

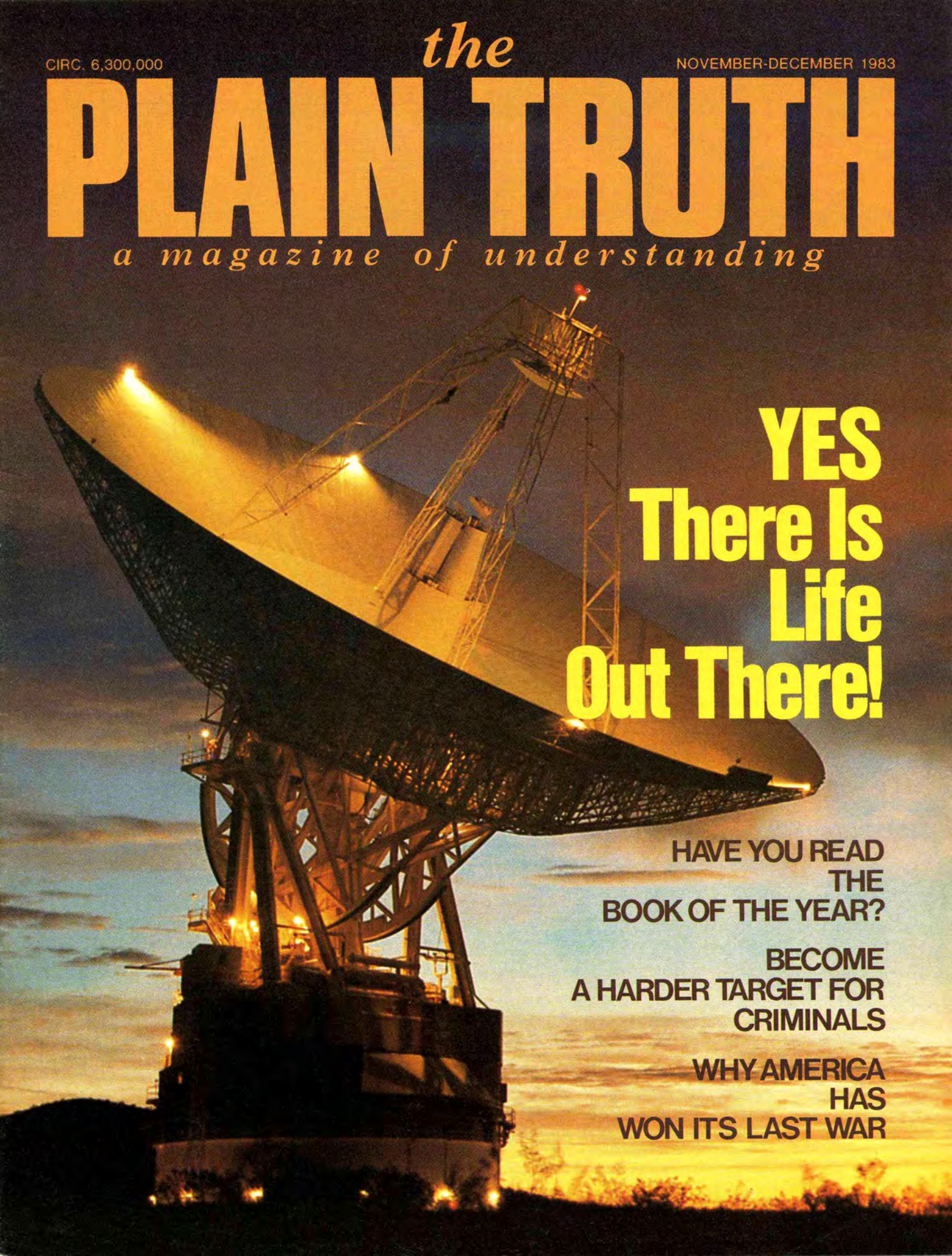
CIRC. 6,300,000

the

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1983

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**YES
There Is
Life
Out There!**

HAVE YOU READ
THE
BOOK OF THE YEAR?

BECOME
A HARDER TARGET FOR
CRIMINALS

WHY AMERICA
HAS
WON ITS LAST WAR

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a magazine of understanding

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OUR COVER

The radio telescope tracking and communication antenna of the worldwide NASA/JPL Deep Space Network, Goldstone, California. The Dish is 64 meters (210 feet) in diameter. Deep space probes, however sophisticated, receive only physical data, not spiritual knowledge.

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PERSONAL FROM



How to Understand the Bible

THE ADVANCE news of tomorrow's world is *good news!*

This news is reported, before it happens, in the Bible. An entire third of all the Bible is devoted to foretelling world events. Why doesn't the world know about it?

The main course of history, up to now, was written before it occurred. What has happened to Egypt, Italy, Greece, ancient Babylon, Persia, modern Britain, America, Russia, was all written 2,000 or more years ago.

What is now going to happen to the leading nations of the world in the next five to 20 years is also written in this same awe-inspiring Book—and is just as *certain* to happen. The Bible contains history, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual knowledge and truth. If you want the most necessary, basic knowledge of all life—the very *foundation* of all right knowledge—where would you go? No book ever written, except the Holy Bible, reveals this *foundation* of all knowledge. It explains what we are, whether we were put here on earth for a purpose and what that purpose is.

Would a Creator—with the supreme intelligence and wisdom and love to have thought out, planned, designed, and brought about, all creation—have left his created beings in ignorance of his purpose?

The Bible is God's divine revelation of basic needed knowledge that mankind is not capable otherwise of finding out. It is the starting point.

No tools or instruments of science can tell you whether you have a soul, whether you *are* a soul, whether there is life after death, what the purpose is for being alive, where you are going, or the way to a happy, abundant life and universal peace.

Our scientists—our world leaders and statesmen—have failed utterly to tell us these answers or to lead us into the universally desired peace and happiness.

But God Almighty did not hide from human minds the all-important answers. He made them accessible to mankind. He committed this treasure house of basic knowledge to writing. He revealed the *way to peace* and everything the human heart desires.

The great statesmen and politicians of the world have not known the way to peace. Yet God makes this knowledge accessible to all who will listen. You can find the way to peace in the Bible. It is the way the world rejects.

But why do so few understand the Bible? Why do all the different church denominations disagree as to what it says?

We find the answer in II Timothy 3:16-17: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God. . . ." *Every* scripture is inspired by the Eternal God—not just those few verses or parts of sentences you wish to apply to suit your desires. All of the Bible "is *profitable* for doctrine, for reproof, for *correction*, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

The Scriptures are profitable for the purpose of reproof and correcting us. But we resent being reproofed and corrected. How many people do you know who are even *willing* to be corrected where they are in error—to be reproofed for the wrong things they do?

People do not like to be reproofed and corrected. They love praise and flattery. But reproof and correction they surely hate.

That's why it is so hard for so many people to understand the Bible and to agree on just what it says. The Bible is God's great spiritual mirror. It shows up every flaw in our thinking and reveals every spot on our characters. It pictures us as we really are—as God sees us, not as we like to think we are or to have other men look upon us.

"For the word of God," we read in Hebrews 4:12,

"is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword"—it cuts deep, both ways—"and is a discerner of the thoughts and *intents* of the heart." Yes, it opens up and lays bare the inner man.

