

WATCH EGYPT

An Islamist party owes its thanks to democracy.

**AN OPEN LETTER TO
THE CHURCHES OF GOD**

U.S. MANUFACTURING: R.I.P.

Assessing industrial collapse

FEBRUARY 2006

THE PHILADELPHIA

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SPECIAL REPORT

**A Look
at Our
Work**



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COVER

BEHIND THE WORK

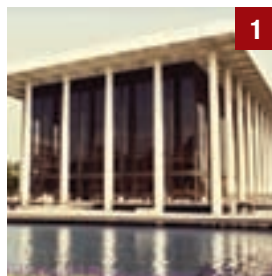
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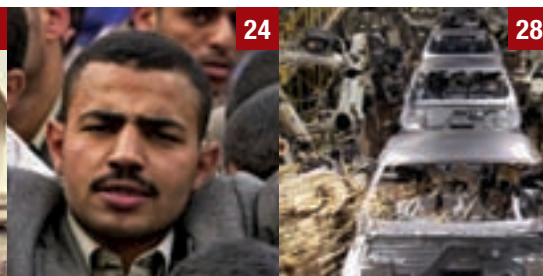
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COVER The Philadelphia Church of God's new Hall of Administration, illuminated at night. **Aubrey Mercado** for the Trumpet
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*Gerald Flurry*

An Open Letter to the Churches of God

If you have ever been associated with the Worldwide Church of God or one of its offshoots, I ask you to prayerfully read this letter.

ANYONE WHO WAS EVER A MEMBER OF THE WORLDWIDE Church of God when it was led by Herbert W. Armstrong was part of something great. That Church was a work of miracles.

Do you remember that glorious history? Too many of God's people don't. God challenges us to always keep the big picture.

Over Mr. Armstrong's 55 years in Jesus Christ's ministry, the work blossomed. It started as nothing and grew into a huge, Spirit-led work that spread God's beautiful truth throughout the world.

Mr. Armstrong oversaw a work that was based on the principle of GIVE—which is what God's love is. By the end of his life, each month the Church was giving 8 million free monthly copies of the *Plain Truth* newsmagazine (which this magazine is patterned after). We gave 5 million copies of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, not to mention countless other magazines, newspapers, books, booklets, tracts and articles—all free. We made the *World Tomorrow* broadcast freely available on over 400 television stations.

Do you remember that history? God put our tithes and offerings to magnificent use, and we were happy to be a part of such a noble cause.

The Ambassador International Cultural Foundation (AICF), which Mr. Armstrong founded in 1975, freely sponsored humanitarian projects including archaeological digs, schools and anthropological excursions. Its activities stretched from Bombay to Brussels; the Philippines to the Netherlands; Tokyo to Cairo. We hosted projects in Jerusalem, Jordan, London, Nepal and Okinawa. Why? Because Mr. Armstrong wanted to preach the gospel "for a witness unto all nations" (Matthew 24:14).

Using the international contacts Mr. Armstrong established through the AICF, God opened doors for him to meet

high-ranking officials around the world. Mr. Armstrong was invited to speak publicly on many occasions, and he took those opportunities to preach the gospel—to tell people about God's master plan and about their incredible human potential. These events opened the way for personal appearance campaigns, where he spoke to hundreds of thousands of leading people in various countries.

Do you remember that history?

In the WCG's hometown of Pasadena, we hosted the concert series, staged in the Ambassador Auditorium, which attracted world-class performing artists and brought a standard of excellence to the community. Physically, it was the crowning achievement of a work that over decades had built great resources to draw on for the betterment of mankind.

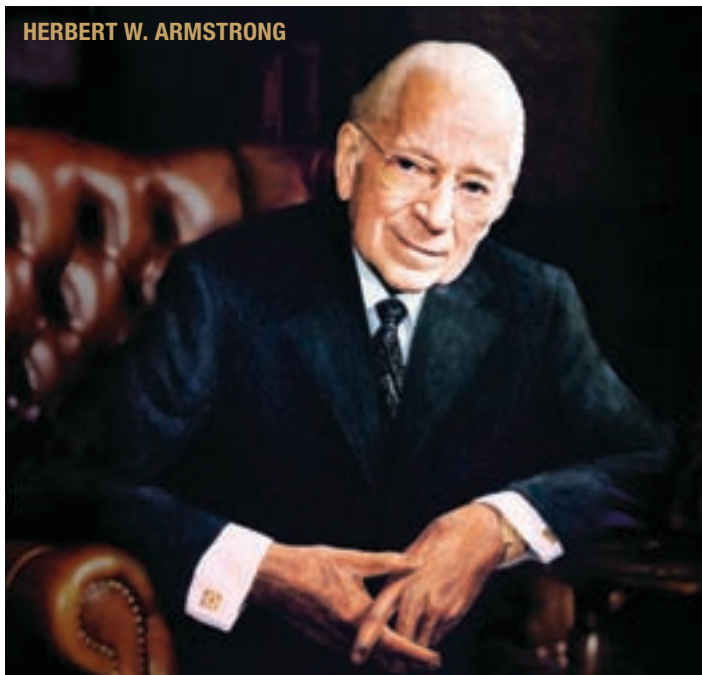
Under Mr. Armstrong, the Church of God practiced the way of give—of godly character, generosity, cultural enrichment, true education—of beautifying the environment and caring for fellowman. Mr. Armstrong never deviated

from his God-given commission, and the work prospered! His work acknowledged God's desire to have all men saved and brought to the knowledge of His truth (1 Timothy 2:3-6). It was an inspiring display of God's love for all mankind.

When Mr. Armstrong died, he was highly praised by leaders and prominent individuals from around the world. Even unconverted people could clearly see what a towering legacy of love and generosity he left behind and were deeply impressed by it. Certainly we in the Church all recognized on a much deeper level what he had achieved.

Do you remember that glorious history?

Now, did Mr. Armstrong do all that? Certainly he worked hard to implement God's law and government and to walk by faith. But was the work so powerful and effective simply be-

**HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG**

Where is the great Almighty God who did that powerful work? Can you
 God did not die with Herbert W. Armstrong! Yet none of the scattered
 the miracles and wonders that were almost routine when the work was

cause of Mr. Armstrong's intellect or advertising expertise? Did Mr. Armstrong swing open all those mighty doors?

No—THE GREAT GOD DID THAT!

It doesn't take great spiritual discernment to recognize that GOD was behind that work—GOD was blessing that work—GOD was empowering and multiplying that work—as Mr. Armstrong submitted to Him.

NO MAN COULD HAVE EVER BUILT SUCH A MARVELOUS AND WONDROUS WORK IN THIS SATANIC WORLD. IT WAS BUILT AND SUSTAINED BY THE MIRACLES OF THE LIVING GOD!

Family Education

What truly distinguished Mr. Armstrong's accomplishments was that they were all built upon the foundation of God's truth. God flooded Mr. Armstrong with biblical understanding, restoring *all foundational true doctrine* to His Church through that man. We learned and lived by the wonderful truths of God, and our lives were richer as a result.

Right at the heart of Mr. Armstrong's teaching was his instruction about the God-plane institution of *family* (Malachi 4:5-6). He taught us how to build beautiful marriages and to rear happy children. We educated our children with Youth Educational Services lessons; we provided our teens rich experiences through the Youth Opportunities United program—with its sporting events, talent shows and summer camps.

Do you remember what life was like in the Church under Mr. Armstrong? If you were applying God's family education, then you have personally experienced the blessings that come as a result! Do you remember that?

Naturally, the Church wasn't perfect; there were problems. Some members and even ministers did not implement God's loving family government the right way. But the problem went beyond simple neglect. Revelation 3:9 tells us that "the synagogue of Satan" was actually at work *within* the Church of the Philadelphia era—under Mr. Armstrong!

The Bible is filled with prophecies that show how God knew this crisis would happen—and actually allowed it in order to test our loyalty to Him. The Bible also shows that He is going to bring *every abuse* to judgment. God will not be mocked! I strongly encourage you to request a free copy of my book *Malachi's Message* for a very thorough scriptural study of God's perspective on what happened to His Church.

AMBASSADOR AUDITORIUM



Many of God's people have turned away from God altogether—because of the mistakes and sins of MEN. They are missing the big picture.

Do the sins of men change the truth of God?

Mr. Armstrong has been dead 20 years now. BUT DID THE ALMIGHTY GOD WHO EMPOWERED HIS WORK DIE?

IS GOD TOO WEAK TO DO THE SAME MARVELOUS WORK TODAY—simply because a man has passed from the scene?

ABSOLUTELY NOT.

"My Father, My Father"

When the Prophet Elijah was carried away in a whirlwind, his student Elisha was moved with emotion. "And Elisha saw it, and he cried, *My father, my father*, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces" (2 Kings 2:12).

Elijah was not Elisha's physical father. But he was his *spiritual* father. That is because Elisha and the sons of the prophets came to God *through* Elijah. In that sense they were all his sons.

Some people didn't see Elijah's office as one of importance, but Elisha saw that IT WAS THE ONLY OFFICE THAT COULD LEAD AND CARRY ISRAEL FORWARD! It was Israel's only hope—then and now! He saw that, ultimately, all Israel would be governed by the teachings of Elijah. His statement, "My father, my father," revealed a deep understanding and a beautiful attitude.



FREE UPON REQUEST

answer that question? Far too many of God's people aren't even asking it! churches of God have that kind of power. They are frankly devoid of led by Mr. Armstrong. We must find and remain with the God of Elijah.

God liked it so much that He used Elisha to succeed Elijah. God loved his attitude.

Some people today scoff at such an attitude, but it is very biblical. The Apostle Paul told the Church members in Corinth, "I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you" (1 Corinthians 4:14). Paul considered his followers to be his spiritual sons. Why? "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel" (verse 15). Paul was their spiritual father because they came to God through him. He called himself their spiritual father.

Mr. Armstrong said the same to all of those who came to God, either directly or indirectly, through him.

The original Elijah and the end-time Elijah held extremely important "father" offices for God. The Philadelphia Church of God, like Elisha, recognizes that fact. This is the foundational issue that sets the PCG apart from any other Church of God group. If you follow the Elisha example in this respect, God will make you a king with a headquarters position forever. Why? Because this foundational truth points us to God the Father.

Do you view Mr. Armstrong the way God does?

The God of Elijah

After Elijah was gone, Elisha learned an important lesson. "He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, *Where is the Lord God of Elijah?* and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over" (2 Kings 2:13-14).

If you study this account in the original Hebrew language, you will see that the first time Elisha came up to the Jordan, he smote the water but didn't speak—and nothing happened. Then he asked the important question, "*Where is the Lord God of Elijah?*" and smote the water, and the river opened up and he walked across!

Do you want to know how to do the work of God today? How to have doors open for you—even rivers, if necessary? Here is the formula. Elisha knew where the God of Elijah was, and he was following his spiritual father. So God opened up the river for him, just as He did for Elijah.

WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH TODAY? WHERE IS THE GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD WHO DID THAT POWERFUL WORK?

Can you answer that question? Far too many of God's people aren't even asking it!

God did not die with Mr. Armstrong! Yet none of the scattered churches of God have that kind of power. They don't receive and proclaim God's revelation. They don't have the right government. And their works are frankly devoid of the kind of miracles and wonders that were almost routine when the work was led by Mr. Armstrong.

We must find and remain with the God of Elijah!

All baptized members of the Church of God during the Philadelphia era will be held accountable for the fact that

they were with that God for so long. The tragic fact is this: Not only have most of God's people left Him—most of them are not even interested in WHERE HE IS! If they wanted to know, they would submit to God's government and end up in God's true Church.

The Work of the Philadelphia Church of God

The Philadelphia Church of God, which prints the *Philadelphia Trumpet* newsmagazine, has far fewer people than the WCG had in its heyday. But I challenge you to examine the miraculous work God is doing with this few!

In 2004, the *Key of David* television program received 146 percent of the response *The World Tomorrow* did in 1980—while it was on ONE THIRD THE NUMBER OF STATIONS. And in 2005, we had a 79 percent increase in the response that we had in 2004! Currently *The Key of David* ranks as the THIRD-HIGHEST RATED RELIGION PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES. (However, our television program is really a news program with a religious base; we have to teach about world news and then show how it is fulfilling Bible prophecy.) This ranking doesn't even include our worldwide television broadcast.

We are seeing similarly exciting growth in literature requests, website traffic, telephone calls, visit requests, and other areas of the work. We processed more than twice as much mail in 2005 as in 2004, which itself was our strongest year to date. We shipped close to 100,000 lessons of our new correspondence course in its first year.

Our college, Herbert W. Armstrong College, will be producing its first four-year graduates this spring, some of whom will be hired full-time in the work. Our building program has just reached an important milestone—the completion of our 22,825-square-foot administration building—which has enabled us to consolidate all our headquarters activities onto the 170-acre college campus for the first time.

And—most importantly—God has continued to bless us, as He did Mr. Armstrong, with new revelation. THE LIVING GOD DID NOT STOP SPEAKING TO HIS PEOPLE WHEN MR. ARMSTRONG DIED. He has continued to give us "present truth" (2 Peter 1:12) that builds upon the foundation of the truth He restored through Mr. Armstrong. The PCG produces over 60 books and booklets, the large majority of which contain new biblical understanding from the great God.

That is the single greatest proof that the God who inspired Mr. Armstrong is behind our work.

In this issue of the *Trumpet*, you will read about these and other of the many activities of the Philadelphia Church of God. We hope you can clearly identify the same miracles and blessings that built Mr. Armstrong's work. MOST OF ALL, WE HOPE AND PRAY THAT YOU CAN RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF THE GOD OF ELIJAH!

Our time in this age of man is fast running out. God is growing much more urgent in trying to reach His sons who have turned away from Him, because eternal life hangs in the balance. We urge you to respond to Him!

The transformation of the Worldwide Church of God into a mainstream evangelical group is the most astonishing story in modern religion. WCG leaders have told their version of events in numerous books, articles and interviews. That version, however, is riddled with errors and outright lies.

In a new book to be published this year, *Trumpet* executive editor Stephen Flurry exposes the reality of what happened to the WCG. Here is the first chapter.

S T E P H E N F L U R R Y

ABSOLUTE POWER

“Ironically, the same authoritarian governmental structure that created the heretical environment in the first place was necessary to correct it.”

—Michael Fezell, *The Liberation of the Worldwide Church of God*

LET ME START WITH THE ENDING: THE Worldwide Church of God has *not* been transformed by truth over the past 20 years, as Joseph Tkach Jr. suggested in his 1997 book. The church has been transformed—no doubt about that. But *not* by truth. Rather, it was one of the most treacherous, deceitful and abusive transformations in the history of religion.

Consider this snapshot of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), from 1986, at about the time its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong, died: It had a worldwide church service attendance of more than 140,000. Another 100,000 were considered co-workers (non-members who regularly contributed to the church financially). More than 700 ministers served the needs of the members and prospective members—over 400 of them employed by the church. The church’s *annual* income exceeded \$200 million, the bulk of which paid for *World Tomorrow* television time, publishing costs, salaried personnel and Ambassador College operations.

In 1985, *The World Tomorrow* was beaming around the world on more than 400 stations. That year, the church distributed 85.7 million publications. The church’s flag-

ship magazine, the *Plain Truth*, had a monthly circulation of 8.4 million. The church’s other magazines, *The Good News* and *Youth*, had circulations of 828,000 and 224,000, respectively. The church received 6.7 million pieces of mail that year. It answered 1.1 million phone calls and added 2.1 million new names to its database. *Mystery of the Ages* was its most popular book, requested by more than 750,000 people in just the last five months of 1985.

This is what Mr. Armstrong bequeathed to his successor.

Fast forward 20 years. Membership ranks have dwindled by 70 percent. The income has plummeted by about 90 percent. *The World Tomorrow* program—one of the most popular religious programs in America during the 1980s—vanished from the airwaves in 1994. Ambassador College, providing liberal arts training to some 15,000 students over the course of five decades, is now defunct: The Pasadena, California, campus closed its doors in 1990; its sister campus in Big Sandy, Texas, followed suit in 1997. *The Good News* was discontinued in 1990, while the *Plain Truth* barely survives with fewer than 100,000 subscribers. This is a colossal disaster by any business standard.

Then there is *Mystery of the Ages*—Mr. Armstrong’s most important book. Written in the last year of his life, it was far and away the church’s most popular piece of litera-

ture at the time of the author's death. Tkachism took over in 1986 and the book was gone by early 1988, even though more than a million copies had been distributed—a phenomenal success by any measure.

All the unique doctrines of the Worldwide Church of God have been changed. All of Mr. Armstrong's literature has been retired. All the operations he established have been either downsized or phased out. Most ministers and members have either fled or been excommunicated for resisting change.

And through it all, a tight-knit band of Tkach loyalists weathered the spiritual storm and the devastation left in its wake, all the while amassing a small fortune by selling off all the goods and property Mr. Armstrong once used for God's work.

