services, banking and finance, and government services as relying heavily on data transmitted by satellites" (*USA Today*, Dec. 13, 2006).

Technology is among America's strongest assets. It helps underpin an above-average standard of living for American citizens while giving America a strong military edge over its enemies. But the fact that the U.S.'s infrastructure and military are

so dependent on technology makes it also an enormous potential liability. Disabling that technology would leave the country vulnerable to attack and easily foster a climate of civil disorder.

Speaking before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Technology and Terrorism in Washington, Oct. 6, 1999, Michael A. Vatis of the National Infrastructure Protection Center explained: "Foreign nations are developing information warfare programs because they see that they cannot defeat the United States in a head-to-head military encounter and they believe that information operations are a way to strike at what they perceive as America's Achilles heel."

Attacking American space satellites, which control large swaths of American civil and military infrastructure, could be a precursor to a more direct invasion.

Considering China's bold move, as well as the increasing hatred for America around the world and the potential for destruction in a satellite attack, the U.S. should expect to have this weakness tested.



MIDDLE EAST

## The Return of Rafsanjani

IS IRAN HEADED TOWARD a more moderate future?

Following elections for the assembly in December, Former Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani became the head of Iran's 85-member Assembly of Experts, the body that elects the supreme leader and which has the most influence in the nation.

In addition, with the ayatollah apparently in failing health, and speculation that President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad could be out of favor with the clerical establishment, Rafsanjani could soon become even more influential in the Islamic Republic.

The renewed popularity of Rafsanjani, who is seen by many as a pragmatic, more moderate leader, may be viewed by some as a positive sign that Iran will take a path more aligned with U.S. interests in the future. In truth, Rafsanjani will do nothing to change Iran's goals in the region and beyond—but rather may well speed up their fulfillment. For, while Rafsanjani's persona actually hides an American-hating, terrorist-supporting cleric, that persona could make it easier for the United States to do a deal over Iraq, making an eventual exit more politically acceptable.

"The restoration of Rafsanjani to the presidency would be welcomed by officials in Washington, who see the former Iranian leader as someone whom they can engage in serious negotiations," Stratfor reported January 5.

Such a scenario would be to Tehran's advantage only, however. For as Stratfor asserted, despite losses for the conservative faction

in December's election, no Iranian foreign policy shift will result.



RAFSANJANI

"... Ahmadinejad's losses in both elections [municipal and Assembly of Experts] will not cause any major shift in Tehran's nuclear program or its policy toward Iraq" (Dec. 22, 2006).

The U.S. would be dealing with the same beast, only in a more sophisticated guise.

The so-called moderates and the hardliners in Iran have precisely the same ambitions for their nation: domination of the Middle East, development of nuclear power, and the downfall of America. The nation's agenda is set by the clerical establishment, and the various political factions and personalities are used to achieve the same ends.

In any case, even a cursory glance at Rafsanjani's history does not reveal a moderate man. Rafsanjani was a pillar of the 1979 Iranian Islamic Revolution before becoming president a decade later, at

which point he actively and openly supported terrorism around the world and spent billions to rebuild Iran's military. Under his watch, Iran acquired missiles and nuclear hardware and stockpiled chemical weapons.

As for how he really feels about America, he stated this in a 2003 interview: "Even though the United States has a physical presence in the countries that surround us, the reality is that the United States is in fact surrounded by Iran. ... Our enemies such as Saddam, the Taliban and the Monafeghins [an Iranian opposition group] have been swept out of our way, and soon the U.S. will be too" (Agence France Presse, Sept. 11, 2003; emphasis ours).

Concerning Iran's nuclear program, Rafsanjani declared the need for an "Islamic bomb" in a speech at Tehran University five years ago. In 2005, he said Iran would never abandon its nuclear program. And last year, he vocally supported Ahmadinejad's stance in rejecting the United Nation's demand that Iran halt its nuclear program.

As the Trumpet.com wrote in November 2005, a few months into Ahmadinejad's presidency: "Even should the public image of the republic change with a new leader at some point, the real power will remain with the ruling religious regime. In fact, because Ahmadinejad is so radical in his approach and rhetoric, he would make any more opportunistic conservative—such as Rafsanjani—appear positively moderate to the West by comparison. Should someone like Rafsanjani gain power sometime in the future, one could easily envisage the U.S. welcoming such a leader with open arms. But again, the danger to the West would be the same."

## U.S. Halts Arms Sales to Israel

THE U.S. STATE Department has blocked the transfer of armaments and technology to Israel for the past few months, Middle East Newline reported late December 2006.

The "unofficial suspension of U.S. arms deliveries," which has been ongoing since September, is a significant setback to the tiny Jewish nation (Arutz Sheva, Dec. 28, 2006). It says it needs the equipment to restock in preparation for a possible large-scale war, which might include an attack from Syria.

The U.S. State Department has also recently prevented the sale of purely defensive weapons to Israel. According to Arutz Sheva, U.S. company Northrop Grumman was blocked from providing Israel with details of its Skyguard laser weapon, which is designed to destroy incoming short-range rockets and missiles.

"Nobody will say openly that there is a problem," one government source said. "But there is a serious problem that reflects the marginalization of Israel in U.S. strategy ..." (ibid.).

Washington may be reducing support for Israel to appease Saudi Arabia, whose help it seeks in Iraq and which also supplies over 13 percent of America's daily imported oil needs.

Although this halt in arms sales to Israel may not signify the immediate end of America's support, trends certainly suggest that the U.S. will become an increasingly unreliable ally for Israel.

Zechariah 11:14 contains a prophecy that God would "break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel." This may well refer to a future break between America (part of biblical Israel) and the Jewish state (Judah). America turning its back on the Jews would leave them isolated and vulnerable. This may be the scenario that hastens half of Jerusalem being taken (Zechariah 14:2), which will lead to Israel's downfall.



NO DEAL Washington blocked this U.S. company from providing laser technology to Israel.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## Right-Wing Extremism Rising

**R**IGHT-WING EXTREMISM is increasingly becoming a driving force in Japanese politics and society.

Shadowy right-wing groups, the *Independent* reports, “are at the forefront of a concerted push to get Japan to move away from its post-war pacifism” (Dec. 8, 2006).

This right-wing movement “is ardently nationalist, reveres the emperor, supports the rebuilding of Japan’s military might and generally bemoans what they call the apologetic strain of Japan’s foreign policy since World War II. The right-wingers trumpet their patriotism in the sound trucks and at Tokyo’s controversial Yasukuni shrine honoring the country’s militarism” (*Washington Post*, Nov. 2, 2002).

They also use violence and other sinister methods to promote their cause. In February last year, for example, right-wing extremists burned down the house of a prominent liberal politician. Members of one such group, Taiko-Sha, “are accused of carrying out fire-bombings, beatings, stabbings, shootings, and even their own ritual suicides, to make a political point” (*Independent*, op. cit.).

Such groups have received little exposure over the years. Now, however, the aggressive nationalism they espouse is *becoming mainstream*. “[A] resurgent nationalism among some mainstream politicians and North Korea’s recent nuclear testing have meant right-wing groups *are now being listened to at the highest levels*, and many of the policies they have been seeking are now on the government’s agenda” (ibid.; emphasis ours). Traditionally sensi-

tive topics that have recently become open to political and public discourse—such as stripping the constitution of its pacifist components, developing nuclear weapons, and promoting patriotism in schools—are the very issues right-wing extremists have been pushing for decades.

Manifestations of the growing popularity of Japanese nationalism advocated by right-wingers include foreigners being targeted by police, the alleged censorship and intimidation of journalists and scholars who criticize nationalist trends in Japan, the Defense Agency being upgraded to a Defense Ministry,

a new school curriculum aimed at instilling in students “an attitude that respects tradition and culture, and love of the nation and homeland,” and teachers being threatened with suspension and loss of pay if they don’t sing the national anthem and salute the flag (theage.com.au, Aug. 30, 2006).

“All of this,” comments the *Independent*, “is exactly what Japan’s influential and well-organized right-wing movement has been demanding for years” (op. cit.).



**FANATIC** A right-wing nationalist honors Japan’s war dead at the controversial Yasukuni shrine.

## UNITED STATES

### Crime Soaring in New Orleans

**N**INE MURDERS IN THE FIRST eight days of 2007—it’s the Wild Wild West riverboat days in New Orleans all over again.

For a city of 230,000 people, so many murders over such a short time is shocking—even for longtime residents already desensitized by high per capita pre-Hurricane Katrina crime rates.

