

USEFUL PLAY

How to select toys
for your children

MIRACLES NEEDED

Enemies are encroaching on the State of Israel. What happened
to the miracles the Jewish state experienced for decades?

GOODBYE, BLAIR

Meet Britain's
new prime minister

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007

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Why Weather Is Punishing Us

(and it's not global warming)



2



8



13



24

WORLD

4 Flash Floods, Scorched Earth

Erratic weather plagues much of the world and has many looking for reasons why. Is there a solution to the deluge of curses and drought of blessings?

WORLD

FROM THE EDITOR

1 Jerusalem: Why the Miracles Have Ceased

SCIENCE

3 Race for the God Particle

The U.S. falls behind Europe in science's biggest race.

8 Why the Hamas Victory Won't Last

10 Egypt's Radicals to Rise

12 Iran Threatens to Strike Back at U.S.

18 Why Britain Booted Blair

What to expect from the UK's new prime minister.

20 WORLDWATCH

MIDDLE EAST Missing Radioactive Devices in Canada Usable by Terrorists ■ Israel Offers Golan to Syria ■ **U.S.** Hacker Downs Pentagon E-mail ■ Illegals Set Fire to Border ■ Sharp Slowdown in Economy ■ **EUROPE** New Treaty Sets Powerful Post ■ Al Qaeda Spreading ■ EU Laws "Smothering" Britain ■ **ASIA** Nations Abandoning Taiwan ■ Portugal's Futile Fight for Turkey

27 Russo-German Pact Imminent

Tensions between these two are setting the scene for an alliance.

28 Face-off Over Kosovo

LIVING

13 How to Select Toys for Your Children

Toys play a major role in the life of any child. Do you know how to select the right ones?

SOCIETY

16 The End of American Crime

Where the crime surge will stop

COMMENTARY

37 The Golden Years

Reflections on a life

RELIGION

24 Coming Soon: One Pure Language

BOOK EXCERPT

30 Deathbed Repentance

wcg leaders told so many stories about the changes they made, they couldn't keep them straight.

DEPARTMENTS

34 Key of David Television Log

36 Letters

For a free subscription in the U.S. and Canada, call 1-800-772-8577

COVER While drought hits many parts of the world, other areas suffer from flooding. Index Open

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Gerald Flurry

JERUSALEM:

Why the Miracles Have Ceased

A FEW YEARS AGO, ISRAEL WAS A TERROR TO THE Arabs in the Middle East. Now radical Islam—led by Iran—is a terror to Israel, as well as to millions of Arabs.

Why this alarming change in the volatile Middle East?

Iran has been the number-one sponsor of terrorism for many years. The Iranians are about to become a nuclear power, which is going to add a horrifying dimension to this violent region.

However, in spite of this black and gloomy scene, we are about to see peace in the Middle East very soon.

Israel's Birth

Let's look back at Israel's recent history.

When World War II ended, there were many Jewish refugees with no place to call home. Most of the world was sympathetic to these Jews.

In 1948, after a bitter struggle in the United Nations, these Jews (the modern descendants of the biblical tribe of Judah—the name *Jew* is just a shortened version of *Judah*) received a home when the land of Israel was declared a nation.

The Arabs attacked immediately.

The Jews had no real army and were losing the war after three weeks. Then the Arabs strangely agreed to a temporary UN-sponsored truce. This is exactly what Israel needed to rearm and train its weary troops—many of whom were nothing more than civilians with guns.

Shortly thereafter, the Arabs began fighting again. This time the Jews were well prepared and soon won the war.

MANY OF THE JEWS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS A MIRACLE FROM GOD!

The Jews were determined fighters. This was their first sovereign nation in almost 2,000 years. Only death could make them surrender their new and only homeland. They had a strong faith in God. As a result, they experienced bountiful miracles in the following years.

Will to Fight

There continued to be many problems between the Jews and Arabs. These became so intense in 1967 that almost every nation in the world believed the Arabs were about to attack Israel again.

Egypt, Jordan and Syria allied to start a war. The Soviet Union strongly urged Egypt to attack. Egyptian troops poured into the Sinai and ordered UN forces out. War seemed imminent.

The Jews felt compelled to strike first. Jewish warplanes

flew into Egypt and destroyed 300 Egyptian combat fighters in three hours. The Jews then captured all of the Sinai, the Suez Canal, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights in just six days.

Again, many Jews believed their nation had been saved by a series of godly miracles. They were inspired and joyfully optimistic about their future.

The attitude in Israel *today* is very different. A majority of the Jews are depressed about their future. Why the change? When did the miracles cease?

After the 1967 victory, Israel became prosperous and complacent. The Jews were lulled into a false sense of security. Meanwhile, terrorists began to pour into the nation.

In late 1973, the Jewish military ignored serious intelligence reports that the Arabs were again poised to attack. The assault occurred on October 6, during the solemn Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur.

The Jews won the war in three weeks, with much aid from the Americans. Egypt was beaten, but not humiliated. Once again Jerusalem had been MIRACULOUSLY saved. Again, many Jews admitted that the Yom Kippur victory abounded with

miracles—especially since the war started on one of their holiest days of the year.

But soon after, something dramatic changed in Israel.

Menachem Begin was elected prime minister in 1977. U.S. President Jimmy Carter persuaded him to give the Sinai back to Egypt in the late 1970s.

THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE ISRAELI-ARAB PEACE PROCESS. The Jews gave up land for a piece of paper. At this point, the course of their history took a dramatic and dangerous turn.

Mount Sinai

When the Jews gave the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt, that probably included Mount Sinai, where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. THIS FIERY MOUNTAIN SPECTACLE GAVE BIRTH TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL! The Sinai area was where the children of Israel wandered for 40 years as they rebelled against God's law and His holy days.

Again, the biblical name for the modern nation called Israel is *Judah*. But the modern descendants of the ancient Israelites include several nations—including the U.S. and Britain. In other words, biblical Judah is only a small part of Israel today. America and the British people are also Israel. The prophecies

LEGITIMACY The Israeli flag is raised for the first time at UN headquarters.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES



BEGINNING OF THE END Egypt's Sadat and Israel's Begin meet with U.S. President Carter in the early stages of the "peace process."

about end-time Israel are primarily focused on those three nations. (For thorough proof, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The U.S. and Britain both pressured the Jews to give the Sinai back to Egypt, even though our ancestors were right there with the Jews when God gave His law on Mount Sinai.

Why are these three nations in such serious trouble today? **GIVING THE SINAI BACK TO EGYPT IS AT THE HEART OF THEIR PROBLEMS!**

THE JEWISH NATION WAS BORN AND SUSTAINED BY FAITH AND GODLY MIRACLES. But the Jews' faith is failing them today. The miracles have ceased.

Today, in spite of the fact that the Jews gave the Sinai back to Egypt—an unparalleled gift—Egypt is fast becoming one of Israel's most hostile neighbors. That should show us that giving away land does not buy peace.

The Jews continue to give land for empty promises of peace. In 1993 on the White House lawn, the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat shook hands, and Israel surrendered bits of that hard-won, strategically important land in the *hope* that the Arabs could be simply *bar-gained* into giving up their goal of destroying the Jewish nation.

The Jews have also given Gaza, Jericho, Bethlehem and other West Bank areas back to the Palestinians. It seems the world has forgotten that those areas were *won in a war* where the Arabs were trying to annihilate the Jews. This land-for-peace process is almost unheard-of in history, except perhaps for what happened in South Africa.

The Jews have given back many biblical sites to the Arabs. America and Britain have strongly urged them to do so.

Throughout this terribly misnamed "peace" process—Israel giving up land and seeing no appreciable drop in violence—Palestinian leaders have consistently told politicians and media that they want peaceful coexistence with Israel while simultaneously promising to their own people that they will destroy Israel.

Now, after years of gambling with its own soil, Israel finds itself depleted of property and will. It has been terribly weakened and bloodied by its own policies—yet even today, Jewish leaders say they need to make concessions to the Arabs even if doing so will endanger Jews!

The Good News

The *Intelligence Digest*, Oct. 4, 1996, said this: "[T]HE PRINCIPAL DELUSION underpinning the Middle East peace process, [is] that ALL PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED BY NEGOTIATION" (emphasis mine).

THE DEADLY DELUSION that "all problems can be solved by negotiation" is going to lead Israel and the U.S. to disaster!

Adolf Hitler almost conquered the world because so many nations had that delusion before and during World War II.

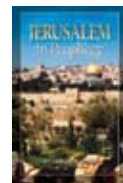
Such a philosophy destroys nations. NO GREAT NATION HAS EVER BEEN BUILT OR SUSTAINED BY SUCH A BELIEF! Any good history book should teach us that. Bible prophecy certainly does. IT IS A PHILOSOPHY BASED ON WEAKNESS. The Arabs see *land-for-peace deals* as a glaring weakness in the Jews and fully intend to exploit it! Any powerful nation that reasons from such weakness is plummeting to disaster!

Many of the leading politicians of the world are trying to bring peace to the Middle East. But they can't because they don't know how.

Very soon there *is* going to be peace in Jerusalem. THAT CITY IS GOING TO GIVE BIRTH TO PEACE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD!

You need to understand where these terrifying problems are leading. Paradoxically, these monstrous problems are a *sign* of the best news you could hear. To learn about that good news, request our free booklet *Jerusalem in Prophecy*.

It is *darkest just before the dawn*—and what a dawn we are about to see! ■



CORRECTION: In the November 2005 *Trumpet*, Stephen Flurry's article "Tragedy of Biblical Proportions" stated that I had announced this world had entered "the last half of the last hour." That statement was incorrect. I had speculated about that possibility, but the Bible prophesies only about a "last hour" of this age of man (1 John 2:18, Revised Standard Version)—which I believe we are in. It does not get more specific than that. The biblical "last hour" is a period of unknown length. The Bible is clear that "of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36). We regret any confusion the error may have caused our readers.

Race *for the* God Particle

As scientists run their biggest race, the U.S. falls hopelessly behind Europe. BY MARK JENKINS

THE BIGGEST RACE IN SCIENCE has been on for decades now, but by this time next year, the United States will no longer be a contender. The most expensive, sophisticated machine on Earth will come online in Europe in 2008: a new Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the CERN nuclear research facility on the border of Switzerland and France. Researchers will be looking for a theoretical particle called the Higgs boson, known as the “God particle” to enthusiasts because its existence would explain why particles have mass.

Whoever finds the Higgs has the Nobel Prize all wrapped up. Until now, much of theoretical physics has been developed from very little hard data. The standard model says the Higgs particle has about 190 times the mass of a proton, but that model remains questionable until the Higgs particle is actually discovered. The LHC promises to facilitate this long-anticipated discovery, and most particle physicists hope for more than a simple confirmation of the standard model. If the Higgs differs from the standard model, or if researchers discover other new particles, a whole new era could dawn for particle physics.

Until the LHC is operational, the U.S. still has a chance—one shot to make a final discovery before its scientists fade into textbook obscurity. Currently, the largest accelerator in the world is the Tevatron, located at Chicago’s Fermilab. This means that until the Large Hadron

Collider is activated next May, Chicago researchers will still be making the big discoveries. (Tevatron will be shut down completely in 2009.)

Case in point: On June 13 Tevatron announced the discovery of a new heavy particle, the first to have quarks from all three families of matter. Studying this particle will help sci-

leadership role in physics, and the best and the brightest physicists will want to go to the superior facility of CERN. Consider our brains drained.

A project of this magnitude always inspires the next generation, so we can expect the next crop of great scientists to come from Europe, not the U.S. The technologies that invariably result from such significant discoveries will emanate from Europe. Think of the impact the space program had in the United States, with an entire generation of young people wanting to become astronauts, and spin-off technologies affecting everything from oil-spill cleanup to golf ball design. Cordless power tools were developed for the Apollo program; smoke detectors and water filtration units in your home use NASA technology; much of our media relies on satellite systems NASA helped develop; many medical advancements—including both CAT scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)—are a result of the space program. The potential of the European research program is just as high.

And the trend of cutting-edge science moving from the U.S. to Europe won’t stop with a particle accelerator; there are already plans to build a \$13 billion experimental fusion reactor in France. Also, while the U.S. is participating in the new \$1.4 billion Herschel Space Observatory, the largest infrared space-based telescope of its kind, it too is a *European* project—the U.S. is not taking the lead as it once would have. This ongoing loss of leadership in the most important fields of science is just one more symptom of a U.S. superpower at the end of its own life cycle. Europe is ready to fill the void. ■

The Collider



The Large Hadron Collider in Europe will feature a 27-km circular tunnel with 1,746 superconducting magnets like the one pictured above. Vast chambers around the tunnel will house complex cameras to detect particles, as protons accelerate nearly to the speed of light. Each second, 800 million collisions will occur. Some particles will exist for one thousandth of a billionth of a billionth of a second.

tists better understand how quarks are bound together in protons and neutrons. It was a major discovery—but it wasn’t the Higgs, and the time the Tevatron has to make science’s most anticipated finding is almost up. With the nearly 25-year-old Tevatron nearing the end of its life cycle, researchers at Fermilab would likely have already found the Higgs if they were going to.

Even if the U.S. were to beat Europe to it and discover the Higgs before the LHC becomes operational, it would be the last major discovery in America. As of next year, the U.S. will have lost its



Flash Floods

Scorche



AT THE MAIN STREET Eatery in parched Summerville, Tenn., a local farmer laments, “Did you hear it’s so dry, they’re only running the river three days a week?” “God will send the rain before it’s too late,” a waitress reassures customers.

They are among the many people worldwide who would consider even a single day of rain heaven-sent.

Many others, however, cry with exasperation when storm clouds begin to sprinkle—swelling already-swollen rivers, adding to already-damaging floodwaters.

Headlines such as “Fires and Floods From East to West U.S.” highlight the wide scope of disasters simultaneously walloping a nation once renowned for weather-driven agricultural prosperity. While one state simmers in a heat wave, another drowns in a deluge. The biblical phrase “rain in due season” is sounding more and more like a distant dream.

The story is the same in nations all over the world as people try to come to grips with weather patterns that are increasingly erratic and deadly. Never in living memory have so many nations witnessed such dramatic and destructive extremes of simultaneous droughts and floods. Weather calamities are erupting everywhere: Africa, Britain, China, Australia, Europe, Israel, and the list goes on.

Mark Twain famously said weather was the subject everybody talks about but nobody does anything about. The weather lately has given people more to talk about—and left them feeling more helpless—than ever before.

Why is this happening? Government officials and relief groups struggle to find solutions and clean up the aftermath, but are they missing the bigger picture?

Never have God’s words in Amos 4:7 been so vivid: “I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.”

Scorched Earth

The prophecy in Amos of cities suffering devastating drought is all too real

d Earth

Erratic weather plagues much of the world and has many looking for answers. Why the deluge of curses and drought of blessings?

BY TRUMPET STAFF

for much of the United States.

Arizona and New Mexico have seen their *worst drought in 500 years*. Los Angeles and other Southern California cities baked in the driest six months of “rainy season” in 130 years. And the Colorado River basin—from which Southern California imports half of its water—is set to have its driest year yet.

These record droughts are igniting the land in wildfire. California’s “fire season,” which typically starts in June, began three months early—torching 2,046 acres in Orange County alone. Another 800 acres blazed near Pasadena, and a 4,750-acre inferno forced 3,300 people from Santa Catalina Island.

Firefighters to the tune of 1,200—the equivalent of 1½ army battalions—tried to beat back 236 individual blazes in Florida. Typically, humid states like Georgia suffered the largest fires on record.

The accumulation of all these problems is taking its toll on crops. As Amos wrote, the cities not rained upon have withered. Drought, combined with a

bitter frost earlier this year, destroyed all of Georgia’s apples and three fourths of its peaches. Unending droughts in states like California and Florida—two of America’s largest agricultural producers—could mean widespread job losses and higher food prices nationwide.

The parched conditions are being likened to the dustbowl of the 1930s, only worse. “The 1930s drought lasted less than a decade. This is something that could remain for 100 years,” said Richard Seager, lead researcher of a report published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

These disastrously dry conditions have people hoping, longing, even praying, for rain. One farmer in the Tennessee Valley said that for the first time in his life he was “wishing for a tropical storm.”

That is essentially what happened in Australia, where the worst drought in a century prompted Prime Minister John Howard to urge his people to pray. If rain didn’t come, he told Australians, he would have to cut off irrigation for the

Murray-Darling river basin, Australia’s most

productive farmland. This area, which hosts half the nation’s sheep, a quarter of its cattle and three quarters of its irrigated land, accounts for 40 percent of the country’s agricultural output. Suffice it to say, the prime minister’s threat sent shockwaves through the country.

Not long afterward, however, Australia’s skies began to rain down a torrent of curses.

When It Rains, It Pours

In June, the land Down Under witnessed the other half of Amos’s prophecy: rain as a CURSE. While providing relief to some farmers, major storms wreaked havoc across southeastern Australia. Parts of New South Wales suffered their worst flooding in 30 years, while Victoria experienced its worst in nearly four decades. Cyclone-strength winds, torrential rain and huge seas forced thousands to evacuate. Rivers burst their banks and floodwaters engulfed farms.

In the United States, you wouldn’t know there was a drought if you lived in New Jersey, New York, near the levees

Wild and Weird

Gigantic fires consuming woodlands in Florida (left) could be smelled hundreds of miles away and were visible from space. In a bizarre weather pattern, snow falls on the San Gabriel mountain range in April, which is still facing a drought.



of the Missouri River, or in Oklahoma City—which experienced 20 days of consecutive downpours and broke records going back to 1937. Cities in Texas, South Dakota and North Dakota declared disasters or asked the president to declare a disaster due to the June flooding. One person called it a “rain bomb,” with rains in Austin falling at the astonishing rate of 8 inches per hour.

In Britain, the rains have been catastrophic. While Europe fought dozens of fires and endured record-high temperatures (claiming dozens of lives in Eastern Europe), swift flood currents in the UK drowned people and livestock.

Too much rain also takes its toll on crops. British farmers reported losses of up to 70 percent thanks to rain-induced rotting.

Whether torrential rain or dry heat, flood or fires, the weather balance is off. You need to know *WHY*. You also need to know if anything can be done to change these epically disastrous conditions.

What Controls the Weather?

Meteorologists have trouble predicting the weather even in the short term; they certainly cannot forecast weather changes or climatic variability in the long term. They admit they don't know why major globe-impacting weather forces, such as high-altitude jet streams or powerful ocean currents, shift as they do.

Meteorologists are only able to rely on scientific observation, experimentation and reason—physical evidence—to forecast weather. But this tells only part of the story. There is another, little-used source we can turn to for the other portion of the picture. It claims to pinpoint the *causes* of weather cataclysms, and to forecast long-term weather trends. Yet it is a source whose veracity most people would question.