Too often men have applied some different meaning to the scriptures that reproved them. They have passed right over some scriptures that corrected and rebuked them. Instead they studied diligently to find some other scripture into which they could read a meaning that would justify their course of action.

That is how men began, centuries ago, to interpret the Bible. And so God's Word has become perverted, twisted, wrested, distorted. And almost every false and counterfeit meaning imaginable is read into it instead of seeing the natural meaning—the plain, simple meaning God intended.

Today we have hundreds of interpretations of the Bible. But you never hear of hundreds of interpretations of a biology textbook. Why? Because biology textbooks do not rebuke and correct men.

Instead of acknowledging the truth, repenting of the sin, having it legally justified by the blood of Christ, men seek to justify their own acts by perverting the sacred and holy Word of God.

The time truly has long since come when the many will not endure sound doctrine (II Tim. 4:3-4). Men have turned away their ears from the truth and have turned unto fables. These fables are palmed off as the truth of God's Word.

These are the days when Isaiah prophesied men would demand, "Prophecy [preach] not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits" (Isa. 30:8-11).

Now notice I Corinthians 2:14: "The natural man"—the natural-born, unconverted mind—"receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are *spiritually discerned*." They are revealed by God's Spirit.

It requires the Holy Spirit to open up the human mind to understanding this marvelous revelation of God (John 16:13).

When we receive the Holy Spirit—when the mind becomes Spirit-led—then through this supernatural process of God, spiritual knowledge is revealed and the spiritual mind can begin to understand.

And the conditions in the Bible for receiving God's Holy Spirit are two: Repent and believe. But repent means more than being sorry. It means a complete yielding to the will of God expressed in his Word. It is a complete willingness to accept and to *do* what it teaches, no matter what the cost, the persecution, the sacrifice or the effort.

Jesus said, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine . . ." (John 7:16-17). If you will *surrender* to the will of God, Jesus says you shall come to understand the Bible.

People do not understand the Bible because they are filled with the fear of men instead of the fear of God. They tremble at the thought of what people

say, but we had all better begin to tremble at the Word of the Living God!

King David had understanding. He said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Ps. 119:105).

Today's generation is like that of Jesus' day when he said, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19).

The Bible gives *light*. It is a lamp before our feet. It is a light to our path. Yet the world is in gross darkness. Why will men prefer to stumble on in the darkness with all its attendant misery, suffering, unhappiness and death when there is a light that will illuminate our pathway out of darkness into the glorious light of peace, happiness, joy and eternal life? God's Word is light to walk in.

How, then, can you understand the Bible? First, surrender to God and the authority of his Word. Forsake your ways, your thoughts and those of the society in this world. Then do as God says and begin to study the Bible.

Study to find truth and to show yourself approved unto God (II Tim. 2:15). Ask God for guidance and to reveal the true meaning. Then believe God. Believe his Word. Accept its plain and simple meaning just as you would accept any other book in which you had confidence.

Be careful to *prove* all things (I Thess. 5:21). Be cautious. Avoid jumping to hasty conclusions or taking things carelessly for granted.

And above all, do not try to interpret the Bible. The Bible interprets itself.

Be open-minded and teachable. Read without prejudice. But be careful to prove all things. Search the Scriptures to see whether those things you read are so.

Briefly about the actual method of Bible study: The right spirit, the right attitude, being willing to be corrected and reproved—that is the main thing.

Try studying the Bible on your knees. Pray as you study. Pray for guidance and for understanding. You'll be surprised at the results. If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God (Jas. 1:5).

Then remember that the verses, as we find them divided in the most-used translations, are merely for convenience. Some verses are only part of a single sentence. Be sure you get the whole thought.

It is often necessary to read the whole chapter, or even the whole book, to rightly understand any one verse in its proper setting. Be sure you get the meaning intended in that chapter and book.

And then study a subject at a time. Find every passage in the Bible relating to that subject. To do so, use a good concordance and the marginal references in your Bible. All the truth on any subject does not necessarily appear in one place or one text. But you'll get it here a little and there a little as Isaiah said (Isa. 28:9-10).

Furthermore, the Bible provides the proper approach toward the acquisition of all knowledge that is discoverable by man. No one can be properly educated except by and through it. □

Why America Has Won Its Last War

by Gene H. Hogberg

Grave and ominous developments—with far-reaching implications—are under way in the Western Hemisphere.

THIS is the time of the year when the Western world, at least, thinks of that most illusive of all human attainments—peace.

Peace, however, seems more distant than ever. And of all the turmoil, the intensified fighting in Central America is at the moment the most ominous.

Few people understand the *real reason* behind the fighting and what the worldwide implications of deteriorating conditions in the region portend.

Sudden Escalation

This past summer, in a sudden and dramatic show of military force, U.S. President Ronald Reagan dispatched two aircraft carrier battle groups, along with the battleship *New Jersey*, to positions in international waters just offshore from the Pacific and Caribbean coastlines of the embattled region.

In early August, the first elements of as many as 5,000 U.S. troops began to arrive for long-term military exercises in Honduras.

The President was clearly attempting to send a message to both Havana and Moscow: Further

meddling in the region, especially the support of guerrillas in El Salvador, can no longer be tolerated.

Since that time the poor and underpopulated Central American republic of Honduras—bordering both Marxist Nicaragua and strife-torn El Salvador—has mush-

ment troops. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) runs the affairs of several thousand anti-Sandinista *contra* rebels along the Honduran frontier with Nicaragua.

A radar base near the capital of Tegucigalpa monitors air traffic over the region. Runways are being



A session of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America, presided over by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, seated center.

roomed into Washington's nerve center in Central America.

At a new base in Honduras, U.S. advisers train El Salvador govern-

enlarged to accommodate massive C-5A transports, which can carry 345 U.S. troops each.

Construction has begun on a

\$150 million air and naval base on the country's Atlantic coast—an ominous parallel, some believe, to the former U.S. base at Cam Ranh Bay in South Vietnam.

Meanwhile, U.S. pressure against Nicaragua is pushing that

tioned could tell which side the Reagan administration supports in El Salvador.

Mr. Reagan is aware that a mere show of force may not be enough to moderate the views of either the Nicaraguan government or of the guerrillas in El Salvador who insist in a "share of power" in government before elections—a view totally opposed by Washington.

Moscow will do all in its power to "preserve socialism" in its newly gained possession, Nicaragua.

"The Soviets, the Cubans, the Sandinistas," said journalist Patrick J. Buchanan, employing card-game terminology, "have shoved their stack in. They have accepted the risks inherent in establishing a Communist beachhead deep inside the hemispheric defense perimeter of the United States."

Unlike in Vietnam, it is the Soviets and Cubans

who are overextended and overexposed. The strategic advantage lies with the United States—were the nation to employ its power wisely.

That the United States possesses the raw military power to win in Central America is questioned by nobody, not even Moscow, Havana or Managua. It's the *will* to commit that power to achieve a swift and sure result that is missing. America's will to win was lacking in Korea and Vietnam and is still lacking today.

Norman Podhoretz, editor of *Commentary* magazine, has warned that if the United States fails to use its power in Central America, or uses it ineffectively, "we will have revealed ourselves as a spent and impotent force."