Today, in the WCG, THERE IS NO WORK—just truckloads of money brought in from the fire sale. They have sold off nearly everything that had any monetary value—summer campsites, fall festival sites, furniture, books—everything. They even auctioned off personal gifts that world leaders had given to Mr. Armstrong. In 2000, they sold the Big Sandy campus for \$8.5 million. In 2004, they offloaded the fire sale's biggest prize—their headquarters property in Pasadena, including the world-renowned Ambassador Auditorium. Church officials were ultra-secretive about the final sum they collected for their crown jewels, but it was probably in the neighborhood of \$60 to 70 million.

Whatever the final price, it was enough to make Bernie Schnippert positively giddy. "We are in a very good position financially," the church's director of finance told the *Pasadena Star-News* in May of 2004. According to Schnippert, the church now had enough to meet the church's financial obligations *and then some*.

■ "ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARE"

In *Transformed By Truth*, Joseph Tkach Jr. is quite critical of Mr. Armstrong's governmental structure. "It is said that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely," he wrote. "Mr. Armstrong may have never wielded absolute power in our church, but by the same token, there weren't many who would challenge him on an issue. No doubt that is one reason why he earned a reputation 'on the outside' as a theological despot."

Later, he wrote that Mr. Armstrong "was most definitely and absolutely in charge of our church. ... He was the founder, and he came on the scene as this transcendental figure whom most of our members saw as having all authority and power ..."

In another book, written by Tkach Jr.'s right-hand man, Michael Feazell said Mr. Armstrong "seemed oblivious to the administrative nightmare his one-man-show style of leadership created" (*Liberation of the WCG*).

I can't figure out how a worldwide work that helped millions of lives—through the airwaves, with free literature, international humanitarian projects, a famous concert series, youth programs, two colleges and a high school—could ever be characterized as nightmarish, yet that is the way WCG officials today represent that history. In listening to them, you get the impression they had NO CHOICE but to remain in this church, as if Mr. Armstrong handcuffed them to the chairs at church services!

"How could the church have lied to me all these years?" Feazell asked in his book. It's one thing to disagree with what Mr. Armstrong believed and taught—a lot of people did—but to say the church *lied*? "I felt taken advantage of," Feazell continued, "spiritually and emotionally RAPED" (emphasis added).

Raped? Because he chose to remain in a church that he could have walked away from at any time? He's comparing his upbringing in the WCG to a woman being *forcibly* raped by a sexual pervert?

Feazell wrote, "It seemed as though my life had been robbed from me. I could have gone to a state college and had a real career and maybe even been a real Christian. I was angry. I was confused. I was depressed. And I was disgusted with the seductive assault on the true gospel waged by Herbert Armstrong's 'one and only true church.'"

I'm disgusted too, that he would compare Mr. Armstrong's *religion* to the despicable deeds of a rapist.

■ ONE LONG "PROCESS"

When Tkach, Feazell and their associates grabbed hold of the reins from a tyrannical despot who forced his subjects to submit, one wonders why the system of government Mr. Armstrong set up in the church wasn't the first doctrine they changed.

Feazell insists that right after Mr. Armstrong died, one of Tkach Sr.'s "first goals was to dismantle the authoritarian approach to government in the church ..." (ibid.). Yet, according to Feazell, Tkach Sr.'s first course of action was to tone down authoritative language in a speech club manual—not exactly earth-shaking in its magnitude.

Later in his book, Feazell admitted that when Tkach Sr. died in 1995, he "delegated the same unchecked authority to his son, Joseph Tkach Jr., making him the third pastor general of the church." Think about that—even though one of his "first goals" as pastor general was to supposedly "dismantle" the church's authoritarian government, Joseph Tkach Sr. died with the SAME "unchecked authority" he had inherited from Mr. Armstrong nearly 10 years earlier. And as Feazell noted, the father passed those same powers down to his son who, at 43 years of age, became SUPREME HEAD of the Worldwide Church of God in 1995.

"The younger Tkach," however, "immediately adopted, voluntarily, a consensual style of leadership and began to act only with approval from the church board of directors," Feazell wrote. But did he make any permanent REVISIONS to the powers of pastor general? According to Feazell, the younger Tkach "began the process" of revising the church bylaws in 1996. Yet, when asked in July of 2002—six years later, during a court deposition—if Tkach Jr. had the same absolute power he inherited in 1995, Feazell said, "That may well be true." That was six years after the younger Tkach "began the process" of revising the bylaws—a full 16 years after his father set out to "dismantle" the church's authoritarian government.

■ REAL TRUTH EMERGES

Why did it take these men *so long* to make this change? For one, Feazell wrote, the decision to finally *begin* the process in 1996 "was made easier by the fact that rigid doctrinal opposition in the administration no longer existed."

WHAT A SHOCKING REVELATION.

Writing as Tkach Jr.'s right-hand man, Feazell admitted in his 2001 book that one reason Tkachism was so slow to relax the church's rigid stance on absolute power is because of the **STRONG OPPOSITION** *within the church* against doctrinal reform! It was only after that opposition was **REMOVED** that the Tkaches could then finally consider the prospect of relinquishing their total control.

Tkach Jr. said essentially the same thing in his book. Writing in 1997, he acknowledged that the church was even then working to change the way its government operated. "We do not believe that one form of church government is more biblical than another," Mr. Tkach wrote, "and are taking steps to decentralize our ecclesiastical structure."

Later in the book he wrote, "There is no question that [Mr. Armstrong's] administrative and organizational structures *allowed* unbiblical teaching to be believed and perpetuated" (emphasis added). So he blames Mr. Armstrong's authority as the reason why unbiblical teachings were believed and perpetuated. Tkach then wrote, "In His mercy God has *changed our doctrines first*, and we are now working to change our governmental structure and polity" (emphasis added).

In other words, now that the changes had been made and the opposition removed, it was time to consider restructuring the government.

How can he condemn the hierarchical government Mr. Armstrong supposedly employed to perpetuate his beliefs and, in the very same paragraph, consider that **SAME** hierarchical form to be divinely *inspired* because it was used to dismantle everything Mr. Armstrong stood for? Why is Mr. Armstrong's approach likened to rape, whereas Tkach's is a sign of God's love and mercy?

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT JOSEPH TKACH SAYS—THAT'S WHY. Never mind Mr. Armstrong's legacy—that he left behind a financially solvent, unified church with a committed membership devoted to supporting a worldwide work. Never mind Tkachism's legacy of destruction—of excommunicating people by the thousands; dividing families; destroying marriages; closing colleges, youth programs and foundations; and stealing money.

Never mind all that—*just believe what Tkach says.*

As members in the church taken hostage by Tkachism, *that* was our **ONLY CHOICE**—or else we were **FORCED** out. I repeat: **WE WERE FORCED OUT!** It was *Tkachism*, certainly not Mr. Armstrong, that forced its will on the members of the Worldwide Church of God.

■ LEGACY OF ABUSE

Writing in 2002, Feazell said that Mr. Armstrong "had complete authority doctrinally and administratively. Disloyalty among ministers was dealt with by firing and expulsion from the church fellowship." And the exact same thing can be said about the Tkaches, as Feazell later admitted in a court deposition: "Any minister of any church is required ... to teach what the church's doctrines are." And, "[I]f someone teaches contrary to church doctrine [in the WCG], then they are subject to being disfellowshipped." And many were. *How many* is an open question, but it isn't going far out on a limb to suggest that the Tkaches were responsible for more disfellowshipments and firings than Mr. Armstrong ever

was—by far. According to Feazell, since the Tkaches took over, more than half of the church's membership and ministry has either left or been shown the door.

Leaving aside the numbers, keep in mind the big picture. Think about the *way* Tkachism preserved loyalty to its administration. Under Mr. Armstrong, at least members and ministers had the benefit of knowing what they were getting into. A prospective member, for instance, could have seen Mr. Armstrong on television, requested literature and then arranged for a visit with a WCG minister. If he chose to, that individual could then study for baptism and finally become a member of the church. All along, the member knows exactly what he is getting into.

The same would have been true for WCG ministers under Mr. Armstrong. Most were probably trained at Ambassador College. All of them had a thorough understanding of the church's doctrines. If that minister, over time, decided he didn't agree with Mr. Armstrong's teachings and started causing division, he would be disfellowshipped. As Feazell acknowledged, *any* minister of *any* church should be required to teach his church's doctrines. But again, at least that minister knew what he was getting into from the beginning. Mr. Armstrong was the founder—what he taught is what the church believed. If the minister once agreed with Mr. Armstrong's teachings and subsequently changed, why stay in Mr. Armstrong's church? How is it forcing your will on that individual to tell him, *if you don't preach the doctrines of this church, you don't belong here?*

With Tkachism, however, the element of **FORCE** was clearly at play. Remember the snapshot: At the point of Mr. Armstrong's death, there were 140,000 people in the Worldwide Church of God who, to some degree or another, agreed with Herbert W. Armstrong's teachings. But at the very top of that church's governmental pyramid, surrounding Tkach Sr., was a band of men who never agreed with those teachings but somehow remained in the church. And after the founder died, these men, with Tkach's blessing, determined to change the very *core beliefs* of a church that had existed for over 50 years.

And since these changes were made **FROM THE TOP DOWN**, with unchecked authority, ministers and members alike were left with only one option: They had to abandon the fundamental truths they had proven and believed and taught *for years* while inside the Worldwide Church of God and accept Tkach's new teachings—or be **FORCED** out.

In my mind, *that* is using authority forcefully and abusively.

■ POWERLESS—NO VOICE

Feazell explained in his book, "Ironically, the same authoritarian governmental structure that created the heretical environment in the first place *was necessary to correct it*" (emphasis added). In his thinking, they were justified in using absolute power, because otherwise, "Tkach would not have been able to implement the massive doctrinal transformation that characterized the later years of his administration without the unfettered hierarchical authority delegated to him by Armstrong" (ibid.).

Realize just how stunningly blunt this admission really is. He knows—he's **ADMITTING**—that without **TOTAL POWER**, their transformation would have never happened!

The church membership simply would not have allowed it! But by God’s “mercy,” they were able to use absolute power to force it down our throats—or else show us the door.

Fezell continued, writing in a book for all to see, “[W]ithout such total authority, *the changes in doctrine and direction would never have happened*” (emphasis added). He’s not saying *might*, or *perhaps*, or *maybe*. Without absolute power, the Tkach transformation would have NEVER happened.

THAT is abuse of power.

Fezell wrote about seven dynamics that accompany an organization in the midst of massive change. Under his sixth point, he wrote, “wCG members were frustrated with their sense of *powerlessness*. Not only did they have NO VOICE in the decision to change their cherished doctrines, but in a church culture that valued being able to understand and explain one’s beliefs, they feared that they could not adequately understand the new doctrines” (emphasis added). The entire church membership, he says, cherished their old teachings—couldn’t understand the new—and were POWERLESS to prevent the changes from happening.

THAT is abuse of power.

Fezell’s seventh point is this: “If you take the pressure off, people will revert to their old behavior. People tend to hope the crisis will just go away. If we were to stop teaching the changes right now and invite members to go back to the old doctrines, I am convinced that a certain percentage would do so.”

And these men think *Mr. Armstrong* used his office to forcefully pressure people into believing a certain way?

■ IT’S ALWAYS SOMETHING

At a 2002 deposition, we asked Mr. Tkach Jr. about the much-anticipated changes he had vowed to make in church governance. “Were those changes effected by the end of 1997 or 1998?” we asked, referring to what he indicated in his book.

To which he responded, “No.”

And what had they done in the six years since Tkach released his book? “We’ve had discussions,” Tkach said. “We’ve produced a manual, and *we won’t make those changes until we conclude the sale of our property.*”

Quite a coup: Force new doctrines into the church environment and give the members “no voice” in determining the church’s course. Do away with the church’s work—the television program, most of the literature, the colleges, the high school, the foundation and so on. Excommunicate “disloyal” ministers. Drive out “divisive” members by the tens of thousands. *Remove all resistance.* Then sell off all the church’s assets—including multiple millions of dollars worth of real estate in Southern California and Texas.

THEN, and only then—MAYBE—consider changing the way church government is administered.

■ NEW FINANCIAL MODEL

In the same *Worldwide News* (the in-house church newspaper) in which the wCG reported the sale of Ambassador Auditorium and the Pasadena property, the church’s controller, Ron Kelly, announced plans for a new financial model. “As a result of the successful sale of the east campus and the sale of a portion of the west campus,” Kelly wrote, “we are

now beginning plans to implement our long-desired decentralized financial model” (June 2004).

Keep in mind, they had abandoned the headquarters-oriented work way back in the mid-1990s. The church’s mission, like most others, was to develop congregations of worship at the *local* level. Again, Tkachism had completely done away with the “worldwide work” concept. There was no work, except at the local level. Congregations had developed their own identities.

BUT THE MONEY—*by the tens of millions*—kept flowing into the Pasadena “headquarters” even as late as 2004. Think about that. By 1995, virtually everything in the church had been decentralized—all except for the authoritative government and the financial model!

In his article, Mr. Kelly mentioned that the process of decentralizing the financial model had begun in 2003, when Pasadena collected \$18.6 million in revenue. From that, they returned \$1.5 million back to congregations—a meager 8 percent.

But as of June 2004—with the Pasadena property pulling in an estimated \$70 million for the faithful band of Tkach loyalists—NOW church administrators were finally prepared to decentralize the financial model so that members’ tithes and offerings could actually be put toward the work that church was doing at the local level.

Now, with his absolute, unchecked authority still intact, Joseph Tkach could divvy up the fortune acquired by selling off property paid for by the tithes and offerings of members who had supported the work done by Mr. Armstrong.

Once the spoils are dispersed, maybe then he’ll be ready to decentralize the church’s *government* model.

Then again, maybe not. ■

Learn the TRUTH

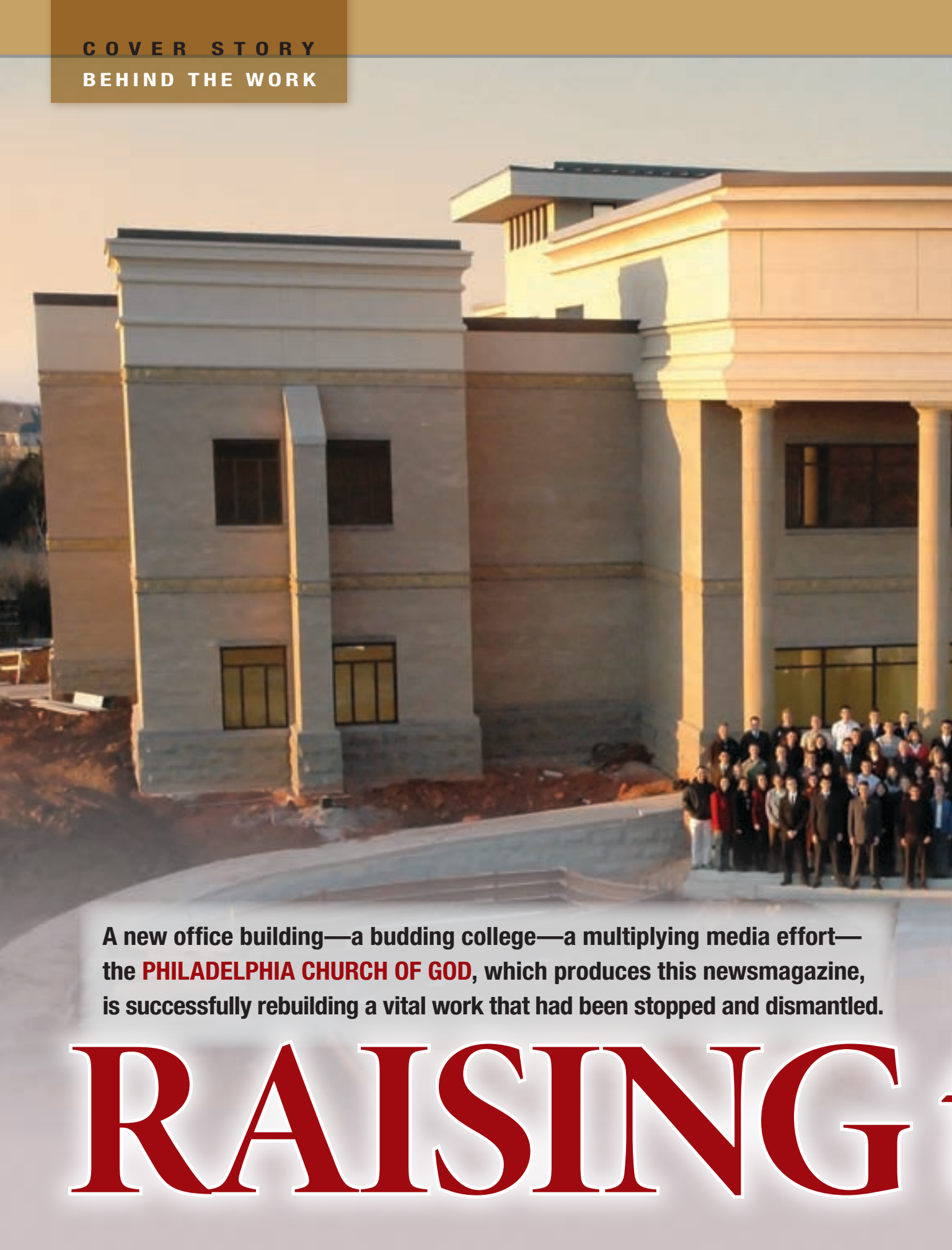
What really happened to the Worldwide Church of God?