That source is God's revealed Word: the Holy Bible.

Can this Book really tell us the true cause of weather crises?

The God of the Bible claims *He* controls the weather. He challenges us to believe Him! He says He causes the sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. He sends the snow and ice as well as drought and heat. He bathes the Earth with gentle rain to show His loving concern, yet also sends flood and mildew to punish (Matthew 5:45; Job 37; Deuteronomy 28:22).

The Bible also reveals that God has

set spiritual and physical laws in motion, and that He is presently allowing humans to develop their own ways of living—contrary to His laws—and to reap the natural consequences that result from those ways, including weather upsets.

Further, God in His great purpose also allows Satan—the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)—to have a role in producing catastrophic weather, for man's ultimate learning (see Job 1).

Whereas humankind, in explaining weather, looks only to material causes—physical phenomena measured by scientific instruments—the Bible shows that

Meteorologists have trouble predicting the weather even in the short term; they certainly cannot forecast weather changes or climatic variability in the long term.

there is a *spiritual* dimension to this question!

Most people today consider themselves too sophisticated to believe such a thing.

God tells us that the real cause of our upset weather conditions involves *sin*—which is the transgression of His law (1 John 3:4). God uses weather to correct and discipline His creation—to help us realize the error of our way of living.

In the June 1995 issue of this magazine, our editor in chief wrote, “*Why* all these disasters? They are a warning from God to REPENT! The disasters will keep coming until we repent. That is our *only* hope.”

Anciently, wise King Solomon understood the connection between the transgression of God's law and bad weather. When he dedicated the temple of God, Solomon prayed, “When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance” (2 Chronicles 6:26-27).

Weathermen and news reporters would scoff at the idea that chaotic weather bears any relation to our wrong ways of living—wrong lifestyles, morality and thinking. They consider themselves wiser than Solomon! But in reality, they, along with the majority of

mankind, have been deceived (Revelation 12:9) and will end up being victims of the very prophecies they reject.

The Future Forecast

What *does* the Bible forecast? The answer to that question directly relates to the moral and spiritual condition of the world. Because that is prophesied to decay (a reality we see well advanced around us), so too is the state of our weather.

When leaders like Australia's prime minister point a nation to God in prayer, it is a step in the right direction. But until people genuinely turn to God and

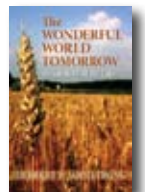
obey His law, all the praying in the world will not fix problems with the weather.

In fact, the chaotic weather of recent decades will soon seem tame by comparison. In the near future, our weather is prophesied to go completely haywire (see Revelation 6:5-8; 8:4-12). The powerful forces of nature are going to be unleashed upon a disobedient world to bring it to its knees in repentance.

We should consider the worsening weather trend a warning from Almighty God—a warning to the nations today to turn from materialism, false religions and the sundry sins that are leading us away from the true path of peace and abundant living.

In Leviticus 26, God promises “rain in due season” and that “the land shall yield her increase” (verse 4)—but notice the condition: “*IF* ye walk in my statutes, and *keep my commandments*, and do them” (verse 3). Were the nations to do so, we would find ourselves blessed with beautiful weather and stable climates. We would not have to fear climatic changes, crop failures and famine, or dying in a severe weather event.

We *can* experience prosperous living with pleasant, healthful weather—when mankind is willing to recognize God, His laws and His government. That will mean the dawning of a new age—the wonderful World Tomorrow. If you would like to know more about that soon-coming world, request a copy of our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like!* ■



Why the Hamas Victory Won't Last

Hamas's coup in the Gaza Strip was the move of a short-sighted, overreaching power that is about to ignite a world war—and then perish in it. BY JOEL HILLIKER

QUITE SUDDENLY, THE MIDDLE East has given birth to another rabidly Islamist state.

That state is the Gaza Strip, now ruled entirely by the terrorist organization Hamas. In terms of radicalism, it is right up there with Iran.

Over the course of only a few days in June, Hamas violently overthrew the forces of the Palestinian Fatah party based in Gaza. Now with Hamas reigning there, and Fatah retaining control of the West Bank, the Palestinians are split into two distinct bodies. One of them doesn't even pretend to be moderate: It openly calls for Israel's annihilation.

Why this bold move? Many analysts say it was a blunder: that it gained Hamas little of strategic value and actually cost the organization in terms of diplomatic cover and international legitimacy. Some believe optimistically that Hamas, saddled with full responsibility of governing the Gaza Strip, will crumble under the weight of its own ineptitude.

It is true that, as we will see, the Gaza coup provided a clue as to the demise of Hamas—and that of its most powerful foreign benefactor. But to dismiss the enormous strategic implications of this move is naive. This rash, violent overreaching terrorist organization has just lurched the Middle East closer to sparking a *world war*.

Palestinian "State" Already Exists

The tiny Gaza Strip was already an unhappy place. On average, over 3,500 people crowd every square kilometer. Three in ten Gazans live in refugee camps. Unemployment generally stands at 44 percent; the poverty rate is about 70 percent. Gaza receives almost all its income in handouts from other nations. Historian Michael Oren calculates that since the Oslo Accords in 1993, the Palestinian Authority "has garnered more international aid than any entity in modern history—more per capita than the European states under the Marshall Plan." What

did all this aid achieve? Rich Palestinian Authority leaders, a host of militias lavishly armed by the PA—and a criminally impoverished Arab populace.

Still, the average Gazan woman bears almost six children. As a result, nearly half of Gazans are 14 years old or younger; the median age is an immature 15.8 years. One in five children under age 5 suffers from malnutrition.

These people need hope. They need positive education and productive work. Sadly, what they get instead is a steady intellectual diet of hate—the cradle-to-early-grave glorification of killing innocent people and committing suicide.

When Israel withdrew from the Strip in 2005, problems grew worse. Under independent Arab rule, living conditions got poorer for locals—and far easier for terrorists. The area became awash in weapons and radicals. Turns out Israel's presence was the only thing preventing the place from descending into chaos.

The politicians and diplomats who



MAHMUD HANES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

expect from an organization full of barely grown children raised in a death cult. When they seized Fatah command centers to gain control of Gaza, Hamas gunmen lined up Fatah supporters and shot them, execution-style, in the streets, horrifying women and children onlookers. They escorted people to the rooftops of tall buildings and threw them to their deaths. They paraded bullet-ridden corpses through the streets. They gunned down patients in hospitals. They ransacked churches and burned Bibles. In a fitting metaphor, many Gazans tried to flee for their lives across the border into Israel.

Though Fatah had more numerous forces with superior weaponry and infrastructure in Gaza, they quickly fell simply because Hamas had fiercer determination and stronger will. Hamas's success proves an important point: "Fanaticism trumps numbers," Ralph Peters wrote in the *New York Post*. "At the height of [the] fighting in Gaza, one Palestinian in 300 carried a weapon in support of Hamas—a third of one percent of the population. Now Hamas rules 1.5 million people" (June 19).

Remember that. Regardless of popular support, a small group can punch far above its weight if it's gritty and ruthless enough. Even if the West isn't learning this lesson, Islamist radicals certainly are.

Such violent fanaticism has a historical record of success. Thankfully, however, this success is destined to be short-lived. The facts of history, a clear-eyed look at Hamas today, and biblical prophecy all point toward immediate victories that will soon end in catastrophic defeat for this organization.

Already it is plain that Hamas's success will not extend into the political realm. Unfortunately for Gazans, under Hamas leadership conditions are virtually guaranteed to go from miserable to intolerable. Hamas is skilled at destroying—but terrible at governing. Its twisted ideology entraps people in poverty and drives them to kill themselves. Hamas couldn't turn the Gaza Strip into a healthy, thriving, happy community if it ruled there for 500 years.

But it isn't even interested in that goal. It seeks primarily to destroy and oppress. To pursue those aims, since it is unable to support itself with productive, wealth-building activities, it needs continued sponsorship from an outside

source—a source that supports Hamas's radical agenda and is flush with cash.

Iran fits the role perfectly.

Iran's Investment in Violence

Shortly after Hamas was elected to power, the *Trumpet* said this: "Western politicians are optimistic, but realism demands a much dimmer view. The *Trumpet* expects Hamas to take some decisive, violent action relatively soon.

"Facing pressure from Israel and the West to disarm and embrace a warmer political tone, Hamas will likely seek assurance and comfort in the arms of those of like mind and religion.

"Watch for Hamas to draw closer to groups like Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Muslim Brotherhood in

Egypt, the government of Syria and, particularly, the Middle East's most roguish nation—Iran" (April 2006). That is exactly what has happened. The West's hopes have proved misguided—though it has yet to fully admit that.

The Gaza takeover showed what a valuable investment Hamas is for Iran: It gave an important psychological boost to the forces of radicalism that Iran seeks to lead, and provided a beachhead from which to penetrate both Israel and Egypt. In fact, at least one report showed that Iran directed the takeover—in spite of resistance from some influential and less-radical factions within Hamas!

For Iran, Hamas's coup in Gaza was an event years in the making. For a long time, Tehran has flooded the Palestinian territories with funding and weapons, supporting a variety of social institutions, political causes and terrorist groups. Both Hamas and Fatah are on Iran's payroll (both groups seek to eliminate Israel and differ only in strategy). Through Hezbollah, Iran has developed strong ties with and deeply infiltrated both organizations. Hezbollah operatives in Lebanon have directed Hamas operations; to this day, Hamas's "supreme leader," Khalid Mishaal, lives in Damascus.

After Hamas won Palestinian elections in January last year, Iran's ties to the group expanded. When America, Israel and Europe cut off their funding, Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood stepped in to try to fill some of the gap; they earnestly wanted to guarantee the ongoing presence of this radical, strategically valuable group in the bowels of

NEW KING IN TOWN
 Hamas gunmen watch over the captured Fatah Preventative Security compound, a facility meant to help keep Hamas at bay.

are working so diligently to create a Palestinian state need to recognize this reality: Without drastic steps to prevent it, that state would suffer from the same poisons that saturate Gaza. As Bret Stephens wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*, "[W]hat the experience of an unoccupied Gaza Strip has shown is the Palestinians' unfitness for political sovereignty" (June 26). It is a point worth pondering.

But life in Gaza is about to get even worse. Apparently, all that international aid also got something else: a PA that couldn't hold its position for three days once Hamas decided to take over. Now the hate culture is intensifying. And all those weapons—many of which were purchased with international money intended to make life more comfortable for Palestinians; some of which, foreign powers directly supplied specifically to help Fatah combat Hamas—now belong to Hamas.

Nightmare in Gaza

Hamas is full of thugs—just what you'd

Israel. Unsurprisingly, the lion's share of assistance that poured in from Iran went toward beefing up Hamas's armaments and war-making capabilities. Thus, the West's attempt to isolate Hamas economically actually drove it even further into the arms of its Iranian benefactors.

Over that same period, however, conflict with Fatah forces has steadily ramped up. Evidence shows that *Iran actually fomented this clash*—even sabotaging political attempts to form a unity government—in preparation for the day that the far-more-religious Hamas could take over.

For the Gaza Strip, that day came in June. Iranian-born journalist Amir Taheri revealed in the June 20 *New York Post* that, in order to squash a pending Hamas-Fatah power-sharing deal that Iran feared would loosen its hold over the Palestinian territories, Iran's rulers pushed Hamas's supreme leader for "an intensification of the struggle against the Zionist enemy" and encouraged the Gaza plan. The plan was never discussed by Hamas's Consultative Assembly, and many Hamas leaders didn't even know about it. Nevertheless, Iran ramrodded it into reality.

Perhaps never before did Hamas serve so directly as an instrument of Iranian foreign

policy. Its success in the Gaza Strip was a greater victory for Iran than for itself!

What was Iran's motive? "The battle in Gaza was something more than a local struggle for power between rival Palestinian factions," Taheri concluded. "It was dictated by [Iranian] strategic imperative that could affect the broader region as the Islamic Republic and the United States intensify their rivalry over who sets the agenda for the future of the Middle East" (ibid.).

Some may dismiss the idea, but it is becoming clearer all the time. The Hamas coup was part of a *sequence* of recent brash, belligerent moves by Iran. In recent months Iranian Revolutionary Guardsmen, in addition to capturing 15 British seamen and imprisoning four Americans, were caught delivering weapons to the Taliban in Afghanistan, and—in a first—directly killing British soldiers in Iraq. In Iraq, in Syria, in Lebanon, in the Palestinian territories, even in Egypt and smaller Gulf states, the same Iranian-inspired or Iranian-funded revolutionary forces are at work, actively agitating for a war.

The leaders of Iran plainly view *now* as the moment of opportunity for their radical religious worldview to triumph.

Nurturing a Fantasy

"God willing, in the near future we will witness the destruction of the corrupt occupier regime," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad predicted June 3 at ceremonies marking 18 years since the death of the Islamic Revolution's father, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Citing last year's Lebanon war, he said, "With God's help, the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine."

Most Westerners dismiss such statements as bluster. But events show that Tehran is growing increasingly brash, even reckless, in pursuing its ambitions and converting such rhetoric into action.

Many in Israel and the West see weakness and rot within the world of radical Islam. The Gaza Strip under Hamas rule, for example, is a squalid, impoverished refugee slum. Iran is plagued by economic problems and popular resistance against the religious ruling class. It is true that in these weaknesses lay the seeds of these entities' destruction.

However, it is a common mistake to assume that these radicals, given time, will simply flame out.

Hamas, Iran and their ilk view the

Egypt's Radicals to Rise

HAMAS'S seizure of the Gaza Strip in June could have nightmarish consequences in Egypt, hastening its transformation into an Iranian-aligned Islamist state.

Dr. George Friedman points out that the Arabs in Gaza, unlike those in the West Bank, have historically "been oriented toward the Egyptians, who occupied the region until 1967" (Stratfor.com, June 19). While the Egyptian government created the Palestine Liberation Organization, the dissident Muslim Brotherhood helped influence Hamas's creation in 1987. These historical and spiritual ties give Brotherhood members cause to rejoice over Hamas victories. "[T]he strategic consequence of an independent, Islamist Gaza is that it can act both as a symbol and as a catalyst for change in Egypt," Friedman wrote.

This is the last thing Israel needs. Egypt, historically the

pillar nation in the region, is one of Israel's only neighbors with which it has a functional peace agreement. But the winds of revolution are picking up over Cairo. Popular resistance to the presidency of Hosni Mubarak is growing, and the radical Muslim Brotherhood is gaining public support and political clout. Hamas's victory could energize these destabilizing trends.

Even the Egyptian press is noising concern over the possibility of a Hamas-style coup in its country. One Egyptian columnist, Tariq Hasan, reported on Muslim Brotherhood representatives in parliament accusing the Mubarak government of waving "the Zionist flag, despite the people's opposition to this. This means that [in their view] Egypt, like the Palestinian Authority, deserves that a revolution should take place in it" (MEMRI, June 28). Several Egyptian columnists speak of



Hamas and the Brotherhood in the same breath.

Reports also show the beginnings of some links between the Muslim Brotherhood and Iran. Given the similarity in their ultimate goals, we should expect these ties to expand in the time ahead.

Biblical prophecy suggests a strong link between Iran and Egypt in our day, and thus the *Trumpet* has been monitoring

Egypt for some years for signs of a dramatic turn toward Iran's radical orientation. You can read the scriptural explanation bolstering that forecast in our free booklet *The King of the South*.

Suffice it to say, the picture in biblical prophecy is of Egypt playing a significant role in Iran's soon-coming attack on Jerusalem—and it too possessing the fatal weaknesses that plague its deluded allies in Tehran.

The Forces of Radicalism—Encircling Israel



world through the distorted lens of their Islamist ideology. They see themselves as being on the cusp of defeating Israel and the West and bringing about a new golden age of Islam. The West's continuous backpedaling provides plenty of evidence to support their belief, and thus this dangerous fantasy grows more vivid in their minds; as it does, it increasingly trumps reality and logic.

This explains why *economic punishments will not prevent a war*. Religious zealots simply do not act according to the same economic incentives that Western nations tend to. Yet Israel and the U.S. continue to use them as a primary weapon. Addle-headed European leaders recognize that sanctions haven't worked—and want to “solve” the problem by re-funding Hamas, hoping that will wheedle the group into becoming more moderate! This is first-class idiocy. Hamas and Iran cannot be *bribed* or *talked* out of giving up the fundamental principles and ambitions that define them.

Sensing deep down the fruitlessness of these approaches, Westerners fall back on the hope that eventually the radical forces will somehow implode. They look at Iran, for example, and see an isolated regime doomed to collapse. The problem is, this thinking overlooks the *enormous damage Iran can do in the short run*. Going back to Ralph Peters' point, “The people of Iran want change, but the fanatics have the guns. And sorry, folks: Fanatics with guns beat liberals with ideas” (op. cit.).

True, these fanatics do not have the wherewithal to sustain themselves successfully over time. But they have more

than enough determination and religious fervor to cause a heap of trouble in the immediate future. And clearly, that is just what they intend to do.

Encircling Israel

Iran is the ringmaster of the radicals, aggressively pursuing its plan to surround Israel, demolish it, and take its most precious prize: Jerusalem.

To Israel's north, Iran has deluged Hezbollah in Lebanon with money and weapons. This group is now as strong or stronger than it was before it waged

The Hamas coup was part of a sequence of recent brash moves by Iran. Throughout the region, Iranian-inspired or -funded forces are at work, actively agitating for a war.

war against Israel last summer—a war Hezbollah officials have since publicly acknowledged *Iran authorized*. With Hamas now in control of Gaza, Tehran could ignite another conflict on Israel's western and northern borders at any moment.

Iran is also opening another front in its effort to encircle Israel: the West Bank. *Its next move will likely be to take over this area, including East Jerusalem*.

The West Bank already crawls with zealots sympathetic to if not in the pay of Iran and its hawkish pursuits there. Israel is deeply concerned that Hamas's success in Gaza foreshadows a similar putsch in the West Bank. It has good reason to be.

In May, during the Palestinian factional fighting in Gaza, Hamas successfully infiltrated Fatah's West Bank strongholds,

with more than 40 percent of the members of Fatah's military wing, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, revolting against Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas. DEBKAFfile reported that these defectors formed a new pro-Hamas terrorist group that takes its orders from senior Hamas leaders in Gaza and receives explosives and funding from Hezbollah. “The result, our counter-terror experts report, is *a Hamas launching pad on the West Bank*, previously controlled by Fatah, for a mass suicide bombing offensive against central Israel, projected by the Iran-backed Hamas as the next stage of its missile campaign from Gaza. The new Martyr Abu Amar Brigades have been given orders to gear up to stage multiple suicide truck bombings, Iraq style, in Israel's main cities. ... It affords Hamas a prime strategic asset for escalating its violent campaign against Israel” (May 30, emphasis mine). This mutiny gives Hamas strike force and terrorist networks stretching from Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip to Jenin in the northern West Bank!