If the United States is defeated, or abandons its allies in Central America after fruitless negotiations—as it did with its South Vietnamese ally in 1973—it will indeed be revealed as a "spent force."

The ramifications are grave. A troubled President Reagan in an interview said that rebel leaders in Central America frankly told visiting U.S. Congressmen, "Make

no mistake about it. We'll be at the Arizona-New Mexico, Mexico border sooner than you think."

In advance of revolution, millions of refugees will be driven northward.

At stake too are America's far-flung alliance commitments.

The Soviets see a great advantage in tying down U.S. military forces close to home. In the long run this would entail a drawdown of American troops from Europe and Asia as a nervous American public would demand security along the porous southern U.S. border.

What, for example, will happen to the 40,000 U.S. troops still on constant alert in South Korea? The North Koreans have been undergoing a major buildup of ground and naval assault forces. The Pyongyang regime now has the world's largest commando force, 100,000 strong.

There is absolutely no chance for a peaceful solution of the conflict in Korea. The only factor that keeps the North from renewing the war is the certainty that the 40,000 U.S. troops would fight along with the South, triggering an expected larger U.S. response.

Take the American troops out and war is a certainty—with millions of Korean boat people clamoring to come to the United States and possibly Australia.

A weakened America would be tempted to run down its military commitment to Western Europe, in order to meet threats closer to home.

Such a possibility could give Europeans the impetus they've long lacked to fuse a biblically prophesied United Europe with its own nuclear defense capability.

Why America Flounders

There is a reason *why* the United States failed to defeat the enemy in Korea, lost ignominiously in Vietnam and gives all indications of repeating the same mistakes in Central America.

In his book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of *The Plain Truth*, writes: "... the United States, even still possessing unmatched power, is afraid—fears—to use it, just as God said: 'I

(Continued on page 41)



U.S. special envoy to Central America, Richard B. Stone, right, visits with Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova, center.

country increasingly into the arms of Moscow and Havana. War between Nicaragua and Honduras is a greater likelihood than ever—with the possibility, some believe, of pulling the United States right along with it.

Inching in to Disaster?

President Reagan has tried to alleviate congressional and public anxiety over his Central America policy with the appointment of a bipartisan commission headed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, to help shape a national consensus on Central America. At the same time, as in Vietnam, the United States is moving ahead militarily, step by step.

What is involved, noted one observer, is a big stakes gamble.

In this grim game, Mr. Reagan does not hold a strong hand, because of a Congress still shell-shocked over the Vietnam war, a skeptical press and an American public that, according to one poll, still knows precious little of the enormous implications of the struggle. Only 25 percent of those ques-

PAOLO BOSCO—LIAISON

THE PRESIDENT of the United States recently made a dire prediction. He warned that unless the world's two superpowers reduce the number of nuclear warheads pointed at each other, it will be "the end of the line for all of us."

Here is what he said in detail:

"I can't believe that this world can go on beyond our generation and on down to succeeding generations with this kind of weapon on both sides, poised at each other, without someday, some fool, or some maniac, or some accident triggering the kind of war that is the end of the line for all of us."

President Ronald Reagan made these comments while speaking to an audience of business leaders, gathered together in Washington, D.C. But it was a message for more than businessmen.

Staggering Arms Buildup

We know six nations clearly have nuclear capability. Nine other countries have the immediate ability to make nuclear weapons. And according to estimates, by 1985 there will be as many as 35 nations with the technological capabilities to produce nuclear weapons. Reality is that with each added nuclear club member, the World War III fuse shortens!

Military preparations have even moved into outer space. World military planners are preparing to, in their own words, "wage war effectively" from outer space. Space-based weapons will "add a new dimension to our military capabilities," they announce as a matter of course.

Optimists look to peace negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union. But both

deliberate back and forth over nuances of meaning in arms control negotiations without coming to a real agreement. Besides, the United States and the Soviet Union are not the only nations with nuclear weapons! In the opinion of Dr. Herbert York, formerly President Jimmy Carter's chief negotiator at the Comprehensive Test Ban negotiations in Geneva, the real threat of

course of history. More about this later.

Wars?

But why is it, in the nearly 6,000 years of recorded history, that mankind has never been able to end war and have lasting peace? Why is it that the only thing it seems we've ever learned from war is how to make war more devastating the next time?

Why wars in the first place?

There are obvious reasons why nations go to war and why war exists.

War is big business. Some go so far to say privately we could use another limited war to get the economy moving. Such statements, though irresponsible, do make a point. Manufacturing and selling military hardware involves big money, in the West and behind the Iron Curtain.

Entire industries exist and flourish for this very reason. Thousands of jobs hinge on weapons manufacturing and supply. Consider, for instance, the latest in a long line of weapons now on the market—the new military attack helicopter being produced in the United States, the AH 64A Apache.

It's a modern, sophisticated, technological marvel by any military standard. It's advertised as "a total system for battle." Survivability and

firepower are maximized. It's lethal, able and reliable, day or night and under adverse weather conditions.

This latest modern military marvel is loaded with firepower. Its missile systems, say its makers, defeat all known armor threats, reduce engagement time, permit launch from hidden positions and provide direct/indirect firing capabilities, allowing multiple-target engagements. It has optimized first-round kill, say military experts, and couples with that

Time Is. Running Out !

by Patrick A. Parnell

This world's civilization is ending. A new civilization is coming. Here is what is about to happen—and why!

the next use of nuclear weapons will not be from either the United States or the Soviets!

"It is my hunch," he warns, "that the next use of nuclear weapons will be by somebody other than either the United States or the Soviet Union" (*San Diego Union*, June 20, 1982).

And *The Plain Truth* has been giving this same warning for decades.

There will be another world power bloc, another powerful force that will soon emerge to change the

maximum survivability to enhance any nation's weaponry.

The price? A hefty \$14 to \$16 million each!

This is also a world that feeds children on a mental diet of shoot-'em-ups on television and in the movies. Fighting is pervasive from childhood on television and in the movies. Little boys also get toy pistols, toy soldiers, toy fighting tanks, jet fighter planes, warships, space vehicles and other military paraphernalia almost as soon as they take their first step.

Is it any wonder why we live in a world of violence? It shouldn't be. It's taught, learned and accepted from youth!

Infringement on Rights

Wars are caused primarily by one nation infringing on the sovereignty and integrity of another nation. Revolutions spring up over questions of poverty and loss of freedom. Racial misunderstandings, religious differences, political disagreements explode into violence.

Still, social scientists and professionals in international relations find it difficult to really pinpoint the underlying reason why peoples can't get along with one another and solve their differences so the world can have genuine peace. The solution to civil strife and war still remains elusive.

But there is a solution to civil strife and war. There is an underlying reason why troubles exist. If only nations and individuals would listen and heed.

The truth is that the solution to war is not past finding out. There is a way to peace. This information has been available to mankind throughout history. But humans have not been willing to heed it.

We call the source of this vital knowledge the Bible.

In it is revealed knowledge, revealed to man by the Creator God; spiritual knowledge that man could never attain or discover any other way.

It Is an Attitude

It is all a matter of attitude of mind. Notice what Jesus Christ said:

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil

thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23).