The first week’s seven slayings, and one suspicious death, are known not to be linked, said New Orleans Police Department spokesman Sergeant Jeffrey Johnson.

“Bloody ’07 we’re calling it,” said Tulane University history professor Douglas Brinkley. “We’re starting the new year off with a melee of gunfire and it doesn’t bode well for the year” (*Globe and Mail*, January 6).

Even discounting January’s murder spree, New Orleans’s homicide rate on a per capita basis during all of 2006 exceeded crime-ridden Detroit’s (Stratfor, January 15).

Currently, more killings are occurring on the streets of New Orleans than before Katrina, even though the city has only half the pre-flood population.

According to the *Globe and Mail*, the



**BAD SIGN** A January anti-crime rally brought 1,000 into the streets.

Yumi Kikuchi, a writer who attended a meeting in central Tokyo recently to protest against moves to the right, put it bluntly: “If you look at all the laws they passed in the past three years it is preparation for war like we did 60 years ago” (ibid.).

Naturally, some surrounding Asian nations are nervously eyeing Japan’s emerging nationalism. However, it is not only Japan’s neighbors that should be concerned; Japan’s history shows it can be a threat much further afield. In this context, it is worth noting that the right-wingers also advocate cutting ties with the United States—a trend also likely to be reflected in Japanese society and politics in the future as right-wing sentiment grows more and more mainstream.

rule of law is failing and lawbreakers and gangs “see opportunities in the city’s overtaxed police force, dysfunctional justice system and Wild West mentality.”

Another factor behind the violence is the organized crime and gangs that have moved into New Orleans to exploit post-flood disorganization. According to

think tank Stratfor, new gangs are competing for turf against each other and remnants of disrupted local gangs. The problem of fighting these new crime syndicates is that they often merge with the large number of Latin American migrant workers who have come to the city seeking jobs.

The situation is so bad that Professor Brinkley says professionals with families who returned to rebuild their lives are fleeing the city. “If you have options, you’re leaving,” he said. “It’s like living in a war zone. You feel fairly safe in the daytime, but you never know what’s going to happen at night. ... Katrina loosed an anarchy on the city and we’re not doing very well here” (*Globe and Mail*, op. cit.).

In actuality, the lingering aftermaths of Hurricane Katrina are just the leading edge of many more storms about to break upon America. For more information, please see our November 2005 issue.



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

STEPHEN FLURRY

# Fingerprints

**“The admonishment is now for those of us still living who now have a task that is set before them, a course that has already been charted by God’s apostle. We need to maintain that course and not deviate from it one iota.”**

— Joseph W. Tkach *The day Mr. Armstrong died*

**I**N HIS 1997 BOOK, JOSEPH TKACH JR. WROTE, “Early on, there were some astute members who saw that the first two or three changes we made required that other changes would soon have to be made. They accurately predicted most of the corrections we announced in the following three or four years. Yet *at the time we saw none of this.*” According to Tkach, when their critics predicted further changes, “We steadfastly denied we *even thinking* about such changes ...” He said further that NONE of the WCG leaders even had any of this in mind—meaning the church’s transformation—as late as 1991. It was all just an innocent coming-of-age story, we’re supposed to believe.

The problem with that theory is that what happened in the Worldwide Church of God *after* Mr. Armstrong died is what *almost* happened to the church in the 1970s, *before* he died. In fact, it was Mr. Armstrong’s declining health back then which had Garner Ted and others chomping at the bit to transform the church. The imminent likelihood of Mr. Armstrong’s death helped expose the true colors of Garner Ted and his fellows. Indeed, had not Mr. Armstrong recovered from heart failure in 1977, the church’s transformation would have occurred a decade earlier than it did.

Tkach Jr. acts as if they had no clue, even as late as 1991, about what they were doing or where the church was headed.

Yet, what Donald Ward did to Ambassador College between 1989 and 1994 is EXACTLY what he *almost* did in 1978 under Garner Ted. *Exactly!*

And we’re supposed to believe that Bernie Schnippert’s work on the Systematic Theology Project in 1977—a schol-

arly attempt to liberalize the doctrines of the church—had no influence on his work 10 years later, when he returned to Pasadena to take charge of the editorial, publishing, television and mail processing departments?

The principal players in the Tkach transformation left their fingerprints ALL OVER THE CRIME SCENE during the 1970s! But unlike Garner Ted and a few others, THEY NEVER GOT CAUGHT. They fled the scene once Mr. Armstrong showed up physically revitalized and determined to prosecute the guilty. Joe Jr. got laid off, went through a divorce and hibernated in Arizona. Feazell—also laid off—went to Arizona to teach fifth graders. Schnippert settled into a small congregation in Las Vegas. Dr. Ward moved to East Texas.

Then, after Mr. Armstrong’s failing health finally got the best of him, they returned from hiding and IMMEDIATELY went to work on accomplishing what they and others *almost* did in the 1970s.

That’s not to say that *all* of Tkach’s fellows were staunch supporters of Garner Ted’s coup attempt. Some of the personalities changed. But in looking at the events from the mid-to-late 1980s, we find many of the same fingerprints that were left on the 1970s mess.

The most significant and obvious difference, of course, is that after January 16, 1986, Mr. Armstrong wasn’t around to restrain the rebels.

## ■ IDENTITY OF BABYLON

The early to mid-1980s might well be considered the golden years for the Worldwide Church of God. At the same time, however, Mr. Armstrong’s overall health was in decline. His



eyesight got so bad that, without the assistance of Aaron Dean, he would not have been able to complete *Mystery of the Ages*. Yet even with Dean serving as his eyes and ears those last few years, Mr. Armstrong did not see everything that was going on behind his back.

On December 17, 1983, Mr. Armstrong gave a sermon in Pasadena titled “Mission of the Philadelphia Era.” He read from a three-volume, extra-large-print version of the Bible—and even then, he needed a magnifying glass. During the sermon, he listed a number of truths God had restored to the Worldwide Church of God over the course of his ministry. Toward the end of his message, Mr. Armstrong discussed RELIGIOUS DECEPTION and the IDENTITY OF MODERN BABYLON and its daughter churches (Revelation 17:5). He said, “Well, brethren, all those things have been restored ...”

The following year, on March 10, Mr. Armstrong reiterated many of these restored truths in a sermon he gave in Chicago. He also discussed the list at a ministerial conference over the summer. Then, in *Mystery of the Ages*, he wrote in 1985, “At least 18 basic and essential truths have been restored to the true Church.”

But Mr. Armstrong never produced a written list himself. That task was left to the church’s editorial department. Richard Rice, who managed the church’s mail processing center, was the first one to compile a written list of the truths. It appeared in the *Pastor General’s Report* a few months after Mr. Armstrong died. Although the list wasn’t numbered, it included 18 points. The list church members are much more familiar with appeared five months later in the *Worldwide News*, with a short introduction by Mr. Tkach. According to Tkach, Editorial Services had prepared the list—and for the first time, it was numbered—there were 18 points of restored truth.

But there is NOTHING in Rice’s list or the one introduced by Tkach that says anything about the *modern identity of Babylon*. That’s because editors had been hard at work, *even before Mr. Armstrong died*, REVISING and OMITTING much of the church’s teaching about ancient Babylon and the development of the modern Babylonian religious system.

The biggest revision in church literature appeared as early as 1982 in *The Bible Story*. Basil Wolverton, a nationally known artist and WCG minister, began work on the project in 1958. Originally appearing in the *Plain Truth* in monthly installments, *The Bible Story* was converted into a six-volume set of books during the 1960s. Mr. Armstrong assigned the project to Mr. Wolverton because of the tremendous need to properly teach children the truths of the Bible. “Bible stories up to now,” Mr. Armstrong explained, seemed to have “no mission but that of providing exciting entertainment. Biblical incidents are taken out of context, their real connection with the very purpose of life ignored.” Furthermore, he wrote, “In my research into the history of education, the truth emerged of the diabolical master conspiracy for deceiving the whole world.” Thus, Mr. Wolverton set out to tell the story of the Bible factually and chronologically,

and in a way that would be interesting and understandable for children. Yet the series was not intended for children alone: It provided a basic understanding of the thread of the Bible for all interested readers, including many thousands of adults.