(This chilling development shows the utter stupidity of the West's efforts to pump funding and weaponry into Abbas's Fatah in order to check Hamas. Just watch: As in Gaza, eventually it will all end up in Hamas's hands.)

Israel should hardly be surprised. This is precisely what Palestinian terrorists have threatened to do from the moment Israel vacated Gaza: to take the

fight to the West Bank to claim Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state.

In fact, one of Hamas's plans to take *Jerusalem itself* has already come to light. July 2, Israel's security agency revealed Hamas attempts to gain control of the Temple Mount in East Jerusalem. Hamas had been gaining footholds in the area by investing in charities and religious institutions, underwriting construction projects and organizing activities like post-fast Ramadan meals to recruit support. This represented only the first of more such attempts—as many as it will take to secure the area under Muslim control. Biblical prophecy suggests that such efforts will eventually succeed: Jerusalem is prophesied to be split in half in a spasm of violence and the Temple Mount most likely transferred to Palestinian control.

Meanwhile, amid these mounting threats, the Israeli government lies in disarray, presided over by one of the most unpopular politicians in history (Prime Minister Ehud Olmert currently has about a 3 percent public approval rating). Could the hopeless and divided Jews soon face a three-front war in a battle over the Holy City?

A Short-Lived King

The *Trumpet* often points to the pivotal end-time prophecy of Daniel 11 revealing the soon-coming war between “the king of the south,” a radical Islamist power led by Iran, and “the king of the north,” a European superpower led by Germany. It is worth picking up a couple of important details from this prophecy.

“And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him,” begins Daniel 11:40. That *push* describes the foreign policy—plainly evident today—of the Iran-led power: It is a *pushy, provocative* policy that *dares* other nations to retaliate.

There will come a point when this policy will backfire, with catastrophic results. Verse 40 continues, “and the king of the north shall come against him

like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over.” The European power will launch a blitzkrieg attack that will utterly overwhelm its enemy and grind it into the Middle Eastern sand.

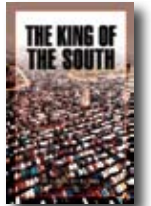
One conclusion we can draw from this prophecy is that the king of the south is a power with extraordinary weaknesses. Other prophecies indicate that it could play a significant role in damaging Israel, America and Britain through terrorist acts (these are expounded on in our free booklet *Ezekiel: The End-Time Prophet*). But the king of the south appears in end-time prophecy for only a blip—not so much as a power in its own right but more as a catalyst to the rise of a far more formidable power, the king of the north.

It is easy to see how easily—and how rapidly—Iran, supported by its growing collection of protégés in the region, could step into this role. It embodies what Hans Morgenthau called a “policy of bluff”—a policy built more on the appearance of power than the substance of it. The current Iranian president’s repeated announcements of his nation’s attainment of nuclear capability fits this pattern.

The king of the south is simply not a superpower that will dominate the world, or even the region, for a generation or better. It is going to be a loud, pushy, violent entity that will create enough havoc and stir up enough alarm that it provokes a *real* superpower to rise up and wipe it out. When the moment comes that it faces a determined and ruthless enemy unconstrained by the absurdity of political correctness, it will be crushed—soundly, swiftly and decisively.

Though the demise of the delusional zealotry of Iran and its allies will introduce a brutal period of world domination by that European superpower, even that empire will meet its end after only a few years. All of these events presage the imminent introduction of a King whose empire will never be destroyed—a King who will restore the hope of the oppressed peoples of the Middle East and around the world as He ushers in the prosperity and peace that eludes them today. That is Jesus Christ, the King of kings! ■

Request our free booklet *The King of the South* to gain a better scriptural understanding of this pivotal end-time prophecy.



Iran Threatens to Strike Back at U.S.



STRA/AP/GETTY IMAGES

WARNING Iran’s Ali Shamkhani says U.S. interests are in danger.

IRAN has threatened to attack U.S. bases in the Mideast if the U.S. strikes its nuclear facilities.

“The U.S. may initiate a devilish act, but continuing and ending that event would certainly be out of its control,”

gets,” said Adm. Ali Shamkhani, Iran’s former defense minister (Haaretz.com, June 11).

Shamkhani directed his comments primarily to U.S. allies in the region and added that oil refineries and power

Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr said June 9. “All U.S. bases in the region” are “within the range” of Iran’s weapons, he added (Bloomberg, June 11).

Qatar, Bahrain and Oman all host U.S. military bases that Iran could target.

“The objective will be to stun the American missile defense system using dozens if not hundreds of missiles that will be launched simultaneously at certain tar-

stations would be targeted in addition to U.S. bases.

Zolghadr also warned that oil prices would rise to \$250 a barrel “if security in the region, the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf is disturbed.” Previously, Iran has specifically threatened to jeopardize oil shipments passing through the choke point if the country were attacked.

Almost a quarter of the world’s oil flows through the Strait of Hormuz, which borders Iran, the second-largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

These comments from senior Iranian officials came at a time of heightened tensions over Iran’s nuclear program.

A meeting between a senior Iranian envoy and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was cancelled mid-June because of Iran’s refusal to provide answers about past atomic activities as

promised.

A senior diplomatic source connected to the IAEA said at the end of June that Iran already had over 1,300 uranium enrichment centrifuges online and was on pace for 3,000 by the end of July. That number of centrifuges could provide Iran with enough enriched uranium for a nuclear bomb within a year, experts say.

Mohamed El Baradei, the IAEA director general, warned that the “current stalemate and brewing confrontation” could lead to a U.S.-Iranian war (Bloomberg, op. cit.).

Iran’s continued defiance of the international community, bullying and fiery rhetoric has the United Nations worried about an upcoming war. However, it won’t be a U.S.-Iranian showdown. Biblical prophecy speaks of a soon-coming clash between Iran and the West, but the U.S. won’t even be in the picture. For more, request *The King of the South*.

How to Select TOYS for Your Children

Toys play a major role in the life of any child. How do you select the right ones? BY WIK HEERMA

EVERY PARENT KNOWS THAT TOYS ARE AN INTEGRAL AND essential part of a child's life, and the supply of toys is endless.

But what kind of toys should children use? Could play possibly be harmful? Can it be used as a teaching method? To find the answers, let's take a closer look at the process of child play and the role of toys.

Creating Covetous Desire

The toy industry is a massive global juggernaut. In 2006, it brought in \$22.3 billion of revenue in the United States alone, according to the Toy Industry Association.

The toy industry's \$885 million annual advertising budget—90 percent of which is spent on television—is geared to create instant desires. The Children's Television Act of October 1990 says television broadcasters and cable operators must limit advertising in children's programming to 12 minutes per hour. But that is still one fifth of children's television experience.

How much of this time is focused on developing the mind and character of the child? Far more important to advertisers is creating brand-recognition in children and a desire to have that which is portrayed as cool.

Even though the marketing is geared toward children, their minds cannot distinguish what is good for their mental and character development. They are simply conditioned to lust after products offered on TV.

Learned Behavior

The marketing periodical *Advertising Age* described children of this generation (nicknamed “millennials”) as “tech-savvy and educated; ... bombarded by media messages; ACCUSTOMED TO SEX AND VIOLENCE; growing up in an affluent society; and [possessing] big spending power” (Jan. 15, 2001; emphasis mine).

This dulling of the senses is only amplified by children’s constant exposure to violence in something as seemingly innocent as cartoons. For instance, one cartoon show that has generated 15 different series and two movies since its debut in 1993 is *Power Rangers*. In every episode, a new monster, created by the bad guys, uses violence to destroy things. The Power Rangers, armed with magic crystals, megazords and the ancient secrets of martial arts, claim to be the saviors of the world and defeat their enemy by crushing some purple ooze monster to the wall.

Children learn behavior. These kinds of cartoons, and the toys they promote, teach children that aggression solves problems and that enemies are just faceless creatures without names.

Promotion of the false idea that acting out violence in play keeps children from acting it out in real life starts at a very early age with toy guns and action figures, such as Transformers, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Star Wars, X-Men, Zoids, WWE, Pokémon and Spiderman toys being marketed to pre-schoolers and grade-schoolers.

These instruments of destruction have a great appeal to young boys. Yet we wonder what went wrong when we witness excessive violence among our youth.

Parents should avoid any toy that promotes hatred, violence or anything else contrary to God’s Ten Commandments. Guns were designed to kill. If you intend to kill, use a gun. If you *don’t* intend

to kill, DON’T USE A GUN—THE REAL THING OR AN IMITATION!

Video Games

The *Toy Industry Fact Book* states, “Today’s youth are the first generation to grow up in a digital world. ... To accommodate children’s changing play patterns, manufacturers have devised a unique blend of new and classic elements, which is evidenced in the wide variety of toys that offer a new level of play for children today.”

Video games make up a larger segment of the toy purchases pie every year. With popular titles such as *Resident Evil 4*, *The Darkness*, *Hitman: Blood Money*, *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* and *Vampire Rain*, one does not even have to imagine the moral degradation that is forced upon dulled, young minds.

Read this description of another game in a popular series, *Doom 3*: “Take part in a terrifying battle with the forces of Hell. A massive demonic invasion has overwhelmed the Union Aerospace Corporation’s ... Mars Research Facility leaving only chaos and horror in its wake. As one of only a few survivors, you struggle with shock and fear as you fight your way to Hell and back, in an epic clash against pure evil.” NOTHING COULD BE MORE POISONOUS TO THE MIND OF A CHILD, ADOLESCENT OR ADULT!

Although many of these games are not marketed directly at young children, the habit-forming pastime of playing video games is

being promoted to children as young as pre-school age, at the expense of educational, physical or socially interactive playtime. Once habits are formed by these highly addictive pastimes, these children naturally move on to adult-themed games.

Avoid Aimless Play and Frustration

For centuries, toys in one shape or another have been the leading source of entertainment for children. But more

than that, toys are a child’s tool for learning. Toys encourage discovery and exploration and can develop a child’s mind and character. Certain toys also help the development of children’s bodies

and personality.

But did you know that instead of aiding your child’s development, you could actually ruin it with the wrong selection of toys?

How many parents really give thought to their children’s entertainment? How many have a *purpose* in mind when they buy toys for their children?

Toys purchased as a result of impulse-buying often lead to a fruitless passing of time, leaving the child bored and without any sense of accomplishment. One way *Webster’s Dictionary* defines the word *play* is, “to move aimlessly about.” But play shouldn’t be aimless. Play should be creative and constructive. Childhood is the preparatory phase for adolescence and adulthood and ought, in its own way, to be as productive as any other stage in life.

How can parents ensure their children’s playtime isn’t wasted by aimless play? First, they should use wisdom in purchasing toys for their children; and second, they should be *involved* in their children’s play.

Knowing how instrumental toys are in the development of children, toy manufacturers have developed so-called educational toys. In nearly any category of toys, you will find this variety.

But how educational are these toys? Many of them are designed in such a way that they appeal to the parents. But when purchased, many of these toys become disappointing, because parents will simply give them to their children and then sit back to watch their children become educated. In most cases, a child is only frustrated by the toy unless time and direction is given to help teach him or her. Desiring to speed the development of their child, many adults even buy toys far above their child’s intellectual level, only adding to the frustration.

Many factors, particularly the removal of the mother from the home,



have greatly contributed to this lack of guidance, leaving children entirely to themselves. Children *need* interaction with their parents in order to have their minds and characters developed.

The Greatest Gift

To make up for the lack of time spent with their children, many parents try to buy their affection by overloading them with toys. In Western society especially, children have *far too many* toys. Too many toys is worse than not enough. Having too many toys creates confusion and boredom in a young person's mind, and he or she will seldom play with them.

Parents should concentrate on purposeful and useful toys. Better to buy a few *used* toys than to have dozens sitting in toy boxes untouched.

The greatest gift you can hand to your children is *your time, attention and involvement*. Rather than buying a myriad of toys, make time to sit down with your children and enjoy the toys they already have. A meaningful way to do this can be by scheduling a regular family game night. Perhaps you can do it once a week, every fortnight, or once a month. Children of all ages enjoy board games, and they will look forward to a scheduled time to enjoy your company. Whether you have pre-schoolers or teens, you can make this time special for them. Whatever your activity is, the important thing to remember is that your time and attention is the greatest gift you can grant them.

Aside from these scheduled times, take other time out to spend with your children: play cars or dolls with them, help them with their artwork, and educate them through play.

Develop the Body and Mind

There is an abundance of toys that will give hours of fun and entertainment to your children and at the same time provide plenty of exercise for the body. Many of these toys are relatively inexpensive, yet they will develop a multitude of skills in your child.

Balls, swing sets and bicycles teach coordination, agility, balance and timing. Blocks promote construction skills and teach basic math and logic. Dolls, cars, trains and toy animals can all prepare a young mind for the principles of caretak-

ing, order and obedience to rules, laws and authority. Activity books and craft projects promote coordination and concentration. Toys such as Play-Doh inspire creativity and imagination while aiding the development of fine motor skills.

Games and puzzles help develop problem-solving skills. Combined with guided reading of carefully selected books, they can also expand a child's interests and knowledge base.

Sadly, most toys that stimulate the mind and body have made way for passive toys that solely entertain but fail to develop or educate.

Develop the Personality and Character

Whether your child develops creative, technical or artistic skills largely depends on whether or not these skills are brought out early enough.

Music is one of the best forms of entertainment to help children round out their personalities. Children easily pick up tunes and can develop an appreciation for the arts by being exposed to a wide variety of music.

Starting your child on a musical instrument, however simple, not only develops his feeling for melody and rhythm, it helps him develop self-discipline, creative skills, and an appreciation of the finer things in life.

Personality can also be brought out through creative play with construction toys such as LEGOS.

In selecting toys for a child of any age, parents should ask, *is the play in the TOY, or is the play in the CHILD?* A proper toy stimulates play *in* the child. A poor toy is one that operates itself and neutralizes imaginative, creative thinking in your child. These toys make your child a passive observer of playtime rather than the proactive, driving force behind his or her play. The best examples of such poor toys are video games, where everything is pre-programmed.

With toys come responsibilities for your child. Parents should teach their children to take care of their toys. This includes using them according to their designed purpose and putting them away when they're done.

Toys with many parts should have designated containers in which, after

a child is finished playing, he or she is to put away all the pieces. Parents should emphasize that it is the child's responsibility. By obeying this instruction, the child develops character. Thus children learn the fundamental lesson **TO DO WHAT THEY ARE TOLD TO DO—WHEN THEY ARE TOLD TO DO IT.**

This is play with purpose!

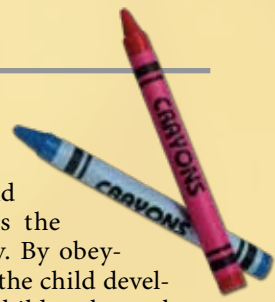
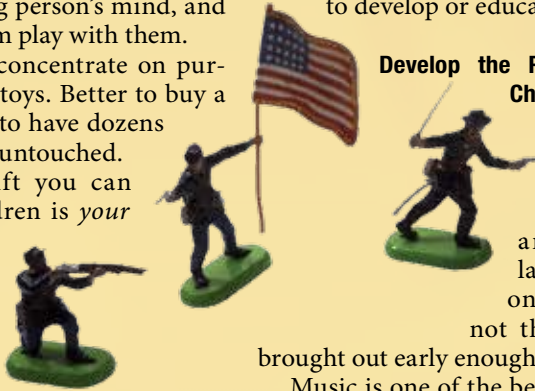
Guided Play Teaches God's Law

Toys are important. They can be used to develop a strong, healthy body and an alert and educated mind. But most importantly, toys can help develop the foundation of right character in your children.

God delights in the right kind of constructive, uplifting play of children. In the coming Millennium, when Jesus Christ is ruling on Earth, children will not be locked inside, staring at a television set or computer monitor. They will be playing outside, developing their minds and bodies, their personalities and character. Notice these scriptures: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM. ... And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den" (Isaiah 11:6, 8). "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls PLAYING IN THE STREETS THEREOF. Thus saith the Lord of hosts; If it be marvellous in the eyes of the remnant of this people in these days, SHOULD IT ALSO BE MARVELLOUS IN MINE EYES? saith the Lord of hosts" (Zechariah 8:5-6).

Micah 4:3 states, "[T]hey shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, NEITHER SHALL THEY LEARN WAR ANY MORE."

Start now teaching and training your children based upon God's laws—His way of cooperation, sharing and promotion of true values. It is our responsibility as parents to purchase fitting, meaningful toys for our children and to teach them how to play with them in a constructive and cooperative manner.





The End of American Crime

Where today's surge in violent crime is leading—
and where it will stop! BY PHILIP NICE

NINE TIMES. FOURTEEN-YEAR-old Anthony Gilliam saw the horrifying motion repeated nine times outside his Green Bay home: his stepfather viciously stabbing his mother with a knife. Anthony ran for help, but it was too late. Kristina Gilliam had become another victim of homicide.

It's difficult to keep in mind the truth of the matter whenever we read the latest report on violent crime, but it's still there: a living, breathing, precious human being has died. Perhaps it's difficult because the truth is simply too horrid; it happened 80,000 times in the United States in the past five years. And violence in the U.S. is only one wave in a tide of crime that is rising across the globe. To the pages and pages of statistics, and for the millions wounded by violent crime, there is no end in sight.

The Gathering Storm

The literature on the subject of American crime is overwhelming in its volume and anguishing in its consequence. The nation's first federal gun control law passed in 1934 in an effort to slow the growing violent crime rate by restricting the availability of the deadliest weapons. Until the 1960s, crime rates went down, but between 1960 and 1970, homicide in the United States grew by 77 percent. Murder was back with a vengeance.

Violent crime shot up further in the '80s and early '90s, particularly surrounding the crack cocaine explosion. More

than 24,500 people were killed in 1991, America's most murderous year, before zero-tolerance measures began locking up scores of criminals with long-term sentences. Violent crime generally decreased from the early 1990s until 2005, which saw the largest single-year increase in 14 years. Preliminary FBI statistics indicate another jump in violent crime for 2006.

Police across the country noticed the change. In August of last year, law enforcement officials convened a summit in Washington, D.C., to discuss what Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton called "a gathering storm of crime." When invitations went out, the summit filled to capacity almost immediately with 170 police chiefs, mayors and other officials from 50 cities wanting to attend. Violent crime had struck a nerve.