Stephen Flurry’s book, to be published this year, reveals the answers. It documents the transfer of power after Herbert W. Armstrong’s death and the subsequent doctrinal changes, the founding of the Philadelphia Church of God—and the landmark court battle that ensued over the right to keep Mr. Armstrong’s cherished literature available to the public.

The truth will surprise you.

For more information on the forthcoming book, visit theTrumpet.com/wcgbook

COVER STORY
BEHIND THE WORK



A new office building—a budding college—a multiplying media effort—the **PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD**, which produces this newsmagazine, is successfully rebuilding a vital work that had been stopped and dismantled.

RAISING

team work

Over 100 Philadelphia Church of God staff and Herbert W. Armstrong College students are dwarfed by the new Hall of Administration as it nears completion in December 2005.



the RUINS

sweet home

The *Trumpet* magazine's team of writers, editors, researchers and foreign-language staff moved into its new home in January.



THE *TRUMPET* STAFF IS THRILLED TO SHARE an exciting development with our readers. We have just moved into a stunning new office building, freshly completed in January. To us, however, this Hall of Administration is more than a building. It contains vital *prophetic* significance. That's right.

Most of our readers know that this magazine views current events and social trends in the context of Bible prophecy.

We submit that an entire third of the Holy Bible is devoted to prophecy, and that about 90 percent of that prophecy is for our time today. That prophecy includes the frightful fate of the American and British peoples, the remarkable rise of the Islamic world, the reemergence of a European empire, and the increasing camaraderie among the nations of the Orient.

But Bible prophecy also includes dramatic details of those who, in this end time, are **DOING GOD'S WORK**. The God of all these astonishing forecasts is the same God who fore-

told the fate of the antediluvian world through Noah, the fate of Judah through Jeremiah, and the rise and fall of world-ruling empires—with specifically *named* kings—through the Prophet Daniel.

God always has a work. He always commissions a servant to deliver His message, as Amos 3:7 reveals.

We believe we are fulfilling a work God has commissioned for this end time—a work of warning (Ezekiel 33), a work of prophesying AGAIN (Revelation 10:11).

To speak only of prophecies related to world events would be ignoring certain, possibly more significant, prophecies about God’s work.

This is where our new administration building comes in.

How We Got Here

To understand this building’s significance requires a brief profile of the Church that supports this magazine.

The Philadelphia Church of God (PCG) broke away from the Worldwide Church of God in December 1989, almost four years after the founder of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), Herbert W. Armstrong, died.

Mr. Armstrong had performed a powerful work for God. He was a man of prophecy, a philanthropist, humanitarian and educator (he built three liberal arts college campuses called Ambassador College). The message he proclaimed was more than just the doctrinal tenets of some unique religion—it was a beautiful way of life and truth undiscovered by science, not taught by education and misunderstood by religion, and that *will one day cover the Earth*.

When he died, the church Mr. Armstrong founded wanted nothing to do with any of the legacies he left behind—religious or otherwise. The new administration stopped proclaiming almost all of the prophecy Mr. Armstrong taught.

The PCG was founded to continue the work the WCG had abandoned—work that had become even more urgent because of the shortness of time before Christ’s Second Coming. This Church was so committed to this effort that we printed some of Mr. Armstrong’s literature—publications the WCG had taken out of circulation. WCG officials took us to court for copyright infringement, saying it was their “Christian duty” to keep Herbert W. Armstrong’s writings out of print. Then, miraculously, after a grueling six-year battle, they decided to *sell us* the copyrights to every work we were requesting.

This victory helped fulfill a prophecy in Amos 9:11 stating that “in that day”—referring to the end time—God would “raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen” and “raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old.” A tabernacle had certainly fallen, and here was God raising the ruins through a group of only several thousand people scattered around the world. That prophecy was partially fulfilled in our attainment of those copyrights from the WCG.

God wants our work to be a *replica* of the work He did through Herbert W. Armstrong—just with fewer people.

That is why, even while still embroiled in the legal fray, the PCG purchased 170 acres and raised up a small liberal arts college—under the charge of “raising the ruins”—patterning it after Ambassador College. That’s why the PCG embarked on a building program reminiscent of Mr. Armstrong’s.

Our college, founded in 2001, is appropriately named Herbert W. Armstrong College (see article, page 12). In 2004, it became the hub for all the PCG’s mail operations when the Mail Processing Center opened. That structure also houses the television department and the studio for

A Building With a Message

The Hall of Administration is 22,825 square feet—doubling the PCG’s executive space compared to the office suites where we used to work in downtown Edmond.

The 40-office building, with many open spaces for numerous cubicles, is a tremendous upgrade for our staff. The resources at our disposal will help us get God’s message to this world much more powerfully.

But it’s not just the work being done in that building that is helping God’s message go out. The *building itself* is a message. This edifice is a testament to OUR RAISING THE RUINS.

What is interesting is that the same week we broke ground on the Hall of Administration in 2004, a story came out in the *Pasadena Star News* stating that the WCG would be moving its headquarters operations off the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena and into the “smaller, less expensive trappings of an industrial building” in Glendora, Calif. (Oct. 25, 2004). As that formerly great “tabernacle” continued to fall, God showed His mighty hand by raising the ruins in Edmond.

God is building our work so we can deliver His message to this dying world.



Editor in chief Gerald Flurry chairs a meeting of Trumpet writers to discuss world events in the new conference room.

the *Key of David* program, which now broadcasts weekly on over 200 stations worldwide.

In January of this year, the *entirety* of PCG operations moved to the property in north Edmond, Okla. The new 41-foot-tall administration building—towering prominently on countryside hosting small ranches and growing residential communities—is the *Trumpet’s* new home.

And even the building itself is a prophecy—it’s an incredible message! The book of Hebrews says about Noah’s work that even just the ark was a message in itself to that evil world (see Hebrews 11:7).

The structures we build send a message about what God is doing today, how He builds, and how He will soon rebuild this entire Earth! That is the greatest prophecy we could proclaim! ■

HERBERT W.
ARMSTRONG
COLLEGE



A VISION OF TOMORROW

We wouldn't be able to "raise up the ruins" without it. BY STEPHEN FLURRY

NEARLY SIX YEARS ago, after I picked up my wife and newborn daughter at the end of the workday, we drove about seven miles north in Edmond and pulled off the road onto an open field. The sun was setting—we have beautiful sunsets in Oklahoma—and it was in June, so it wasn't too hot yet. We got out of our car and started walking across the field. I was holding our new baby, and everything was calm and peaceful.

Not long after we arrived, a few other cars full of people pulled up and did the same thing—slowly driving through grass before parking and getting out. It reminded me of *Field of Dreams*—a movie about a farmer who built a beautiful baseball field and people from miles around showed up just to see it.

Well, we didn't have *that* many people show up—there were about 25 of us. And there was **NOTHING!** I mean, there was a certain natural beauty to the place—especially because of a small lake that was clothed by clusters of trees—but most of it was just an open field with wild grass that had grown up about knee level.

There were no roads.

No real entrance onto the property.

No buildings.

Nothing.

And yet, there we were—25 of us—wandering around, sipping champagne. We were fellowshiping. We were laughing. We were *dreaming*.

Shortly after we visited that field, my father wrote this in the *Trumpet*: “I plan to start a small college in 2001, perhaps 2002. In June, the Philadelphia Church of God purchased 38 acres of land with a beautiful three-acre lake” (August 2000).

That was quite an announcement! In our Church newspaper, the *Philadelphia News*, it had been mentioned that this 38 acres might also be the site for a future *television studio*, an *office building*, an *auditorium*, and a *youth camp*. And—on top of that, according to what Mr. Flurry wrote in the *Trumpet*—a **NEW COLLEGE!** That's quite a lot to squeeze on 38 acres, especially when a small lake and shoreline cover seven or eight of those acres.

Mr. Flurry continued, “At our college, we will teach our young people to open

their minds to all truth and ‘prove all things.’ And I mean proof that anybody should be able to see. We will give them hope—based on proof. . .

“[O]ur aim will be to provide students with a well-rounded, liberal arts education. We plan to have strong classes in history, journalism, music, nutrition, computers, television production, speech and leadership.” This is what he wrote just two weeks **AFTER BUYING A FIELD.**

He went on to say: “We will have a class on news analysis, where students will be taught the true meaning behind world news. They will see how world news is fulfilling Bible prophecy. Their Bibles will come alive as they never imagined!

“We also have the capacity to teach accounting, agriculture, English, Spanish and some other basic classes.”

Wow! We hadn't broken ground on a single building. There were no administrators. There were no departments, no teachers and no students. Even more astounding was that just a few weeks after my father wrote that article, the Church purchased an additional 120 acres, on which there was nothing but more **GRASS!**

Without a doubt, our college and new headquarters facility had to begin first as a *vision*.

Raising the Ruins

Amos 9:11 says, “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old.” Even in the early days of the PCG, my father showed us how this scripture was a prophecy that the work built by Herbert W. Armstrong would fall into ruin—something we had already seen fulfilled (see page 4)—and that we would **RAISE IT BACK UP AGAIN.** God wanted to replicate the way things were done “in the days of old.”

If you know anything about Mr. Armstrong's early work, you can see how precisely that prophecy was coming to pass in those open Oklahoman fields.

When Herbert W. Armstrong first began building, the work was like a mustard seed. He wrote in his autobiography, “When the great God, Creator and Ruler of the vast universe, does something by Himself, He demonstrates His supreme power by doing it in a stupendous, awe-inspiring manner. But when it is actually

God who is doing something through humans, it must start the smallest. Like the grain of mustard seed, the smallest of herbs, which grows to become the largest, God's works through humans must start the smallest, but they grow, and grow, and grow, until they become the biggest!”

Though his work started from practically *nothing*, Mr. Armstrong walked by faith. He had no scholarly training, no corporate funding, and yet, thanks to the blessings of God, over a period of decades he raised up a highly successful, globe-encompassing work.

When God builds something through people He starts small, because He never wants us to forget that **HE** is the one providing the increase!

“Had Ambassador College started big,” Mr. Armstrong continued, “with several hundred or a few thousand students, a great campus filled with large college buildings—an administration building, classroom buildings, laboratories, music conservatory, large ornate auditorium, gymnasium, a fine quarter-mile track and football field, a large library building with 500,000 volumes, dormitories, dining halls—everything complete, then I could certainly have no faith in accepting it as God's college.” But, that wasn't how Ambassador College developed at all. It began just the opposite: as a modest institution, almost comically tiny.

A Man of Faith

In the spring of 1946, only 12 years after God's work in the Philadelphia era of His Church started, Mr. Armstrong saw that for the work to really grow into a **WORLD-WIDE WORK**, there needed to be a college. As he prayed about it and collected his thoughts, he began looking for a place to build around Pasadena, California.

On November 27 of that year, Mr. Armstrong located what seemed to be a suitable building, though it was somewhat run-down. He made a deal that appeared would enable him to take possession the following July.

Upon signing the dotted line on the place, Mr. Armstrong produced a special edition of the *Plain Truth* magazine, January-February 1947, announcing the exciting news: “This year, September 22, our own new school, **AMBASSADOR COLLEGE**, will swing open its doors to students.”

Think about that! If something like this seemed unlikely in 2000 after we bought those 38 acres, how much more so in 1947, considering the limited help and experience Mr. Armstrong had at

true values

Students learn to enjoy fine culture as they soak in the atmosphere at one of Armstrong College's four annual formal events.

his disposal? He wasn't raising ruins that had been built before—HE WAS STARTING FROM SCRATCH!

The *Plain Truth* continued, "Ambassador is to be a general liberal arts institution—not a Bible school, ministers' college, or theological seminary. It will fit students for all walks of life, offering a general and *practical* basic education, with unusual advantages for special technical courses, as well as a thorough, sound, complete Bible course

"There is no other college like Ambassador."

No other college like Ambassador? At the time Mr. Armstrong wrote that, the Church had just bought a run-down building in Pasadena. There was no Ambassador College—at least not visibly. Besides Mr. Armstrong, there was no faculty. No students had even applied.

But why was Mr. Armstrong so confident his vision of Ambassador College would turn into reality? Because he had faith in God!

Here is how Mr. Armstrong described this college which, as he wrote, DID NOT EXIST: "It is, in a sense, a revolutionary new-type college—*different* from those of today's world—a forward-looking, progressive institution built on soundest principles, having highest goals and objectives, yet employing the best of proved methods of administration, and maintaining highest academic standards" (ibid.).

Revolutionary? Forward-looking? Progressive? The highest academic standards? How CLEAR the concept was in Mr. Armstrong's mind.

"The vision of this new and *different* college, and its imperative urgent need, came like a revelation straight from God last spring," he wrote. "At first the idea seemed impossible, for us—almost fantastic.

"But the Eternal our God is a miracle-working God who promises to supply every need. And literally, God has performed a miracle! When one knows the facts and circumstances, that cannot be doubted. Events have happened swiftly! Amazing developments occurred unexpectedly. The vision has become a definite reality. The opening of Ambassador College next September is assured."

What an example of faithful reliance on God—and of *vision*.

Salvation Is Education

Mr. Armstrong continued to write in the same *Plain Truth* about the difference

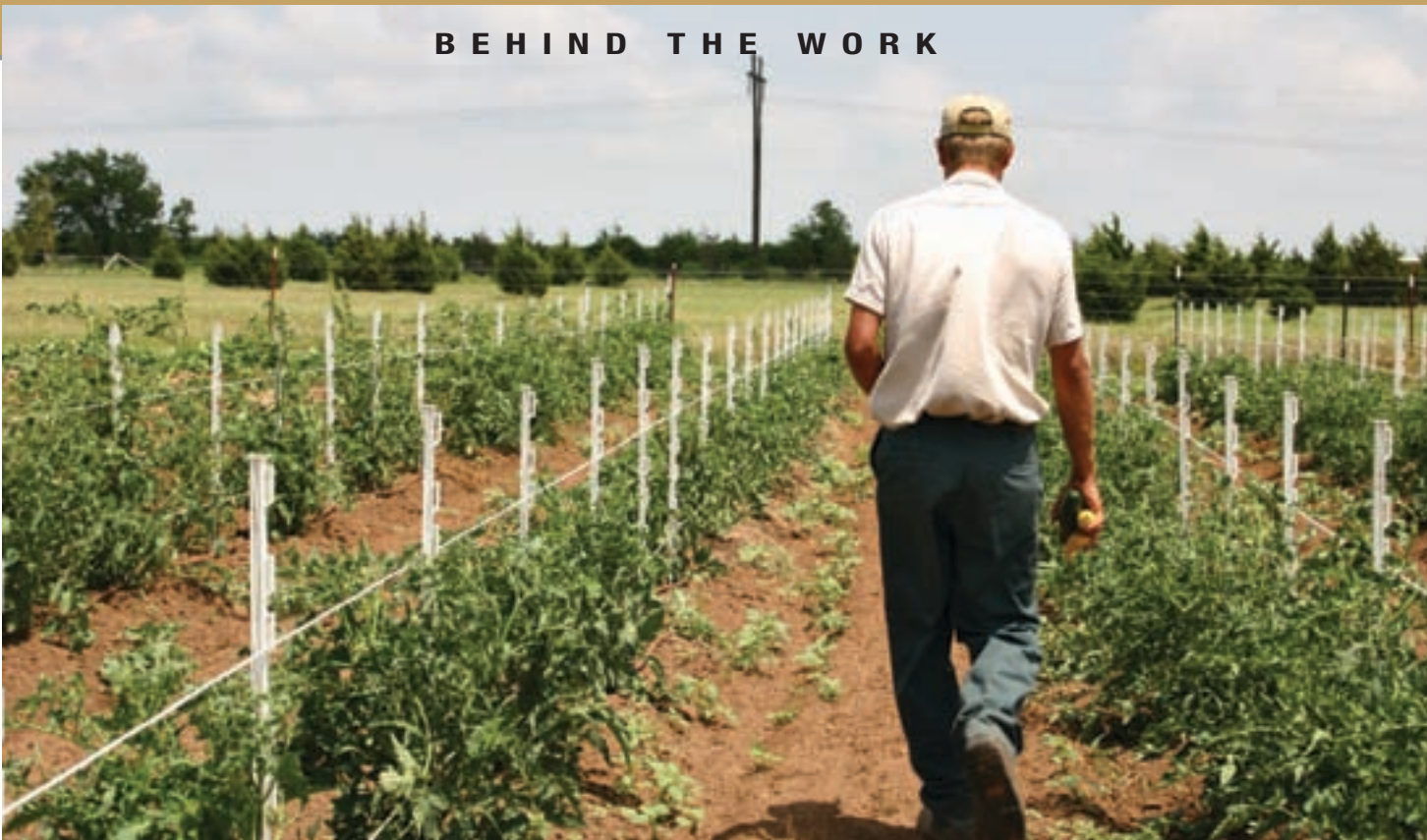




college of the future

Clockwise from top left: Students study for final exams outside one of the women's dorms. A student landscaping employee plants pansies outside the John Amos Field House. The Armstrong College Choral Union—with members of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic and four professional soloists from around the country—perform G. F. Handel's *Messiah* in concert. Students relax amid lush landscaping near a small man-made pond complete with a waterfall and koi. The ball is inbound at an intramural women's basketball game at the field house. Games are played between student classes and faculty members about twice a week.





in education a student would receive at Ambassador versus any other college. The AC student, Mr. Armstrong said, would receive TRUE EDUCATION:

“In other words, though we perhaps never have thought of it in this light, real conversion is EDUCATION! Not the purely mental, materialistic, largely erroneous education of this world—no, not that kind at all!—but *real* TRUE education, which is the renewing and enlightening of the mind, the feeding of the soul, the development of self-discipline and CHARACTER in true spiritual values! *That is true EDUCATION!*”

“*That is the type of education to be taught at Ambassador College! Truly, it is something different in a materialistic world that has forgotten GOD!*”

“Man is the highest mortal being God has created on Earth. The MIND is the highest part of man—the faculty which, above all else, elevates man above dumb animals. Did not God intend our minds then, to be developed, trained, *used* to His honor and glory?”