Chapter 5 of the 1960s version contains quite a lot of history regarding the establishment of civilization after the Noachian Flood. It discusses how Noah preached God’s truth and prophesied about a coming Messiah. “But something happened back then to cause men to believe that the son of a god had come to Earth shortly after the flood,” Wolverton wrote. It went on to explain how Nimrod and his wife, Semiramis, established a Babylonian religious system as a great counterfeit to God’s true religion. “There, in ancient Babylon,” wrote

Wolverton, “were born the false beliefs that have wormed their way into almost every religion. Even today millions and millions of people who may want to live according to the right ways are not aware that their manner of worship follows very closely that of ancient idol worship and pagan rites begun at Babel.”

Virtually all of this critical history—Nimrod’s plans to rule the Earth; his wife’s successful attempt to make a

false god out of her slain husband—was removed from the 1982 version of *The Bible Story*. It was edited out four years after Mr. Wolverton died—and a full four years *before* Mr. Armstrong died. There, in a 1982 publication, is evidence of Tkachism—conveniently enough, at about the time Mr. Armstrong’s eyesight went bad.

After Mr. Armstrong died, the editorial staff saw fit to remove any reference identifying modern Babylon as a truth restored to the church. They did this despite Mr. Armstrong’s repeated references to this point the last two years of his life.

The WCG’s new explanation about the history of Babylon and its prophetic significance immediately surfaced in other church literature once Mr. Armstrong died. In *The Plain Truth About Christmas*, for example, Mr. Armstrong had written, “Nimrod, grandson of Ham, son of Noah, was the real founder of the Babylonish system that has gripped the world ever since—the system of organized competition—of man-ruled governments and empires, based upon the competitive and profit-making economic system. Nimrod built the tower of Babel, the original Babylon, ancient Nineveh, and many other cities. He organized this world’s first kingdom.”

That entire paragraph got chopped out of the “updated” 1987 version, which is a major change when you consider what the church had long taught about the system Nimrod established

All well BEFORE, if Tkach Jr. is to be believed, “we were even *thinking* about such changes.”

## ■ REVISIONIST HISTORY

Less than four months after Mr. Armstrong died, Church Administration informed its ministers that several books would need to be “updated.” Page 93 of Mr. Armstrong’s *United States and Britain in Prophecy* said, “Israel had been removed

**The principal players in the Tkach transformation left their fingerprints all over the crime scene during the 1970s! But unlike Garner Ted and a few others, they never got caught.**

from Palestine more than 130 years and had long since migrated, with the Assyrians, north (and west) of Assyria’s original location.” In the 1986 version, editors rewrote it to say that Israel migrated north of Assyria, as opposed to WITH. The significance of this change is made obvious by the other edits in Mr. Armstrong’s work. On page 147, Mr. Armstrong wrote, “Ezekiel was among the Jewish captives after their captivity, which occurred more than a hundred years after Israel’s captivity. By that time the Assyrians had long since left their land on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea and migrated northwest, finally settling in the land today called Germany.”

In the 1986 version, all references to “Assyria” and “Germany” were removed from this passage. There is no mention of the Assyrians migrating to a land called Germany today. Then they completely removed this paragraph in the 1986 version: “The Assyrians—before 604 B.C.—left their land north of Babylon and migrated northwest—through the lands that are now Georgia, the Ukraine, Poland, and into the land that is called Germany today. Today the descendants of those Assyrians are known to us as the German people.”

Again, these edits were made *within months* of Mr. Armstrong’s death—perhaps set in motion even *before* he died. Reading the 1986 version of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for the first time, a new reader would have had NO IDEA that Germany today descended from Assyria anciently—a teaching that essentially identifies Germany in Bible prophecy. For those even vaguely familiar with Mr. Armstrong’s prophetic teachings, this represented a MONUMENTAL change in the church’s teachings.

Of course, Tkach Jr. had *no idea* that a change this significant would have a profound impact on the church’s prophetic teaching—or so he would have us believe.

■ BIG SANDY CAMPUS

In the same December 1985 letter in which Mr. Armstrong informed the church about his rapidly declining health, he also made an important decision regarding Ambassador College: “... I feel God has led me in deciding that it is necessary that we close the operations at Big Sandy, Texas, after the end of this present school year. The certification of the college requiring the pursuing of accreditation, the financial needs of the first commission of the church, and the needs of the ministry made this decision necessary. The trained ministry at the campus in Big Sandy are sorely needed elsewhere because of the thousands of prospective member visit requests. I have ordered implementation of this decision to the appropriate officials involved.”

Two months after Mr. Armstrong died, the newly appointed pastor general of the church, Joseph W. Tkach, paid a visit to the Big Sandy campus. During his trip, Mr. Tkach met with the college’s deputy chancellor, Leslie McCullough, and its faculty members. According to the March 24, 1986, *Worldwide News*, “The pastor general updated the ministry and faculty on events taking place in God’s work, including the status of

the Big Sandy campus.” Of course, the “status” of the campus was pretty clear in the weeks prior to Mr. Armstrong’s death: It would be closed.

Five weeks after his Big Sandy visit, incredibly, Mr. Tkach announced plans to keep the Big Sandy campus open: “I have instructed Mr. Les McCullough and Dr. Don Ward to apply for state certification so that we may operate the college in Big Sandy, Texas, at least one more year. Last December, Mr. Herbert Armstrong wrote to the brethren that ‘the certification of the college requiring the pursuing of accreditation, the financial needs of the first commission of the church, and the needs of the ministry’ made necessary the decision to close the operations of Ambassador College in Big Sandy, Texas. Since that time I have found that we can be certified for another two-year

**Within a few months of assuming his new position as pastor general, Mr. Tkach had already signed off on eliminating some of the strongest statements Mr. Armstrong made in *Mystery of the Ages*.**

period without having to pursue accreditation.

“This will allow the current freshman class to graduate in Big Sandy, and give us time to see what direction God will lead us regarding the future of the campus there. The state’s decision on certification will not be final until July, but as of now we plan to operate next year. Of course, if certification is denied, we will go ahead with plans to allow qualified Big Sandy students to finish in Pasadena over the next two years.”

According to Dr. Ward, who heard the April 15 announcement via telephone hook-up in Big Sandy, Mr. Tkach’s announcement was greeted by “thunderous applause that went on for a great while.” Mr. Tkach asked the combined groups of faculty and students to pray that God’s will be “revealed to me.” He said that he was committed to “do whatever is best for God’s work.”

Not four months earlier, one of the main reasons Mr. Armstrong gave for closing the campus was to DO WHAT WAS BEST FOR THE WORK—its “financial needs” and the fact that Big Sandy’s ministry was needed elsewhere. What a MONUMENTAL SHIFT in priorities for Mr. Tkach—and just three months after Mr. Armstrong died!

Dr. Ward, of course, NEVER DREAMED that such a stunning reversal might eventually result in shifting the entire focus of the college onto Big Sandy and in the pursuit of accreditation.

Or did he?

■ DIFFERENT EMPHASIS FOR COMMISSION

The scripture Mr. Armstrong almost always used to describe the church’s commission is Matthew 24:14: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

In his first sermon as pastor general, *given just two days after Mr. Armstrong died*, Mr. Tkach said, “In the Synoptic Gospels, OUR COMMISSION IS CLEARLY STATED—which just means a general view of our responsibilities. Turn to Matthew 28. Here we’re told, in verse 19, to ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.’ Our commission here is directly

from Christ. We are an extension of the early New Testament Church, who never did complete the commission.”

This scriptural citation represented a disturbing shift in focus. Mr. Armstrong may have occasionally *associated* Matthew 28:19-20 with the church’s commission, but it was not the primary passage he referred to. He repeatedly emphasized that the church had been commissioned to preach the gospel message to this world *as a witness*. With that as its focus, as Mr. Armstrong would then explain, *God would provide* members and co-workers who responded to the warning message. Certainly, the church then had an obligation to teach and train those who responded to God’s call, but this was secondary to the church’s main mission—preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God as a witness. Mr. Armstrong explained: “The two spiritual areas, which are the real purpose and mission of the Church, are, one, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God for a witness to the nations of the world .... Now the *second mission* of the Church is to feed the flock, as Jesus said, on the spiritual food of the Word of God.”