These thoughts and attitudes are what cause hostilities, bloody revolutions and wars!

True, people and nations say they want peace, but they want peace their way—not God's way, and not someone else's or some other nation's way.

God's way of life, the way to peace, is based on outgoing consideration for others. *That* attitude has been left out of human teaching and learning for the most part. It is not a part of the thinking at the nuclear disarmament talks. It has not become part of human thought processes.

Human greed and lust have prevailed worldwide. Taking, instead of giving. Hate, not love. War is the natural result. Fighting in the family, among neighbors and in the nations and among nations.

The Bible makes it plain in the New Testament. Read it for yourself! "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not" (Jas. 4:1-2).

Individuals and nations fight and kill, desiring to have. Is it any wonder they don't have peace? And if God is sought, his way of life isn't wholeheartedly tried.

"Ye ask," James is inspired to say, "and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (Jas. 4:3). Each is looking for his own selfish interests.

But where does this attitude of self-centeredness and greed come from?

Now understand a vital truth.

It is not fashionable today to acknowledge a devil. But there is a real devil who influences human behavior to be what it is. Satan the devil has *deceived* the nations into believing that self-preservation at the expense of others is the only way to survive. "...that old

serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world..." (Rev. 12:9).

Read that again! He, Satan, "deceiveth the whole world." And it is this influence that causes hatreds and wars! (Just how this ancient archangel—the former Lucifer—accomplishes his deceptions is explained in the free booklet *Human Nature—Did God Create It?* Why not write for your copy? See inside front cover for address nearest you.)

The first human family, under Satan's influence, rejected God and God's way. Their children reaped the consequences. Cain, greedy, hateful and jealous, sought revenge and killed his own brother Abel. "And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him" (Gen. 4:8). And brothers have been killing brothers ever since!

Attitudes are the same now as then! Hate reigns. Vengeance rules. A spirit of revenge predominates. Mistrust and selfishness override. Now we're on the brink of human annihilation.

What Is Needed

It is time for national and individual repentance and a renewed acknowledgment of God and his power to protect those who trust him.

Said the apostle Paul: "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom. 12:19-21).

God has all might and all power. If even one nation were to turn to God and follow this way to peace, God would protect that nation against its enemies. Or if even one nation's ways pleased God, he'd make that nation's enemies to be at peace (see Proverbs 16:7).

The solution to fighting and war is to put God's way of giving, (Continued on page 42)

The Conservative World Comes Together

by John Ross Schroeder

Representatives from 19 Western countries have launched a worldwide conservative association called IDU—the International Democrat Union. What will it achieve?

SAID POPE John Paul II at Katowice, Poland, “From the Creator comes the social character of human aspirations—the need to join together and to unite with one another.” The urge to unite seems to be a basic human characteristic.

The latest major manifestation of this fundamental urge of humankind occurred at the Inter-Continental Hotel in London in June. The list of names was impressive to say the least: Margaret Thatcher, George Bush, Helmut Kohl and Franz Josef Strauss, to mention just a few.

There, each representative personally signed a Declaration of Principles designed to undergird the International Democrat Union. Human rights were repeatedly stressed in this brief document. All the usual statements about free elections, an indepen-

dent media, basic personal freedoms, rights of assembly, were present in the document. The wording was careful to reject any form of totalitarianism. Yet the

dominion of mind and spirit.” West Germany’s Franz Josef Strauss concluded, “The coming together today represents a *spiritual confrontation* with Marxism.”



Leaders of the European Democrat Union and the Pacific Democrat Union joined forces in London in late June to form the International Democrat Union.

generally liberal press in the United States took little note of the document.

Many leaders made major speeches. Said British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: “The International Democrat Union girdles the earth. It is not an empire. But it will be, we hope, a great

U.S. Vice President George Bush ended his speech with a statement that “the world, under God, should have a new birth of freedom.” Australian Opposition Leader George Peacock began his talk, “The greatest strength of the International Democrat Union will be its
(Continued on page 36)

FOR three decades the illustrious Charlemagne has lain in his grave at Aachen. The great Emperor had revived the tradition of the Roman Caesars, and shown Europeans the ideal of a unified Christian Empire in the West.

But Charlemagne's New Europe is not destined to endure.

His descendants have little of his genius. Charlemagne's quarrelsome grandsons finally settle their differences by the Treaty of Verdun in 843. The treaty partitions Charlemagne's Empire, foreshadowing the modern geography of Western Europe. In its wake, a French realm and a German realm will slowly begin to crystallize.

But for the moment, the domains of the once-great Carolingian Empire further disintegrate into warring principalities and kingdoms. The once-unified Empire falls into chaos. The political unity forged by Charlemagne goes completely to pieces.

Europe is a shambles.

Europe's political weakness tempts outside powers, notably Norsemen, Slavs, Magyars and Saracens. Destructive raids from the north, east and south place the vulnerable continent in imminent jeopardy.

The Papacy, too, has sunk to a miserable condition. Several Popes openly lead corrupt lives and are widely despised by devout Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

Battered and torn by invasions and civil strife, Western civilization appears to be on a fast slide downward. Throughout Europe the general mood is one of apprehension and foreboding.

A great-grandson of Charlemagne is crowned Emperor by the Pope in 915. After his death in 924, there is an imperial vacancy for nearly four decades.

THE HISTORY OF EUROPE & THE CHURCH

PART FIVE

THE FIRST REICH

by Keith W. Stump

Editor's Note: We continue our series of articles examining the centuries-long relationship between Europe and the Church—a relationship that has shaped the history of the Western world.

Europe today stands at a momentous crossroads. Events taking shape there will radically change the face of the Continent—and the world.

Our first four installments covered the story to the collapse of Charlemagne's Empire. Part Five examines the events of the next four centuries, to the accession of Rudolf of Habsburg in 1273.

Something must be done—and quickly—to rescue Europe. Who will resist the barbarian invaders and reimpose order on the fragmented West?

The answer will come from

northeast of the Rhine—from the evolving power of Germany.

Sieg und Heil!

There is no Emperor. But in Germany, kings still rule. The geographical territory of Germany has become the dominant region of Europe.

In 918 the rulers of the great German duchies choose Henry the Fowler, duke of the Saxons, as their king. He is called Fowler because he was laying bird snares when informed of his election as king.

Henry is founder of the Saxon dynasty of kings, which will rule until 1024. He strengthens the German army and confronts the many invaders threatening Europe.

Upon Henry's death in 936, his 24-year-old son Otto is elected king by the German dukes. The people raise their right hands to show approval. "*Sieg und Heil!*" they shout—"Victory and Salvation!"

The archbishops of Mainz and Cologne crown Otto and hand him the imperial sword with which to fight the enemies of Christ.

Otto quickly consolidates the German realm by suppressing rebellious nobles and ambitious relatives. By bringing the duchies under centralized control, he unites Germany under his rule.

Otto also intervenes in Italian affairs. In 951 he marches into war-torn Italy to assist Adelheid (Adelaide), the widow of an Italian king being abused by her husband's successor. Otto declares himself king of the Lombards and marries Adelheid, thereby becoming ruler of northern Italy.