“Can’t we see that none glorifies God by ignorance, by *neglecting* this most precious heritage God has entrusted to man—the MIND? To fulfill God’s purpose in our existence, our minds need *enlightening* through the revelation of God’s Word; they need to be trained, developed, cultivated, *used!*”

Mr. Armstrong went on to explain

what is wrong with MODERN EDUCATION. He wrote, “It wastes precious hours and years in the minute study of nonconsequential details and impractical and untrue theories, instead of teaching young men and women the BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE—what life is, why we are here, where we are going, and *how to live* successfully, usefully, happily, joyfully! Its proponents look wise and dignified, and speak learnedly of unimportant things. And they fill students’ minds with much chaff, while their souls starve for the TRUE educational food!”

“Yes, something’s WRONG with this world’s education, as well as with its religions, its politics, its economics, and its society! And *wrong education* is a basic cause of ALL the world’s wrongs today!”

Ambassador was to be the SOLUTION to the evils of MODERN EDUCATION. Its curriculum would be different from all other colleges as well.

Mr. Armstrong the Visionary

Mr. Armstrong wrote that Ambassador would offer a wide gamut of classes. He wanted classes in science and physical health, and classes on how to have a successful family life.

Mr. Armstrong even went so far as to describe the social life at this YET-TO-BE-ESTABLISHED college: “We believe in bringing out and developing all the PERSONALITY God has endowed one

with. Ambassador will seek to offer inducements excelling the recreational and social and athletic activities of large universities by a very special program of our own. We realize that life at Ambassador must be made *attractive to the student!* We shall strive to make it enjoyable, interesting, literally thrilling! The buildings and grounds offer the ideal set-up for this purpose. We shall devote considerable intelligent attention to the social life—directed not toward just ‘fun’ alone, or worldly pleasures, but toward personality and character-development, the acquisition of that portion of culture which includes the graces of politeness, courtesy, kindness, gentleness, self-restraint, selflessness. We shall avoid the *evils* of the ordinary life—such as snobishness and a feeling of class distinction” (ibid.).

This GREAT VISIONARY was in his 50s when he wrote this, and he had never been to college himself. But what is even more remarkable about this 1947 article is that you can read it *years later*, and it remains a PERFECT DESCRIPTION of AMBASSADOR COLLEGE in the 1960s, or even the 1980s! The Ambassador College that existed at the time of Mr. Armstrong’s death in 1986 truly was the product of a VISION that started in one man’s mind.

What’s more, on Feb. 14, 1947, Mr. Armstrong actually left for Europe to, of all things, pursue plans for a second cam-



education with vision

Clockwise from left: A student employee inspects the AC garden for weeds. The college's Young Ambassadors perform at their first live concert in December 2005. Campers line up for lunch at Philadelphia Youth Camp, held each summer. Students serve as workers and dorm counselors.



pus, in SWITZERLAND! And although the Switzerland campus did not work out, Mr. Armstrong did go on to build two other college campuses, one in England and one in Texas.

The college model Mr. Armstrong established was a true success for as long as people remained faithful to it. And today, we are diligently raising up its ruins. Formerly Imperial College, the institution we are building is now named after the man whose vision we are seeking to replicate, as we “build it as in the days of old.”

Education With Vision

That plot of land we purchased in 2000 now supports a multipurpose building with a dining hall, gymnasium, exercise

room, classrooms, offices and a stage area. The 53 students who attend college here live in three on-campus dormitories, as well as homes for two married students and their families. Many of them work in our mail processing center, which houses our television studio and related offices, a call center, our mailing offices, and a warehouse storing over a million pieces of literature. The field we once stood in, smiling and sipping champagne, has been replaced by our beautiful new Hall of Administration, pictured on the front of this magazine. The vision we celebrated that peaceful June evening has become reality—and it continues to grow.

Notice what my father wrote in the August 2000 issue of the *Trumpet* about

Herbert W. Armstrong College—before it was anything but an open field with knee-level wild grass: “Physically, our small college will be a vision of hope. The Earth will still become a Garden of Eden. Our plot of land will help make that magnificent potential clear.

“And that’s not all. One day, the whole universe will be made to look like the Garden of Eden.

“God is calling us to change the Earth and the universe. And it starts here and now!”

“What we are starting is not an easy undertaking. But oh, how rewarding it will be! Without vision, our 38 acres would be just another plot of land. With vision, it will help people see what God is about to do in this world. Our students will see God’s master plan for the universe! What a mind-galvanizing vision! And it is no fantasy. There is a reason that universe is out there! We must expand our thinking beyond Earth. We were created to be in the God Family. You can’t confine God to this Earth.” ■

RELIGION

AND THE TRUE FAITH

Courtesy of the rise in the public profile of the Vatican and the rise of Islam, religion is headline news.

Yet it is as confused as ever in answering the basic questions of life. BY RON FRASER

IT IS ONCE AGAIN FASHIONABLE TO talk about religion. Yet the discussion of this subject, considered passé in the circles of post-1960s academia, though once again permitted within such circles, is now often couched in the language of political correctness. There are even efforts to legislate against the incitement of religious violence—a violence that, especially in these times, seems peculiar to the religion of Islam. Some legislators view incitement as stemming from a person just discussing this subject in public without using the requisite politically correct terms. Thus, while it is fashionable to discuss religion, it is increasingly *verboten* to discuss it in terms that reflect the reality of the particular history and current practices of an individual religion and its real impact on society.

Thankfully, it is not the editorial policy of this magazine to subscribe to the politically correct. We strive instead to reflect reality—the reality that God is working out a definite plan for the fulfillment of the incredible potential of every human being who has ever drawn and will ever draw breath.

Religious Confusion

There are three primary religions of man that are considered monotheistic—maintaining belief in one supreme Creator: Christianity, Islam and Judaism. All three revere the city of Jerusalem as a

holy city. None agrees fully on the way to worship the one God they all espouse.

Logic demands that if there indeed is one God, then it ought to follow that He would define the proper manner in which to worship Him, and reveal that way to man. Yet these religions differ vastly in doctrine and in practice.

One of these religions, Judaism, claims that the Old Testament writings preserved from ancient times by the Jews are the revealed instructions to man as to how to worship God.

Varying divisions of Christianity lay claim to the same book, the Bible—incorporating both the Old Testament preserved by the Jews (albeit in differing versions) and the New Testament preserved by the Greeks—as the basis of their religion. Yet they disagree on their interpretation of its teachings.

The third of these great religions places faith in another book as the Creator's revealed knowledge of how to worship and obey God: the Koran of the Islamic faith.

Within each of these monotheistic religions, there are many diverse branches, differing among themselves on religious beliefs and practices to the point of con-

fusion as to just what it is that represents core doctrine.

If religion is, indeed, the opiate of the masses, as Lenin declared, then among these religions there is a brand to suit all tastes. The question arises, is there one *true* faith? If not, then based on the assumption of all three of these religions that there exists one supreme God over all, has that God destined mankind to a life of confusion over the very basic questions about the reason for human

life? This is a fundamental question with which countless generations of thinkers, philosophers, religionists and educationalists have wrestled for 6,000 years of documented human history.

Honest Questions

In reference to the refusal of many men of science to face this most fundamental of all questions about the nature of our being and of the universe, British historian Paul Johnson

recently stated that such men of knowledge “are not going to confess their own ignorance, indeed, their intellectual impotence” (*Spectator*, Nov. 12, 2005).

Johnson is one of those historians (akin to American historian John Lukacs, or the late Allan Bloom) who is sufficiently

Unlike other so-called holy books, the Bible can be proven to be the inerrant Word of God.

humble so as to challenge the pomposity of the West's intelligentsia. He couches his writings in easy-to-understand prose and is always prepared to thumb his nose at the establishment of academia.

Paul Johnson is a deep thinker. He dares to consider, deeply, those questions that most scientists tend to discount due to their inability to come to terms with their outstanding relevance. He dares to consider *God!*

In that same weekly column in the British *Spectator* magazine, Johnson challenged the individual who is considered to possess one of the most brilliant of mathematical minds, Dr. Stephen Hawking, author of *A Brief History of Time*. Referring to a TV interview during which Hawking was asked the question, "What existed before the universe began?" Johnson quoted Hawking's reply: "That's a meaningless question."

To this Johnson retorted, "Oh no, it isn't. ... No question is meaningless if it is prompted by a genuine thirst for knowledge. Physicists expect us to believe their claim ... that not merely something but everything was created out of nothing, thus breaking the fundamental law of physics. ... [T]hey fear that trying to answer [questions about what happened before the 'Big Bang,'] or admitting that they are meaningful, will involve them in debate about the three-letter word which, to them, is the final obscenity—G-O-D."

Zeroing in on his own unique quest for answers to this question, Paul Johnson admits, "Since an early age I have always been puzzled by God" (ibid.). Yet, unlike the men of science whom he derides for ignoring these most basic of questions, he has obviously been honest about his search to find the answers to his puzzlement about the Creator. He indicates that he started with the intellectually correct, yet politically incorrect, logical foundation for his quest: "The fact of an all-powerful God, who transcends all the laws of physics, and equally supplies order in the vacuum left by their non-existence, is the only explanation"

Johnson's questions are akin to those asked by every true and honest thinker down through the ages: "If God had always existed, why did He suddenly decide to create the universe and humanity? Why did He do it *then*, and not earlier or later? ... He created space and time at the same moment. But what was His motive? What did He hope or intend to achieve? What exactly is God's plan?" (ibid.).

Here is a man now in the eighth de-

cade of his life's experience—a true scholar, well traveled, who has written volumes on the human quest for meaning in life—who has spent most of his own lifetime in an intensive search to find the answers to the very realities of the universe—of why it exists, what is its past and what is its future.

Chances are that many of the regular subscribers to this magazine are involved in a similar quest.

Dr. Johnson, in fact, does get so close to the answer: "Only when we eliminate the material dimension altogether do those who believe in God acquire an overwhelming advantage" (ibid.). In other words, to take a leaf out of Herbert W. Armstrong's book, if we seek to prove the existence of God we simply need access to that which he termed "the missing dimension."

Paul Johnson gets as close as any human being can in this search for God, without direct access to that "missing dimension." He realizes that there is an *essence* that is part of the human persona—a literal non-physical component, a *spirit* in man—which gives a direct connection to man's Maker, who is the source of that spirit. This reality, which Paul Johnson has discovered, is a literal extension of the divine Godhead. It is a logic that stems from the knowledge of the very nature of God. Johnson expresses this reality thus: "God is essentially a spiritual rather than a physical being, and if He exists outside space and time and all the factors which owe their complexity to them, then the problems of existence begin to seem soluble" (ibid.).

That said, one needs a guide from one's Maker to work toward resolution of these "problems of existence" of God.

Proof of God

There is but one source that contains the requisite proofs of God's existence—the very documented Word of God. We call this collection of divinely inspired writings the Bible. But to the average man, this most published, most translated and most widely distributed book in the world remains an enigma. It is subject to countless individual interpretations. Numerous professional theologians call the concept

of its inerrancy into question. Hence the confusing multitude of various Christian denominations, each claiming a right to understanding its truths, yet none of them in complete agreement.

The plain truth of the matter is, unlike other so-called holy books, the Bible can be *proven* to be the inerrant Word of God. The most powerful of proofs of its divine source and its consistency in declaring truth is *fulfilled Bible prophecy!*

It is a fact that a whole third of the Bible is prophecy for the future, most of it in the process of being fulfilled in our day! Indeed, we who live in this age are among the most privileged of people, for we are surrounded by, involved in and indeed part of the fulfillment of the most dramatic of all prophecies in the Bible!

For the past 15 years, this magazine has thundered the proof of the fulfillment of these prophecies. Month by month, as current events link with history and biblical prophecy, the *Trumpet* has offered the most dramatic proof of the accuracy of biblical prophecies, some having been originally documented over 3,000 years ago!

Never was it more crucial to convey this message of prophecy to this world. In fact, the future of mankind depends on the continuance of the enterprise to which God gave a divine commission to preach and publish the Bible's prophetic message to the *whole* world.

That original divinely commissioned enterprise has historically been called the Church of God (Acts 20:28). God declared of His Church, at its inception, that it would never die (Matthew 16:18). Thus it must be extant today in its original Spirit-led form, under its God-gifted original manner of government and administration (Ephesians 4:4-16), preaching the same message given it originally by God (Mark 13:10). Otherwise, God Himself is proven a liar! And God, by His very nature, cannot lie (Titus 1:2; Romans 3:4).

Simply find that Church—the proven continuance of the one *true* Church that teaches God's law and has the revelation of prophecy (Isaiah 8:16, 20; Revelation 19:10) and of God's plan for the salva-

See RELIGION page 31 ▶

We are surrounded by, involved in and indeed part of the fulfillment of the most dramatic of all prophecies in the Bible.



REUTERS

CLOSING THE DEAL In December, China's largest computer maker, Lenovo Group Ltd., announced its plans to buy part of IBM.

CHINA

The New Technology Leader

MANY ANALYSTS BELIEVE Beijing wants to control the technology market worldwide.

Consider the evidence. Last May, China demonstrated how seriously it takes technological dominance when Chinese computer maker Lenovo paid \$1.75 billion to purchase the personal computer arm of IBM. The Chinese had *already* outsold American technology goods in 2004, after its information- and computer-technology exports increased 46 percent—to \$180 billion—just that year. Add to all that China's moves to assign its own standards to technology.

Certainly these developments have serious economic ramifications. What might not be so evident, however, are the *military* implications of this technological boom.

Rick Fisher, vice president of the International Assessment and Strategy Center in Washington, said that China's army is "moving very quickly to adopt practically every information-related aspect of military technology that the U.S. is pursuing at this time" (*New York Times*, Dec. 11, 2005).

The *New York Times* called the cooperation among the Chinese armaments industry, information technology companies, and government research and development groups a "'digital triangle' that supports the country's rapid military modernization" (*ibid.*).

A November 2005 report to Congress from the United States-China Economic and

Security Review Commission said that China's repositioning itself at the center of the technology supply chain is "raising the prospect of *future U.S. dependency on China for certain items critical to the U.S. defense industry* as well as vital to continued economic leadership" (*ibid.*; emphasis ours). Fisher warned that the Chinese have the money to turn their ideas into weapons.

What's more, on December 12, Alan Paller, the head of a leading security institute, said that efforts to hack U.S. government and industry computers were probably the work of the Chinese military. After explaining that the attacks were traced to the Chinese province of Guangdong, Paller said the attackers "were in and out with no keystroke errors and left no fingerprints, and created a backdoor in less than 30 minutes. How can this be done by anyone other than a military organization?" (*China Post*, Dec. 14, 2005).

The story here is two-fold.

First, while the U.S. export of information technology is still growing, *the leadership position is gone*—and it isn't coming back. In accordance with biblical prophecy, the United States is losing its superpower status in one area after another, continually being overtaken by China and the European Union. Now that the U.S. has been overtaken in technology exports, we can expect its growth to slow and eventually become a bona fide decline.

Second, *dependency* on any foreign power leaves a country in a weak position militarily. Ezekiel 7:14 talks about a time when the alarm of war will be sounded, but no one goes to battle. This could very likely be a result of mission-critical military systems being compromised by cyberattacks or other foreign-initiated sabotage.