To be fair to Mr. Tkach, in that same sermon, he did quote from Matthew 24:14 right at the end of the message. He said, “We have a commission to preach the gospel as a warning message to a dying world.”

But he then wrote just a few days after that sermon: “My faith and confidence are in Jesus Christ’s sure and infallible promise, built into the *very commission* He gave His church: ‘... Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age’ (Matthew 28:20).”

Shifting the work’s *emphasis* to the SECONDARY MISSION of feeding the flock, as opposed to preaching the gospel to the world, HAD A DEVASTATING, DOMINO-LIKE EFFECT ON NEARLY EVERY ASPECT OF THE WORK. *It turned the church inward*—leading to a focus on Ambassador College, local congregations and personal evangelism. Proclaiming the gospel message as a witness took a back seat to the inward needs of the church.

## ■ MYSTERY OF THE AGES SERIALIZATION

Mr. Armstrong began serializing *Mystery of the Ages* in the July 1985 issue of the *Plain Truth*. He wanted the message of the book to reach the “largest audience possible,” and the *Plain Truth* circulation was around 8 million at the time.

Because of the length of the book, serializing *Mystery of the Ages* took a year and a half (from July 1985 to December 1986). As with any serialization, one might expect editors to condense some portions of the text. But to do so in a way that completely alters the author’s clear intent cannot be considered an *abridged* version of the original text—rather a *corrupt* version.

The most glaring deletion occurs at the end of Chapter 6—“Mystery of the Church”—in the July-August 1986 *Plain Truth* installment. In the book, the section begins with the subhead, “Restoration of God’s Truth to Church.” In the first paragraph under the subhead, Mr. Armstrong begins by summarizing the history of the Church of God—from the first century to the time of the end. In the book, he wrote, “From the year 1931, exactly 1,900 years (a century of time cycles) from the foundation of the Church, this small remnant of the original true Church of God began to take on new life *as the Philadelphia era*.” Those last four italicized words are left out of the serialization, which is significant, as anyone ever associated with the WCG would know.

From that point in the text, editors saw fit to delete a num-

ber of specific prophecies in the serialization, beginning with this one: “It had come to the ‘time of the end.’ A new spiritual vitality was infused into it. The time had come for Jesus’s prophecy of Matthew 24:14 to be fulfilled—‘this gospel of the kingdom shall be [proclaimed] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’ Such vital truth that had been lost was gradually revealed and proclaimed.”

In light of what we covered about the church’s commission, the significance of this omission is obvious. The *Plain Truth* version then omits six paragraphs about the Philadelphia era and the leader who God prophesied to raise up during that era (Mr. Armstrong, as the church had always believed). Mr. Armstrong wrote, “To this era—or to its human leader—God had set before it an open door .... This church and/or its leader had but little strength. Neither were of great and powerful stature in Satan’s world but those of this era were faithful to the Word of God. Though much of the original gospel truth, imparted to the original apostles by Jesus in person, had been lost, it was restored through the Bible to this era of God’s Church who were faithful in keeping it.”

That is missing in the serialization version. And so is this next paragraph: “It is revealed in Malachi 3:1-5 and 4:5-6 that God would raise up one in the power and spirit of Elijah, shortly prior to the Second Coming of Christ. In Matthew 17:11 Jesus said, even after John the Baptist had completed his mission, that this prophesied Elijah ‘truly shall first come, and restore all things.’ Although it is plainly revealed that John the Baptist had come in the power and spirit of Elijah, he did not restore anything. The human leader to be raised up somewhat shortly prior to Christ’s Second Coming was to prepare the way—prepare the Church—for Christ’s coming, and restore the truth that had been lost through the preceding eras of the Church. Also a door was to be opened for this leader and/or the Philadelphia era of the Church to fulfill Matthew 24:14: ‘And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.’”

After these deletions, the serialization then continues: “It was to be at a time when, for the first time in the history of mankind, the weapons of mass destruction were produced that could erase all humanity from the Earth (Matt. 24:21-22). This also was to occur just before the Second Coming of Christ (verses 29-30).

“*These prophecies have now definitely been fulfilled*. The true gospel has been restored and has now gone in power into every nation on the face of the Earth.”

For a person reading *the book*, “these prophecies have now definitely been fulfilled” refers to Matthew 24:14, Revelation 3:7-13, Malachi 3:1-5, Malachi 4:5-6 and Matthew 17:11! In reading the serialization, however, you don’t even know what prophecies Mr. Armstrong is referring to. To delete all the prophecies and then say, “These prophecies have now definitely been fulfilled,” MAKES NO SENSE.

Within a few months of assuming his new position as pastor general, Mr. Tkach had already signed off on eliminating some of the strongest statements Mr. Armstrong made in *Mystery of the Ages*. And these just happened to be statements about Mr. Armstrong’s office, his prophesied role in world events and his God-given commission.

## ■ OTHER CHANGES IN 1986

In 1986, editors were also hard at work revising one of Mr.



Armstrong's biggest books—*The Incredible Human Potential*. On page 5 of that book, commenting on Simon Magus and his deceptive work to pervert the true gospel during the first century, Mr. Armstrong wrote, "There ensued 'the lost century' in the history of the true Church of God. There was a well-organized conspiracy to blot out all record of Church history during that period. A hundred years later, history reveals a 'Christianity' utterly unlike the church Christ founded."

Drawing upon research from scholars and Church historians—like Edward Gibbon, who referred to a "dark cloud" that hung over the first age of the Church—Mr. Armstrong coined the expression "lost century" to describe the sparse historical record of the early Church. For WCG scholars in 1986, "the lost century" was "hardly appropriate." After all, they reasoned, John's writings were recorded during this time—and Polycarp followed in John's footsteps. So how could that historical period be considered "lost"? So they rephrased it as "an obscure period in the history of the true Church." While they felt like that was more accurate, the change unmistakably de-emphasized Satan's conspiracy to blot out a true record of Church history.

In *What Do You Mean—"The Unpardonable Sin"?* Mr. Armstrong wrote, "In John 7:31, it is recorded: 'And many of the people believed on Him ...' But were they really Christians? Notice, beginning with John 8:30: 'As He spake these words, many believed on Him. Then Jesus said to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed ....' But they did not actually believe Him! They believed on Him—that He was a great teacher, as a man—they believed on the person—like millions today. But they did not believe Him—did not believe what He said—His message—His gospel. To these same people, who 'believed on Him,' Jesus said, just a few verses farther on, '... but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.'"

By removing all the italicized words in 1986, editors agreed that it would read more "smoothly." It also removed a reference to "millions today" being deceived in the same manner as those in Christ's day.

Years later, Tkachism would often ridicule Mr. Armstrong's teaching about the whole world being deceived (Revelation 12:9).

Tkachism changed the church's teaching about the human spirit within months of Mr. Armstrong's death. In explaining why they changed the wording in *The Incredible Human Potential* to reflect the new teaching, they said it read "smoother," whereas Mr. Armstrong's explanation had "puzzled a number of readers." That Mr. Armstrong's teachings could now be altered for no other reason than because they "puzzled" readers must have had liberals in Pasadena eager for the next round of changes.

They also changed the meaning of the Hebrew word for God in 1986. Anyone who ever heard Mr. Armstrong discuss who and what God is undoubtedly remembers him explaining the meaning of *Elohim*, as he did in *Mystery of the Ages*: "... a noun or name, plural in form, but normally singular in grammatical usage. It is the same sort of word as family, church, group—one family consisting of two or more members—one church composed of many members—one group of several persons."

They first introduced their different understanding of the word *Elohim* when they reprinted two other writings of Mr. Armstrong's—*The Incredible Human Potential* and the booklet *Why Were You Born?* They altered the definition this way: "... a noun, plural in form, but with either singular or plural usage."

They left out the fact that the Hebrew word is like the English words *family, church, team* or *group*. And instead of it being "singular in grammatical usage," as Mr. Armstrong said in *Mystery of the Ages*, it had an "either singular or plural usage."

Years later, when the Worldwide Church of God adopted the trinity doctrine, it argued that *Elohim*, as it is used in Genesis 1:1, refers to a SINGLE DEITY. The WCG officially accepted the trinity doctrine in 1993. But like with so many other doctrinal revisions, fingerprints appeared several years earlier. In this case, it was 1986, when they CHANGED THE DEFINITION of *Elohim*.