War on Peace

The city of Milwaukee, which dispatched its chief of staff and its chief of police to the forum, is tumbling in the midst of a killer crime wave. Last summer, Milwaukee 911 operators handled an average of 1,700 calls per day—so many that police could not respond to many of them. Murder, robbery and aggravated assault (including attempted murder) shot up an average of 33 percent in 2005, leaving hard-hit residents and officials questioning why their city is suddenly a criminal ground zero.

Homicides in Milwaukee rose nearly 40 percent in 2005. Among other violence, city police responded to a

strangled woman's body found burning in a garbage bin, an 11-year-old girl gang-raped by up to 19 men and a Special Olympics participant mugged and killed as he waited for the bus. One holiday weekend saw four murders plus 24 additional shootings.

"You'll be able to read about something even more heinous tomorrow," one religious leader said. "People are scared" (*Time*, Dec. 3, 2006).

Milwaukee is one of many mid-sized cities trying to heave itself out of a bloody pool. American citizens from coast to coast are suffering, and police are troubled by some disturbing trends behind the past five years' 80,000 killings, 2 million robberies and 4 million aggravated assaults.

Crime and Punishment

For one, criminal punishment is not working. Many police are concerned that the long-standing "revolving door" to the justice system is spinning faster now. "Re-offending takes place very quickly, within three to four months," Milwaukee's police chief laments. "Unless or until it becomes homicide, the offender will just go through a revolving door." Hence, police on the street are seeing the same faces over and over again.

Even though releases are rising, the justice system is simply unable to keep up with rising crime rates. With one in 32 American adults (a record 7 million) in prison or on probation or parole, jails are admitting more convicts than they

are discharging. State penitentiaries operate at an average 99 to 114 percent of their intended capacity; federal facilities at 134 percent.

This has put the median prison sentence at five years for robbery and four years for assault—and 630,000 convicts back on the streets each year. Beyond this, long-term sentences are expiring for criminals arrested during the Reagan administration and the crackdown of the '90s, which means violent crime by repeat offenders will hit the lives of thousands more.

Atlanta releases 400 to 700 inmates per month. "All the people we put in jail 10 years ago are now back," Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington said. "They come out of the system more hard-core than when they went in."

The tone in some officials' statements borders on desperation. They are realizing what the criminal justice system is: managed chaos.

Heart of Darkness

One of the most alarming findings at the D.C. police summit was that even in cities where violent crime remained the same or decreased, there was an increase in the gratuitous nature of the offenses,

Other authorities are now working on a plan of action that they anticipate will slash violent crime by sweeping double-digit percentages and eventually eradicate it altogether.

which were often committed over trivial things. Some law enforcement officials went so far as to say that crime has become a "sport," with many killing for pleasure—murdering robbery victims even after they comply, for instance.

One chief of police said, "What is particularly frustrating about our homicides is that they occur for no apparent rhyme or reason. They come up over the smallest issue—someone feels disrespected. I know the pattern. I get that call that there's been a killing and within 72 hours there are two or three more killings in this retaliatory cycle." A horrible way for a life—no matter how misled—to end.

"It appears that today there is a lower valuation of human life," Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson said.

Law enforcement officials recognize they are dealing not only with dangerous trends but also with dangerous attitudes. Many indict pop culture as glamorizing violence and thug life, particularly

"gangsta" rap music. Violent, criminal lyrics, gangster-style clothing and shirts with street slang phrases are popular even with suburban and rural youths and young adults, and are aggravating crime rates and their viciousness.

An acrid spirit of murder is in the air.

Of Mice and Men

"The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry." Robert Burn's line applies. Law enforcement officials are scurrying faster than mice in a maze to find solutions to some of this violent spirit's effects—or at least to wrestle crime statistics into some sort of remission.

Many officials hope strict gun control laws, increased legislation, new juvenile programs, federal assistance, networking, parental involvement and additional funding will help them at least keep pace with violent crime.

When violent crimes in D.C. hit an average of 642 per month in 2006, Metropolitan Police Chief Charles Ramsey declared a state of emergency in the district, putting officers on six-day workweeks, teaming with a dozen federal agencies, and pouring in additional funding and equipment. "Po-

lice can take back the street with enough resources," D.C.'s chief administrative officer said, "but the question is how do you sustain it?"

In the face of hundreds of thousands of Americans assaulted, robbed, raped and murdered every year, talk of more programs, more laws and more funding sounds like three band-aids being supplied to a victim with multiple gunshot wounds.

Great Expectations

Law enforcement officials continue to battle crime rates, celebrating reductions of 0.3 percent in some categories and 6.2 percent in others, while grimly reporting steady increases in yet other statistics. Even the most idealistic rookie on the force has lost hope of slashing crime by truly drastic percentages. *People have always murdered and always will, the thinking goes. That's just the way it is.*

Although police chiefs, government officials and city residents hope at best to

save lives by the hundreds, other authorities are now working on a plan of action that they anticipate will slash violent crime by sweeping double-digit percentages and eventually eradicate it altogether.

The plan calls for a comprehensive early-intervention program beginning with young children. It includes strong initiatives to eliminate absentee fathers and establish two-parent households throughout city limits, including what are now high-crime districts.

Building on a strong familial framework that erases gang membership, truancy, drug use and prostitution, the program also provides for educational opportunities and incentives reinforced by involved parents which produce long-term stability for troubled and low-risk youths alike. The initiatives provide occupational training tailored to each child's strengths and interests and are part of a holistic educational proposal that includes character and moral instruction.

The plan also lays out extended-year provisions for con-



structing crime-free urban and suburban districts that—combined with confrontational, authoritative enforcement of law—will ensure the absence of crack houses, gang-controlled "turf," prostitution houses and other illicit activity.

In addition to early intervention and economic programs, the plan replaces today's penitentiaries with an entirely different justice system.

The plan guarantees a comprehensive bill of rights for each citizen's life, family and property, and handles repeat offenders strictly and efficiently in a method proven to deter and eliminate both the spirit and actions of violent crime.

Although it sounds revolutionary, this master plan is the longest-standing body of law in the world: the Ten Commandments.

See **CRIME** page 29 ▶

WHY BRITAIN BOOTED BLAIR

... and what to expect
from the UK's new prime
minister **BY JOEL HILLIKER**

WHY DID TONY BLAIR LEAVE? After serving for a full decade as Britain's prime minister—the most successful Labor leader ever—his party, and his people, wanted him gone.

Why? He gave the British much of what they wanted. Economic growth has made Britons wealthier; poorer families now have higher wages and lower taxes; schools and hospitals have been modernized. Steps toward dismantling Great Britain have pleased the majority of Brits: Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all moved toward greater self-governance under Blair's leadership. The Labor leader helped focus international attention on global warming more than any other Western leader—another issue that plays well to the increasingly liberal British public. The flow of immigrants into Britain has grown much swifter as a result of Blair pushing for greater openness. The former PM has also made good on his pledge to “modernize” his country, passing social reforms such as the recognition of civil partnerships for homosexuals.

Conservatives balk at some of these changes, but the average Brit

sees only positives in them. It isn't for any of these reasons that Blair became unpopular among his fellow countrymen, allowing his political opponents an opportunity to muscle him out of office. What really irritated them—to the point that he became vulnerable to pressure to step down in the midst of his weak third term as prime minister—is almost exclusively one thing: his support for the war in Iraq.

“Bush's Poodle”

The majority view was that Blair rode around in the hip pocket of the widely hated U.S. President George W. Bush. Polls reveal that Britons believe by a 2 to 1 margin that Britain's alliance with the United States is too close. The former prime minister was referred to as “Bush's poodle” and pummeled for committing British troops to the Iraq war. He lost tremendous public trust over the question of WMD in Iraq. In



**Tony Blair (left) and new
British Prime Minister
Gordon Brown**

addition, Blair was roundly criticized for his too-firm backing of the State of Israel. A majority of Britons hunger for a leader with more inward-looking tendencies and who is more independent of the U.S. in foreign policy.

The new prime minister is probably not that leader. Gordon Brown, the man who took over when Blair stepped down June 27, took office not by public vote, but by virtue of the ruling Labor Party elevating him to its chief position—and the fact is, he is widely viewed as being not terribly different from Tony Blair.

Think tank Stratfor sees Brown's term as mostly inconsequential. In a May 9 report, Stratfor wrote, "Brown is entering office already paralyzed—not that he would want to make sweeping changes before the next election, in early 2009. Brown's term will begin with Iraq still on his plate, a vast shift beginning in Europe, a housing crisis looming and his party divided. Brown will not be able to do much in the international arena; the United Kingdom is already starting to pull out of Iraq. ... Brown will simply keep the country together in front of the camera."

On balance, and barring unforeseen catastrophes, the *Trumpet* doesn't expect the direction Britain has been moving to change very drastically under Brown's leadership. However, there are two areas we feel worthy of watching based on what we know of Gordon Brown.

Stance on Terrorism

Though Brown has publicly expressed a desire to maintain the U.S.-British alliance and continue Britain's support of the fight against terrorism, strong public pressure seems to be adversely affecting his resolve on these issues. His enigmatic statements on the war reflect the bind in which he finds himself: They are political, measured, lacking substance—eschewing firm policy statements for more whispery platitudes about the difficulty of the situation and promises to look into it.

Though some reports say the White House is convinced Brown won't push for a precipitous withdrawal of British support from the Iraq and Afghanistan missions, other sources say precisely the opposite. The *Sunday Telegraph* reported May 20 that White House officials told

President Bush to expect an announcement from Brown of a British pullout within 100 days of his tak-

ing office. The paper reported that senior officials are worried, quoting one as saying, "There is a sense of foreboding."

Among the antiwar British press and public, of course, that foreboding is more like optimism. Labor Party official Trevor Owen said, "I think we may well see a more rapid removal of troops (from Iraq) than we would have seen before" (Reuters, May 20). Like Blair before him, Brown has pledged to reduce troop numbers when possible—but he may well shift the timetable forward.

Whatever the specifics, we can be sure that a Brown-led Britain will by no means become *more* determined to wage war on terrorism. It is far likelier that we have already seen the strongest days of the U.S.-British anti-terror alliance and British support for fighting Islamist extremism.

Brown's public reaction to the attempted terror attacks in the first days of his tenure—failed car bombings in London and Glasgow—certainly indicated an even less aggressive stance on terrorism within the UK. The new PM was in fact praised—specifically by Muslim organizations—for his contrasting approach to Blair's. Brown has determined to eliminate both the word "Muslim" and the term "war on terror" from his vocabulary. One of his spokesmen said the new PM was modifying his language to encourage a "strong consensual approach in relation to all the communities" (*Washington Post*, July 4). Do not, therefore, expect Brown to be tougher in facing down that threat than was his predecessor.

The anti-American British public may be disappointed, however, in Brown's lack of participation in their America-bashing. Still, the negative public climate is strong enough that we expect him to maintain a bit more distance between himself and Washington than Blair did. Also, his friendships among the Democrats in the capital are closer than with the Republicans. With the Democrats surging in power, Brown may actually take the opportunity to build a parallel transatlantic bridge to what looks like, in the words of the *New York Post*, "America's new governing elite" (May 16).

Bearish on Europe

Another issue on which we may see a departure from Blair's position is that of Europe.

Tony Blair was a committed Europhile—actually more so than most of his countrymen. Gordon Brown has been less excited about the European Union project than was his predecessor, in line with the somewhat more Euroskeptical majority opinion in Britain. As chancellor of the Exchequer, he resisted Blair's push to move Britain to the euro, Europe's single currency. This position has remained policy, and clearly to Britain's economic benefit, but has caused no

small amount of friction with the Eurocrats across the channel.

The *Post* made the point that Brown may move the British economy away from the big government welfare state that ballooned somewhat under Blair's watch, and that, should that happen, it would "have the incidental effect of moving him further away from Europe and toward America" (ibid.).

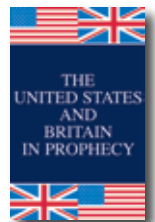
The popular candidate for the Conservative Party, David Cameron—the primary candidate against whom Brown

will most likely face off in the next election—is also far more cautious about the federalizing tendency of the European Union than Blair was.

In other words, Britain has likely witnessed the departure of the most pro-Europe prime minister in its history—and future. Brown's appointment could well presage an increase in tensions between his nation and the Continent. The *Trumpet* has good reason to expect this outcome, based on the outline of biblical prophecy regarding the future of that relationship.

These trends—the drawdown of British involvement in the war on terror and the widening of the gulf between Britain and Europe—are likely effects of this transition of power. For more on the longer term prospects facing Britain, request a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Britain has likely witnessed the departure of the most pro-Europe prime minister in its history—and future.





ISTOCK PHOTO

Missing Radioactive Devices in Canada Usable by Terrorists

AT LEAST 76 RADIOACTIVE devices—some of which could be used as a terrorist weapon—have gone missing in Canada over the past five years, reports the *Edmonton Sun* (July 3).

The Canadian Press compiled a database to show the rate at which widely used radioactive devices disappear. It found 35 were stolen by thieves, and three others were found in a roadside ditch, a garbage landfill and a farmer's field. Thirty-two gauges, medical tools and other radioactive devices were still missing as of July 6.

This information comes out as anti-terrorism experts warn that even low-level radioactive material can be built into crude radioactive explosives, otherwise known as dirty bombs.

Radiation safety experts say the missing radioactive devices pose a serious security risk. A dirty bomb can release radiation up to several miles depending on wind speeds and materials used, forcing evacuations and causing chaos. A study conducted by the Canadian government estimated that an explosion near the CN tower in Toronto could cost up to \$23.5 billion.

In a study released last year, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service said it is

“quite surprising” terrorists haven't already set off dirty bombs, and that Canada was

“positively overdue” for an attack.

However, Canada is not the only country struggling to keep its radiological equipment secure. The International Atomic Energy Agency found that between 1993 and 2005, member states (including the United States) confirmed more than 827 incidents of illegal acquisition, possession, and transfer or disposal of nuclear and other radioactive materials. This is most likely a conservative estimate, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, which in 2003 found that more than 1,300 cases of radioactive sources had been

lost or abandoned in the U.S. since 1998 alone.

Charles Ferguson, research leader on radiological threats and member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, believes “it could be just a matter of time” before terrorists use dirty bombs. Just last September, Abu Hamza al-Muhajir, the now dead leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, called for scientists to build radioactive and biological weapons to use in terrorist attacks against American bases.

Readily accessible radioactive materials used by terrorists in America may be the next challenge in the war against terrorism.

Israel Offers Golan to Syria

ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER HAS OFFERED TO withdraw all troops and cede sovereignty of the Golan Heights to Syria, according to Hebrew newspaper *Yediot Ahranot*. In return, he has asked Syria to cut all ties with Iran, Hezbollah and Palestinian organizations.

“I know that a peace agreement with Syria requires me to return the Golan Heights to Syrian sovereignty,” Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. “I am willing to fulfill my part in this deal” (*Telegraph*, June 9).

Olmert's discussion with Syria, said to have begun in May through Turkish and German mediators, was meant to ease growing tension between the two nations. The reality, however, is that both nations continue to prepare for war. *DEBKAFfile* reported that Iran had given Russia \$327 million “to pay for assorted missiles consigned to Damascus,” and pledged \$438 million more for a future shipment (June 9). In addition, Syria has removed the military checkpoints on its side of the Golan Heights, which have been present since the Six Day War in 1967. If Syria is serious about peaceful negotiations, why is it making such preparations?

Meanwhile, the Israeli military conducted a large-scale exercise in June at Shizafon Base in the south of Israel simulating “an invasion of Syria within the context of a war, involving infantry units, tank divisions and the Air Force,” according to Arutz Sheva (June 8).

Prime Minister Olmert's land-for-peace proposal outraged fellow politicians and the public alike. Knesset members from both the Likud and National Union/National

Religious Party responded by calling on two other coalition parties to cease their partnership with the Olmert government.

“It would be better to replace Olmert than to give up the Golan Heights,” said Likud MK Yisrael Katz (*ibid.*). A poll conducted by Telesaker revealed that 84 percent of Israelis opposed a complete withdrawal from the Golan, with 44 percent unwilling to accept any pullback at all. And for good reason.

The Golan Heights provides a massive catchment area from which water flows into the Sea of Galilee, Israel's largest source of drinking water. The region is also home to many tourist attractions such as orchards and wineries.

Most importantly, the mountainous Golan region is a strategic buffer between Syria and Israel's large population centers along the western shore of Galilee. Giving it up would put Israel at a tremendous strategic disadvantage.

Placing the Golan on the negotiation table after 40 years in Israeli hands reveals the desperation of the Olmert government to salvage some kind of success following the 2006 Lebanon war. But as history has shown, a policy of land for peace only results in increased aggression.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

MOUNTING Syrians wave their flags near an Israeli village in the Golan Heights.

Hacker Downs Pentagon E-mail

AN ELECTRONIC ATTACK forced the Department of Defense to take between 1,000 and 1,500 Pentagon computers offline on June 20. The intrusion affected the department's unclassified electronic mail system, which transmits messages regarding administrative business (not classified messages on military operations). The same day, a congressional panel reported that electronic systems at the Department of Homeland Security had also been hacked.

This means "terrorists or nation states could be hacking Department of Homeland Security databases, changing or altering names to allow them access to this country, and we wouldn't even know they were doing it," Congressman James Langevin said (Briart.com, June 21).

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said the Pentagon comes under hundreds of electronic attacks each day. He declined to say why the recent penetration necessitated disconnecting such a large number of computers.

U.S. military dependence on network technology has increased in recent years, while arguably its network security has not. As it has integrated more and more elements into its electronic systems, the Pentagon has turned increasingly to commercially developed software, which is more advanced but less secure than programs the military could produce in-house.

The military not only depends on commercial software systems from providers such as Cisco, but also necessarily ties many of its systems to civilian networks.

In the U.S., 95 percent of military transmissions are communicated using secure connections to civilian networks. In recent years, supercomputer laboratories, NASA systems, research centers, software security developers including Cisco, and other networks have been hacked, many from locations inside Europe and China.

Trumpet editor in chief Gerald Flurry has high-



GATES

lighted network dependence as one of the United States' largest weaknesses for several years. "One of the main reasons we won World War II was because the British broke German radio code," he wrote in June 1999. "We could lose the next war before we even begin, if somebody breaks our military codes."

For analysis on U.S. technology dependence and the consequences if America gets logged off, read Mr. Flurry's May 2005 article, "America's Achilles Heel—and Germany."

Illegals Set Fire to Border

CORONADO NATIONAL Forest employees could call it a war zone. Some illegal aliens, particularly human and drug traffickers, are resorting to extreme measures to cross the border between Mexico and the remote southern Arizona forest.