Carolingian Tradition Revived

In August 955, Otto halts an invasion of the pagan Magyars, who have been conducting annual raids on Germany. In this momentous Battle of Lechfeld (Augsburg), he delivers a decisive blow to the

The Holy Roman Empire in the 10th Through 12th Centuries



A.D. 955. Otto I halts the invasions of the Magyars at Lechfeld.



Circa 1000. Otto III visits the grave of Charlemagne, founder of the Holy Roman Empire.



1183. Frederick I Barbarossa signs a treaty with the Lombards, furthering his ambitions of a revived Roman Empire in the ancient sense.



1229. Frederick II crowns himself with the Crown of the Holy Land, at Jerusalem, in defiance of the Pope.



invaders. The Magyar menace is ended. They will not invade the German realm again.

Otto can now rightfully claim the title "protector of Europe." He is widely viewed as another Charles Martel, who stopped the Islamic Saracen advance in Western Europe in A.D. 732.

Meanwhile, the Papacy continues in tragic decline. Sergius III (904-911) gains the Papal chair through murder and lives openly with the prostitute Marozia. Their illegitimate son becomes Pope John XI (931-935). Under Pope John XII (955-964), the Lateran palace becomes a literal brothel.

Rome, and all Italy, are in chaos. Pope John XII appeals to Otto to restore order to the peninsula and to assist him against his adversaries. In 961 Otto sweeps into Italy and defeats the enemies of the Pope.

Pope John recognizes Otto's position in Europe by crowning him Holy Roman Emperor on February 2, 962. Not since that historic Christmas Day in A.D. 800, when the Western Roman Empire was restored by the coronation of Charlemagne, has an event of such magnitude occurred.

Western Europe again has an Emperor! Charlemagne's Empire is revived in an alliance between Emperor and Church. With the support of the Church, Otto reigns supreme throughout Western Christendom over the German *Reich*, or Empire.

The year 962 marks the restoration of the imperial tradition. Later historians will view it as the beginning of what would later be officially styled the *Sacrum Romanum Imperium Nationis Germanicae*—the "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation." (The full term will not be officially applied until the 15th century.)

Throughout the Middle Ages, the imperial title and German kingship will remain indissolubly united. It will be the kings of the *Germans*, crowned by the Pope, who will henceforth be named Holy Roman Emperors. Germany is the heart and core—the *power center*—of the Empire.

The octagonal imperial crown of the Holy Roman Empire is made especially for the coronation of Otto

in 962. For centuries to come, it will be the very *symbol* of the concept of European unity.

Stabilizing Influence

Shortly after his coronation, Otto issues his controversial *Privilegium Ottonianum*, ordering Pope John to take an oath of obedience to him. The Pope rebels, and conspires with Otto's enemies.

Late in 963 Otto calls a council at St. Peter's in Rome, which deposes John for conspiracy and misconduct. Otto's own candidate is elected Pope in his place.

Otto believes it is his duty to preserve and strengthen Church institutions. He seeks to use the Church as a stabilizing influence in Europe. But he also wants the Church

**The Empire is
thereafter regarded as
God's chosen
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instrument in religious
matters.**

subordinate to the authority of the Empire.

Otto now seeks an alliance between the Eastern and Western Roman Empires. He negotiates with Eastern Emperor Nicephorus II Phocas of the city of Constantinople, but the talks are unsuccessful.

Otto's son, however, later marries Theophano, daughter of Eastern Emperor Romanus II. His alliance with the Byzantine princess leads to the Eastern Emperor's recognition of Otto in 972.

On May 7, 973, Otto the Great dies and is buried in Magdeburg. He leaves a peaceful and secure Empire. His son Otto II (973-983) succeeds him.

Joint Heads

Otto III—son of Otto II and Empress Theophano—is crowned

as German king at Aachen late in 983. He is but 3 years old, so his mother and grandmother serve as regents.

The king comes of age in 994. Two years later he answers an appeal by Pope John XV and puts down a rebellion in Italy. By the time he reaches Rome, the Pope is dead. Otto then secures the election of his cousin, Bruno of Carinthia, as Pope Gregory V. He is the first German Pope.

On May 21, 996, Otto is crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Gregory. Otto makes Rome the administrative center of the Empire and spends much of his time there. In 998 Otto sets on his seal the inscription, *Renovatio imperii Romanorum*—"Restoration of the Empire of the Romans." Roman ideals are still strong in Western Europe.

Otto realizes that the united Europe he and his dynasty have envisioned must have a worthy religious head. The Papacy must be raised to a position of European esteem. Its influence must be revived.

When Pope Gregory V dies in 999, Otto nominates his former teacher, the scholar Gerbert of Aurillac. Gerbert becomes Pope, with the name Sylvester II. He is the first French Pope.

Both Sylvester and Otto dream of an Empire in which Emperor and Pope would serve as joint heads of a unified entity. Gerbert strives to raise the reputation of the Papacy throughout Europe. He denounces some of his unworthy predecessors as "monsters of more than human iniquity," and as "Antichrist, sitting in the temple of God and playing the part of God."

Otto hopes for a harmonious alliance of future Emperors and Popes. But it is not to be so.

Schism

Henry II (1002-1024) is the last of the Saxon rulers of Germany. At his death, Conrad II, duke of Franconia, receives the imperial crown.

Conrad II (1024-1039) is the first Franconian or Salian German Emperor. His reign begins what later historians will call the great period of the Holy Roman Empire.

The reign of Conrad's son Henry III (1039-1056) marks the zenith of German imperial power.

It is during the reign of Henry III as Holy Roman Emperor that the final schism between the Western (Roman) and Eastern (Orthodox) churches takes place. The break had existed for centuries and had grown progressively wider. In 1054 it becomes formal and complete when the Pope at Rome and the Patriarch of Constantinople excommunicate each other.

Not long afterward come two further developments in the religious sphere. In 1059 Pope Nicholas II convenes the Lateran Council, which decrees that future Popes will be elected by a college (group or body) of cardinals. This action takes away the Emperor's influence in Papal elections. In the same year, the Synod of Melfi prohibits marriage of the Catholic clergy.

The decree of the Lateran Council sparks a major rupture between Germany and Rome. Now begins the great medieval struggle between the Empire and Papacy.

Two Powers

Henry III is succeeded by his young son Henry IV (1056-1106). He will play a major role in one of the most famous episodes in medieval history—a personal confrontation between Pope and Emperor.

The crowning of Charlemagne in A.D. 800 by Pope Leo III had initiated a close alliance between Pope and Empire. This "marriage" had formally linked the spiritual power of the Pope with the temporal power of the Emperor.

The Empire is thereafter regarded as God's chosen *political* organization over Western Christendom. The Church at Rome is viewed as God's chosen instrument in *religious* matters. Pope and Emperor are regarded as God's vice-regents on earth.

This concept perhaps will be best summarized late in the 19th century by Pope Leo XIII: "The Almighty has appointed the charge of the human race between two powers, the ecclesiastical and the civil, the one being set over divine, the other over human things."

Leo will also point out that

"Church and State are like soul and body and both must be united in order to live and function rightly."

This intimate alliance of Church and State serves the needs of both institutions. The Empire exercises its political and military powers to defend religion and enforce religious uniformity. The Church, in turn, acts as a "glue" for Europe, holding together the differing nationalities and cultures within the Empire by the tie of common religion.