## ■ CHRIST'S AGENDA?

On the day Mr. Armstrong died, Joseph Tkach promised to maintain the founder's course and "not deviate from it one iota." Yet he clearly started breaking promises that very day.

In 1995, after supporting and defending the Tkach administration for nearly a decade, David Hulme had finally had enough of the doctrinal transformation. He wrote this in his resignation letter to the elder Tkach: "The most disturbing aspect of our recent conversation on the eve of Passover, is that with some pride you stated that you had agreed with Richard Plache and Al Corozzo in the 1970s with regard to the place of the law in the Christian life. You said you agreed with them (and therefore disagreed with Herbert W. Armstrong) but felt that they were ahead of their time, and that nothing could be done. I remind you that Richard Plache was one of the prime movers in a 1975 attempt to overturn Sabbath observance in Britain. As a result he was put out of the church, along with Charles Hunting and David Ord, by Mr. Armstrong. If you agreed with these men as you claim, did you inform Mr. Armstrong of your radically different stance any time before his death?"

In his response to Hulme, Tkach Sr. did not deny that these conversations took place. He just said that Hulme had misrepresented his comments. But notice what else Tkach wrote: "I was trying to point out to you that challenges about the validity of certain doctrines, challenges that were raised by leading ministers of the church in the 1970s, caused me to realize that there were indeed doctrinal questions that had never been adequately answered."

Notice! From Tkach's own pen (or whoever wrote the letter for him) we discover that these were questions raised in the 1970s. They were raised by "leading ministers" at the time (many of whom were disfellowshipped by Mr. Armstrong, he failed to mention). And they were questions, at least in Tkach's mind, that had never been adequately answered. This "nagging realization," Tkach admitted, "troubled me." And so what did he do? "My response at the time," he explained, referring to the 1970s, "was to simply put the subject 'on the shelf' and give it little thought until years later, when I found myself, as pastor general, responsible for the spiritual instruction of the church and challenged on many of the same points."

Can you believe that? He readily admitted to setting controversial subjects on the shelf "until years later"—when Mr. Armstrong was no longer in control! But the idea that he or anyone ever had an agenda? "Preposterous," he says. "It was Christ's agenda." That's all it was—an innocent coming-of-age story about Jesus Christ leading a wayward church out of darkness and into the glorious light. They never had any of this in mind. None of them did.

Isn't that amazing? ■

danger. Thankfully, in a short span of time, the danger will be gone forever!

Benjamin Netanyahu, the former Israeli prime minister, may be elected again soon. He is saying we are already in World War III, and likens Iran to Germany in 1938, one year before World War II began.

That is how he evaluates world conditions today. Here is what Netanyahu said when Glenn Beck interviewed him on Nov. 17, 2006 (I quoted different parts of this interview last month): “Iran is Germany, and it’s 1938, except that this Nazi regime that is in Iran, that’s a religious kind of fanaticism, but it wants to dominate the world, annihilate the Jews, but also annihilate America. Remember, we’re the small Satan. You’re the big Satan. ...

“We’re just the first way station en route to you [the U.S.]. So there is this fundamental fanaticism that is there. It’s a messianic cult. It’s a religious messianic cult that believes in the Apocalypse, and THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE TO EXPEDITE THE APOCALYPSE TO BRING THE COLLAPSE OF THE WEST.”

As Hitler rose to power in 1938, almost everybody was in a state of denial about Germany and world conditions. Most people are also in a state of denial today. And the danger now is 10,000 times worse!

What could be more deadly than denying reality about the Doomsday Clock today?

Mr. Netanyahu was asked, “What makes you say we should take this nut job at his word?” He responded, “Well, I was getting this question in the 1990s, and I said that the West really doesn’t understand militant Islam. So I wrote a book in 1995, and I said that, if the West doesn’t wake up to the suicidal nature of militant Islam, the next thing you will see is militant Islam ... bringing down the World Trade Center.

“Other nut ideologies don’t do that, but militant Muslims do, and they are competing. They have two strains: the Sunni type, led by al Qaeda, who have done the World Trade Center; the Shia types, led by Iran, who want to top that by having nuclear weapons with which they can dominate the world, ultimately bring down America.

“We’re merely the first target. They hate us because we’re you, and we’re the first station in the Middle East. They hate Israel because it represents America. They don’t hate America because of Israel—because we’re part and parcel of that same free, to their minds, HATED HEDONISTIC CIVILIZATION. [We are also in a state of denial about being a hedonistic civilization.] ...

“The Soviet Union had enough firepower to destroy the United States, but they realized that you would destroy them, so they were deterred. They were not suicidal.

“But MILITANT ISLAM IS SUICIDAL. THEY OFTEN PUT THEIR ZEALOTRY, THEIR IDEOLOGY, ABOVE THEIR SURVIVAL. That’s why you didn’t have any Communist suicide bombers, but militant Islam produces hordes of them, battalions, and they smash into buildings in New York.

“NOW, DO YOU DOUBT THAT IF, FOR EXAMPLE, AL QAEDA HAD NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THIS CITY WOULD NOT EXIST TODAY? ...

“AND SEATTLE COULD DISAPPEAR, because they’re not deterrable. That’s the whole point.”

Netanyahu accused Iran’s leaders of subscribing to “this crazy messianic cult of death, THE IDEA THAT MILLIONS HAVE TO DIE

IN ORDER FOR THEIR PARTICULAR ISLAMIC MESSIAH TO COME. MILLIONS HAVE TO DIE, AND THE SOONER THE BETTER, in their view, because they have this cult. That’s what makes them so dangerous, if they acquire nuclear weapons to realize it.”

Iran is the head of the terrorist snake. Netanyahu is discussing New York City and Seattle being obliterated by terrorists. The Bible discusses cities “without inhabitant” in several prophecies. Nuclear annihilation is also discussed. Thankfully God is going to stop it just short of man’s extinction. (Request our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*.)

Why are these terrorists introducing a threat we have never faced before? Because they are about to get nuclear devices—and YOU CAN’T DETER SUICIDE BOMBERS! That is the deadly problem we face today. There is no way to fully protect people and places

## **There is no hope in man! There never was and never will be. That is the supreme lesson that God is teaching mankind—the hard way.**

from suicide bombers.

Also, we lack the will to confront Iran. That nation is the supreme problem behind all terrorism.

Then Mr. Netanyahu was asked about cutting and running from Iraq. He answered, “I think you’re going to find it a lot more difficult than you think, because what happens when you run—WHEN YOU CUT AND RUN, FROM TERROR—TERROR HAS THIS UNFORTUNATE QUALITY OF CHASING YOU. This is, however, an American decision you make. ...

“[W]hether you leave in phases, you leave with a timetable, you leave with no timetable, you stay in Iraq, okay. Either way, IF IRAN ACQUIRES NUCLEAR WEAPONS NEXT DOOR, YOU LOSE IRAQ. NOT ONLY DO YOU LOSE IRAQ, YOU LOSE THE ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST, AND YOU LOSE CONTROL OF THE WORLD OIL SUPPLY, AND YOUR CITIES COME UNDER A NUCLEAR THREAT OF A CRAZY, FANATIC REGIME.

“So the question is: Why is the American debate exclusively focused on Iraq when you should look next door? ... [W]hatever you decide on Iraq, I would give one piece of advice: Do not mortgage that solution to the Iranians. Do not get into a situation where you are giving the Iranians any kind of license to develop their nuclear program in exchange for anything that they do with you, in Iraq, do or not do.

“You should stop the Iranian nuclear program because it is a great threat to the security of the world and the security of the United States.”

So where is the hope? Mr. Netanyahu says that “in the long term, the free peoples always win.” But is that true? No it isn’t, but it’s probably his only hope.

THERE IS NO HOPE IN MAN! There never was and never will be. That is the supreme lesson that God is teaching mankind—the hard way. Every man and woman on Earth must learn that lesson. The sooner we learn it the better!

There is hope that will lift you to a wondrous new level of living. You can learn about this hope in our free booklet, based on the epistles of Peter, called *A Living Hope*.

There will always be spiritual hope. But you urgently need to take action while there is still *physical* hope.