The U.S. is allowing itself to be marginalized by the Chinese economically. Does Washington place enough value on technological leadership to prevent future disasters? Bible prophecy says no.

EU Exerts Power Over American Industry

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT approved a regulation Nov. 17, 2005, that could seriously handicap the U.S. chemical industry. This approval highlights a worrying trend that could severely cripple American industry in general.

The Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals (REACH) regulation is designed "to protect consumers from the adverse effects of chemicals found in a wide range of products from soap powder, children's toys, pesticides to building materials" (*Deutsche Welle*, Nov. 17, 2005).

Under the European

Union's new regulation—ostensibly designed to protect the health of Europeans—American chemical manufacturers that export chemicals to Europe could be forced to spend millions of dollars testing, reporting and registering their chemicals in order to meet EU standards and conditions.

The EU's approval of this regulation highlights an aspect of globalization that has staggering implications. By creating and passing this bill, the EU is able to extend its influence into the industries and economies of other nations *outside* of the EU.

Analysts at Stratfor noted: "[A] single body represent-

ing less than 5 percent of the global population would, in effect, be making chemicals policy for the entire globe" (*Stratfor*, Nov. 17, 2005).

In the case of America's chemical exports, this legislation could seriously burden an industry already hurting economically.

This is an alarming trend. While REACH's primary motive may not have been to disadvantage America's chemical industry, it could certainly prove a pleasant side benefit, in the EU's eyes. Might the EU or other nations enact similar changes in order to deliberately harm American industries?

As global trade grows

Blair Betrays Britons to Please EU



STEWART ALLEN

DIVIDED LOYALTIES Britain's Tony Blair

DECEMBER'S EUROPEAN Union summit concluded with a loss of face and funds by Britain, the complete ignoring of the massive fraud and corruption endemic to EU bureaucracy, and a most obvious yawning leadership gap.

Commentators have been devastating in their criticism of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's performance during his term as president of the EU.

Union as some kind of triumph for his diplomacy. But this shameless propaganda effort is not working, for it is blindingly obvious that his deal on the EU budget is disastrous for Britain, requiring us to hand over even more of our cash to Brussels" (Dec. 19, 2005). McKinstry was referring to Mr. Blair's willingness to sacrifice Britain's annual rebate from the EU, originally negotiated by Margaret Thatcher.



REUTERS

MARKED A new EU chemical bill could burden U.S. industries.

more competitive and new players enter the scene, don't be surprised if regulatory authorities in the EU, China and other large markets seek to exploit this powerful weapon—made possible because of modern globalization. By developing cumbersome internal regulations, these nations could put foreign companies at a serious disadvantage.

Because of its position

as the industrial powerhouse of the world, the U.S. would bear the brunt of such hostility.

The U.S.'s economy and industry have never been in such a fragile state. Both are on the verge of collapse. We can be sure that the EU and other foreign powers are acutely aware of this possibility and could seek to hasten it.

He went on: "[Blair] has given away £1.7 billion of the rebate over the next seven years, in return for precisely nothing. Just as disgracefully, he has agreed that Britain's annual net contribution to EU coffers should increase by a massive 63 percent to £6 billion, in the face of all the evidence of endemic waste and corruption within the EU."

This performance by Prime Minister Blair would appear to be welcome grist for the mill of the Euroskeptics who comprise a good half of Britain's electorate. EUobserver.com stated, "The budget shenanigans have simultaneously succeeded in losing Britain friends and influence abroad while the surrender of even a small part of the rebate has enraged the Euroskeptics back home" (Dec. 19, 2005).

What is even more appalling, the very policy that has largely destroyed Britain's agricultural industry and disenfranchised many Third World countries from the EU market remained untouched at this latest EU summit. McKinstry called it "the fraudulent Common Agricultural Policy, which swallows 40 percent of the entire EU budget despite the fact that only 4 percent of the EU's citizens work in farming" (op. cit.).

Commenting on Blair's legacy, McKinstry declared: "Essentially, he has sacrificed the interests of his own country purely to boost his reputation with European leaders. His was an act of staggering vanity and colossal national betrayal. ...

"He has become Europe's representative in Britain rather than Britain's representative in Europe. ...

"In the context of modern politics, 'a good European' is a politician who is willing to destroy his country's freedom and independence

for the sake of European integration." In other words, the British prime minister and his government have played right into the hands of a European leadership that wants to see Great Britain become a vassal state of the EU.

But this latest EU summit was notable for one other glaring deficiency: a seeming total lack of determined, robust leadership at any level.

EUobserver.com put it this way: "But though it is easy to criticize the lack of British leadership, we must ask, in fairness, whether Europe actually wants to be led at the present time at all. *We may have a Europe of the 25, but it is a Europe of 25 troubled and fractious countries, uncertain as to their future direction on almost all fronts. ... Yet what Europe does need, clearly, is leadership.* Leadership that is capable of forging a transnational consensus and commanding respect among the electorates of member states. This can't be other than political ..." (emphasis ours).

The EU simply lacks a forceful leader at its helm. Without that, it is a ship all at sea, without a pilot to direct its political course.

EUobserver.com posed the burning question about the EU's immediate future: "Who indeed will succeed in drawing this sword from the stone? That is the real question for 2006." The *Trumpet* has long pointed out, as Herbert W. Armstrong did before us, that the Continent is primed for a "Mr. Europe" strongman to take control.

In the meantime, watch for Blair's pro-EU policies to distance him from his citizens. Not only are his days in office numbered, so are Britain's as a member of a united Europe. If Blair is replaced by a leader willing to stand up for Britain against the EU, then the UK and EU may well part company.

EUROPE

Cyprus Joins Defense Alliance

HISTORY IS PLAYING OUT in Cyprus once again.

The Republic of Cyprus has officially entered into the European defense regime. Between November 22 and December 1 last year, Cyprus participated in a military exercise held by the European Union, operating under the framework of the European Security and Defense Policy.

A Cyprus Defense Ministry press release stated

the EU considered this exercise extremely important (Middle East Newline, Nov. 28, 2005).

The EU will reap great benefits from this military alliance—not from having extra Cypriot troops or military equipment at the EU’s disposal, but because of the strategic importance of Cyprus’s geographic placement in the eastern Mediterranean.

Historically, Cyprus



TRUMPET MAP

as 168 B.C. by the Romans. Catholic armies used the island stronghold during the Crusades.

Cyprus effectively serves as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East. Various nations have been interested in this island through the years, including Britain, Russia

and Turkey. Today, however, Cyprus is a member of the EU, subject to EU directives.

Cyprus is the perfect stepping stone for any future EU operations in the Middle East. We can be sure the EU was aware of this when it admitted Greek Cyprus into the Union despite unsettled disputes with Turkey, a strong NATO ally.

Using biblical prophecy as his guide, the *Trumpet’s* editor in chief explained in an August 1998 article, “The EU is prophesied to be ultimately comprised of 10 nations, dominated by Catholicism. Already the EU is being called the Holy Roman Empire. They have traditionally been the enemies of the Muslims . . . [Y]ou can be certain that the EU is thinking about how to protect the holy places in and around Jerusalem. They have thought like this for almost 2,000 years!”

The Roman Catholic Church has strong interests in Jerusalem. Bible prophecy reveals that one more crusade centered around Jerusalem is yet ahead. This city is still highly prized by both Catholics and Muslims, and neither camp is willing to give up its ambitions.

Cyprus’s strategic position in the Mediterranean provides the EU with a stronger presence near the Middle East. The nation of

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinian Authority Puts Terrorists on Payroll

ON DEC. 5, 2005, PALESTINIAN LEADER Mahmoud Abbas approved financial aid for the families of suicide terrorists. This act guarantees that the cycle of violence between Palestinians and Israel will continue.

With the new law, “The bomber’s family, along with those of every other deceased killer, will now receive at least \$250 a month in direct government aid . . .”

(*Jerusalem Newswire*, Dec. 5, 2005).

This means that the annual “martyr” stipend budget will grow by \$20 million to meet demand.

Another recently approved law will allot \$50 million per year to support wounded terrorists or those in Israeli prisons. According to Palestinian Authority (PA) figures, Palestinians already budget \$4 million for those in prison.

\$11 million is allotted for families of the 3,746 Palestinians who have succeeded in terminating their own lives and those of innocent Israelis. In fact, *more than 10 percent of the PA’s overall \$1 billion budget* is earmarked as stipends for “martyr” families and imprisoned or wounded suicide bombers.

With this new law joining related laws already on the books, the Palestinian Authority is funding a culture of terror.

The money legitimizes criminals and provides incentive for new recruits. “That amount of money [\$250] is more than most lower class ‘Palestinians’ can hope to make working menial jobs. This fact,

coupled with a culture that glorifies deceased terrorists as national heroes, has the potential to increase the number of young Palestinian Arabs willing to give their lives to kill Jews” (ibid.).

The day Abbas signed the law, a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated explosives in a shopping center in an Israeli town north of the West Bank, killing five and wounding scores of others.

In a written statement, Abbas reacted with mock shock: “This operation ... against civilians causes the most serious harm to our commitment to the peace process and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) will not go easy on whoever is found to be responsible for this operation” (Xinhua News Agency, Dec. 5, 2005).

This new law belies Abbas’s tough rhetoric. What, in fact, will really happen? At a minimum, a \$250 check will be sent to the family.

Even though the Palestinian leadership claims to desire peace, its laws evidence the contrary. If Abbas was serious about the Palestinian commitment to peace with Israel, his politics would not be a fountainhead of support for terrorism.

And despite Abbas claiming that terrorist suicide bombers pose “serious harm” to the peace process, his *actions* speak otherwise.

Leaders must be judged by what they do, not what they say. Christ said, *by their fruits you shall know them* (Matthew 7:20).



REUTERS

PAYMASTER Abbas

Israel is already looking to European peacekeepers for help—a precursor of things to come. Watch for the EU increasingly to use Cyprus for military purposes.

For more on the history of Cyprus and its connection with the final crusade for Jerusalem, read our August 1998 cover story at theTrumpet.com.

A U S T R A L I A

Race Riots Shatter Reputation

LAST DECEMBER'S SUDDEN outburst of race riots in Sydney—Australia's most eminent city—unveiled a deep-seated crisis in the land down under.

The catalyst for the violence occurred one week

prior, when two lifeguards from Sydney's eastern suburb of Cronulla were assaulted in what was believed to be an unprovoked attack by a group of Middle Eastern men. The Cronulla attack wasn't unprecedented; there had been reports of prior incidents of harassment and intimidation by Lebanese Muslims.

In the days following the attack, a bevy of text messages inciting revenge spread across Sydney's suburbs. By the following Sunday, an angry and largely intoxicated crowd of about 5,000 had assembled at Cronulla Beach to "reclaim the beach." As emotions escalated and mob mentality set in, violence broke out and a number of individuals of Middle Eastern appearance were attacked.

The violence overflowed into as many as eight adjoining suburbs as Muslims, mainly of Lebanese descent, retaliated. More retaliatory violence and vandalism took place over subsequent nights.

These race riots have forced one of Australia's ugliest secrets to the surface. Even as the rioting raged in Sydney, other isolated but racially mo-

tivated attacks began cropping up in other states.

Under the right conditions, race riots could easily break out on a massive scale.

In our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, we explain that the nations of America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom comprise the peoples of biblical Israel. This is important to understand, because the Bible contains specific prophecies concerning these nations.

One of those prophecies discusses the problem these nations would have with immigration and the subsequent racial tension and violence. Lax immigration policies and weak borders are playing an instrumental role in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. (See our December 2005 issue for more on immigration.)

God is cursing the nations of biblical Israel for their failure to hold fast to His laws. God is humbling them—imploreing them to turn to Him. Unless the people of Israel repent, "strangers" (as Scripture calls them—Deuteronomy 28:43-46) will continue to pour through their ports of entry and "get up above" them. Racial tension will only intensify. It is prophetic fulfillment.

A F R I C A

South Africa, Zimbabwe Unify



FRIENDS Zimbabwe's Mugabe (L) with South Africa's Mbeki.

MANY WORRY THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS TRAVELING the same destructive path as its northern neighbor Zimbabwe. Having long suffered from problems similar to those in Zimbabwe—including crime, corruption and economic woes—South Africa now appears intent on following in its footsteps politically. In late November 2005, those concerns rose another notch as South Africa and Zimbabwe strengthened defense and intelligence ties.

South African Intelligence Minister Ronnie Kasrils "praised Zimbabwe's 'advances and successes' in the 25 years since its independence from Britain. He said the two countries shared a 'common world view' and would 'march forward shoulder to shoulder'" (CNN, Nov. 17, 2005).

Zimbabwe has "advanced" in many ways: for instance, its land seizure program has advanced to the stage where there is virtually no white ownership of farms in Zimbabwe. Consequently, its food-shortage issue has also reached the advanced stage—nearly one third of the population is severely short on food. Last year, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe was able to use "advanced" technology to block his political opponents from broadcasting their speeches in the lead-up to elections. Official returns showed that the number of votes received had advanced past the number cast, something that could never be accomplished in a fair election. Inflation is currently over 400 percent, far more "advanced" than most nations.

When questioned about South Africa's support of a country so obviously opposed to human rights, Minister Kasrils responded: "[W]e are indebted to our neighbor for achieving freedom and liberty. This will never ever be forgotten by the people of South Africa" (ibid.). Zimbabwe has South Africa's unapologetic support, and Robert Mugabe is considered a hero by many in South Africa.

Human rights abuses, unfair elections and land seizures seem destined to become the norm in South Africa next.

GETTY IMAGES



CHARGED Young Australians vent at police officers as racial tension boils over into violence at Cronulla Beach Dec. 11, 2005.

Why You Should WATCH EGYPT

The Muslim Brotherhood, though officially banned, is now Egypt's largest and most influential opposition party. This signals a stunning shift within one of America's few remaining Middle Eastern allies.

BY BRAD MACDONALD

DECEMBER 2005 WAS A WATER-shed month in the history of Egyptian politics. Thanks to elections that were closer to being democratic than any in Egypt's history, the Islamic party of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) won 88 parliamentary seats (the organization is officially outlawed, but it ran its candidates as independents)—a more than six-fold increase over its previous representation.

Considering that Egypt's parliament is comprised of 454 seats, the MB's capture of 88 seats—fewer than a quarter of the total—may not seem like much to write home about. Despite the gains, the Islamic party will remain outnumbered by the majority rule of autocratic leader Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party. Some argue that as long as Mubarak controls parliament—as he has for the past 24 years—the MB can never play a more significant role in Egyptian politics.

But politics can be messy business—especially in the Middle East. Death, incitement, revolution—all can turn a government on its head in a matter of days. The rise of an openly Islamist party in Egypt is no small matter. The political success of this long-established Islamic group represents a major step toward a fundamental shift in Egyptian politics, made possible by an electorate with a growing affinity for Islamic leadership and law, and mounting disdain for the Mubarak government.

Political Shift

Banned from government in 1954, the Muslim Brotherhood is an organization of staunch Islamic conservatives with a strong desire to install Islamic law as the foundation of Egyptian government. In

the run-up to the elections, the Brotherhood's ominously vague campaign motto was "Islam is the solution."

Thus, the Brotherhood's rising popularity unmistakably signals the growing desire of many for an Islamic government in Egypt—which makes its success nothing short of profound. "Considering that the MB won almost half of the seats it is contesting, despite reportedly widespread voting irregularities, indicates the group is emerging as the single largest grassroots movement in the country" (Stratfor, Nov. 22, 2005). From this point forward, the MB will be at the vanguard of opposition to the ruling National Democratic Party.

Mubarak is surely aware that the MB's rise could be the catalyst for his fall. In the days before the elections, hundreds of MB supporters, campaign organizers and candidates were arrested and jailed. At a number of polling stations where Brotherhood supporters were expected in droves, Mubarak deployed riot police and instructed them to restrict the number of MB supporters who were allowed to vote. According to Reuters, the Brotherhood claimed authorities had robbed it of 13 or 14 wins by denying its supporters access to the polls (Dec. 4, 2005).

As support for the MB grows, Mubarak isn't the only one concerned. The United States is also in a quandary.

Results of Democracy

For some time now, America has been encouraging Mubarak's government to loosen its grip on the electoral process in order to foster more democratic elections. Mubarak finally responded. The results of that move are clear: Democratic elections—despite being manipulated by the ruling party—enabled an outlawed



Islamic fundamentalist group to become the largest and most powerful opposition party in Egypt. The Egyptian people are speaking, and Islamic law and leadership is what many increasingly desire.

As America struggles to curb radical Islamism throughout the Middle East, the popularity of this party in Egypt is one more thorn in its side. The MB has already made it clear it will gladly align with Islamic governments in the region to limit American influence.

The *Washington Times* wrote that the MB "has affiliates in many Arab states. The Islamic state that the Egyptian Brotherhood would like to establish would be significantly more hostile to Washington than the current Egyptian government. ...