As Leo XIII will also note in retrospect, "The Roman Pontiffs, by the institution of the Holy Empire, consecrated the political power in a wonderful manner."

This harmonious ideal in

Despite their incessant rivalry, the Papacy and Empire will remain closely associated throughout the Middle Ages. Their mutual need for each other will override disagreements of lesser importance.

Church-State relations, however, is never completely realized. The respective powers and privileges of Church and Empire are not clearly defined. The result is frequent conflict between Emperor and Pope for the leadership of Christian Europe.

Master of Emperors

Pope Gregory VII comes to the Papal throne in 1073. He leaves no doubt as to his position. "The Pope is the *master* of Emperors!" he declares. A stern idealist, Gregory is determined to subordinate the authority of the Emperor to that of the Pope.

Gregory insists that the Pope is above all nations and independent of every temporal sovereign, responsible only to God. The supremacy of Church over Empire, he

asserts, is symbolized by the traditional crowning of the Holy Roman Emperors by the Popes in Rome—publicly demonstrating that all political power comes from God by way of the Roman Pontiff.

Henry IV is not impressed by such arguments. He becomes embroiled in a bitter dispute with Pope Gregory. The controversy focuses on an issue that has been a continuing irritant in Church-State relations: lay investiture.

The question is whether secular rulers should be able to appoint bishops and abbots and invest them with symbols of spiritual authority. Emperors have long used—and abused—such control over Church offices to their own ends. Gregory wants it to stop.

Henry defies the Pope, denounces him and attempts to have him deposed. The headstrong Henry ends a letter to Pope Gregory with the curse, "Down, down, to be damned through all the ages!"

Gregory is not intimidated. The controversy escalates. It is a life-and-death struggle between the Papacy and German imperial power!

Gregory is determined to free the Church from secular control. He finally excommunicates the unyielding Henry. This action absolves all Henry's subjects from their oaths of allegiance to the Emperor, and triggers a baronial revolt in Germany.

Henry's demise appears imminent. He now sees clearly that imperial power depends on the support of the Church. To save his throne, Henry must make peace with the Pope.

In January 1077, Henry journeys to a castle at Canossa in northern Italy where Pope Gregory is temporarily staying. For three days the Emperor humiliates himself by standing barefoot and in sackcloth in the snow outside Gregory's window. Gregory finally grants absolution, and Henry is reconciled to the Church.

The imperial capitulation at Canossa comes to symbolize the submission of the State to the Church. But it is only a temporary victory for the Church.

Soon after Canossa, the struggle breaks out again. In 1122 the Con-

cordat of Worms ends a bitter contest between Holy Roman Emperor Henry V (1106-1125)—Henry IV's son—and Pope Calixtus II (1119-1124). It settles the Investiture Controversy by stipulating that an Emperor can still *nominate* bishops and abbots, but the clergy will do the actual *choosing* and can refuse approval of an Emperor's nominees. Emperors are permitted to confer upon new bishops only the *temporal* insignia of their offices, due them in their position as vassals of the crown. The *spiritual* symbols—the ring and staff—can be bestowed only by the Church.

Even after this compromise, the struggle for supremacy between Empire and Papacy will continue for centuries. But despite their incessant rivalry, the Papacy and Empire will remain closely associated throughout the Middle Ages. Their mutual need for each other will override disagreements of lesser importance.

Pope Versus Emperor

The power and influence of the Papacy at this time is evidenced by the popular reaction to the Papal call, late in 1095, for the First Crusade. Pope Urban II exhorts Christians throughout Europe to come to the aid of the Byzantine Emperor, who is threatened by advancing Turks, and to free holy Jerusalem from the "legions of Antichrist"—the Moslems.

Reaction to Urban's plea is extraordinary. The outpouring of popular enthusiasm for the cause sets in motion a succession of military expeditions to the Holy Land that will continue for two centuries before ending in dismal failure. And for a time, the prestige of the Papacy is greatly enhanced by this wave of religious fervor.

But the prestige and power of the Holy Roman Emperor has taken a turn for the worst. The Emperor's power has been seriously weakened by the lay investiture struggle. With the death of Henry V in 1125, Germany and the Empire are beset by civil strife and chaos. Many fear the Empire will fall completely to pieces.

Two rival dynasties of German nobles scramble to gain the imperial throne—the Welfs (or Guelphs)

and the Hohenstaufens. The Hohenstaufens are descended from Henry IV in the female line.

Finally, in 1138, Conrad III comes to the German throne. Conrad—a grandson of Henry IV and nephew of Henry V—is the first king of the Hohenstaufen family. The Hohenstaufens will preside over the Empire until 1268.

Conrad is followed, in 1152, by his nephew Frederick, who will be known to history as Frederick I Barbarossa ("Red Beard"). Frederick is formally crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Adrian IV in Rome on June 18, 1155. He will reign for nearly four decades.

Frederick Barbarossa considers himself the heir of his predecessors, Charlemagne and Otto the Great, and of the great imperial tradition. His desire is to restore the glory of the Roman Empire. As a later chronicler will observe, "During all his reign nothing was dearer to his heart than the reestablishment of the Empire of Rome on its ancient basis."

Frederick imposes order on Germany, and intervenes in Italian and Papal politics. This sparks a renewal of the imperial conflict with the Papacy in the form of a bitter feud with Pope Adrian.

As many of his predecessors, Frederick seeks to make the Church subordinate to the authority of the Empire. When asked from whom his imperial office is received, Frederick asserts, "From God alone!" He declares to Papal legates, "We hold our kingdom and our empire not as a fief of the Pope but by election of the princes from God alone."

Pope Adrian counters, "What were the Franks till Pope Zacharias welcomed Pepin? The chair of Peter has given and can withdraw its gifts!"

Frederick realizes, however, that a full-blown feud with Rome could have disastrous consequences. In 1177 he publicly makes peace with Adrian's successor, Pope Alexander III.

But the peace is to be short-lived.

"The Beast"

Emperor Frederick Barbarossa dies by accidental drowning in 1190,

while leading the Third Crusade. His son, Emperor Henry IV (1190-1197), further strengthens the Hohenstaufen Empire. But after his death, civil war erupts in Germany.

In 1212 a new German king finally emerges from the chaos. He is Frederick II, Frederick Barbarossa's grandson. In 1215 Frederick II is crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Innocent III.

It is under Innocent III (1198-1216) that the Church reaches the height of its medieval power. Virtually every European nation feels the power of this Pope.

Innocent seeks to reduce the Empire to a plaything of the Pope. He asserts that kings derive their powers from the Pope, just as the moon derives its light from the sun. Innocent declares that the Pope is "less than God but more than man."

"No king can reign happily," Innocent claims, "unless he devoutly serves Christ's vicar."

Emperor Frederick II does not openly quarrel with Innocent III. He does, however, wage a fierce struggle with later Popes, notably Gregory IX (1227-1241).

Frederick's ambition is to rule all of Italy, including Rome. This desire for full control of Italy brings him into direct conflict with the Papacy.

Frederick is finally excommunicated by Pope Gregory, who calls the Emperor a heretic and the personification of Antichrist.