YOU HAVE ONLY “FIVE MINUTES” TO ACT! ■

See the back cover of this magazine for details on how to order your free copy of *A Living Hope*.



**TOOLS OF A SUPERPOWER** Engineers discuss construction on a pipeline for the Sakhalin-2 project, now controlled by Russia.



# Russia's Deadly New Weapon

More powerful than a nuclear bomb, it is already vaulting Moscow back to superpower status. Europe is deeply troubled. **BY ROBERT MORLEY**

**T**HE MIGHTY RUSSIAN BEAR IS back. Russia may yet become more powerful than at any time in its history, including its peak during the Cold War.

The West is only beginning to wake up to this new reality.

This resurgence is based upon one thing: Russia's massive energy and natural resource reserves. Oil, natural gas, uranium, platinum, gold, silver, copper, zinc and nickel prices each remained near all-time or multi-decade highs during 2006. Consequently, state coffers of resource-rich Russia are overflowing, pumping life back into the national economy. Seven years of strong economic growth based upon rising commodity prices has given Russia a bulging budget not seen since before the Berlin Wall fell—and confidence to match.

In addition, current booming resource demand in China and India, as well as growing geopolitical instability in many producer nations such as Iran and Nigeria, suggest that high energy and raw-commodity prices are here to stay for the foreseeable future. That means the strength of the Russian revival may become much greater than many have anticipated.

Yet if rising energy and global resource demand is the anvil of Russia's geopolitical revival, the hammer is the Kremlin's policy to nationalize and use state control of strategic industry and natural resources for political purposes.

## Consolidating Energy Control

During the 1990s—when many commodity prices were comparatively low, including those of oil and gas—Russia needed foreign resource companies

to develop its deposits. Now that those prices have risen, Russia's dependence on Western investment is lighter.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is determined to make Russian companies majority partners on any project taking place on Russian territory. Consequently, Russia is confiscating (or what amounts to confiscating) billions of dollars' worth of foreign-built infrastructure and placing it under control of state-owned corporations.

In September, the Russian government revoked the environmental permit for Royal Dutch Shell's massive Sakhalin-2 energy development and threatened the consortium with environmental fines of up to \$30 billion. Shell was coerced into selling a controlling 50 percent-plus-one-share interest in the \$22 billion project to Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom for \$7.45 billion. Literally minutes after the handover, Putin revealed that the environmental problems were no longer a concern, and the government now fully supported the project.

Using similar tactics, it looks like Gazprom is also set to gain control of British Petroleum's Kovykta gas field, which is the largest in Siberia. French energy company Total is facing mysterious "back tax" bills. Exxon Mobil's Sakhalin-1 project is rumored to be the next Kremlin target.

In late November 2006, Russia's two state-owned energy giants, Rosneft and Gazprom, signed an alliance deal that further signaled Russia's desire to force foreign energy companies out of the country. Rosneft is the second-largest oil producer in Russia, and Gazprom has an acknowledged monopoly on natural gas production.

Organizing all of the resources within Russian borders under state-owned companies makes it easier for Moscow to wield its most powerful weapon. Not coincidentally, the most sought-after resources on Earth are the very ones Russia is gaining a firm grip on. As Putin has consolidated state-control over strategic resources, he has been able to wield it with war-hammer ruthlessness, battering opponents into submission.

In January last year, Gazprom cut off Ukraine's gas supply—and consequently much of the rest of Europe's—after Ukraine's newly elected, pro-Western



government balked at paying gas prices that were much greater than those paid by the previous, pro-Russian government. Being in the midst of winter, Ukraine had little choice but to accept the higher prices.

Georgia has also endured Russian energy punishment. Last year, relations between Russia and Georgia broke down after Georgia accused four Russian military officers of spying. The Kremlin responded with economic and transport sanctions. In December, after Gazprom threatened to completely cut off gas supplies, Georgia agreed to pay US\$235 per 1,000 cubic meters, up from \$110. These are cruel moves in the midst of this region's infamously harsh winters.

Belarus too recently succumbed to similar Gazprom strong-arm tactics. On January 1, Russia forced Belarus into accepting price hikes that more than doubled Belarus's current costs. As part of the deal, Gazprom demanded Belarus sell it 50 percent of the shares in the Belarusian pipeline network, which supplies gas to Poland and Germany.

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova and Armenia are other known victims of Russian energy coercion.

All this activity has revealed the energy weakness of another major global power, one that is having to respond strategically to Russia's growing clout.

That power is Europe.

### Energy as a Weapon

The way Russia is treating its eastern neighbors is giving the European Union cause to look to other markets for its energy supplies.

Energy vulnerability is a major issue on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's agenda for the six months that Germany is president of the EU. "Europe must reduce its dependence in order to guarantee its energy supplies in the long term," Merkel wrote in an article for the daily *Handelsblatt*. "Moreover, it must speak with one voice on foreign energy relations. This also goes for relations with our important energy partner Russia."

Germany, Italy and France already import 90, 91 and 95 percent of their daily oil needs respectively, as well as the vast majority of their natural gas needs. These nations typify the foreign-energy dependence that plagues almost all EU nations. The EU now imports 56 percent of its energy—much of it from Russia. In 1995, this figure was only 44 percent. If trends continue, then by 2020 the EU will need to

import two thirds of its energy demand, according to the European Commission.

Adding to Europe's problem is the fact that Asia is becoming a more attractive market for Russian energy.

China and India are increasingly drinking up and competing for available energy supplies. Of all nations, Russia is uniquely situated to meet Asian energy demand. Russia has the oil, gas, uranium and other natural resource supplies needed to keep China's and India's rapidly ex-



**CZAR** Putin is securing Russia's resources.

panding economies booming. Its growing energy clout is steadily drawing China and India into Russia's sphere of influence.

Russia's strengthening bonds with these Asian trade partners could further jeopardize its reliability as an energy provider for Europe. Given Europe's present dependence on Russia for energy supplies, this is a worrisome and very real threat. At a UN conference last November, for example, Gazprom warned that problems with the EU were forcing the company to "look increasingly toward rival markets in Asia" (EUbusiness.com, Nov. 28, 2006). Russia is currently developing large-scale energy-transmission capabilities in the east, which will enable it to send much more of its vital oil and gas reserves to Asia—an event that will increase its leverage over Europe exponentially.

Meanwhile, Russia is actively backing Iran (another major oil producer) by providing it with nuclear-power-generating capacity and by undermining UN sanctions. The Kremlin has also broken ranks with the West and held talks with the terrorist group Hamas. Russia is additionally backing anti-Western governments in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, two other strategic energy-producing countries.

Moreover, a leaked confidential study by NATO economic experts "warned

Russia may be seeking to build a gas cartel including Algeria, Qatar, Libya, the countries of Central Asia and perhaps Iran and cautioned that kind of OPEC-like near monopoly would strengthen Moscow's leverage over Europe" (Associated Press, Nov. 27, 2006).

This growing tension between Russia and Europe is worth watching closely in the time ahead. It portends significant foreign-policy initiatives between the EU, Russia and OPEC as Europe moves to consolidate its sources of much-needed energy.

### More Powerful Than the Soviet Union

U.S. scholar Marshal Goldman makes a strong point. He says "Russia is more powerful now than it ever was during the czarist era or the Soviet era. In the Soviet era there was mutually assured destruction. They had nuclear weapons. We had nuclear weapons. We didn't use them, because we were worried they would and vice versa. Here you don't have that kind of restraint" (MosNews.com, Dec. 8, 2006).

As energy expert and author Micheal Klare says, "[A] new era, where energy has replaced nuclear weapons as the medium of superpower rivalry," has already arrived. "Vladimir Putin believes that. ... And he is moving to accumulate as much energy power as he can" (Associated Press, op. cit.).

It is clear that, in region after region, growing Russian energy clout is helping to reshape the world. Current events certainly indicate a coming global conflict in which energy supplies will play a central role. But beyond the politics and alliances, trends and statistics about natural resource demand and distribution, there is a much better indicator of where current events are leading and how world power blocs are developing, and that is the "more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19)—the outline of major events that would unfold in the period just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

That powerful biblical picture reveals just how Russia will use its energy arsenal to bind itself to Asia and eventually to punish Europe. The moves we see taking place today suggest just how imminent these future events truly are. ■

To read more, order our free booklet ***Russia and China in Prophecy***. Also visit [TheTrumpet.com](http://TheTrumpet.com) and read "Stoking the Engines of Empires" and "The Battleground" from our March 2006 issue.