"The Brotherhood also represents an anti-American political stance which is particularly popular in Egypt right now. Egyptians are overwhelmingly opposed to the war in Iraq and have long been angered by what they perceive as unqualified U.S. support for Israel" (Dec. 3, 2005).

In December, only days after the MB's success at the polls, Palestinian Authority (PA) officials revealed that meetings

**OUTLAWED**

Supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood gather in Cairo. The party's motto: "Islam is the solution."

were occurring between the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas—one of Israel's most notorious and popular terrorist groups, which spent most of last year developing a political face so as to increase its participation in Palestinian politics. After experiencing enormous success in municipal elections, Hamas was seeking advice from the MB on how to duplicate that success in January's Palestinian parliamentary elections. "Hamas is trying to copy the Muslim Brotherhood model," a senior PA official told the *Jerusalem Post*. Another stated, "This kind of cooperation between Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt is very worrying How can we talk about a peace process when these radical forces are uniting against us?" (Dec. 20, 2005).

These meetings make one point clear: The MB is not only popular in Egypt, it is gaining friends and allies throughout the Middle East.

Islamic Middle East

Ironically, it is the flowering of democracy that is facilitating this conservative, anti-American, pro-Islamic political movement in Egypt.

Soon, the MB could gain control of Egypt. This is evidently what a growing number of Egyptians want. President Mubarak is in his 70s and his health is ailing; clearly, he won't be on the scene forever. In the meantime, watch for the Brotherhood to exploit any and every political misstep Mubarak might make.

In fact, the chips are falling in favor of militant Islamic forces throughout the entire Middle East.

With the Palestinians controlling Gaza, Islamic groups are flourishing; Hamas is growing more popular among Palestinians, and its relations with Iran are strengthening.

The U.S. is frankly losing its battle in Iraq to Tehran; Iranian influence in Iraq—and across the Middle East—grows by the day. Al Qaeda has its sights set on removing the pro-Western governments in Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

In this context, the MB's political success should alarm America and the West. The "moderate" Mubarak government is one of the last friendly regimes in the region, and now it is on the rocks.

As the MB grows more popular and powerful, it will strengthen its ties with

Islamic powers throughout the region—especially Iran. Egypt is one of the largest and most influential nations in the Middle East. As Mubarak's health weakens and Egyptians increasingly vote in favor of the MB, watch for Cairo to disassociate itself from America. Should the MB ever take control, Iran and Egypt would cement a strong alliance. Such a relationship would prove deadly for American hopes for peace in the Middle East. Together, Iran and Egypt would establish Islamic control over the whole of the region.

Certainly, as discontent with the political system in Egypt increases, we can expect to see the Islamists grow in popularity. A change of leadership *will* occur—probably sooner rather than later.

The *Trumpet's* editor in chief has predicted for almost a decade that Egypt will fall under the influence of Islamists. In his booklet *The King of the South*, Gerald Flurry stated, "Daniel 11:42 implies that Egypt will be allied with the king of the south, or Iran. This prophecy indicates that there would be a far-reaching change in Egyptian politics!"

This change is probably closer than most people realize. ■



MARTYRS

Iranian women, in support of Palestinians, sign up to participate in suicide missions against Israel.

United Against Israel

Iran is looking to make the plight of the Palestinians a pan-Islamic cause—and to crown itself king over the effort.

BY TRUMPET STAFF

“THE ISLAMIC WORLD WILL not let its historic enemy live in its heartland.” These were Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s words last October when he declared that Israel should be “wiped off the map” (*Telegraph*, Oct. 27, 2005).

In case anybody thought Ahmadinejad didn’t really mean those statements, he has reiterated them several times since. In one such instance, during a live speech broadcast on Iranian television in December, the Iranian president described the Holocaust as a “myth.”

Some feel that the president’s stance doesn’t truly reflect the official position of his country—or even that of its clerical leadership. Commentators talk about Iran’s clerical establishment getting more than it bargained for in Ahmadinejad, and the “pragmatic conservative” camp disagreeing with the confrontational approach of the president.

It is true that as Ahmadinejad rages against Israel, other Iranian politicians wheel and deal behind the scenes to secure Iran’s rights to a nuclear program and enhance its position in the region. But, as Stratfor stated, “The blend of these two approaches—inflammatory remarks by the new and relatively inexperienced president, coupled with sophisticated backdoor negotiations by less public but more seasoned hands—is an example of *Tehran’s preferred method of power politics*” (Dec. 14, 2005; emphasis ours).

Statements coming from all Iranian camps—the radical president, the pragmatic conservatives, the clerical leadership—clearly demonstrate their solidarity, particularly over the question of Israel.

The Jewish state, for obvious reasons—its proximity and the fact that it is the target—takes Iran’s threats quite seriously. It also has the military capability—if not the will—to do something about those threats. Israel has responded by making thinly veiled threats to take military action against Iran’s nuclear sites.

However, Iran has another weapon in its political arsenal enabling it to more or less blackmail the Jews: its Palestinian proxies.

Hezbollah is the Lebanon-based terrorist organization that is armed, financed and ideologically motivated by Iran; Hamas is a Palestinian terrorist organization also largely supported and funded by Iran. Iran has strong influence over other Palestinian terrorist organizations as well. Iran uses these terrorist groups as agents to fight against Israel.

As *Trumpet* editor in chief Gerald Flurry has written, “The real power behind the Palestinians is Iran. No other nation would dare finance and blatantly encourage such terrorism in Israel” (*The King of the South*).

A clear demonstration of this reality came in November, when Iran’s foreign minister met with leading figures

from Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad “to coordinate a united front against Israel” (*Sunday Times*, Dec. 11, 2005). The result? A week later, Hezbollah fired a cascade of rockets and mortars at Israeli targets, initiating the fiercest fighting between the two sides since Israel withdrew from Lebanon five years ago.

Clearly, Iran has the capability and the will to pressure the Israelis using these terrorist organizations. With a Hezbollah command center now established in the Israeli-vacated Gaza Strip, as Middle East Newline reported Dec. 13, 2005, Iran will be in a better position than ever to squeeze Israel. “Hezbollah has set up a forward headquarters in the Gaza Strip to provide a direct link with terrorists in Judea and Samaria [West Bank] to transfer funds and instructions,” an Israeli government statement said. “Hezbollah conditions the receipt of such funds on the perpetration of terrorist acts against Israeli targets, regardless of the particular ideology of the cells and terrorists involved.”

HENIGAMETH FAHIMI/AP/GETTY

So, after Israel recently hinted that it is prepared to use military means to halt Iran's nuclear program, Tehran responded by stepping up its support for the Palestinians. From anti-Zionist conferences to high-level meetings with terrorist leaders, all Iranian factions have shown unity of purpose in their policy on Israel.

In December, Hamas's leader, Khaled Mashaal, visited Tehran for three days of talks with top political and security officials from across the political spectrum. The same day (Dec. 12, 2005) that Ahmadinejad was poo-h-pooing the Holocaust at a Tehran conference on "Supporting the Islamic Revolution of Palestine," two-time former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani—the pragmatic conservatives' head—was encouraging Hamas's leader. Rafsanjani offered continuing support in Hamas's war against Israel, stating that "resistance" is the only option left for the Palestinians (IsraelNN.com, Dec. 13, 2005).

As for the man who holds the ultimate power in Iran, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, he told Hamas's leader the following day: "The only way to guarantee the freedom and future of Palestine is to continue with the resistance ..." (mehrnnews.com, Dec. 13, 2005). He encouraged the Palestinians to continue their *jihad*.

The Palestinians are only too happy to provide Iran the leverage it seeks. In mid-December, the Hamas leader blatantly threatened Israel with increased terrorist attacks should any preemptive measures be taken against Iran. Mashaal told reporters Hamas would "step up its war" against Israel if it attacked Iran's nuclear facilities (IsraelNN.com, Dec. 15, 2005).

Clearly, Palestinian and Iranian ambitions align perfectly.

In his meeting with Mashaal, Khamenei stated, "Yesterday they withdrew from Lebanon, today they have been forced to leave Gaza, and, God willing, tomorrow the Palestinian people and groups will oust them from Beit-ul-Moqaddas [Jerusalem]." And herein lies Iran's true motivation: to gain control of Jerusalem. (Visit theTrumpet.com to read our February 2005 article "The Precious Jewel of Iran's Plan.")

The Iranian president's rants against Israel; the top-level meetings between Iran's leadership and Palestinian terrorist organizations; Hezbollah's expansion in the Gaza Strip—these all point to what the Bible prophesies: that a unified Iran will lead an Islamic power bloc in an effort to take over Jerusalem. ■

BEHROUZ MEHRVAZ/GETTY



REUTERS

Pushy, Pushy

Is Iran's president deliberately trying to get under Germany's skin? If so, it appears to be working.

SOME Western observers are publicly airing their views that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's vociferous outbursts about Israel and about his nation's nuclear capability are the results of political naiveté. But at least one nation, Germany, is taking him seriously.

According to German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the German government recently lectured Iran's top diplomat in Berlin on the issue, condemning his president's remarks. A few days earlier, German Vice Chancellor Franz Müntefering implied that Germany wouldn't take the president's comments lying down. "What is said will one day be wanted and also done," he said, referring to Ahmadinejad's call for Israel to be wiped off the map or moved to Europe. Müntefering called for diplomatic ties with Iran to be reviewed.

In particular, what really stung the German government was just how specific Ahmadinejad was in offering a future location for the Jewish state, "suggesting that if the Europeans really felt that bad for the Jews, that Israel should be picked up and moved to Europe—specifically to Germany and Austria." As Stratfor mused, "That went over in Germany about as well as a lead zeppelin" (December 13, 2005).

All this is causing ructions in German foreign policy circles. Under former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, the Germans pursued a policy of engagement with Iran. It is well known that Germany has provided technical expertise for Iran's industrial capacity, a capacity that is now intent on developing nuclear technology. This could prove to be Germany's nemesis.

With an unsteady coalition government to control, new German Chancellor Angela Merkel has sought to render a "steady as you go" approach to foreign policy, not wishing to rock the boat unduly with any foreign nation and be caught without majority support in this vital policy area in the tenuous early days of coalition government. However, the Iranian president has forced the issue with his statements—statements that could easily be interpreted as deliberately intended to stimulate a reaction from Germany!

He did not have to wait long for that reaction. Stratfor described Vice Chancellor Müntefering's apparently livid response as "thundering ... that Germany is pulling out the stops in seeking 'political consequences' for Iran in the European Union and at the United Nations" (ibid.).

What is particularly interesting about this situation is that not only has it forced an early declaration on foreign policy by the German coalition government, but it has also driven the odd mixture of political parties that comprise it toward unprecedented unity. As Stratfor observed: "For Merkel, this little foreign policy crisis will be liberating. With the entire country and all of its five major parties suddenly unified on a topic, Merkel will be able to stake out a major foreign policy shift with broad support. Combine that with a rapidly dissolving Schröder legacy, and the stage is set for a top-to-bottom German about-face. The only question remaining, of course, is, which combinations of directions will a newly empowered Merkel turn her country?" (ibid.).

That is a worrying question. Which way will Merkel jump? She has an early opportunity to cement coalition unity on the most crucial of political portfolios: foreign policy. The direction she takes could prove to be a make-or-break move for the future of her grand coalition government.

But more importantly, as long-time *Trumpet* readers know, the Bible prophesies of an explosive friction developing between Germany and Iran in the near future. Developments in this arena warrant the closest scrutiny.

RON FRASER



The DEATH of AMERICAN MANUFACTURING

FOR OVER A HALF CENTURY, American manufacturing has dominated the globe. It turned the tide in World War II and hastened the defeat of Nazi Germany; it subsequently helped rebuild Europe and Japan; it enabled the United States to outlast the Soviet empire in the Cold War. At the same time, it met all the material needs of the American people.

During this period, many American icons were born. Companies like General Motors, Ford, Boeing, Maytag and Levi Strauss became household names. American manufacturing became synonymous with quality and ingenuity.

On the back of this industrial output rose America's middle class. High-paying manufacturing jobs, in turn, helped spur a robust and growing economy that depended little on foreign nations for manufactured goods and armaments.

However, manufacturing as a share of the economy has been plummeting. In 1965, manufacturing accounted for 53 percent of the economy. By 1988 it only accounted for 39 percent, and in 2004, it accounted for just 9 percent.

Considering the stupendous list of America's manufacturing achievements and the vulnerabilities associated with foreign dependence when a nation lacks strong domestic manufacturing, it is alarming when economists are warning that the U.S. is facing the "gutting, hollowing out and closing down of American manufacturing forever" (*Benson's Economic & Market Trends*, Feb. 27, 2004).

Job Losses

The loss of the manufacturing industry manifests itself most clearly in job losses. According to the *Economist*, "For the first time since the Industrial Revolution, fewer than 10 percent of American workers are now employed

in manufacturing" (Oct. 1, 2005). But even this figure is probably double the actual percentage, because many workers in a typical manufacturing firm have service-type jobs. In comparison, during the 1970s, approximately 25 percent of American workers were employed in manufacturing. From 1990 to present, manufacturing jobs have decreased every single year; since 1996, they have plummeted by almost one fifth.

Most recently, these job losses and the hollowing out of American manufacturing have been evidenced in the auto industry.

On Nov. 21, 2005, General Motors Corporation (GM) announced plans to cut 30,000 jobs and close nine manufacturing plants across North America. According to its CEO, the decision represented an attempt to "get its costs in line with major global competitors" and "return North American operations to profitability as soon as possible" (As-

Ford, another American icon, has been slashing jobs too. According to *Forbes*, Ford could cut up to 30,000 jobs and close 10 plants (Dec. 7, 2005).

Egan-Jones Ratings Co., an independent firm, is predicting that “[t]his is the beginning of the end of the U.S. auto industry as most people have come to know it” (TheStreet.com, May 5, 2005).

However, the auto industry is just one example of the overall decline in American industrial might over the past couple of decades. Other U.S. manufacturing giants are failing, too; in fact, the U.S. has lost 3 million manufacturing jobs just since 1998. In 2003, industrial giant Bethlehem Steel folded, causing thousands of employees and retirees to lose their pensions. Any Pittsburgh resident would be able to tell you how unprofitable the steel industry has been over the last 20 or so years. Between 1950 and 2000, the U.S. lost more than 491,000 jobs from the primary metals industry alone—most of those after 1980; from 2000 to 2003, an additional 149,000 of these jobs vaporized. In 2004, Levi Strauss closed the last of its more than 60 American factories. “It was like a death in the family,” said Emma Rice, of Morrilton, Arkansas, who worked for Levi Strauss for 32 years (*Times*, London, Jan. 10, 2004). Unfortunately, the former Levi-employed majority of Morrilton tell the same tale as those from thousands of towns across America that have also experienced the loss of manufacturing jobs.

But why is this happening?

Outsourcing

Manufacturing loss is occurring because of globalization and outsourcing. Globalization is the increased mobility of goods, services, labor, technology and capital throughout the world; outsourcing is the performance of a production activity in another country that was previously done by a domestic firm or plant.

At the dawn of globalization, the elimination of trade barriers opened up access to foreign markets for American manufacturers in return for building factories abroad. In due course, more and more manufacturers set up shop overseas, producing goods to be sold to Americans. Today, the trend is so severe, analysts predict that in some industries, a *quarter to a half of all jobs* are likely to migrate (*Daily Reckoning*, Aug. 5, 2005).

With the birth of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1994, Mexico became a major recipient of outsourced

U.S. manufacturing jobs. Mexico is now a global leader in auto parts manufacturing and one of the world’s largest TV set producers. Now, with the startup of the Central American Free Trade Area (CAFTA) this January, analysts are anticipating another exodus of U.S. jobs to south of the border. U.S. household names such as Dell, IBM, Sara Lee/Hanes and Maytag have already been moving business into the Central American region.

Asia has also been a long-time recipient of outsourced American manufacturing. A study by the universities of Cornell and Massachusetts-Amherst found that India alone may be responsible for up to 700,000 outsourced jobs. China has also received hundreds of thousands of outsourced jobs.

Admirers of globalization contend that freer access to foreign markets and cheap labor increase corporate profits and thereby benefit the U.S. economy. While this argument may superficially sound compelling, it ignores the dangerous long-term effects of manufacturing losses. In reality, outsourcing makes Americans poorer over time, because America’s wealth and technology slowly migrate to other nations.

In the words of the *Daily Reckoning*, “Historically, manufacturing, exporting and direct investment produced prosperity through income creation” (April 4, 2003). America’s wealth grew when profits from domestic manufacturing were reinvested into buildings, machinery and technological change. But now outsourcing is diverting that income to foreigners.

America may gain access to cheaper products through outsourcing, but it also comes with attendant problems, including a downward pressure on wages. Laid-off manufacturing laborers are largely switching into lower-paying jobs in the service industry. Where they once made an average of \$51,000 annually, they now make \$16,000 in leisure and hospitality, \$33,000 in health care, or \$39,000 in construction (*Seattle Times*, op. cit). In 2004, average employee compensation in the U.S. fell for the first time in 14 years.