Border Patrol agents in the region face the highest rate of illegal border crossings in the nation—nearly half a million illegals crossed here in 2006. Agents also confiscated 100,000 pounds of marijuana that was being smuggled through the forest last year.

The *Washington Times* reported that in May, the Border Patrol caught over 300 aliens and 600 pounds of marijuana in a 3-mile stretch over 10 days (June 19). In response to the agency's activities within the operation, illegals set at least five fires in an attempt to burn agents out of an observation post. These fires were not the only ones that have been set by Mexican smugglers. Forest Service firefighters have seen armed smugglers walk right through their ranks as they were trying to battle fires. Now, law enforcement officers must accompany firefighters when they are sent to put out the flames.

The fires correspond with a 100 percent rise in attacks on Border Patrol agents. Illegals have targeted agents with Molotov cocktails and grapefruit-sized rocks wrapped in gasoline-soaked rags and set on fire. Agents have been shot at, and some patrol vehicles have been rammed.

Besides threatening the lives of border agents, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and the users of the forest system—and spoiling acres of wilderness—the increasingly violent and still-unchecked problem of illegal immigration has far-reaching ramifications. For more, read our December 2005 feature, "The Trouble With Immigration."



HOT SPOT Some have set fire to Arizona forests to distract border patrols.



Sharp Slowdown in Economy

ON JUNE 28, THE U.S. Commerce Department released its most recent GDP data suggesting that the economy grew at an annual rate of 0.7 percent from January through March—a sharp deceleration from the 2.5 percent annual rate during the last quarter of 2006.

The 0.7 percent climb marked the weakest growth the economy has experienced since a 0.2 percent increase back in 2002.

The significant decline from 2006 was primarily blamed on the slowdown in the housing market. Consumer spending rose by 4.2 percent; however, residential fixed investment, which includes spending on housing, plunged by 15.8 percent.

Although some analysts predict a small rebound during the second quarter, it is likely that as long as the housing market continues to deteriorate, any resurgence will be less than hoped for.

With the fallout from the housing market continuing to make headlines in the subprime lending sector, which appears to be spilling into the corporate sector, financial turbulence might lie ahead.

For a look at the financial storm clouds building on the horizon and how they might strike, read our April 2007 article, "The Coming Storm."

EUROPE

New Treaty Sets Powerful Post



DOMINIQUE FAGAN/FR/GETTY IMAGES

POLICYMAKERS At a June EU summit, Germany's foreign minister (left) and chancellor (center) and the president of the European Commission helped create an EU foreign minister.

EUROPEAN UNION POLITICIANS achieved a key goal at their summit in late June: an agreement to set up a position equivalent to EU foreign minister. Supporters of the "reform treaty"—in reality a revived EU constitution—and its foreign minister provision called the new post a step forward for European unity and power. Detractors contend that it will only create a powerful European foreign office that will compete with those of member nations.

The new office, officially "the high representative of the Union for foreign affairs and security policy," absorbs those of both the EU's foreign policy head and the European Commission's external relations commissioner. The high representative will control the Commission's aid budget and become the Council's top diplomat and crisis-solver. He or she will chair meetings among foreign ministers of EU member states and will control 120 European Commission delegations: thousands of diplomats assigned to countries around the world that some say are a ready-made EU department of state.

Significantly, the responsibilities associated with this new post are precisely the

same as those envisaged for the foreign minister in the rejected EU constitution; the only difference is the title.

The new treaty states that the EU's foreign policy will lead to "the progressive framing of a common defense policy that might lead to a common defense."

"We have exactly what we wanted," one Spanish official said. "The foreign minister will have the political clout necessary to do his job and will control the administrative services too" (*Sunday*

EU Laws "Smothering" Britain

"RUBBER STAMPED" EU laws are being imposed on Britain, says a British Parliament member and his peers who are pushing for a bill to investigate the effects and cost of EU membership.

Lord Pearson, a member of the United Kingdom Independence Party—a political party whose aim is the UK's withdrawal from the EU—said most of the laws affecting British business originated in Brussels and were passed in the Commons and the Lords without proper debate.



GETTY IMAGES

PEARSON

His bill, the European Union (Implications of Withdrawal) Bill, was introduced into debate in June and calls for an independent committee to study the implications of the UK leaving the EU. The analysis would include outlining the financial cost of EU membership and its effects on the economy, constitution and security.

Although Lord Pearson admits the government will "go a long way to avoid any inquiry of this kind," the bill is one more voice crying out

Telegraph, June 24).

The EU has suffered from chronic squabbles and labyrinthine decision-making among nations reluctant to relinquish power. The decision at June's summit was the latest attempt to clear away these barriers and make the Union more of a sleek and streamlined body capable of acting quickly and decisively—whether member nations like it or not.

"I hope the small print of the new treaty does not put the UK on a slippery slope to a Euro Foreign Office," Timothy Kirkhope, the British leader of European Parliament Conservatives, said (*ibid.*). Other critics said the new EU office and its corps would indeed encroach upon the foreign-policy wishes of London and other national governments and eventually replace them with the wishes of Brussels.

To find out why you should be concerned about EU foreign policy muscling out democratic foreign policy, request our free booklets *The Rising Beast* and *Germany and the Holy Roman Empire*.

Al Qaeda Spreading

AL QAEDA IS AT THE front of the pack of jihadist groups currently spreading across Europe, and Islamic terrorist cells pose a greater threat to European security than ever, according to a Europol report released in March.

"Terrorist organizations campaigning in third states use the EU as their logistical basis and for funding," reported Europol. Al Qaeda has established cells in Germany, France, Italy, Britain, the Netherlands and even Switzerland ("EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report 2007").

The report also showed that Europol reported nearly 500 terrorist attacks in EU nations in 2006 alone—most in France and Spain. The report also states most terrorists either come from Northern Africa or are current EU citizens who have been radicalized in Europe. Spain, Britain and France are among the nations facing the most danger from Islamic

for the UK to seriously reconsider its EU membership.

Adding to the controversy are fresh figures from Britain's Treasury showing that Britain's net payments to Brussels will double to £6.4 billion within four years. The data, analyzed by the think tank Global Vision, revealed that average net payments will rise sharply during the period from 2011 to 2014 from a previous average of £3.27 billion a year over the past decade. The main cause for the spike in payments was Tony Blair's decision in December 2005 to cut back the UK's rebate by exempting new members.

During the same time, the

terrorist cells. Spain, besides being the recipient of a deadly attack by al Qaeda in 2004, also houses the largest jihadi recruitment center in Europe.

Meanwhile, France, a nation with a heavy Muslim presence, is now dealing with threats from al Qaeda and its affiliates who seek vengeance for the recent election of “Zionist” Nicolas Sarkozy.

The report also highlighted the strength of al Qaeda’s presence in Algeria, a relatively poor North African nation situated just a few miles from Gibraltar and Spain. Experts fear that the terrorist network is using this North African country to channel funding, not to mention terrorists, into Europe.

Europe has devoted a massive amount of resources to investigating terrorist networks within its borders. The Continent is perilously accessible to radical Muslim strongholds in the Middle East and Northern Africa. Also, a vast Muslim population within Europe can easily hide growing radical groups until it is too late. Al Qaeda and similar organizations eagerly support these

poorer areas of northern England and Scotland will lose structural funds as the EU transfers payments to former Communist states in Eastern Europe. Ruth Lea, director of Global Vision, said these transfers benefit Germany far more than Britain because this is “Germany’s economic hinterland.” “We think Britain needs a totally different kind of partnership with Europe, outside the EU,” she said (*Telegraph*, June 8).

The *Trumpet* has said for a long time that the UK will not remain in the EU. To find out why, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

smaller groups.

Europe is worried, and with good cause. Radical Islam is growing right in its

midst. It is only a matter of time before terrorism rakes European cities, and Europe will feel obliged to respond.

ASIA

Nations Abandoning Taiwan



LOSING ALLIES Taiwan’s foreign minister announces Costa Rica’s severing of diplomatic relations with Taipei.

EVER SINCE TAIWAN split from mainland China in 1949, its status as a semi-independent state has hinged on the support and recognition it has received from its few allies. For over half a century, China has been thwarted in its goal of absorbing Taiwan because other nations, particularly the United States, have recognized Taiwan as a self-governing nation.

But Taiwan was struck a blow in June when its long-time friend Costa Rica reneged on its support and struck up a new friendship with Beijing.

The primary reason for Costa Rica’s newfound willingness to form relations with Beijing was to bolster its economy by tapping into some of China’s extra cash. “We are looking to strengthen the commercial ties and attract investment,” President Oscar Arias said. “China is the most successful emerging economy in the world and soon it will be the second strongest economy in the world ...” (Associated Press, June 7).

Despite its divorce from Costa Rica, Taiwan contin-

ues to be recognized by 24 nations. But the Taiwanese are concerned that other Latin American nations may follow Costa Rica’s example and chase Chinese cash.

In the wake of Costa Rica’s turnabout, Taiwan’s Foreign Minister James Huang told his embassies in Latin America to reaffirm ties with their host nations, and take “extreme precautions against any further pressure by the Chinese communists” (ibid.). At the same time, China also responded to Costa Rica’s decision by urging other allies of Taiwan to follow Costa Rica’s lead and sever their relationships with the island.

Analyst Andrew Yang of the Taipei-based Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies warned that the decision by Costa Rica was indeed a huge blow to Taiwan’s international standing, and would likely create a chain reaction among at least a portion of its seven remaining Latin American allies. “Probably Nicaragua and Panama are next and then maybe Paraguay,” he said (ibid.).

As small, poor nations such as Costa Rica recognize the economic and political benefits that come from having a close friendship with China, expect them to distance themselves from Taipei and draw closer to Beijing.

Also, watch for U.S. support of Taiwan to weaken as it increasingly becomes distracted by other international pressures and internal division. This will inevitably lead to Taiwan being taken over by Communist China.

Portugal’s Futile Fight for Turkey

PORTUGAL, NOW HOLDING the European Union’s rotating presidency for the remainder of 2007, faces an uphill battle in its goal to admit Turkey into the EU.

Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates faces stiff resistance to Turkey’s membership from different EU states. France’s new president, Nicolas Sarkozy, has shown his opposition by blocking vital entrance negotiations concerning Turkish-EU economic and monetary policy—a move that throws Turkish entry talks into doubt.

Sarkozy, who made it a part of his presidential campaign to oppose the Muslim state’s membership bid, says Turkey should join a Mediterranean union rather than a European Union.

Sócrates argues that halting membership talks with Turkey would damage EU credibility, particularly in the Muslim world.

For years, the EU has dangled membership status in front of Turkey but has never followed through. If history is a guide, the more influential members of the largely Christian union, such as France and Germany, will impose their will on Europe and block Turkey’s accession. Clearly, adding the majority-Muslim Turkish nation to the EU would significantly alter the religious and cultural composition of the Union, something these states are loath to allow.

In the time ahead, we expect the European Union to grow more Roman Catholic in its composition, not less.



SÓCRATES

COMING SOON: One Pure Language

The solution to the linguistic and cultural confusion that divides our world

BY CARL HILLIKER

“WE DIDN’T CROSS THE border! The border crossed us!” “America is a continent not a country!” “If you think I’m ‘illegal’ because I’m Mexican, learn the true history because I’m in my homeland!”

These sayings and dozens of others like them are shouted and plastered on signs during pro-immigration marches, recited on political talk shows, spouted during debates in cities across the United States. They represent a firmly held conviction among a growing number of individuals living in the U.S.: not just that U.S. law is meaningless, but that *assimilation is evil*. These residents are planting foreign flags on U.S. soil, inch by inch, claiming territory through a kind of subversive cultural imperialism.

The unity of the once-common American culture is being rapidly compromised. The “melting pot” joined by millions of immigrants in the past who learned English and entered American public life is being replaced by a noisy collection of competing languages and cultures.

Rather than expecting all immigrants to speak English, U.S. schools are spending billions teaching children to maintain their parents’ culture and speak in their parents’ language. Bilingual education has grown to the point where many families now claim racism and discrim-

ination if their cultural and linguistic differences do not receive preference. The rest of society is being required to cater to all personal language and cultural needs. This concept of separate public languages is even spreading to the workplace. The U.S. government is funding the lawsuits of many foreign-speaking workers against American employers who require their employees to speak English.

America is willingly inflicting itself with the age-old curse God once placed upon a rebellious world at the tower of Babel.

One Language

In a massive compendium titled *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, editor Barbara F. Grimes has identified 6,703 distinct languages in 228 countries. She reports that these languages are further divided into 39,000 language names or dialects.

Have you ever stopped to consider how and why all these languages came to be?

It is hard to imagine today, but at one time “the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech” (Genesis 11:1). Such unity among all peoples may seem like a good thing—in fact, as we will see, one day that is exactly what it will be. But the problem at the time was that people began to exploit that unity for terrible purposes.

You may be familiar with the story of the tower of Babel. As the population began to grow once again following the great Noachian Flood, an evil leader named Nimrod convinced the majority of mankind that they could not trust God. “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth” (verse 4).

This is the typical mistake man has continually made—desiring to exalt himself and his own ways above God and His ways. The worldwide unity of language only made this goal easier to pursue on a massive scale.

“And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. ... Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth” (verses 6, 9).

We must realize that, apart from God, man’s unrestrained imagination eventually brings forth many evils that cause confusion, misery and destruction. Had the Creator not intervened at the tower of Babel, mankind’s advances in science and technology might long ago have brought the Earth to the brink of nuclear annihilation—a condition God wanted to delay.

The confusion at Babel led to the establishment of many diverse nations. This form of linguistic and national separation contributed to the wide diversity of cultures and religions that flowed from the evil imaginations of each one of these scattered groups of people.

It was out of love for mankind that God confounded the languages and scattered the nations. Why? They had already separated themselves from God. Now God wanted to restrain the power of evil leaders like Nimrod by keeping the people of this world so divided and culturally diverse that their evil imaginations would not become unified to the point of destroying mankind from the face of the Earth. This would prolong man's existence so that God's plan for man could be fulfilled.

Plainly, unity of language makes a civilization stronger, more productive, more capable. Differing languages decrease cooperation and efficiency. In the U.S., the fragmentation of language and culture is certain to have a similar weakening effect.

Destroying the Melting Pot

This once-proud nation not only survived 200 very tough years of history, it flourished! Why? The United States of America was founded upon many biblical principles. The Ten Commandments are etched into the walls of many public buildings. From the beginning, the Founding Fathers made no apologies for the fact that America was to be a Christian nation. They believed their country was established by God's grace and with His divine protection.

The truth is, this nation, "under God," has indeed received many wonderful national blessings from God. Although we have never deserved these blessings, God has freely given them to us as a result of an amazing unconditional promise He made long ago to Abraham, the father of many nations, that still exists today. This promise was passed along and further defined to Abraham's descendants Isaac and Jacob. The United States forms a portion of the modern-day descendants of the house of Jacob—specifically, the tribe of Manasseh. (For a full explanation, request our free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

One important means by which God has blessed this nation, and a major reason behind the outstanding power and economic strength of the U.S., has been the consistent reliance upon one language and one dominant American culture throughout its history, in all its states and territories.

Until the last 30 or 40 years, every one of the millions of im-

migrants from distant lands who came to live in the U.S. was encouraged to become an "American." Granted, the U.S. has always experienced the presence of many languages, cultures and religions, but all official business was conducted in English, and all laws and public culture were openly based upon "Christian" values.

From the beginning of our public education system, Christian values formed the mainframe upon which all the other studies relied. During the years of the greatest immigration to the U.S. from non-English-speaking nations, the public schools played a major role in turning this nation away from linguistic diversity and multiculturalism toward a united American culture that existed "under God."

No other nation had ever been so successful at assimilating such a wide variety of people into such a great and powerful single nation. It was for this fact that America became known throughout the world as the great "melting pot."



Today, however, the country is terribly divided as a result of decades of that unified culture coming under assault. The hippies of the '60s promoted a subculture that inspired that generation not only to reject the moral values of their parents, but to also wage an assault on the English language—developing a myriad of slang expressions and twisting and distorting the meanings of many common words. The phrase “generation gap” became the parents’ frustrated excuse for their failure to understand and accept their children’s rapid shift from godly values.

We are witnessing the fruits of a generation of nurturing and encouraging multiculturalism and diversity. It was believed that this approach would make the nation stronger. Instead, efforts to promote sensitivity to the feelings and circumstances of each culturally diverse minority group in society have actually been building even higher walls of resentment and distrust among all Americans. If that is not enough confusion, we

God has always wanted mankind to have one “pure” language. But more importantly, God has wanted all mankind to serve Him with one consent.

also are making minority groups out of people with “special interests.” The proliferation of special-interest groups that place their individual agendas above the interests of the nation is creating continual division and confusion that is weakening this nation.

Instead of being thankful and proud of the Christian heritage that our Founding Fathers provided, we are expected to reject it. In ways both subtle and outright, we are being taught that our nation’s Christian heritage is somehow to blame for all society’s problems. The old adage “divide and conquer” is rapidly coming to pass in our midst.

The Bible asks a profound question: “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?” (Amos 3:3).

Global Rise of One Language

At the same time that America is becoming weakened by this push for bilingual education, multiculturalism and diversity, there is an ever-increasing push for unity and cooperation throughout the rest of the world.

Europe is attempting to become more and more unified. Part of that process has included discussions about adopting one common language.

English has become the unofficial international language of commerce and political diplomacy. The emergence of English in developing nations is leading to greater economic, scientific and political cooperation among many of them.

While the United States is increasing its efforts toward bilingual education, English is being taught in schools, colleges and universities worldwide. One can travel into any part of the world and nearly always find someone who can speak English. The tremendous growth of the World Wide Web is speeding up this process even more.

It seems that everyone can see the advantage of teaching English and cultural unity except for the new breed of educators and politicians within the United States itself.

The closer this world comes to a return to one common language and international cooperation, the closer man comes to being freed from the restraints

God placed upon him at the tower of Babel and doing all that he imagines to do. And since man’s heart has not yet changed, the evil nature in man increasingly brings destruction.

As in the days of Babel, mankind is again exploiting the unity of one language for evil purposes. According to the Bible, we are quickly approaching a time when world conditions will become so evil that if Jesus Christ did not intervene, mankind would destroy all human life (Matthew 24:21-22).

The good news is, Jesus Christ *will* once again intervene. This time, He will personally return to Earth to establish the Kingdom of God worldwide. He will not be welcomed when He returns. The truth is, Christ will have to take the Earth by force (Revelation 19:11-16), but He will do so in order to save it from complete physical destruction.

Pure Language, Pure Culture

Micah 4 and Isaiah 11 vividly picture the time when the Kingdom of God will be established on Earth. This will become an era of unparalleled peace, happiness and prosperity! Jesus Christ will rule for a thousand years—one full millennium of global, utopian blessings.