# THE KEY OF DAVID



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**California, Salinas** KMWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**California, Santa Barbara** KWCA 9:30 am, Sun  
**Colorado, Denver** KPXC 5:00 am, Fri  
**Colorado, Grand Junction** KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Colorado, Montrose** KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Connecticut, Hartford** WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

**Delaware, Dover** WBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Gainesville** WBFL 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Jacksonville** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Miami** WPXM 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Orlando** WOPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, Panama City** WBPC 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville** 9:30 am, Sun  
**Florida, Tampa** WXPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Florida, West Palm Beach** WPXP 6:00 am, Fri  
**Georgia, Albany** WBSK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Augusta** WBAU 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Brunswick** WPXC 6:00 am, Fri  
**Georgia, Columbus** WBG 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Macon** WBMN 9:30 am, Sun  
**Georgia, Savannah** WBVH 9:30 am, Sun  
**Hawaii, Hawaii** Na Leo Chan. 54 6:30 am, Sun; 8:30 am, Wed  
**Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau** Akaku Chan. 52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon  
**Hawaii, Kauai** Ho' Ike Chan. 52 9:30 am, Tue  
**Idaho, Boise** KWOB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Idaho Falls** KWIB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Pocatello** KWIB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Idaho, Twin Falls** KWTE 10:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Bloomington** WBPE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Illinois, Chicago** WCUI 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri  
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**Illinois, Rockford** WBR 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Indiana, Lafayette** WBFY 8:30 am, Sun  
**Indiana, Terra Haute** WBI 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Cedar Rapids** KPXR 5:00 am, Fri  
**Iowa, Des Moines** KFPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Iowa, Keokuk** WEWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Kirksville** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

**Iowa, Ottumwa** KWOT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Mason City** KWBR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Rochester** KWBR 8:30 am, Sun  
**Iowa, Sioux City** KXWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg** KSXF 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Lincoln** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kansas, Topeka** WBKS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kentucky, Bowling Green** WBWG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Kentucky, Lexington** WUPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Louisiana, Alexandria** KAXN 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe** KWMB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, Lafayette** KLWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, Lake Charles** WBLC 8:30 am, Sun  
**Louisiana, New Orleans** WPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Maine, Bangor** WBAN 9:30 am, Sun  
**Maine, Presque Isle** WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun  
**Maryland, Salisbury** WBD 9:30 am, Sun  
**Massachusetts, Boston** WBPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Massachusetts, Holyoke** WBQT 9:30 am, Sun  
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**Michigan, Alpena** WBAE 9:30 am, Sun  
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**Michigan, Detroit** WPXD 6:00 am, Fri; WADDL 10:00 am, Sun  
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**Michigan, Marquette** WBMK 9:30 am, Sun  
**Michigan, Traverse City** WBVC 9:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Duluth-Superior** KWBD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Mankato** KWYE 8:30 am, Sun  
**Minnesota, Minneapolis** KPXM 5:00 am, Fri  
**Mississippi, Biloxi** WBG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Columbus** WBSP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenville** WBWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Greenwood** BWWD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Gulfport** WBG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Hattiesburg** WBHA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Laurel** WBHA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Meridian** WBMM 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, Tupelo** WBS 8:30 am, Sun  
**Mississippi, West Point** WBSP 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Columbia** KJWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Missouri, Jefferson City** KJWB 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Montana, Bozeman-Butte** KWXB 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Glendive** KWBZ 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Great Falls** KWGF 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Helena** KWHA 10:30 am, Sun  
**Montana, Missoula** KIDW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Hastings** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, Kearney** KWBL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nebraska, North Platte** KWPL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Nevada, Reno** KWBV 9:30 am, Sun  
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**New York, Binghamton** WBXI 9:30 am, Sun  
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**New York, Elmira** WBE 9:30 am, Sun  
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**New York, Syracuse** WSPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**New York, Utica** WBU 9:30 am, Sun  
**New York, Watertown** WBWT 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Durham** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Fayetteville** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greensboro** WGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, Greenville** WEPX 6:00 am, Fri; WGWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Lumber Bridge** WFPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**North Carolina, New Bern** WGWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Raleigh** WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Washington** WGWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Carolina, Wilmington** WBW 9:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Bismarck** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Dickinson** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Fargo** WBFG 8:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Minot** KWMK 10:30 am, Sun  
**North Dakota, Valley City** WBFG 8:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Cleveland** WVPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Ohio, Lima** WBOH 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Steubenville** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Ohio, Zanesville** WBZV 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Ada** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Lawton** KWB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Oklahoma, Oklahoma City** KOPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oklahoma, Tulsa** KTPX 5:00 am, Fri  
**Oregon, Bend** KWBO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Oregon, Eugene** KZWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**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, Wilkes Barre** WQPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Rhode Island, Providence** WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri  
**South Carolina, Charleston** WBLN 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Florence** WFVB 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Carolina, Myrtle Beach** WFVB 9:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Mitchell** KWSD 8:30 am, Sun  
**South Dakota, Rapid City** KWBF 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** KQAW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Amarillo** KDBA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Beaumont** KWBB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Brownsville** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Corpus Christi** KWDB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Harlingen** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Texas, Lubbock** KWBZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Midland** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Odessa** KWWT 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Port Arthur** KWBB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Angelo** KWSA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, San Antonio** KPXL 5:00 am, Fri  
**Texas, Sherman** KSHD 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Sweetwater** KQAW 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Tyler** KWTL 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Victoria** KWVB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Weslaco** KMHB 8:30 am, Sun  
**Texas, Wichita Falls** KWB 8:30 am, Sun  
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**Virginia, Roanoke** WPXR 6:00 am, Fri  
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**Washington, Kennewick** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Pasco** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Richland** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**Washington, Seattle** KWYP 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Spokane** KGPX 6:00 am, Fri  
**Washington, Yakima** KWYP 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Beckley** WBB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Bluefield** WBB 9:30 am, Sun  
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**West Virginia, Oak Hill** WBB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Weston** WVWB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Parkersburg** WBPB 9:30 am, Sun  
**West Virginia, Wheeling** WBWO 9:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Eau Claire** WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, La Crosse** WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Milwaukee** WPXE 5:00 am, Fri  
**Wisconsin, Rhinelander** WBWA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wisconsin, Wausau** WBWA 8:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Casper** KWYY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Cheyenne** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Riverton** KWYY 10:30 am, Sun  
**Wyoming, Scottsbluff** KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

**Guatemala**  
 WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
**Honduras**  
 WGN 6:00 am, Sun  
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**Adelaide, South Australia** Chan. 31 11:30, Sun  
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**El Salvador** WGN 6:00 am, Sun





## Follow God's Health Laws

OUTSIDE OF FIXING SEVERE INJURIES, cosmetic surgery serves no purpose—it's just vain ("Nip & Tuck Values," February). If a person is 40, 50, 60 years old or older and wants to look good and youthful, the cheapest, safest way to do it is through good old-fashioned exercise and healthy eating. ... We all are going to get old and die someday, but we don't have to go through life unhealthy, worn out and burned out. I have seen physically active 80-year-olds who look like they're 60. I've seen people in their 60s who eat properly and exercise who look like they are only 40. ... Some say following God's way is a burden. How is it a burden when God says not to eat fat? We know that eating fat will cause heart disease, strokes, blood clots and cancer. ... God puts these health laws into place to keep us fit and free from the consequences of unhealthy eating. One consequence of unhealthy eating is premature aging.

Craig—TORONTO, ONT.

I LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM READING the *Trumpet* and am often amazed at the detailed work that goes into each edition. I learn more about countries and their affairs than from any other source, including the newspaper and television. I am convinced that we are rocketing at unbelievable speed toward the climactic events of this age. ... I just don't understand why more people are not aware of these critical days. With a few exceptions, I find the ones I talk with don't seem to be able to connect the dots and appear to have no interest in discussing prophecy.

Dorothy Summers—CALGARY, ALTA.