"Out of the depths of the sea rises the beast," shouts Gregory in a reference to Revelation 13 in the Holy Bible, "filled with the names of blasphemy. . . Behold the head, the middle and the end of this beast, Frederick, this so-called emperor."

Pope Gregory also speaks of Frederick as "this scorpion spewing poison from the sting of his tail."

Frederick lashes back, labeling Pope Gregory the Antichrist.

"The Roman Church has never erred," Gregory counters. "To resist it is to resist God!"

The Papacy and the "viper brood" of Hohenstaufens are locked in a mortal struggle. In its wake, the last remnants of imperial
(Continued on page 35)

I Just Don't Know What to "Believe" Anymore

STRANGE cities can be lonely places at night—Vienna, Austria, is no exception. Some Austrian friends had invited me to dinner, but I had decided instead to attend the Vienna Opera House. Unfortunately, even on a cold winter's evening the performance of *Der Rosenkavalier* was nearly sold out. The clerk was apologetic. "The only seats left are in a place where you won't be able to see anything." He added, "That's not a good introduction to our wonderful Opera House. Please wait until you can buy a good seat."

I walked up Mariahilferstrasse to my hotel, past the brightly decorated shops. Many people were still out doing their Christmas shopping. It began to rain, and I took shelter in a crowded little restaurant. Finding a seat at the last vacant table, I ordered a bowl of goulash soup.

I looked up to see an elderly lady loaded down with several large shopping bags. "Do you mind if I join you?" she said, in heavily accented English. "All the other seats are full."

She ordered some coffee. "It is cold outside, *nicht wahr?*" I agreed. We exchanged views about the weather, the news, Vienna. "You are a tourist?" she asked.

"Not really. I am a writer."

"I wish I was a writer. I want to write a book. But I am just ordinary," she said.

She didn't seem "just ordinary." I could see from

her conversation that she was well educated. And although she was now old and her clothes were shabby, she still had a certain dignity. She was, I realized, a person who had seen better times. She seemed to want to tell me about herself.

"I am now a widow—I married twice—both my husbands are dead. My first husband died before the war. But before he died, he gave me a son. Let me see . . ." She looked at me keenly. "Yes, my son would have been about your age now."

"Would have been . . . ?"

She explained her infant son had contracted a serious disease, and had lain close to death for several weeks.

"Every day, I would visit him in the hospital. Then I would go to the church, and beg God to spare his life. Day after day I would do this. Then one day, I said to myself—this is wrong. I must not be so insistent in telling God what to do."

"So next day, after I visited my son, I went to the church and prayed, 'Father in heaven, *Thy will be done.*' And I meant it. The next day, my little boy died."

She paused a moment. "I know now that was the best answer to my prayer."

"Why do you say that?"

"Because . . . I didn't tell you . . . my first husband was a Jew. So my little boy was half Jewish. I think you know what that would have meant."

Yes—she didn't have to elaborate.

Within a year or so of her son's death, Austria was annexed by Hitler and became a part of the Third Reich. The whole world now knows what that would have meant for a little boy who was half Jewish. Children were not spared from the "final solution."

"So, I accepted my little son's death as a blessing in disguise. Also, in those days, I had faith. I have always been religious. I asked the priests, I read books and I looked in the Bible—and I knew that I would see my little boy again."

Her mood changed. Her eyes were filled with tears.

"In those days, I had such strong faith. Now I am not so sure. I wonder if I will see that little boy again."

"Why do you wonder?"

"Because, back then, I believed. But now I have to question my belief. The world has changed so much in the last 40 years. People don't believe in God like they used to. Even religious leaders in the same church do not always agree with each other. I

just don't know what to believe anymore."

"You will see your son again," I told her.

"You sound very sure."

"I am," I said, and I told her why.

I wonder how many more millions of people there are whose faith has been pushed, pulled and then shattered by the changing tides of religious opinion. How many of our readers have, in the past, been made to doubt things that are true—and equally dangerously—have been taught to believe things that are not.

One of the most pathetic sights I ever saw was on an island in the South Pacific. The native people had made a small clearing on which they built a platform—a poor imitation of an air traffic control tower as used in the Second World War. On the ground lay several crude representations of airplanes, made from palm leaves and bamboo. These people belonged to the Cargo cult.

During the Pacific War their parents had seen the wonderful things that were unloaded from the military airplanes that landed on their islands. These simple people had no understanding of the war raging around them. All they saw was that the white men had powerful "gods" who sent them presents by means of a "big bird." So, they reasoned, they would also build an "airfield" and maybe one day the big bird would again bring presents to them.

Poor people—so utterly deceived. Even a helicopter couldn't land safely on their pathetic little clearing. What they wait for so patiently is never going to happen.

But what about you? Are you also pinning your hopes on something that is never going to happen? Or—like that lady in Vienna—have you given up believing in something that *is*? What does it take to make you believe—or not believe—something?

For example—what do *you* believe happens when you die? And *why* do you believe it? Most readers of this magazine consider themselves as belonging to the Christian faith. Most Christians believe that if they live a basically good life, they will go to heaven when they die. That is what a Christian should believe, because that is what Jesus said would happen, isn't it?

No it isn't.

Have you ever looked to see for yourself, exactly what Jesus Christ said happens when you die? You may be surprised. If you were to compare other things he said with the time-honored beliefs and customs of today's Christian churches you would have more shocks coming.

Jesus knew that after his crucifixion, it would be "open season" on his teachings. So he warned multitudes of his would-be followers that they would be worshiping him in vain if they taught—and practiced—their own ideas of what is right and wrong (Matt. 15:9).

How do *you* worship Christ? Good Christians go to church every Sunday, or at least, they *should*, right?

But did *Jesus* say you should go to church on

Sunday? In the 4th century A.D., the observance of the Sabbath—the seventh day of the week—was changed to Sunday at the command of church leaders. But who said they could do that? Did Jesus sanction that change in his doctrine? The Sabbath is the fourth commandment—part of God's eternal, spiritual law. Jesus said that heaven and earth would pass away before even one jot or tittle (the dotting of an *i* or the crossing of a *t*) of the law would be abandoned, let alone a major point of it (Matt. 5:18).

But then, some schools of thought maintain that that law is done away. It is a burden and Jesus did us all a favor by nailing it to his cross, they say. Where did they get that idea? What if it isn't right?

While we're on the subject of Jesus—what about his birthday? What instructions did he give us for celebrating that? Many who firmly believe they are followers of Christ would be astonished to learn that neither he nor his disciples ever celebrated his birthday—or anybody else's, for that matter. Christmas was an ancient holiday centuries before the birth of Christ.

God made it clear to the prophet Jeremiah what he thought about people who cut down trees and decorate them as a part of their religious observance. He said it was a vain custom, and we should not learn it (Jer. 10:2-5). But that is one custom that has become firmly entrenched as a part of today's celebration of "our Lord's" birthday. Jesus said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, *and do not the things which I say?*" (Luke 6:46).

There are so many ways in which most Christians do exactly the opposite to the things Christ said. Most do not do them deliberately—they just have not seriously thought for themselves what they believe and why. They trust their ministers to teach them what is right. But today, even members of the clergy in the major denominations say they can no longer accept the time-honored beliefs of their churches. They embrace innovative ideas, and lead congregations into greater confusion.