During that time, Jesus Christ will completely reverse the curse established at Babel.

The time setting for Zephaniah 3:9 is the Millennium. God promises, “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent.”

God has always wanted mankind to have one “pure” language. But more importantly, God has wanted all mankind to serve Him with one consent.

Let’s not forget that the presence of diverse languages was a result of man’s evil heart. A pure language will not be truly possible without a change in man’s heart, or mind. A pure language requires a “pure” religion. A pure religion requires pure thoughts. All these changes will require a vast re-education program.

That is the ultimate purpose behind the thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ—to change man’s heart through the pure knowledge of God. Once this change of heart takes place, Isaiah 11:9 says, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

The Earth shall no longer be in a state of confusion. Jesus Christ will rule with authority. He will not perpetuate division, tolerate false ideas, or let people decide right and wrong for themselves. The whole world will live by the laws, statutes and judgments recorded in the Bible—the same Bible in our homes today.

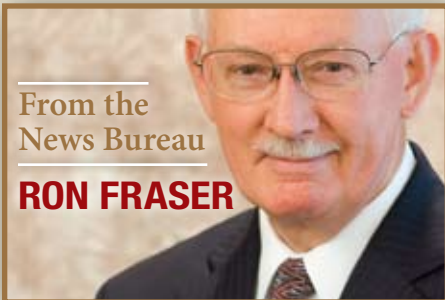
God designed and intended diversity in race and certain elements of culture. But He never intended mankind to be hampered by multiculturalism. Millions of immigrants from all over the world will look to a new Jerusalem, the headquarters city from which Jesus Christ will rule the world. They will no longer be taught in their native tongues or their former cultures based on false religious ideas. They will all be expected to become true Christians.

Yes, there will continue to be many nations, but these nations will not be distinct as a result of diverse languages and a wide variety of political or religious ideas. The Kingdom of God will eventually erase every form of injustice and lawlessness. All mankind will be trained to love God’s law and live by it.

What about you? Can you enthusiastically look forward to a world like that? If so, the great God wants you to be preparing for it now! ■

From the
News Bureau

RON FRASER



Russo-German Pact Imminent

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN about current tensions between Russia on the one side with the United States and European Union on the other. The schism is particularly sharp between Russia and Germany. In fact, some pundits have said that a new cold war between the West and Russia could be on the doorstep.

Don't believe it.

The present climate of stressed relations between Europe and Russia is setting the stage for a non-aggression pact between Russia and Germany (or a German-dominated EU) to mirror the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between Germany and Russia prior to World War II.

The tense foreign-policy climate between Germany and its EU minions and Russia revolves around just how far the hegemonic aspirations of one will allow those of the other to go. As we have pointed out in the past, the Ukraine Plain is really the battleground for this geopolitical fight.

With parts of the Balkans, Malta and Cyprus already controlled by the EU, Europe's springboards to the Adriatic, the Mediterranean, the continent of Africa and the Middle East are largely cemented.

However, within the continent of Europe, no natural geographic barrier exists north of the Carpathian Mountains to act as a buffer between a newly resurgent Russia and a territorially ambitious European Union. The vast open plains spreading westward from the Dnieper River across Ukraine to Belarus touch the EU's present eastern border at the junction of Poland and the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Here, a line simply has yet to be drawn.

Too often throughout history, this vast, open expanse of land has facilitated the rapid transit of aggressive

hordes flooding either westward or eastward to wreak havoc on the populations of Europe. The most recent cases—the Nazi blitzkrieg eastward across Poland and into Russia during World War II and the subsequent sweeping of Russian forces westward to Berlin's

Sometimes appearances can be deceiving. Current tensions between Russia and Germany, far from forging a geopolitical split between the two, are setting the scene for an alliance.

doorstep—remain in the minds of historically conscious politicians within both Europe and Russia.

Given that history, there is more than meets the eye in Poland's resistance to the prospect of Germany being given greater voting clout—and hence greater political power—in the European Union via the new treaty presented at the EU summit in June.

Similarly, there is much below the surface of Russia's strident resistance to plans for the U.S. basing a defensive missile shield in Eastern Europe, and for an "independent" Kosovo.

The core issue is nothing less than the 21st-century balance of power in Europe.

The U.S. is being maneuvered increasingly out of this equation, having drawn down its troop presence on the Continent significantly over the past decade. Its military forces, now stretched beyond reasonable limits, are

involved in skirmishes on many fronts scattered around the world in addition to the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters. Increasing doubt about U.S. ability, let alone willingness, to fight Europe's battles is forcing the EU's hand militarily.

Uncertain of the U.S. as an underwriter for European security, the EU is undergoing a sea change in the

mindset of its senior bureaucrats and politicians. Increasingly, these individuals are calling for the consolidation of a pan-European military force to defend EU interests. Germany is leading this call to arms; hence the current clash between EU President Merkel and Russian President Putin.

Each knows that the situation in play is of historic proportions. Each is cognizant of the history of Germany and Russia having played

this same game in the past, and the vast loss of life resulting from military clashes between the two. Neither currently wants to antagonize the other that far. Each wants a satisfactory political conclusion to their individual security interests so they can get on with the business of consolidating their respective empires unchallenged at the point where their imperial borders meet.

On several occasions since Napoleon's defeat brought the fifth revival of the Holy Roman Empire to its end, Germany, prior to going to war in the west, first secured its eastern border by concluding treaties with Russia.

Treaties Between Germany and Russia, 1881-1939

- The Secret Treaty and Protocol, 1881, renewed 1884
- Reinsurance Treaty, 1887
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 1918
- Treaty of Rapallo, 1922
- Germany/USSR Neutrality Agreement, 1926
- Treaty of non-aggression between Germany and the USSR (also known as the Hitler-Stalin Pact or Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact), August 1939
- German/Soviet Boundary and Friendship Treaty, September 1939

Neither Russia nor the German-dominated European Union can tolerate for much longer the lack of a clear



HEAVY MEDIA/GETTY IMAGES

PUTIN

balance of power on the Continent. Clear-thinking realists understand that U.S. influence in the region is obviously on the wane.

The global disorder that has followed 9/11, which has included a great weakening in the pride of U.S. power, will soon be replaced by a newly assertive order. This will first require a temporary balance of power between the EU and Russia. The further unification and empowering of a European superstate will be offset in Asia by an emerging massive power bloc incorporating greater Asia, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Meanwhile, competition for the resources of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean will continue between the leading nations of these power blocs: Germany, Russia and China. The oil-rich Middle East nations will be wooed by all, until the Islamist threat becomes such a pest that a militarized Europe reacts to deal with the challenge that the U.S. and Britain simply will not address. The Jerusalem plum will be plucked by the rising Fourth Reich at the head of the European power bloc.

And the catalyst that unleashes these events?

It will be yet one more treaty signed between German and Russian leaders—a sure sign, given the history of such pacts, of a great war about to be unleashed on this world.

All this is prophesied in your Bible to occur in the near future. It is but a curtain-raiser to the inevitable, prophesied outcome of the perpetual struggle for power and peace. Ultimately, national power will be controlled, and peace *will* prevail in this world. It will be a peace superior to anything man has experienced in the past. It will be a universally *imposed* peace brought to Earth by the Prince of Peace Himself (Isaiah 9:6-7)—an *everlasting* peace imposed on all nations by a *power far superior* to the weak hunk of clay of which man is presently comprised.

As Douglas MacArthur famously stated, it must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.

Request your own copy, gratis, of our booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow* for a glimpse into the eye-opening future that will result from an amazing future change in the spirit in man!



Face-off Over Kosovo



Confrontation over the future of Kosovo reveals the depth of German ambition in the Balkans. BY TRUMPET STAFF

TENSION IS RUNNING HIGH BETWEEN Russia and the West over the future of Kosovo. Moscow's fury over not being invited to "secret talks" in June where representatives from Germany, Italy, the UK, the U.S. and the UN met to knock out a common position on the Balkan province is just the start of it.

After a year of negotiations, little progress has been made on the final status of the province of Kosovo, which has been administered by the United Nations since 1999. Kosovo's 90 percent Albanian majority seeks independence; Belgrade, after having been already gutted of almost all its provinces, wants to maintain sovereignty over Kosovo, arguing that allowing Kosovo to become independent would contravene international law. The European Union and the United States are backing a UN plan that would give Kosovo internationally supervised independence—with the EU playing a key role. Russia has threatened to veto the plan in the Security Council. On June 20, the EU and the U.S. circulated a revised UN resolution that would allow for a 120-day delay in implementing the plan for Kosovo's independence. Russia rejected the new draft immediately. Neither side is about to back down.

Much is at stake.

Though the general media might put the confrontation in terms of Russia against the West, or the U.S. specifically, this is really a contest between Russia and *Germany*. What we are see-

ing is a jockeying for power in Europe by both nations. For Moscow, to have the West impose its will on Serbia (a historically ally to Russia) would signal a loss of Russian influence in Europe. For Berlin, the stakes are even higher.

Germany wants to make Kosovo a symbol of its uncontested leadership of Europe. If Berlin can overcome opposition from Russia and impose its will on a small province as far away as the Balkans, Kosovo will become more than an independent state; it will become a sign of Berlin's reach and influence over the entire continent of Europe, from the North Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, including the crucial crossroads of the Balkan Peninsula.

Think tank Stratfor discussed Germany's level of interest in Kosovo's independence on June 15: "It was [German Chancellor Angela] Merkel, not U.S. President George W. Bush, who said bluntly at the [G-8] summit—with a none-too-pleased Putin standing nearby—that Kosovo will be independent. (Bush later echoed this statement during his trip to Albania.) Merkel, not Bush, has been steadily working European leaders to ensure that, when the time comes, Europe is on the same page about this issue."

Stratfor explained, "Merkel is seeking to help Germany re-emerge as a major European power, and what better way to do that than to publicly force the Russians into a confrontation and then make them retreat?"

But there is more to Germany's in-



STATUS SYMBOL
An ethnic Albanian stands next to the Albanian national flag during a protest against UN plans for the future status of Kosovo.



terest in Kosovo than power politics. There are strategic reasons for Germany's ongoing involvement in the Balkan region. Indeed, Germany has fought long and hard to facilitate the break-up of the Balkans—including the secession of Kosovo. It was largely Germany that pushed NATO into intervening in Kosovo in the first place. It was Germany that helped create and arm the terrorist Kosovo Liberation Army, and Germany that once harbored the so-called government of the “Kosovo Republic in exile.”

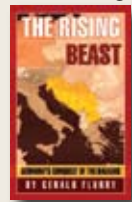
All this interest by Germany has had a very specific purpose. Put bluntly, the German-led EU seeks to colonize the Balkans. The EU has already absorbed Slovenia, and Croatia and Macedonia are official EU candidate countries. All other Western Balkan states are classified as potential candidate countries. The EU's website states: “The EU has repeatedly reaffirmed at the highest level its commitment for eventual EU membership of the Western Balkan countries”

The European Parliament issued a statement in March saying that an acceptable settlement on Kosovo's status “allows Kosovo to achieve its desire to be *integrated in Europe*” (EUobserver.com, March 13; emphasis ours). The proposed plan allows Kosovo to do just that—to seek membership in international organizations, including the European Union. No wonder Germany is prepared to stand up to Russia over this.

Since Kosovo first erupted back in

1998, the *Trumpet* has warned readers to “Watch for German initiatives to take advantage of this situation to further her continual, careful extension of eastward hegemony in the Balkans” (July 1998). Considering the pivotal role the Balkans have played in European history, we urge readers to continue to watch, very particularly, for the Germanization of the Balkans.

The Balkans are a politically, socially and culturally volatile region, and a lot could go wrong in Kosovo's quest for independence, but one thing is for sure: Germany will be there to pick up the pieces. Germany's interest in the Balkans will not fade. Request a free copy of Gerald Flurry's booklet *The Rising Beast—Germany's Conquest of the Balkans* to understand more on why Kosovo and the rest of the Balkans are so important to Germany and its goal of controlling Europe. ■



► **CRIME** from page 17

Paradise Found

Crime rates worse than some war zones around the world are burning millions while community and world leaders watch helplessly. U.S. crime provides just one glimpse at the panoramic worldwide epidemic of robbery, beatings, extortion, rape and murder. But there is hope—for you individually and eventually for all mankind.

The Ten Commandments guarantee life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness far in excess of the Constitution of the United States and its myriad lesser laws. This plan for man's happiness focuses not on simply preventing the worst crimes, but on living an enjoyable, productive, healthy lifestyle. It guarantees abundant freedoms and rights to every citizen under its jurisdiction.

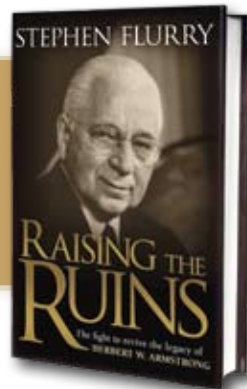
Unlike lesser legislation drafted by men, God's law addresses human attitudes and motives—the *human spirit*, which in the world today is swayed by Satan (Ephesians 2:2). God's law gets to the core of this *spirit* and educates man to willingly reject Satan, who inspires carnal human nature and violent crime. It also includes with it the power of enforcement necessary to establish and maintain the rule of law. God is *the* law enforcement Authority. He will use His supreme authority and power to crush rebellion against the letter and spirit of His command to love your neighbor.

God's ancient and yet up-to-date body of law will soon be established over not only Americans but world citizens everywhere. Unfortunately, the “managed” chaotic fire of crime and the inferno of war described in the Ezekiel 5 prophetic forecast will rage far beyond man's control before our society will reach the state of humility to admit that our laws and enforcement are mournfully deficient. But *you* can live that way of life *now*.

The *Trumpet* offers you *The Ten Commandments—God's Unchangeable Laws for a Happy Life*. Request this free 100-page book to find out how “love your God” and “love your neighbor” are two divisions of a living, dynamic, up-and-coming master plan that will give you and your family a truly happy life—and spell the end of crime everywhere. ■

With reporting by TIMOTHY OOSTENDARP





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

STEPHEN FLURRY

Deathbed Repentance

“Not long before he died, Herbert Armstrong told my dad that some things in the church needed to be changed. He didn’t make a list of the changes he had in mind, he simply said that ‘things needed to be changed.’”

—Joseph Tkach Jr. *Transformed by Truth*

AFTER EVERYTHING MR. ARMSTRONG said about *Mystery of the Ages* before he died—“most important book since the Bible”; “best work of my 93 years of life”; “the most valuable gift I could possibly give to you”—the fact that the Tkaches retired the work 2½ years after his death says a lot about what they really believed all along about Mr. Armstrong’s teachings. But to retire the book *and then blame its removal on Mr. Armstrong*, after all those glowing, PUBLIC remarks, shows how far Tkachism was willing to go in order to deceive and lie—even if the lie was unbelievably absurd.

In 1990, Joseph Tkach Sr. said, “Mr. Armstrong himself told me that the book contained errors and that he needed to rewrite it.” But, according to Tkach, Mr. Armstrong died before he could revise the book. “I felt that there was so much valuable truth in the book that we should continue using it anyway,” Mr. Tkach said. So according to the 1990 version of the story—get this—it was *Mr. Armstrong* who wanted the book shelved and *Mr. Tkach* who wanted to keep it in circulation! “After a while,” Tkach continued, “I realized that the errors in the book could make the whole subject seem unreliable, and I had to do what I perhaps should have done to begin with.”

As for Mr. Armstrong’s profuse praise for the material in the book, Tkach said he “made some very strong claims regarding the book. He even called it the most important book

since the Bible. This was an overstatement.” Yes, in the very *same article*, Mr. Tkach said Mr. Armstrong OVERSTATED the book’s importance when it was released, yet *fully realized* there were errors in it and that it needed to be rewritten.

What Mr. Tkach failed to mention in that 1990 article is that *he too* got “carried away” in his praise for the book. On Jan. 16, 1986, the day Mr. Armstrong died, Mr. Tkach called *Mystery of the Ages* Mr. Armstrong’s “most powerful and effective book.” Ten months later, when he introduced the final installment of *Mystery* in the *Plain Truth* serialization, he wrote, “Mr. Armstrong *did not underestimate* the importance of this last work . . .” He said that 10 months AFTER Mr. Armstrong died. In 1990, Tkach made it clear that Mr. Armstrong DID overestimate the book’s importance.

That Mr. Tkach would change his views about the book from 1986 to 1990 is one thing. But how could *Mr. Armstrong’s* views change? HE WAS DEAD! Either he thought the book might be the most important since the Bible or else he considered it flawed and in need of a rewrite. It can’t be both!

In his 1986 article, Mr. Tkach Sr. called *Mystery of the Ages* Mr. Armstrong’s “last will and testament, to be passed on to those who would value it. . . . He loved and respected his readers and, in a figurative sense, he remembered you in his will.”

All these comments were made *after* Mr. Armstrong supposedly told him the book CONTAINED ERRORS and NEEDED TO BE REWRITTEN. But in 1990, in response to criticism for removing *Mystery* from circulation, Mr. Tkach wrote, “As I

said, before he died, [Mr. Armstrong] told me that the book had errors and should be rewritten. The truth remains the truth, of course. The errors were the problem. But he did not get the chance to rewrite it. So what was I to do? *How could I before God continue to print the book, knowing it contains errors, and knowing Mr. Armstrong told me that he wanted to rewrite it?*"

The thing is, *before God*, HE DID CONTINUE PRINTING THE BOOK! He distributed it around the world for TWO AND A HALF YEARS! What's more, even after this supposed conversation with Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Tkach referred to *Mystery of the Ages* as "powerful" and "remarkable," saying it was Mr. Armstrong's "last will and testament." He never once mentioned this conversation with Mr. Armstrong until four years after he died—*after* he had already discontinued the book—and *after* he had received criticism for doing so.

Don't blame me, Mr. Tkach responded to the critics. *I'm only carrying out Mr. Armstrong's final wishes.*

How absurd is that?

■ MR. ARMSTRONG BEHIND THE CHANGES?

Picking up on his father's sudden recollection four years after the fact, Tkach Jr. made even more sweeping statements in 1991. In a personal letter written late that year, he told a former WCG member, "On his deathbed, Mr. Armstrong himself commissioned my father to look into *the very changes we have made*. Therefore, we are following the wishes of Mr. Armstrong and, more importantly, God." By that point in time, numerous changes had already been made and much of Mr. Armstrong's literature had either been revised or rejected. *And the Tkaches were actually trying to convince members that Mr. Armstrong had commissioned Tkach Sr. to make these changes.*

The following year, in November 1992, Mr. Tkach Sr. sent a video to all WCG churches in which he further elaborated on the supposed deathbed conversations he had with Mr. Armstrong. Here is what Mr. Tkach told the membership nearly *seven years* after Mr. Armstrong's death: "A number of these [changes], whether you want to believe it or not that's immaterial, I can't lose any sleep over that; I know what transpired with Mr. Armstrong.