If America does not manufacture and sell goods, then money only leaves the country. The U.S. now imports twice as much as it exports. This has resulted in a trade deficit that has ballooned to an unprecedented \$800 billion on an annualized basis. Unfortunately, this trend shows no signs of abating. U.S. exports are declining versus imports all across the board. Even agriculture posted a

Globalization and outsourcing are hammering our icons of industry. BY ROBERT MORLEY

sociated Press, Nov. 21, 2005). Following these cuts, GM will have laid off 40 percent of its white-collar staff since 2000.

In a reflection of the resultant loss of confidence in the company, last May GM’s debt (sold as bonds) was downgraded by S&P from investment grade to the highest level of junk status; in September, it was downgraded even further. Now it is five steps below investment grade. Analysts even recommend *selling* GM stock, with one Bank of America Securities analyst saying it was “inevitable” that GM would eventually seek bankruptcy protection (CNN/Money, Dec. 16, 2005).

GM’s layoffs exclude the cuts announced by former GM-owned auto parts maker Delphi, which filed for bankruptcy protection last October. In 1999, Delphi laid off 18,000 workers. Now it is reportedly seeking to cut two thirds of its 34,000 hourly workers and slash hourly wages from as much as \$30 per hour to as little as \$10.

deficit this past year for the first time in living memory.

Every time an American manufacturer closes and then reopens elsewhere, the foreign country gains American technology. Not having to spend resources developing technology, foreigners can focus on improving or beating it.

Many developing nations, especially China and India, are notorious for their lack of intellectual and technological property rights. According to David Pritchard, a research associate at State University of New York, American companies are hastening their demise by sharing valuable technology with foreign governments intent on setting up their own industries. This is exactly what is happening with aircraft manufacturer Boeing, which has been outsourcing labor in China, Japan and other countries.

Globalization admirers contend that because the work forces of developing nations are unskilled, they cannot compete with the U.S.; thus, only low-end, low-skill jobs are lost to outsourcing. However, this is not true. The Asian workforce, in particular, has made huge strides. According to *Fortune* magazine, in the next year China will produce 3.3 million university graduates, all of whom speak English. India too will turn out 3.1 million English-speaking graduates. Furthermore, in engineering alone "China's graduates will number over 600,000, India's 350,000, America's

only about 70,000" (July 25, 2005). These graduates are beginning to fill more than just low-end, low-skill jobs.

Regarding the effect of this labor shift on manufacturing, economist Richard Benson relates that whether you build a factory here or in China, the factory will be the same and the workers will have similar skills, but the main difference is that "the Chinese will work seven days a week for US\$0.50 to US\$1 an hour with no benefits for social security, health care, vacations, a pension or worker safety. ... In America, the going wage would be 10 to 20 times higher including all benefits" (*Benson's Economic & Market Trends*, op. cit.). It's not hard to see why, in order to reduce costs, manufacturing businesses have been abandoning America in droves and fleeing to Asia.

Many Americans did not take notice in the beginning, because it was only the low-paid manufacturing workers making toys, shoes and clothing that lost their jobs to cheap foreign competition. But next to go were the higher-paid shipbuilders and steel producers; now it is auto workers and others.

Continually moving further up the value chain, the *Los Angeles Times* says that even highly skilled, higher-paid American workers are starting to feel the outsourcing pinch. Jobs such as engineers, computer software scientists, Hollywood animators and aerospace manufacturers are all now under threat.

Take Boeing, for example. This American giant is the type of company that symbolizes the "high-tech leadership on which the future of the U.S. economy is widely said to depend" (*Newsweek*, Dec. 2, 2005). Yet, 20 years ago, most of its aircraft parts were manufactured domestically, while today, sadly, up to "70 percent of the airframe of the company's next-generation 787 Dreamliner will be made overseas, including key parts such as the fuselage and wings." Even the engine will be produced outside the U.S., while workers inside the U.S. are left with layoffs.

Some economists have noticed manufacturing losses, but because the negative long-term ramifications have not become fully manifest in the economy, people are willing to turn a blind eye. Over the short term, companies have become richer through outsourcing, and consumers are happy because they have cheaper toys. But this will not last forever. At some point, manufacturing job losses will mean Americans will not be able to afford toys at all.

The Effect on Americans

What does the decline in manufacturing mean for the average American?

First, America as a whole will eventually become poorer, so be prepared to downgrade your standard of living. As progressively more manufacturers move abroad, the flow of money out of the country will exceed the benefits of cheap imports. At some point, America's trade

Extent of Problem Is Hidden

It seems that many people, even within the government, are not 100 percent sure of what is and what is not manufacturing.

The 2004 Economic Report of the President (ERP) suggests some seemingly unconventional businesses that can be considered manufacturers. According to the official definition found in the report and which was provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, manufacturing includes those businesses "engaged in the mechanical, physical or chemical transformation of materials, substances or components into new products."

If this definition sounds a little hazy to you, do not be alarmed, because even the Cen-

sus Bureau says the boundaries between manufacturing and other sectors can be "somewhat blurry." To help clarify *manufacturing*, the Bureau says it is the "transformation of materials into new products ... although what constitutes a new product can be somewhat subjective."

So this brings up the question, just what kinds of industries does the Census Bureau consider manufacturing? The 2004 ERP goes on to ask, "When a fast-food restaurant sells a hamburger, for example, is it providing a 'service' or is it combining inputs to 'manufacture' a product?" Does every time a minimum-wage

employee at McDonald's slaps a patty between two buns and throws in a couple of pickles, some mustard and ketchup



count as manufacturing?

Although fast-food restaurants like McDonald's are not specifically listed in the Census

Bureau's website as examples, several other businesses listed as "manufacturing" are surprising: bakeries, candy stores, milk bottling and pasteurizing, custom tailors, fresh fish packaging (oyster shucking, fish filleting), water bottling and processing.

With such a broad definition of manufacturing listed by the government, the increased number of companies and jobs that can be included under the heading of manufacturing may actually mask traditional-type manufacturing job losses.

This could be a factor in why more people are not speaking out about the loss of manufacturing in America.

deficit will overwhelm us. If this trend continues, eventually Americans will not be producing enough to pay for the standard of living that post-World War II America has become used to.

Second, if you are not among the rich and you rely on a job, prepare yourself for job security issues. In plain language, if you work in the manufacturing industry, don't expect raises and don't be shocked if your job gets "outsourced."

Jerry Roy is a 49-year-old family man from Michigan who has worked for GM since 1977. According to the *New York Times*, when Jerry was first hired, he said it was like "I'd died and went to heaven." Such was the promise of manufacturing being a secure path to the American dream (Nov. 19, 2005).

Actually, four generations of Roys have worked for GM. Jerry's great-grandfather first started at a GM Delco plant during the Great Depression. Then Jerry's grandfather worked at the same plant during the war years when it was converted over to a machine gun factory. Jerry's father, mother, an aunt and a great uncle all worked for GM, too. Jerry's father, Gerald, recalled the stark contrast between the now-closed plants and the "golden" era when production levels were so high shifts worked around the clock, never shutting down. Jerry, too, described in amazement all the empty parking lots that used to be factories (ibid.). Now, Jerry, who is currently working for former GM parts unit Delphi, is facing either a major wage cut or a layoff—as are thousands of others like him.

"The days when blue-collar work could be passed on down the family line ... those days are over," said one professor of labor relations at Clark University in Massachusetts (ibid.).

Dave Kassel of the outsourcing firm International Smart Sourcing says soberly, "There's no point looking in the rear-view mirror." With alternatives like China, Mexico and now Central America, "expecting U.S. industrial manufacturers to dominate in the decades to come is foolhardy" (*Daily News*, New York, Aug. 9, 2005). Mr. Kassel also predicts that "in a decade Detroit is going to be a fraction of what it is today."

By building factories overseas, manufacturers are sowing the seeds of their own long-term destruction by slowly reducing the wealth of Americans—their primary customers.

Be warned—and remember the old adage: As GM goes, so goes the nation. ■

tion of humankind (Hebrews 10:12, 26)—and you will find the answers to these burning questions about the real meaning of life!

The Way to Life

Honest searchers for truth must sympathize with a man of grand intellect such as Paul Johnson: a cultured, erudite teacher of history, a student of the fine arts, a common-sense commentator on human affairs who has genuinely spent all his life, from precocious childhood to his senior years, pursuing the answers to questions about God. The honesty of such a quest is the very opposite to the dishonest denial of the validity of such questions by the bulk of intelligentsia. As Johnson declares, their intellectual impotence is proven by the fact that they "have no explanation of being. Their attitude is simply an abdication of thought, a cosmic despair in the ability of the human mind to devise any explanation of the most interesting and deepest problems of existence" (ibid.).

Paul Johnson at least has the vision, following his lifetime's quest for God, to understand a great overarching truth—that man possesses "an essential element or dimension with God, thus explaining the ... belief that we are all 'made in God's image.' And because the spiritual takes no account of dimension, number or complexity, each of our souls has intimate and all-encompassing dealings with God ..." (ibid.).

Paul Johnson makes just one critical error in his musings on the meaning of life. He states, "Death of the body is thus an insignificant punctuation in the life of the soul, which continues indefinitely" (ibid.). Yet the Book of books plainly declares, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezekiel 18:20). The corollary of this would be, "The soul that is sinless, it shall live"! This presupposes that in order then for the soul not to die, one must find out the meaning of that term *sin*, then ensure that the soul finds the way of becoming *sinless*. Such knowledge opens up the way to *eternal life*!

But even before we begin that quest, we need to find out just what is this thing called "soul." The answer to that question gets to the very heart and core of what a human being is, why he is, who created him and just what is his eternal destiny. These are questions that still puzzle esteemed thinkers

such as Paul Johnson. After decades of searching for the answers, Dr. Johnson muses: "What remains puzzling is why God decided to create a temporal universe, and a material dimension, subject to space and time, in which to put the souls of his creatures to the test of life. The answer may be infinitely complex or infinitely simple" (ibid.).

Indeed, the answer is infinitely simple (2 Corinthians 11:3). So simple that it can be only understood if we literally take on the mindset of a child, being willing to be taught by God, wiping our mind clear of all previous bias and confusion, and allowing the clarifying light of biblical revelation to reveal the wonder of the meaning of life to us. As the Son of God declared, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). That conversion is a literal mind-changing, life-changing experience that links the human mind with its Maker, thus opening it up to revelation of God-breathed truth. It literally opens the human mind to a choice between eternal life and eternal death. It's a choice that all must face eventually so as to fulfill their reason for being.

There is a book that will guide you in your search for the answers to these burning questions. It will lead you to the biblically proven, inerrant answers to these eternal questions. It will help open up your mind to your incredible human potential. In fact, that is the very title of this book which we offer you, free of charge upon request: *The Incredible Human Potential*. Write now to the address nearest you as shown on the inside cover of this magazine for your own personal copy of this vitally eye-opening book. Don't put it off!

The fact is, your life can be finite. You can die ... forever! On the other hand, you can choose a life-changing experience that will guarantee that you will never die! There is a choice! You owe it to yourself to find out now just how to make that choice and start immediately fulfilling your incredible, God-given human potential! ■



FREE UPON REQUEST



You may also find our free booklet *The Proof of the Bible* a helpful study.

Ruling on Homosexual Priests

ON NOV. 29, 2005, THE Vatican published its policy on homosexuality in the Roman Catholic priesthood. The pronouncement has many Catholics parsing the language, looking for loopholes.

The document specifically forbids three groups—“those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called ‘gay culture’”—from being in the priesthood, while permitting those with a “transitory problem” to serve as priests if they have overcome the tendency for three years.

In a church with a billion believers, led by a priesthood of voluntarily celibate men, many prominent Catholics were thus quick to explain how the document did in fact permit homosexuality in the priesthood.

Bishop William S. Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued a statement acknowledging that the document acknowledged that the question of “whether a homosexually inclined man can be a good priest.” He said yes—as long as he is a dedicated servant who preaches against homosexual acts.

James Bretzke, a Catholic priest and chairman of theology and religious studies at the University of San Francisco, said that the language in the original Italian version, while labeling as unacceptable “a person actively looking at pornography or visiting gay bars,” is fuzzy enough to permit someone who is attracted to men. “It’s presented in a somewhat ambiguous fashion with in-house vocabulary that allows for a range of interpretation to be taken from it” (*San Francisco*

Chronicle, Nov. 29, 2005).

In the British Catholic weekly the *Tablet*, Timothy Radcliffe, the former Master of the Dominicans, essentially concurred, saying of the instruction, “[W]e must give it as positive an interpretation as possible ... trying to discern what are the true intentions of the authors.” Radcliffe rejects any notion that the Vatican was banning men who have a “permanent homosexual orientation,” because of his personal conviction that the Catholic Church has many homosexual priests who are “among the most dedicated and impressive priests I have met. So,” he concluded, “no priest who is convinced of his vocation should feel that



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AMBIGUOUS? The Vatican says priests with “deep-seated homosexual tendencies” should not serve as Catholic priests.

this document classifies him as a defective priest.” Thus, Radcliffe interprets the document to outlaw from the priesthood *only* that individual “whose sexual orientation is so central to his self-perception as to be obsessive, dominating his imagination” (Nov. 26, 2005).

Whether such views accurately reflect Vatican intent, or are merely wishful thinking by individuals unwilling

to accept an order, will be seen as the instruction is carried out. But considering the Vatican’s patently mild response to the Catholic sex abuse scandals in the United States in 2002, one could safely assume they are not too far from the mark.

The thorniness of this entire discussion does bring to mind a much simpler outline of criteria for ministerial ordination. In fact, this

HOMOSEXUALITY

Nations Increase Same-Sex Couples’ Rights

LAST YEAR WAS BIG FOR homosexual couples worldwide. Just six months after Spain and Canada legalized same-sex marriage, South Africa’s highest court ruled in favor of legalizing the union, while Britain took a huge step toward recognizing homosexual partnerships.

On Dec. 1, 2005, South Africa’s highest court ruled that homosexual couples may marry, though it has given Parliament a year to pass the legislation that would make it official. When and if this happens, South Africa will join Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands and Spain—the only countries that currently recognize “marriage” between same-sex couples. (One U.S. state also recognizes “marriages”; two oth-

ers permit “civil unions.”)

A few days later, Britain joined the ranks of those countries—Germany, France and Switzerland—that have nationwide laws giving homosexual couples many of the same legal rights as married heterosexuals, though stopping short of recognizing a same-sex union as a marriage. On Dec. 5, 2005, the Britain’s Civil Partnerships Act went into effect—causing hundreds upon hundreds of couples nationwide to register their partnerships.

One lesbian minister, who was registering that day, said, “I believe it’s God that has opened up this door for the civil partnerships to happen” (*cbsnews.com*, December 5).

Is that true? Is God behind Britain’s move out of “the dark ages,” as another man said?

If there is no God, then certainly we can rely on lawmakers and courts to define marriage and family for us.

But if there is a God, why did He—as the Bible records—create mankind, in His own image, as “male and female”? (Genesis 1:27). Why male and female? What is the purpose of marriage? What defines it? Is there even such a thing as “homosexual marriage”? Can man, even religion, alter God’s definition?

The answers to these questions are clear to those who understand the truth revealed in the Bible but not generally understood—that of the incredible human potential.

The way God designed male, female, marriage and children, the family unit naturally creates a *government structure* patterned after the God Family pattern. God

scriptural outline presents plain ideals for a godly ministry that are quite different from those of a celibate, even homosexual, ministry.

The Apostle Paul provided this list to the Evangelist Timothy: "A bishop [minister] then must be blameless, *the husband of one wife*, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour ... one that *ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity*; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" (1 Timothy 3:1-5).

Paul was not mandating that a minister be a married man; in fact, elsewhere he praised those few who remained celibate in order to dedicate themselves more fully to the work of God. But in this and a parallel passage in Titus 1:6—the clearest scrip-

tural descriptions of what to look for in a potential minister—unmistakable emphasis is placed on the man having a sound, healthy family life.

The reason for that fact is that *family* is absolutely central to the good news of the Bible! Paul considered godly family so central to the gospel that he declared any minister who failed to implement the laws governing family life as being unfit to serve the church.

Many people rigorously support the biblical teachings on how to build and fortify strong families, but very few understand God's profound spiritual intent in creating family life and the specific laws that govern it. If you would like to undertake a thorough biblical study of this inspiring subject, consider as your starting point our free booklet *God Is a Family*.

if a family is run the way God intended it to be run, then there are God-plane dynamics at work—living lessons in God's government and family love.

To tamper with this magnificent creation of God, or to contaminate it

with human reasoning as influenced by degenerating social norms, is a colossal travesty. Family breakdown is, in fact, one of the major sins that is bringing the Western world to its knees.

For more on the cultural ramifications of homosexuality and a godly view of the same-sex marriage debate, please read our September-October 2003 article "War Over Marriage" at theTrumpet.com, and request Herbert W. Armstrong's masterful work on the subject, *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?*



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designed all of these things the way He did to prepare us for eternal life in His Family. (Request our book *The Incredible Human Potential* for a thorough biblical explanation of this truth.)