## The Trouble With Interest

YOUR ARTICLE ("WHY THE U.S. DOLLAR Constantly Loses Value," February) is short and to the point—I wonder why this fact is not more widely known. ... I follow the currency market on a daily basis—the dollar is falling at alarming rates. I wonder what the magicians will do now. They have created a monster that is totally out of control, and I think that their bag of tricks may be about empty. [W]e were warned about these things in Scripture, mainly usury, which is interest. ... [W]e have refused to trust in the Almighty and live by His rules and not our own. It seems that people

never turn to the Almighty until they are in deep trouble—I wonder why He even listens to our cries, since we never listen to His warnings. I believe that we are in for some horrible times in the near future and we will all be crying out to Him. ... Some people do some rotten things to get money and to hold on to it. This will certainly be a witness against them when those days come. ... I want to say how much I enjoy your publication—the articles always seem to be accurate and on target—keep up the good work.

Joyce Slaughter—MONROE, GEORGIA

## Raising the Ruins

I JUST FINISHED *RAISING THE RUINS* and have never been more uplifted by a book. ... If ever there was an example of good winning over evil, this is it! ... I look forward to becoming more involved with the PCG, and thank you all so much for your efforts.

Alan and Darlene Finch—CLINTON, TENN.

I RECENTLY PURCHASED STEPHEN Flurry's book, *Raising the Ruins*, and couldn't stop reading it. My mother had been a baptized member of the Worldwide Church of God, and as a former member, I remember Mr. Armstrong's teachings. I'm appalled at the changes inside the WCG. ... God called those people out of the world, and they want to be like the mainstream Christian churches of today. What a shame.

Barbara Poland—WAUKEGAN, ILL.

## Germany's Eastern Front

AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WITH GERMAN heritage, I found your article "Germany Securing Eastern Front" (November-December 2006) deeply disturbing. Your article seems to deliberately describe Germany as a belligerent modern member of the European Union, bent on conquering its neighbors. In fact, the truth is that Germany's intentions following World War II have been noteworthy in their efforts to foster peace and security throughout the globe, especially in Europe. I do not understand why your organization is portraying open trade as evil when the U.S. itself endorses and practices this policy as a method of fostering worldwide peace. Can you not understand that a peaceful, well-to-do Russian nation can only benefit everyone?

Albrecht Grimm—E-MAIL RESPONSE

The point we made is that, if one looks at the historical record, German overtures to Russia do not bode well for peace. In the case of the Three Emperor's League in 1872 and the non-aggression pact in 1939, Germany allied with Russia before going to war. Based on biblical prophecies about Germany's future, the *Trumpet* has been anticipating such an alliance for some time. Our free booklet *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire* explains our position from both a historical and a prophetic perspective.

YOU ARE VERY MUCH UP TO DATE WITH events in the world. I grew up in the Netherlands and lived and suffered under the Nazis. Some family members died in death camps. What I have seen in America in the last 30 years, I would not be surprised that some day God might allow another Hitler to come in. ... "America, repent or perish," said a sign in Minnesota years ago. Religion in America is an inch deep and a mile wide in my opinion. Keep on with your magazine, please.

Ed De Jong—ARIZONA

## Searching for the Truth

MY WIFE AND I HAVE BEEN SEARCHING for the truth about God and Jesus and the events that are about to take place in this world and beyond. Since receiving a number of your books, including *Mystery of the Ages* and the *Trumpet* each month, we are beginning to understand more clearly what and why things are the way they are. Mr. Armstrong's books are easy to understand and helped us a great deal to get to know God's Word.

Gordon and Bernice Wolfe—KELOWNA, B.C.

I'M ENJOYING MY MONTHLY SUBSCRIPTION to your magazine. It is appalling that people in this country know more about who won American Idol last week or what time 24 comes on than they do about Nancy Pelosi or Barack Obama's background. Your magazine at least presents the truth to people whether they choose to see it or not! Many kudos to you!

Bob Jopson—HENDERSONVILLE, N.C.

## Comments?

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# “I Am the Next American Idol”

A lesson from America’s most popular television show BY RYAN MALONE

THE WORDS ABOVE ARE COMMONLY SPOKEN INTO THE camera of Fox’s most-watched reality show by conceited auditioners. The young hopefuls may lack social skills, fashion sense and, most audibly, the ability to carry a tune in a wicker basket, but one thing they do not lack is confidence and self-assurance.

And so it goes, that when the three music industry professionals proffer their sometimes brutally honest and usually untactful critiques, the young Americans—overdosed on their own self-esteem—yell, curse, weep, and/or force the producers to stamp an *American Idol* logo over the top of their hands to censor the final obscene gesture before they storm out of view.

In some cases, they passionately proclaim to America via the camera that they will still be famous—threatening that Randy, Simon and even the usually positive Paula will have to eat crow.

In other cases, these musical misfits flow straight into the arms of friends and family. While some of these support groups merely offer appropriate, unconditional consolation, in too many cases we see them fanning the flames of self-fanaticism. They continue to shower unwarranted praise on the appalling auditioner and assure him or her that the music experts in that room must not know what they’re talking about.

Now, this all makes for riveting television. The premier of *American Idol*’s sixth season on January 16 garnered about 37.3 million viewers—nearly the population of Poland. Its first two nights were the Fox network’s two biggest nights of prime-time entertainment in its two-decade history.

Sure the producers, when they cull through the initial tens of thousands of auditioners, let the more eccentric ones through for sheer entertainment value. Let’s face it, conflict sells, whether between judges and contestants or judges and judges, and so does human embarrassment.

In some cases, surely these young people purposefully sound terrible and act awkward in order to get their moment on national television. Still, the show illustrates an unpleasant truth: that narcissism is alive and well in America.

Our self-worship has been fueled by the educational philosophy that a young person’s self-esteem is more important than his measurable achievement in any area, and that empty praise will actually increase his achievement. Like the late-night comedy character, we are becoming a nation of Stuart Smalleys, looking into the mirror each day and saying, “I’m good enough, smart enough and ... people like me.”

Try taking that thinking into any professional field. How many CDs would you buy from an artist who sang poorly but

felt he was good enough and smart enough? Would you let an architect build your house if you knew he got his degree simply because his teachers were too worried about labeling him a failure? Would you board a plane with a pilot who had supreme confidence in his ability to fly, yet whose only qualification was a love of documentaries about aviation? Obviously, self-esteem cannot remedy a lack of musical talent or training, bequeath an ability to design buildings that don’t fall down, or keep a plane in the air. In the end, delusions of self-worth collide with reality.

As much as we like reality shows, we are rearing a generation to ignore reality. Our educators, our friends, and even our family, are afraid of it. Lying is okay, they say, if it spares someone hurt feelings. This goes far beyond the biblical admonition to speak the truth “in love” and to exercise tact in dealing with our fellowman. It is filling someone’s head with deceptions in order to skirt necessary correction.

If we can take a lesson from those few self-confident incompetents on this reality show, perhaps it is to remember the elegant wisdom in the Bible’s warning to each of us “not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think” (Romans 12:3). We love to love ourselves far too much. We are, in fact, our own idols.

God knows where pride leads. He shows us throughout His Proverbs: It leads to foolishness (Proverbs 14:3), shame (Proverbs 11:2), and, most importantly, *destruction* (Proverbs 18:12). True as this is individually, it is also true on a national level. When a nation becomes inflated with pride, full of people who exalt self-esteem while loathing the slightest criticism, these scriptures indicate where we can expect that arrogance to lead to.

The *Trumpet* magazine commonly warns about the curses plaguing this land, and those to come—as well as WHY those curses are happening. God is sending His criticism rather bluntly these days. We can curse Him back, make all the obscene gestures we want, but the constructive criticism will keep coming—and intensifying—until we heed God’s correction.

Would a good dose of national humility not save us from national destruction?

Healthy self-respect is necessary, of course; but *improving our character is paramount*. And that requires criticism, evaluations, correction and chastening, as Hebrews 12 points out. This passage says God gives us that kind of treatment because He loves us. He does it in love and mercy; He knows that withholding it would only harm us. It is what will make us achieve spiritually. Would to God that we can take that correction when it comes. ■



# Rabbits can lay eggs.



**Yeah, right.**

Strange how egg-laying bunnies got to be a part of the Easter celebration. What do they have to do with Christ's resurrection, anyway? The answer, of course, is *nothing*. In fact, Easter itself has far less to do with Christ than you might expect. Find out which days *Christ* actually observed in our free booklet ***Pagan Holidays, or God's Holy Days—Which?***



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