"When we were talking about a number of these issues, I said to Mr. Armstrong, 'What you're bringing up here is really heavy, heavy information. It's a shame that we can't tape record this and preserve it for posterity.'

"And he said, 'Well, okay.' No, first he asked me why.

"I said, 'Well I know my limitations. I won't remember everything we're talking about.' And I said, 'Secondly, even more important, the people won't believe me!'

"And so he acquiesced for a second and said, 'Go ahead, get a tape recorder.' So I went around into the kitchen and as I was dialing for the radio studio or TV, I don't remember, to ask someone to bring a tape recorder down, I heard his faint voice calling me back.

"So I went back and said, 'Yes sir.'

"He said, 'On second thought, let's not do it.'

"I said, 'Well, may I ask you why?'

"He said, ... 'The people, God's people, His precious chosen people, are going to have to take it on faith, if they truly are converted.'"

Mr. Tkach wanted this conversation recorded because

he *didn't think the people would believe him*. So what Mr. Armstrong supposedly spelled out for him must have been MAJOR doctrinal changes. Later in the video, Tkach said, "Some of those things were so far over my head it's only within the last few years that they're beginning to come back. And that's what he told me. He said, 'When it's time for you to remember a certain point, God's Spirit will bring it back as if we were just discussing it.' And that's how things just come."

Brilliant! It would all unfold just like it did with Jesus Christ's disciples, who couldn't understand certain things until after the Spirit of God filled the Church on Pentecost in A.D. 31. The problem is, Mr. Tkach had received God's Spirit decades before these deathbed discussions. He had spent his entire adulthood in the Worldwide Church of God. He was well aware of the church's body of beliefs. That Mr. Armstrong's deathbed comments were so far over his head doesn't necessarily speak well of his overall grasp of doctrine.

What Tkachism told the WCG membership in 1992—nearly seven years into their administration—is this: On his deathbed, Mr. Armstrong commissioned the Tkaches to look into the "very changes" that had been made, which is pretty specific. What Mr. Armstrong brought up was such "heavy, heavy information" that Mr. Tkach wanted to tape record the conversation. Furthermore, the reason it took several years for Mr. Tkach to make the changes Mr. Armstrong supposedly wanted made is that the deathbed comments were "so far" over Tkach's head, they simply did not start coming back until years later.

■ RIDDLED WITH ERROR

In that same video, Mr. Tkach also made some UNBELIEVABLE comments about *Mystery of the Ages*. He said, "The same thing with *Mystery of the Ages*. We do have that on tape—where he [Mr. Armstrong] admitted that it was 'RIDDLED WITH ERRORS.' We have it on tape where he began to extol the book and everything else when he was offering it to the student body as their textbook. And he told them that unfortunately the thing went to the printer before it could be properly edited and remove a lot of *our misunderstandings* in it. And it got printed."

This was a sad case where the elder Tkach could not keep his lies straight. This happened quite a lot in those days, especially when Mr. Tkach would veer away from sermon notes someone else had prepared.

The video Mr. Tkach referred to was of Mr. Armstrong presenting the book to the sophomore class at Ambassador College on Sept. 9, 1985, about four months before he died. In it, Mr. Armstrong was nearly overcome with emotion when he asked, "Will you forgive me if I get a little bit of a thrill that this is done; that this book is out now? Today is a pretty big day in my life when I can hand copies of this book out to each of you." He spent quite a bit of time during that speech explaining how *Mystery of the Ages* came to be. He said he wanted the students' education to be as "complete as possible." Mr. Armstrong explained how some of the material in the book was from other books and booklets he had written while some material was brand new. He said, "The Bible is like a book that had been sort of cut up into about 2,000 or 3,000 pieces and you have to get them all put together in the right order or you can't understand them. This book puts them together." Later, he said *Mystery of the Ages* covers the "main thread" of the Bible. Reading it, he said, would "make the Bible plain and clear and understandable." He recommended that the students read the book a

second and third time, saying that they wouldn't get the full meat of its message after just one reading.

In a co-worker letter written just three days after Mr. Armstrong's address, he said, "Since last December I have been working diligently on the largest and most important book of my life. In real fact I feel I myself did not write it. Rather, I believe God used me in writing it. I candidly feel it may be the most important book since the Bible." More than two months later, Mr. Armstrong called *Mystery of the Ages* the "best work" of his 93 years of life.

Mr. Armstrong *never said*, or even remotely *implied*, that the book was "riddled with error." In 1992, Mr. Tkach made the embarrassing mistake of attributing this infamous statement to Mr. Armstrong when, in fact, it was said by *his own son*.

■ CAUGHT IN A TANGLED WEB

In the letter Tkach Jr. wrote to Dennis Leap on April 20, 1990, he said, "Mr. Armstrong commented shortly after [*Mystery of the Ages*] was published that the book was *outdated* and *needed to be rewritten* when he was up to the task." Mr. Armstrong began distributing the book just *four months* before he died. It was his newest, just-published book—and yet, sometime during his last four months, the Tkaches say he supposedly discovered it was "outdated"? Actually, when Mr. Armstrong first handed out the book to the sophomore class at Ambassador, explaining that he had relied on various other writings of his to help produce parts of the book, he said, "Much of it's been *rewritten*. It's all been reorganized and *updated*. It had to be different from any book ever written before. It had to contain parts of several different books that we had. But we had no book that I thought was fitting There were some things in other booklets. But there were *some things too that weren't written at all* and weren't in any book that I wanted in."

In truth, Mr. Armstrong NEVER said the book needed to be rewritten. What he said was that more material could be *added* to the original text. Here is what he wrote in a letter to those who requested *Mystery of the Ages*: "Since writing the book, I have written another booklet that well *could be the opening chapter of this book*. And indeed, MAY BE IN FUTURE EDITIONS. It is on the mystery of the Bible itself. This booklet is titled *The BIBLE—Superstition or Authority? ... and Can You Prove It?* Can you prove that the Bible is indeed the very Word of God, and the supreme authority in life, in right and wrong, by which every person ever born will be finally judged?"

"I feel sure you will want to read this new booklet, especially in connection with *Mystery of the Ages*."

The ONLY indication Mr. Armstrong ever gave about revising *Mystery* was the possibility of *adding* another chapter. Yet Tkach Jr. took that to mean "Mr. Armstrong realized that *Mystery of the Ages* had errors in it."

In David Hunsberger's response to *Malachi's Message*, he also brought up the subject of *Mystery* and the sophomore address. He wrote, "Mr. Armstrong realized that *Mystery of the Ages* had errors in it. Even when he personally distributed it to the sophomore class, he told the students that a new edition would need to be written." Again, there is a huge difference between *adding another chapter* and wanting to rewrite the book because of major flaws.

Notice another excerpt from a letter Tkach Jr. wrote in early 1992: "Mr. Tkach spent literally hundreds of hours in personal talks with Mr. Armstrong during the last months of his life. Mr. Armstrong was well aware of a number of errors in his book and other doctrinal changes and corrections that needed to be made. He *personally* told Mr. Tkach to study into SEVERAL OF THESE MATTERS."

Now put yourself in the position of a WCG member sitting in that church between 1986 and the early 1990s. First, Tkachism made all kinds of changes, but told the membership there were no changes. Then, in the early 1990s, they admitted there were changes, but insisted that Mr. Armstrong was behind them. In the case of *Mystery of the Ages*, they said Mr. Armstrong had wanted to "update" the book anyway. Then, later, they said Mr. Armstrong was well aware of all the "errors" in *Mystery*.

Judging by the evolving story coming from WCG officials, you can see why Mr. Tkach couldn't quite get the story straight during his November 1992 sermon. But the extensively written historical record speaks for itself. There is no way an honest observer, looking at all the facts, could say that Mr. Armstrong wanted to re-write *Mystery of the Ages* because of errors, let alone that it was "riddled" with them. Yet, that is exactly what church officials tried to convince the membership between 1990 and 1992.

■ COMING CLEAN

Skeptics in the WCG were finally convinced that the changes were for real in late 1994, but not because of a courageous sermon by Tkach Sr. No—they were convinced because that was the year *the Tkaches finally came clean*.

That same year, Tkachism also fessed up on the *Mystery of the Ages* rewrite. Joe Jr. wrote in September, "Certainly Mr. Armstrong would have withdrawn and rewritten his book *Mystery of the Ages had he been aware* of the errors it contained." But I thought he *was* aware of the errors? Didn't they have it on tape where Mr. Armstrong admitted it was "riddled with errors"?

Tkach Jr. continued, "[Mr. Armstrong] did announce to students that he was going to rewrite the first chapter and make it Chapter Two [actually, he indicated that he would *move* Chapter One to Chapter Two, *not* rewrite Chapter One] while writing a completely new Chapter One. He never accomplished this goal, however, due to his illness." It's not 100 percent accurate, but it is certainly much closer to the truth than what he said between 1990 and 1992.

By the time Joe Jr. wrote his book in 1997, their deceptive spin had come full circle. He wrote that Mr. Armstrong considered *Mystery of the Ages* his "crowning achievement"; "his opus magnum." No mention of Mr. Armstrong being aware of all the errors—or even that he wanted it to be rewritten. Instead, Tkach Jr. spun the 1997 version of the story this way: "Herbert Armstrong considered the book *Mystery of the Ages* to be the great work of his life, the greatest book since the Bible." As for the "deathbed" conversations Mr. Armstrong supposedly had with Mr. Tkach? Joe Jr. explains, "Not long before he died, Herbert Armstrong told my dad that *some things* in the church needed to be changed. He didn't make a list of the changes he had in mind, he simply said that 'things needed to be changed.'

"What things might he have intended? WE CAN NEVER BE SURE—with one notable exception. Near the end of his life, Mr. Armstrong said that our stance on divine healing needed change."

That's not what he said in 1991—how Mr. Armstrong supposedly commissioned his father to look into the “very changes we have made.” In 1992, Tkach Sr. said he was anxious to get a tape recorder because of the lengthy list of changes Mr. Armstrong wanted made. Instead, Tkach had to work from memory. And many of the changes made several years after Mr. Armstrong died, so said Mr. Tkach, sprung from those deathbed conversations. According to Tkach Sr., they just popped into his head as Mr. Armstrong told him they would.

That was *then*. Now, however, we can *never be sure* what Mr. Armstrong meant when he said some things needed to be changed.

■ SOPHOMORE ADDRESS

Let's consider one last point with respect to Mr. Armstrong's address before the sophomores. In the early 1990s, the Tkaches referred to this address as proof that Mr. Armstrong knew about the “errors” in the book. Notice what Mr. Tkach Jr. wrote in a letter, March 16, 1992: “Mr. Armstrong realized that *Mystery of the Ages* had errors in it. Even when he personally distributed it to the sophomore class, he told the students that a new edition would need to be written. His exact words were: ‘*I won't say it is inspired in the sense of the Bible. It's not perfect.*’ Then when we come to prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, and when we come to the New Testament books, God inspired them. They are the infallible words of God. I don't make any such claim for this book [*Mystery of the Ages*] whatsoever. I think in a way God inspired it, but not in the sense that it is the Word of God. *I fully expect that within a year there will be a second edition, that some improvements will be made in this book.*’

“Regretfully Mr. Armstrong did not live to produce a revised edition.”

Mr. Tkach Jr. referred to these “exact words” in several letters he wrote to church members around that time. David Hunsberger also referred to this quote in his 1991 *Worldwide News* article. The problem with this quote is that it is a distortion of what Mr. Armstrong actually said.

Excerpts from his comments were played before the entire church at the Feast in 1985. The 20-minute video, which preceded Mr. Armstrong's sermon, introduced *Mystery of the Ages* to the church. In the video, the announcer referred to the book as Mr. Armstrong's “most important and significant work.” And to reflect this high level of importance spiritually, the announcer described how Mr. Armstrong wanted *Mystery of the Ages* to be of the finest quality physically—with the title embossed in gold lettering and the cover in royal purple. Four lengthy segments from the sophomore address were interspersed throughout the video. Here is the one uninterrupted clip Mr. Tkach quoted from so often in the early 1990s: “When the Bible speaks, that is God speaking, not a man. Now it's true Moses wrote the first five books. But it wasn't really Moses writing it. God was having him write it. And it was God writing it. But that was really inspired. And *then when we come to prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and then when we come to the New Testament books, God inspired them. They are the infallible words of God. This book is not. I don't*

make any such claim for this book whatsoever. But I think in a way God inspired it. But not in the sense that it is the Word of God. It's as God inspired Herbert Armstrong. And I tried to yield myself to Him. And I hope I was able to yield myself, if not 100 percent, 97, and 98, and 99 percent. The Bible is like a book that had been sort of cut up into about 2,000 or 3,000 pieces and you have to get them all put together in the right order or you can't understand them. This book puts them together.”

Notice the italicized words in particular. Mr. Tkach Jr. does quote that correctly in his letter. But before it, he added, “*I won't say it is inspired in the sense of the Bible. It's not perfect*”; and after it he tacked on, “*I fully expect that within a year there will be a second edition, that some improvements will be made in this book.*” (Notice his letter again, quoted above, to see where he added these comments.) These words DO NOT APPEAR in the video that played during the Feast in 1985. Nor do they appear on the *World Tomorrow* television program that also broadcast excerpts of Mr. Armstrong's address.

Now granted, the video the church produced for the Feast most likely did not include Mr. Armstrong's entire speech. So it's possible Mr. Armstrong could have made the statements Joe Jr. attributed to him. It's also possible that Mr. Tkach invented the comments.

The key point, though, is this: For several years in the early 1990s, the Tkaches continually pointed to this sophomore address as PROOF that *Mystery of the Ages* was not perfect; that it was not inspired in the same way the Bible was; that it contained “errors”; that Mr. Armstrong knew it needed to be rewritten; and regrettably, he just never got that chance since

he died soon after it was published. That much we know, based on the letters Tkach Jr. wrote during the early 1990s.

But notice how Mr. Tkach Jr. remembers that same sophomore address today: “When the book was published in 1985, Mr. Armstrong addressed a class at Ambassador College and handed out the book to sophomores and juniors, who were assigned to use it as a

textbook. ‘This book is the greatest book since the Bible,’ he said, ‘and it was *inspired just like the Bible.*’”

What a SHOCKING difference! As every member in the WCG should remember, when Mr. Armstrong spoke about the book's importance, he said things like, “I candidly feel it *may be* the most important book since the Bible” or “Time *may* prove this to be the most important book written in almost 1,900 years.” He did not blast away with, “THIS BOOK IS THE GREATEST BOOK SINCE THE BIBLE” and he certainly didn't say it was “inspired just like the Bible”! The very address Joe Jr. is supposedly quoting disproves it! (Please read the quote from the video again and keep in mind that this was played BEFORE THE WHOLE CHURCH.) In his book, Mr. Tkach twists, distorts and even makes up material from that sophomore address to add color to his ever-changing story.

These examples illustrate how far Tkachism goes in order to mislead and deceive. How could Joseph Tkach Jr.'s memory of the sophomore address be so different between 1992 and 1997? Judging by Tkach's writings, it's as if Mr. Armstrong gave two different speeches.

Skeptics in the WCG were finally convinced that the changes were for real in late 1994 because that was the year the Tkaches finally came clean.

■ TAKING THE CREDIT

The year after Joseph Tkach Jr. succeeded his father as pastor general of the Worldwide Church of God is when he issued his mea culpa in the church's magazine, the *Plain Truth*, saying the church had been "judgmental and self-righteous." They had "much to repent of and apologize for."

He actually apologized on behalf of Mr. Armstrong for his "flawed" teachings—some 10 years after Mr. Armstrong died! But why didn't he mention that *Mr. Armstrong himself commissioned Joseph Tkach Sr. to make the very changes they made since 1986?* In fact, throughout the article of apology, Joe Jr. never even mentions Herbert Armstrong. Wouldn't he at least want the *Plain Truth* readership to know that Mr. Armstrong was behind "all these changes"?

Tkach Jr.'s book, *Transformed by Truth*, according to a July/August 1997 *Plain Truth* ad, details how "in 1995, only 10 years after Armstrong's death, the leadership of the WCG publicly renounced its unorthodox teachings and entered the evangelical mainstream." In a 1997 *Worldwide News*, Tkach Jr. quoted from *Charisma* magazine, which said, "The Worldwide Church of God has made a dramatic shift away from heresy since the death of its founder, Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986."

Now, of course, Joseph Tkach Jr. and the leadership of the WCG heartily congratulate themselves for the WCG's radical transformation. *If only they had been so honest in accepting responsibility in the late 1980s and early 1990s.*

When Mr. Armstrong died, the Tkach administration had nothing but praise and adulation for him and for *Mystery of the Ages*. A few years later, after numerous changes in church policies and doctrines, the Tkaches denied there were any changes. They insisted that they were following right in the footsteps of Mr. Armstrong. Then, after the changes became obvious, they attributed them to what *Mr. Armstrong* supposedly said on his deathbed. Now, Joseph Tkach Jr. takes *full credit* for the transformation—even indirectly calling Mr. Armstrong a heretic!

It's almost comical, were it not so gut-wrenchingly tragic for tens of thousands of people whose lives have been ruined by Tkachism. ■

UNITED STATES

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

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

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

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

Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun

Alabama, Birmingham WPXH 5:00 am, Fri

Alabama, Dothan WBDO 8:30, Sun

Alabama, Montgomery WBMV 8:30, Sun

Alaska, Anchorage KWBX 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Fairbanks KWFA 8:30 am, Sun

Alaska, Juneau KWJA 8:30 am, Sun

Arizona Cox Channel 7, 10:00 am

Arizona, Yuma KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

Arizona, Phoenix KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Arkansas, Fayetteville KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Fort Smith KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Jonesboro KFOS 8:30 am, Sun

Arkansas, Rogers KWFT 8:30, Sun

Arkansas, Springdale KWFT 8:30, Sun

California, Bakersfield KWFB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Chico KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, El Centro KWUB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Eureka KWBT 9:30 am, Sun

California, Los Angeles KPXN 6:00 am, Fri

California, Monterey KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Palm Springs KCWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Redding KIWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Sacramento KSPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, San Francisco KKPX 6:00 am, Fri

California, Salinas KMWB 9:30 am, Sun

California, Santa Barbara KWCA 9:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Denver KPXC 5:00 am, Fri

Colorado, Grand Junction KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Colorado, Montrose KWGJ 10:30 am, Sun

Connecticut, Hartford WHPX 6:00 am, Fri

Delaware, Dover WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Gainesville WBFL 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Jacksonville WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Miami WPXM 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Orlando WOPX 6:00 am, Fri

Florida, Panama City WBPC 9:30 am, Sun

Florida, Tallahassee-Thomasville 9:30 am, Sun

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

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

Georgia, Albany WBSK 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Augusta WBAU 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Brunswick WPXC 6:00 am, Fri

Georgia, Columbus WBG 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Macon WBMN 9:30 am, Sun

Georgia, Savannah WBVH 9:30 am, Sun

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

Hawaii, Maui/Lanai/Molokai/Niihau/Akaku Chan.