This is why the human family is so critical in God's mind. *We need family, as God designed it*, in order to prepare for positions in God's Family! Done right, marriage is intended to teach spiritual lessons about the God Family (e.g. Ephesians 5:31-33). A child growing up in a godly family learns *spiritual* lessons. In other words,

VIDEO GAMES

The Next Level

WHEN IT WAS REVEALED last year that *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* has hidden pornographic content, politicians went on the attack. Normally, that sort of major error would result in a small period of restraint by the people under the hot light, but not this time. Two of 2005's new games feature graphic scenes of human cannibalism.

F.E.A.R. and *Rebel Without a Pulse*, because of their graphic cannibalism scenes, were listed by the National Institute on Media and the Family among 12 games to avoid when it released a report on the video game industry last November.

But it isn't just a few isolated games; game makers are trying to plumb new depths. The president of the institute cited *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* as an example of how vile games are becoming: "In this game—the top seller of 2004—kids can hack prostitutes to death with chain saws. Today we're seeing things we never saw in the late 1990s, like cannibalism. The f-word is now common in video games. Profanity is up 3,000 percent. Sexual content is up 800 percent" (*Star Tribune*, Nov. 30, 2005).

At the same time, the games—regardless of rating—are more accessible to children than ever. In 2004, girls as young as 9 were able to buy games with a Mature rating only 8 percent of the time; in 2005, the percentage skyrocketed to 46 percent.

Legislation is under way that would make it more difficult to sell games with a Mature rating to minors; however, courts have previously struck down exactly this



REUTERS

sort of legislation. In 2000, an attempt to ban minors from playing violent games in public arcades was struck down by an appeals court. The following year, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the appeals court ruling to stand.

The president of the Entertainment Software Association says parents have the tools they need to protect their children: All game systems currently being designed incorporate parental locks, and games provide a rating system. "Now, parents have to do their part in using these tools," he said. "That is their role, not the government's or industry's" (*Indianapolis Star*, Dec. 2, 2005).

One parent responded by saying his children purchased games without his permission: "There's only so much we can do as parents" (*ibid.*).

Really? A Mature rating is the equivalent of an R-rated movie. It allows blood and gore, intense violence, strong language, strong sexual content, and use of drugs. Should we really feel obligated to allow that sort of influence in our homes? Can we not provide our 9-year-olds with better than "there's only so much we can do"? What good will government intervention do on this one issue if we cannot properly rear our own children?

As a parent, you can and must take an active interest in protecting your children's minds—as well as your own. For practical tips on regulating your family's media usage and keeping negative influences out of your home, read our July 2005 article "Protect Your Child's Mind."



Tragedy

THE ARTICLE "TRAGEDY of Biblical Proportions" by Stephen Flurry (November 2005) really opened my eyes to the sins of the house

of Israel past, present and future. It also opened my eyes to my own sins that I commit voluntarily and involuntarily. I thank Mr. Stephen Flurry for bringing the truth to the world in these last days. I'm very disappointed as a human being and citizen in this nation; these Israelites still do not know who they are, and, most importantly, still rebel against the great God who brought their ancestors out of slavery. I earnestly pray that as nations, America, Britain and the nation-state of Israel, take heed to God's word before it's too late. New Orleans is just the tip of the iceberg. Slavery should not surprise the nations of Israel, if history is the teacher.

James Granderson—LICKING, MO.

I HAVE JUST BEEN SENT TWO ISSUES OF the *Trumpet* magazine. ... I am very interested in studying the Bible, especially about the last days before the coming of Christ. The *Trumpet* is extremely helpful to my understanding of the book of Revelation and why these natural disasters are occurring. I like the fact that this magazine gives direct proof from the Bible using scriptures. ...

Natacha Chicaiza—NEW YORK

I WAS IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE READING the November edition, and I could not put the magazine down. How true it is that God is sending us a message. This world we live in is in moral decay. ...

Russ D'Allura—TROY, OHIO

Welfare System

I SHARE MARK JENKINS'S ABHORRENCE for a runaway welfare system ("Caring for the Poor," December 2005). However, his equating Medicare and Social Security with welfare is an insult to every working person in the U.S. People earn Social Security and Medicare credit through taxes paid during their working years. Medicare and Social Security benefits are definitely not something for nothing, which is the definition of welfare.

Walter Godwin—BALL, LA.

Israel's Bleeding Wound

NEVER BEFORE HAVE I READ SUCH A magnificent and honest account in a Christian journal reporting on Israel's historic plight ("Israel's Bleeding Wound," November 2005). Joel Hilliker wrote a pragmatic account of our withdrawal from Gaza in a warm, sympathetic and humane story. I shall never forget the Gaza withdrawal which polarized our nation and divided families. It was an undeclared civil war Few, if any, of us believed that the evacuation from Gaza would lead to peace with the Palestinians. We withdrew to better defend our positions and to protect the lives of our citizens. ... Only dreamers and fools believe that peace can ever be established between Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Arabs. A glance at the map of the world clearly indicates why not. ... Israel is the only non-Muslim state in the region, depriving Muslims of their dream of an Islamic empire in which Jews and Christians can never be equal citizens but must be reduced to dhimmi status, servants and slaves of Muslims. Therefore, Israel will always be the thorn in the Muslim side, always depriving them of their vainglorious dream. Joel Hilliker's fine history of events told it clearly and without reservation. ...

Esor Ben-Sorek—RISHON LEZION, ISRAEL

God's Prophecy for Africa?

I HAVE BEEN A READER OF YOUR MAGAZINE and have been following your argument since 2002. It is true world events are unfolding in a like manner to predictions. Talk about Iran becoming more influential, the EU becoming stronger though facing problems, the U.S. coming into ruin slowly

But my question is, what is the role of Africa in all this? True, as you say, British Empiredom has brought the only form of civilization there is in Africa. This is evidenced by the leading nations in sub-Saharan Africa; most of them are former settler colonies of Britain—South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Tanzania. These, if you study carefully, are the only countries with considerable infrastructure set up by former masters, though some of them are now suffering from our black misrule—the Mugabe-type of rule. This may also affect Kenya as it is seeking a constitution giving deity powers to the president, just like Mugabe tried to

do in the constitutional referendum in Zimbabwe in 1999. ... My question still remains, do you claim that Africa was always meant to be a backyard of the world? Are we not part of God's prophecy, or did God mean for us to be enslaved and poor, oppressed by our own and forever servants to the white world?

Gilbert O'Neil Mushure—

E-MAIL RESPONSE

No country was "always meant to be a backyard of the world." When God created the Earth and all that is in it, He "saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). That included man (verse 27). But man was given free choice to obey God or disobey Him (Genesis 2:17). The first man and woman failed that test (Genesis 3:6). Ever since, mankind has been generally set on a course that would lead to his eternal death if not for God's intervention in his life. It is God's will that none die, but that all should prosper (3 John 2).

Africa and Africans are very much part of God's great plan for mankind. Jesus Christ declared that the true gospel message that He brought to mankind should be preached to all nations. Africans contribute to the work that strives to distribute this message to all nations via this magazine and other publishing, broadcasting, Internet-based and personal efforts. Our book *The God Family Vision* explains the true destiny of all nations, including those of the great continent of Africa.

I WAS A FORMER SUBSCRIBER TO THE *Plain Truth*, and now I feel so blessed having found the *Trumpet* at my hairdresser's salon and now being a present subscriber. I savor every issue; I am understanding Bible prophecy more and more. ... I agree with you: The end is near.

Ann Marie Alleyne—TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Comments?

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or: The Trumpet, P.O. Box 1099,
Edmond, OK 73083

Corrections

In our **JANUARY 2006** issue, a map on page 18 erroneously identified as "Slovakia" the country of Slovenia.

In the first column on page 19, the last line of text was cut off. The final paragraph should have read, "When it happens, remember—you read it here first."

What Is News?

Why the *Trumpet* has a clearer definition than any other news source. BY JOEL HILLIKER

JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF NEWS THAT PEOPLE CONSUME, we're all bona fide news junkies. We have broadcast news, cable news 24/7/365, radio news, news journals and newsmagazines, newspapers and Internet news. We are plugged in.

But plugged in to what, exactly? What *is* news? Given the dizzying nature of our simultaneously vast and tiny, mass-communication-saturated world of nearly 6½ billion people, as we seek to learn about it we have to be very selective. (Even the BBC does, and it's the world's largest news organization.) Thus, we tend to fixate on what tickles our curiosity, what swells or pinches our pocketbooks, what helps or harms our loved ones.

But how do the *professionals* pick what to report on and how? I challenge you to think about it. Because the publication you're reading uses an entirely different criterion than any other source out there.

Defining *what makes news* has to begin with watching. In order to better manage the overwhelming task of surveillance, news outlets carve the world into chunks—geographic areas, politics, economy, sports, health, specific organizations and so on. They must decide where to position their reporters—decisions that reflect certain prejudices: A president is more important than a policeman; Manhattan is more important than Minidoka. A harried assignment editor—monitoring multiple newswires, TV channels, police radio broadcasts and phone tips—will tend to allocate reporters to what looks potentially most dramatic: conflict-driven, telegenic, “man bites dog.” Money is also a factor: It costs more to send the reporter farther away and/or for longer periods; not to mention that there are only so many of them—if they're all already assigned, everything else slips through the cracks. It's an obvious truth, but worth stating: No matter how important an event may actually be, if the newsmen misses it, it ain't news.

The reporter on the scene has plenty of decisions to make, too: *Who are worthwhile sources? Which details matter? How much background is necessary to understand this? Does it represent a larger trend or is it deviant?* His perspective—limited and flawed as it may be—will affect all of these choices and shape the way he conveys that event.

News directors and editors must determine which of the stories that come in will fill the 23 minutes of that night's broadcast, or tomorrow's paper. And not just to determine whether the story will air or be printed, but also its prominence: where to put it and for how long, how to sell it, whether to pair it with other stories. Criteria for making these determinations are manifold: the story's timeliness, proximity to the audience, level of drama, celebrity of the subject, how many people it affects

and so on. They must also factor in suitability for the particular medium; balance with other reports; resources invested (*it's not much of a story, but we've spent the money so we'll go with it*); organizational policy; ideological slant; sense of public need or taste; need for ratings/subscribers; accountability to advertisers. Throw in an O.J. or M.J. criminal trial and the whole calculus can get upended for month after interminable month.

Up and down the chain—from the spark of an idea to the finished news product—these judgments are intrinsic to the process. In other words, creating news is not a science. As journalist Walter Lippmann once pointed out, *news is not the same as truth*. It is a concoction—based on reality but fundamentally limited, partial and artificial. A discerning consumer shouldn't accept it at face value.

The magazine you are reading faces many of these same decisions as we monitor world events: What will we cover? How should we write about it? How much space does it need? What will we feature on our cover? We grapple with limited intelligence, personal assumptions and flawed perceptions as much as everyone else.

In some basic ways, however, we are quite different from any other source from which you may receive news. For one, producing a free publication

means we have no accountability to advertisers and little need to adjust our content in order to pander to subscribers.

But the key difference is the primary criterion we use to determine a story's newsworthiness. It transcends and supercedes all other criteria by a vast margin—and is completely ignored by every other news outlet. Where other criteria swing and fluctuate and can suck the process toward silliness, this keeps it focused like a laser beam on what *truly is*—even in an *absolute* sense—*important*.

That criterion is *prophetic significance*.

In order to prove His omnipotence, millennia ago God recorded in Scripture descriptions of future events, and is now bringing them to pass (Isaiah 42:9; 46:9-10; 48:3-5). These provide signposts pointing to the imminence of Jesus Christ's Second Coming—an event which the Messiah Himself told us to prepare ourselves for by watching and praying (Luke 21:36).

To us, *news* is much more than a curiosity. As we watch events aligning, bit by bit, step by step, with the prophetic view spelled out in the Holy Bible by the living God, it is proof positive that “the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men” (Daniel 4:17) and that He is about to bring justice to this weary world. Thus, our message has *driving purpose*: to inform, to witness, yes—but also, hopefully, to *motivate* and *inspire*. The fact that each story has been chosen for its prophetic significance carries this urgent, implicit message: *Seek God while He may be found*. ■



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Direct TV DBS WGN Chan. 307 8:00 am ET, Sun
Direct TV Ch. 255 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network Ch. 181 6:00 am ET, Fri
Dish Network DBS WGN Chan. 239 8:00 am ET, Sun; WWOR Chan. 238 9:30 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun
Northeast cable WWOR 9:30 am ET, Sun
Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri
Alabama, Dothan WBDO 8:30, Sun
Alabama, Montgomery WBMV 8:30, Sun
Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Fairbanks KWEA 8:30 am, Sun
Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun
Arizona, Phoenix KPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Arizona, Yuma-El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun
Arkansas, Fayetteville-Rogers-Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun
Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun
California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Chico-Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun
California, Los Angeles KDOC 9:30 am, Sun; KPXXN 6:00 am, Fri
California, Monterey-Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun
California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri
California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun
Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri
Colorado, Grand Junction-Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun
Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri
Delaware, Salisbury 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 WXPX 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, Honolulu KPXO 5:00 am, Fri
Hawaii, Oahu Chan. 52 7:30 am, Sat
Hawaii, Maui/Molokai/Lanai Akaku Chan. 52 10:00 pm, Sun; 7:30 am, Mon
Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Idaho Falls-Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun
Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Chicago WCIU 9:30 am, Sun; WCPX 5:00 am, Fri
Illinois, Peoria-Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun
Illinois, Rockford WBR 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Fort Wayne WBFW 8:30 am, Sun
Indiana, Indianapolis WIPX 6:00 am, Fri
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, Ottumwa-Kirkville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Rochester-Mason City-Austin KWBR 8:30 am, Sun
Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun

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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
Kentucky, Louisville WBNA 6:00 am, Fri
Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun
Louisiana, Monroe-El Dorado KWMB 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
Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri
Massachusetts, Springfield-Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Detroit WPXD 6:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Grand Rapids WZPX 5:00 am, Fri
Michigan, Lansing WBL 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Marquette WBMK 9:30 am, Sun
Michigan, Traverse City-Cadillac 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-Gulfport WBG 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Columbus-Tupelo-West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Greenwood-Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Hattiesburg-Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Columbia-Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri

Missouri, Quincy-Hannibal-Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
Montana, Billings KWBM 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Butte-Bozeman KWXB 10:30 am, Sun
Montana, Glendive KWZB 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, Lincoln-Hastings-Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
Nevada, Reno KWBY 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
New York, Buffalo WUTV 6:30 am, Sun; WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri; WWOR 9:30 am, Sun
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, Asheville WASV 10:00 am, Sun
North Carolina, Fayetteville-Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greensboro WGFX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Greenville-New Bern-Washington WGW 9:30 am, Sun
North Carolina, Raleigh-Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri
North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Fargo-Valley City WFBG 8:30 am, Sun
North Dakota, Minot-Bismarck-Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri



Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
Ohio, Wheeling-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 KOCE 9:00 am, Sun; 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, Medford-Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
Oregon, Portland KPDX 8:00 am, Sun; KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPHL 9:00 am, Sun; 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-Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
South Carolina, Greenville WASV 10:00 am, Sun
South Carolina, Spartanburg WASV 10:00 am, Sun
South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
South Dakota, Sioux Falls (Mitchell) KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Jackson WBJK 8:30 am, Sun
Tennessee, Knoxville WPXK 6:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Memphis WPXX 5:00 am, Fri
Tennessee, Nashville WNPX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Abilene-Sweetwater KZWB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Austin KBEJ 7:30 am, Sun
Texas, Beaumont-Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am,

Sun
Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Dallas KDPI 10:30 am, Sun; KPDX 5:00 am, Fri
Texas, Harlingen-Weslaco-Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri; KRIV 9:00 am, Sun
Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Lubbock KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Odessa-Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri; KBEJ 7:30 am, Sun
Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Tyler-Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
Utah, Salt Lake City KUPX 5:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Charlottesville WBC 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Harrisonburg WBHA 9:30 am, Sun
Virginia, Norfolk WPXV 6:00 am, Fri
Virginia, Roanoke WPXR 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick WBDC 8:00 am, Sun; WXPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Seattle KWFX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
Washington, Yakima-Pasco-Richland-Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Bluefield-Beckley-Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
West Virginia, Clarksburg-Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
Wisconsin, La Crosse-Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun

Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
Wisconsin, Wausau-Rhineland WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Casper-Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
Wyoming, Cheyenne-Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 7 11:30 am ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun
Ontario WUTV 6:30 am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

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

CARIBBEAN

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

EUROPE

Malta Smash TV 4:30 pm, Sat; 10:00 pm, Tue

AFRICA/ASIA

Philippines nationwide Studio 23 8:30 am, Sun
South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND

Australia nationwide Network Ten 4:30 am, Sun
Adelaide, South Australia Chan. 31 11:30, Sun
Perth, Western Australia Chan. 31 11:30 am, Sun
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