52 6:30 pm, Sun; 3:30 am, Mon

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

Idaho, Boise KWOB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Idaho Falls KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Pocatello KWIB 10:30 am, Sun

Idaho, Twin Falls KWTE 10:30 am, Sun

Illinois, Bloomington WBPE 8:30 am, Sun

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

Illinois, Peoria 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 KPPX 5:00 am, Fri

Iowa, Keokuk WEWB 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Kirksville KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Ottumwa KWOT 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Mason City KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Rochester KWBR 8:30 am, Sun

Iowa, Sioux City KXWB 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Joplin-Pittsburg KSXF 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Lincoln KWBL 8:30 am, Sun

Kansas, Topeka WBKS 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Bowling Green WBWG 8:30 am, Sun

Kentucky, Lexington WUPX 6:00 am, Fri

Louisiana, Alexandria KAXN 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, El Dorado-Monroe KWMB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lafayette KLWB 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, Lake Charles WBLC 8:30 am, Sun

Louisiana, New Orleans WPXL 5:00 am, Fri

Maine, Bangor WBAN 9:30 am, Sun

Maine, Presque Isle WBPQ 9:30 am, Sun

Maryland, Salisbury WBD 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Boston WBPX 6:00 am, Fri;

WZMY 8:00 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Holyoke WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Massachusetts, Springfield WBQT 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Alpena WBAE 9:30 am, Sun

Michigan, Cadillac WBVC 9:30 am, Sun

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

10:00 am, Sun

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 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 WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Columbus WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Greenville WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Greenwood WBWD 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Gulfport WBGP 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Hattiesburg WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Laurel WBHA 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Meridian WBMM 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, Tupelo WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
 Mississippi, West Point WBSP 8:30 am, Sun
 Missouri, Columbia KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
 Missouri, Jefferson City KJWB 8:30 am, Sun
 Missouri, Hannibal WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
 Missouri, Quincy WEWB 8:30 am, Sun
 Missouri, Kansas City KPXE 5:00 am, Fri
 Missouri, St. Joseph WBJO 8:30 am, Sun
 Montana, Billings KWMB 10:30 am, Sun
 Montana, Bozeman-Butte 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, Hastings KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
 Nebraska, Kearney KWBL 8:30 am, Sun
 Nebraska, North Platte KWPL 8:30 am, Sun
 Nevada, Reno KWVB 9:30 am, Sun
 New York, Albany WYPX 6:00 am, Fri
 New York, Binghamton WBXI 9:30 am, Sun
 New York, Buffalo WPXJ 6:00 am, Fri
 New York, Elmira WBE 9:30 am, Sun
 New York, New York City WPXN 6:00 am, Fri;
 WLNY 10:00 am Sun
 New York, Syracuse WSPX 6:00 am, Fri
 New York, Utica WBU 9:30 am, Sun
 New York, Watertown WBWT 9:30 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Charlotte WLMY 8:30 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Durham WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00
 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Fayetteville WFPX 6:00 am, Fri
 North Carolina, Greensboro WGPX 6:00 am, Fri
 North Carolina, Greenville WEPX 6:00 am, Fri;
 WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Lumber Bridge WFPX 6:00 am, Fri

North Carolina, New Bern WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Raleigh WRPX 6:00 am, Fri; 9:00
 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Washington WGWB 9:30 am, Sun
 North Carolina, Wilmington WBW 9:30 am, Sun
 North Dakota, Bismarck KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
 North Dakota, Dickinson KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
 North Dakota, Fargo WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
 North Dakota, Minot KWMK 10:30 am, Sun
 North Dakota, Valley City WBFG 8:30 am, Sun
 Ohio, Cleveland WVPX 6:00 am, Fri
 Ohio, Cincinnati WSTR 8:30 am, Sun
 Ohio, Lima WBOH 9:30 am, Sun
 Ohio, Steubenville WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
 Ohio, Zanesville WBZV 9:30 am, Sun
 Oklahoma, Ada KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
 Oklahoma, Lawton KWB 8:30 am, Sun
 Oklahoma, Oklahoma City KOPX 5:00 am, Fri
 Oklahoma, Tulsa KTPX 5:00 am, Fri
 Oregon, Bend KWBO 9:30 am, Sun
 Oregon, Eugene KZWB 9:30 am, Sun; KEVU 10:00
 am, Sun
 Oregon, Klamath Falls KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
 Oregon, Medford KMFD 9:30 am, Sun
 Oregon, Portland KPXG 6:00 am, Fri
 Pennsylvania, Erie WBEP 9:30 am, Sun
 Pennsylvania, Philadelphia WPPX 6:00 am, Fri
 Pennsylvania, Pittsburgh WPCW 9:00 am, Sun
 Pennsylvania, Wilkes Barre WQPX 6:00 am, Fri
 Rhode Island, Providence WPXQ 6:00 am, Fri
 South Carolina, Charleston WBLN 9:30 am, Sun
 South Carolina, Florence WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
 South Carolina, Myrtle Beach WFVB 9:30 am, Sun
 South Dakota, Mitchell KWSD 8:30 am, Sun
 South Dakota, Rapid City KWBH 10:30 am, Sun
 South Dakota, Sioux Falls 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 KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Amarillo KDBA 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Beaumont KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Brownsville KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Corpus Christi KWDB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Harlingen KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Houston KPXB 5:00 am, Fri
 Texas, Laredo KTXW 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Longview KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Lubbock KWBZ 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Midland KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Odessa KWWT 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Port Arthur KWBB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, San Angelo KWSA 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, San Antonio KPXL 5:00 am, Fri
 Texas, Sherman KSHD 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Sweetwater KQAW 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Tyler KWTL 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Victoria KWVB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Weslaco KMHB 8:30 am, Sun
 Texas, Wichita Falls KWB 8:30 am, Sun
 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 WPRX 6:00 am, Fri
 Washington D.C. WDCW 8:00 am, Sun; WPXW
 6:00 am, Fri
 Washington, Kennewick KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
 Washington, Pasco KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
 Washington, Richland KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
 Washington, Seattle KWYP 6:00 am, Fri; KVOS
 8:30am, Sun
 Washington, Spokane KGPX 6:00 am, Fri
 Washington, Yakima KWYP 9:30 am, Sun
 West Virginia, Beckley WBB 9:30 am, Sun

West Virginia, Bluefield WBB 9:30 am, Sun
 West Virginia, Charleston WLPX 6:00 am, Fri
 West Virginia, Clarksburg WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
 West Virginia, Oak Hill WBB 9:30 am, Sun
 West Virginia, Weston WVWB 9:30 am, Sun
 West Virginia, Parkersburg WBPB 9:30 am, Sun
 West Virginia, Wheeling WBWO 9:30 am, Sun
 Wisconsin, Eau Claire WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
 Wisconsin, La Crosse WBCZ 8:30 am, Sun
 Wisconsin, Milwaukee WPXE 5:00 am, Fri
 Wisconsin, Rhinelander WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
 Wisconsin, Wausau WBWA 8:30 am, Sun
 Wyoming, Casper KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
 Wyoming, Cheyenne KCHW 10:30 am, Sun
 Wyoming, Riverton KWWY 10:30 am, Sun
 Wyoming, Scottsbluff KCHW 10:30 am, Sun

CANADA

Nationwide satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am
 ET, Tue/Thu; Galaxy 5 Trans. 7 8:00 am ET, Sun
 Nationwide cable WGN 8:00 am ET, Sun; Vision
 TV 4:30 pm ET, Sun; The Christian Channel
 11:30 am ET, Sun.
 British Columbia, Vancouver KVOS 8:30am, Sun

LATIN AMERICA

Regional satellite Galaxy 3 Trans. 21 11:30 am ET,
 Tue/Thu
 Colombia WGN 7:00 am, Sun; Buenas Noticias
 TV 47 11:00 am, Fri
 El Salvador WGN 6:00 am, Sun
 Guatemala WGN 6:00 am, Sun
 Honduras WGN 6:00 am, Sun
 Mexico WGN 7:00 am, Sun
 Panama WGN 7:00 am, Sun

CARIBBEAN

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

EUROPE

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

AFRICA

South Africa CSN 6:30 am, Sun

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand nationwide TV3 6:00 am, Fri

New stations are added often.

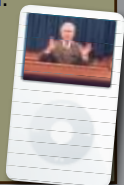
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Political Correctness

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS HAS TO BE the greatest evil to come upon mankind (“How Political Correctness Protects the Bad Guys,” July). This world is so sick and twisted, and political correctness has distorted things so much. People would not know the truth if it hit them in the face. One of the things you’ve got to love about God and Jesus is that they are not politically correct. God calls it as He sees it. Sin is sin, and evil is evil. God does not mess around with words; He calls things what they really are. ... God does not call fornication and living together outside of marriage an “alternative lifestyle” or a “common-law relationship”—He calls it sin! As a matter of fact, here is what God says about political correctness, “Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil ...” (Isaiah 5:20). ...

Craig—CANADA

Daddy’s Girl

I CAN’T AGREE MORE ON WHAT THE article (“Daddy’s Girl,” June) says, especially about the fathers’ responsibilities in rearing their children God’s way. But I’d like to add this: It would be great encouragement to fathers when mothers can also see the important roles and positive influence of their husbands toward their kids. Mothers should be sensitive and wise enough to train their children to respect and obey their fathers. Simply put, even fathers who have a right mind can’t handle it effectively without a cheering support coming from their partners. No support means a negative or opposing attitude, in my opinion.

Kenneth Kim—MARYLAND

IN THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE *TRUMPET*, “Daddy’s Girl” was excellent. I have two daughters, and every day I remind myself that these precious little girls, ages 11 and 9 years old, do not belong to me ... they belong to God. I have been given the privilege of raising these two daughters of God, and both my wife and I are raising them as believers and followers of Jesus Christ. But as you well know ... the good news of the soon-coming Kingdom of God is counter-culture, and Christian parents need all the help they can get in raising their children in this blasphemous, Bible-rejecting world in which we live. “Daddy’s Girl” gives some real

practical helps for dads who are striving to train and teach their daughters the truth about God, so that they will grow to become godly, Christian women. All parents should read this issue.

R.S. Innes—MAPLE RIDGE, B.C.

Tyranny in Universities

AS A COLLEGE PROFESSOR IN THE AREA of biology with 35 years experience, including at the graduate level, I found the article by Mark Jenkins “Tyranny in Universities” (June) excellent. No small number of my colleagues has told me that they consider it their first task, regardless of what they are teaching, to educate students about the myth and harm of religion, especially Christianity. Students regularly complain to me about the intolerance that professors display toward them when they question the ability of neo-Darwinism to account for all life forms including the first life form. Most students, after being shut down a few times, suffer in silence so that they can graduate. Some continue to speak up and, as a result, not uncommonly fail the class. This dogmatism is illustrated in an editorial in the June 14 issue of *Nature*, which condemned Senator Sam Brownback for writing in the *New York Times* that he believed humans are “not an accident and reflects an image and likeness unique in the created order.” *Nature* added, dogmatically, that “Humans evolved, body and mind, from earlier primates” adding that this statement “is unassailable fact.” The *Nature* editor concludes that “the idea that man was created in the image of God can surely be put aside.” There is no room for argument here. We evolved by the natural selection of mutations and God had nothing to do with it. The editorial concluded that this fact cannot be questioned, even though the majority of Americans, and many scientists, do. No wonder so many professors are atheists and so many students leave college atheists as well.

Jerry Bergman, Ph.D.—ARCHBOLD, OHIO

THIS ARTICLE (“TYRANNY IN UNIVERSITIES”) made me very, very angry. ... At school, I am taught the scientific things that make no scientific sense. If one thing does not add up, we cast it away and glorify the “possibilities.” Evolution, of course, is assumed to be the truth. However, when I try to challenge the teacher, or when I try to participate with-

out firing up someone’s beliefs, I barely get picked again to speak. Then, when the liberal teacher tries to rally the public opinion on a subject to his, I read the *Trumpet* and totally ignore him. I can’t take it anymore. He says he doesn’t want to change our views, but actions speak louder than words. He gives me the impression that you cannot disagree with him, and that if you do, hopefully the class will reject you. When he divided the class into groups for a project, I couldn’t identify with anyone—all of them were either 100 percent liberal or some classified themselves as in the “middle.” I was the only strong conservative, and I had to deal with people who disliked me because of that. ... The whole class, it seems, [is full of] followers. This contradicts my teacher’s goal in the beginning of the year when he introduced himself and told us to be INDIVIDUALS.

A. Gray—E-MAIL RESPONSE

Television

I HAVE GRADUALLY NOTICED THAT television is perhaps the only medium that doesn’t require the audience to do much independent thinking or analysis of the material being presented (“The Stranger in Your Home,” May). All the processes are conducted for the viewer: the visual depictions detach the need for imagination, the audio score implements the required mood (sometimes overtly, other times without the viewer’s recognition), and finally all television stories have a beginning, a middle and a tidy end, eliminating the need for further inference and application. It’s somewhat akin to reading a story, but due to the abundance of material on television, there isn’t even a requisite to process even the best movie or documentary before graduating to another plot on another channel. Television is playing a prominent role in encouraging human beings to do less individual thinking and to casually accept the notion that the thinking can be done for you. I wonder what George Orwell or even Karl Marx would think of the progression we’ve made where capitalistic ideas can dominate free thought.

Shervan Sebastian—NEW YORK

Comments?

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The Golden Years

Reflections on a life BY RON FRASER

I AM A SENIOR—AN OAP, AS THE BRITISH HAVE IT, OR A member of the AARP set, in American terms. But I'm still a *junior* senior, compared to many of my compatriots. I've yet to achieve my innings of three score and ten.

I've begun to fully realize what a great time of life the senior years bring! *Finally* some lessons have been learned. From the perspective of the senior years, one can appreciate Winston Churchill's observation that success ultimately comes after making many mistakes along the way.

One of the great things about the senior years is the tempering effect they can bring to the behavioral tendencies of one's more youthful years. I guess that's called mellowing. Perhaps, for some, this comes from seeing the humorous side of all of our huffing and puffing and strivings after wind through much of life, when, on reflection, we see the way of life that the Founder of true Christianity laid out for us is so elegantly straightforward by comparison. If only we had known that earlier in life!

Another great thing about the senior years is being able to speak from *experience*. Youth speaks out of brashness, even braggadocio, often in ignorance, and certainly from an innate lack of real *wisdom* born of real experience. Yet this fact cannot be as readily appreciated, deeply, by youth as it can by the one of senior years. The senior possesses a long-term perspective with which to look back through the years to perceive the folly of foolish ways compared to the blessedness of righteous ways.

One of the greatest blessings that can come from entering the senior years is within a long-term marriage. This thought struck me as I farewelled my wife on her recent trip Down Under to visit our family in Australia. After 41 years of marriage, we still wanted to linger over parting. That's the way it was on our first date. In fact, on that occasion I lingered so long that I missed the last bus home and had to hoof it along the 10 miles toward my home till picked up by a kindly truck driver. (In those days, hitchhiking was common, and relatively safe, compared to these days.) In fact, our tendency to linger together after a date meant that I got to know quite a few truck drivers who plowed that route 10 miles between my future wife's home and my own during our year-long courtship!

On this most recent occasion, at the Oklahoma City airport, I was able to wheedle a security clearance out of the airline so as to enter the departure lounge with my wife and linger even longer till her flight boarded. Even so, she was the last one to board as we squeezed every second of togetherness out of that moment prior to our goodbye kiss.

What sheer delight it is to share this way of life, gifted to us by a merciful God, with a lifetime partner. What a precious gift it is to reflect in one's senior years on having given life to one's offspring, nurtured them through thick and thin, team-wrestled with them through the challenges of daily living, observed their

joys in their moments of dating, betrothal, wedded bliss, and the birth of yet another generation. Comes the time in one's life when suddenly you realize that, in what seems such a short span, you have morphed from once being the newest generation in your family, to being the oldest living generation. How time flies!

And there's another blessing that comes from these senior years. Remember when you just could not visualize being old?

Remember when you thought anyone over 40 was definitely over the hill, till suddenly you were 40—and still able to run, jump, jog and kick a ball with those half your age?

Then came crunch time.

Something sprang apart, something caved in, something broke, or perhaps the wind began to give out before the game was over. I remember when those things started to happen to me. Determined to go out a winner, bandaged though I was, I ran my last serious race at 46 years of age, and won! The fact that I was the youngest in the pack I'm sure had nothing to do with the outcome. Well, I still boast occasionally to my sons that I retired a winner.

Seriously, to be living one's seventh decade, in good health, surrounded by family to the third generation, is a blessing unmatched. Yet it is also sobering to think on.

There cannot be a more crucially urgent era in history than the one in which we now live in terms of a need to demonstrate the overwhelming proof of that ancient reality that the *traditional monogamous marriage* within a *stable family*, with each member subscribing to *time-honored roles*, is the fundamental building block of any successful civilization. Within our most sophisticated societies, we have done more in the past 50 years to destroy the traditional institutions of marriage and family than in the past 5,000 years combined!

The facts are that since we pushed women out to work and war, since we began treating irresponsible brats as adults, since we sought to metamorphose the two sexes into an androgynous one, since we replaced honor for age with lust to perpetuate youth, since we perverted the true nature of marriage, Western society—in particular the British and American peoples—has led the world on a course toward the denigration of civilization, even the destruction of human society itself!

This world is in need of those who still remember the ways that built a strong and stable society to stand up and be counted for and tell it like it is!

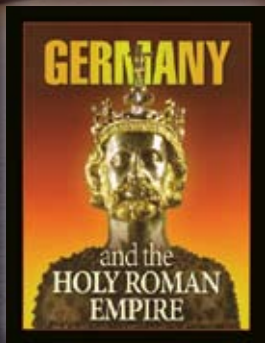
If you are blessed to be of that generation with a lifetime's experience behind you, a senior, truly appreciative of the ancient values that have contributed to the golden years being the happiest of your life, share the proof of that way with others. Write to us, tell us of your experiences, put in your vote for a better society, one that upholds real, lasting values, with the only vote that counts in the final analysis—your own living example!

Long live the seniors! ■



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