This is nothing new. In his earliest epistles to the people of Asia Minor and Greece, the apostle Paul warned against confused and misled teachers who would seek to change the teachings of Christ, and bring in their own ideas. Jesus prophesied that *many* would be coming in *his* name, saying *he* is Christ, but having their own ideas about what he taught. But he warned us not to be deceived by them (Matt. 24:4-5).

A wrong idea can eventually become accepted as an established truth. When it was first suggested that the Sabbath be changed to Sunday, and the New Testament Passover to Easter, it caused a major controversy in the churches. But today, these festivals are accepted by most Christians without question. They are as much a part of Christianity as church steeples, Good Friday and having a newborn baby baptized. (You might want to investigate where *those* traditions came from.) But because a new doctrine or belief becomes acceptable it doesn't automatically make it

(Continued on page 36)

FINANCIAL COLLAPSE IN THE THIRD WORLD?

by Michael A. Snyder

A miscalculation could plunge the world into an unparalleled financial debacle.
Will the crisis be averted? Can the West survive?

NEVER have we faced a world crisis like this one. Descending rapidly on us is the specter of a world debt collapse. Countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe have amassed an incredible debt of about \$700 thousand million in loans.

And it appears they can't pay them off.

At the time of writing, the overheated financial caldron was threatening again to explode.

For the last year and a half, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the U.S. Federal Reserve System under chairman Paul Volcker, and numerous government and private agencies, have struggled to stave off a major disaster. As one economist told *The Plain Truth*, a debt collapse could "plunge the Western world into the deepest depression in recorded human history."

The person on the street, if asked, seems blissfully unaware of the fiscal dangers. Until now, the situation has remained relatively hidden on the financial pages of daily newspapers and financial periodicals—hardly the daily reading of the general public. Yet, if major debtor nations go into default, the ensuing debacle would engulf economies that today appear stable.

Economist Eliot Janeway ominously warns: "One official default is all it will take to stampede the other busted borrowers into a full-

fledged cartel of defaulting debtors."

Continuing, he declared: "The situation is spinning out of control and poses a clear and present danger for the entire international financial system comparable to the one preceding [the] 1929 [depression]."

Mexico, Brazil, Poland and a number of other developing nations have come under sharp scrutiny—one by one they have failed to make payments on time. Only narrowly has disaster thus far been averted. The stakes are extremely high! If a significant amount of these debts went into default, several U.S. and European banks would instantly become *insolvent*.

The nine largest American banks have loaned about 113 percent of their stockholders' equity to Mexico, Argentina and Brazil alone (all with overdue payments)! Couple this with the fact that a recent rescheduling of payment from Latin America involved capital from more than 1,400 separate banks.

Chairman Volcker warns that the fiscal and political risks "are without precedent in the postwar world."

Denis Healy, former British Chancellor of the Exchequer, warns, "The risk of a major default triggering a chain reaction grows every day."

How It Got to Be This Bad

The burgeoning debt of the major developing nations in question nearly exceeds the combined gross national products (GNP) of Canada, the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom.

Spread across the world, this enormous debt would provide every



Denis Healy, former British Chancellor of the Exchequer

"The risk of a major default triggering a chain reaction grows every day."

man, woman and child alive with more than \$150 a person.

In retrospect, it appears inconceivable that normally conservative private banks would have allowed this situation to develop, much less crest at today's crisis level.

Several economists and financial experts lay the blame squarely on those American and European bankers whose loan share has been roughly 60 percent of the total.

"Bankers were foolish and greedy," explains one major American newspaper, "and have only themselves to blame for forcing money on countries that obviously

could not repay.”

The roots of the situation lie in the early 1970s.

In 1973 oil-dependent economies worldwide rocked in the wake of a

Western money. Many Third World nations, on the other hand, desperately needed to finance their now-ballooning balance of payment deficits.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other OPEC nations began depositing their surplus oil money in Western banks for reinvestment. The banks, in turn, quickly loaned these deposits out to nations whose soaring oil bills were crippling their economies.

At first, it appeared both lucrative and safe. “Countries don’t go bankrupt” was the widespread belief.

The Rush Begins

As the world neared the end of the 1970s, soaring inflation and rising interest rates lured private bankers more toward international loans.

Instead of mere millions of dollars, hastily assem-

bled financial consortia in America and Europe pressed thousands of millions of dollars into the hands of governments in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Called “jumbos” in banker’s language, these massive loans quickly increased the private sector’s loan share to about 60 percent of the total.

The result? International loan debt skyrocketed 850 percent! In barely a decade, Eastern European

and Third World countries increased their obligations by more than 700 percent.

What would justify such an incredible risk?

The developing countries borrowing the vast sums looked to inflation for assistance in repayment. With the United States and Europe locked into double digit inflation, it appeared that the loan could be cheaply repaid with depreciating currency. On the bankers’ side, there was an *incredible* amount of money to be made. A major American business magazine adds, “Major banks [also] earned fat fees for arranging those megabuck loans.”

The Roof Caves In

Having recycled the petrodollars from the 1973-74 oil crisis, bankers settled back. Despite a few minor fluctuations, many thought a solid source of income had been hit upon.

However, shock waves reverberated through European and American corporate boardrooms when, following the 1979 worldwide recession triggered by a second major oil price increase, Poland informed its creditors that it couldn’t make the U.S. payment due in 1981.

As banks scrambled to hastily reschedule the Polish repayment, it quickly became obvious to those on the inside that much of the international aggregate debt was anchored to a base of fiscal quicksand.

Quietly, many financial institutions began to press American and

Loans to Developing Nations by the Nine Largest U.S. Banks

Amounts as of Dec. 31, 1982

The following countries have asked for rescheduling of their loan payments. (European bank figures weren’t available at time of publication.)

Country	Loans (US\$ billions**)	Loans as a Percent of Stockholders’ Equity (capital)*
Brazil	14.2	49 percent
Mexico	13.1	45 percent
Venezuela	7.6	26 percent
Argentina	5.6	19 percent
Chile	3.2	11 percent
Yugoslavia	1.4	5 percent
Poland	0.7	2 percent

*U.S. banks have less than 10 percent of their total assets at risk in international debt. Yet, under the banking system, certain major portions of banking assets are required to be held in reserve and cannot, under normal conditions, be used to cover defaulted debt. Funds used to cover such debt would come from stockholders’ equity, which, with required reserves subtracted, can be thought of as what a financial institution would have remaining if it paid off its creditors and fulfilled depositors’ demands.

**equivalent to thousands of millions in British usage

Source: U.S. Federal Reserve Board

major crude oil price increase. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) flexed its muscles and almost overnight shot many government deficits into the financial stratosphere.

As governments worldwide scrambled to cope with the shock, private bankers realized an opportunity to ease the crisis. The OPEC nations, because of the price explosion, were suddenly awash with

Can a Country Go “Bankrupt”?

Economists specializing in the international debt threat assume generally that national bankruptcy is not possible under present conditions.

Bankruptcy *per se* is a legal concept. It would require a court of law to arbitrate and to define the boundaries and responsibilities of any unilateral national

bankruptcy proceeding.

No such international court of bankruptcy now exists, nor is there an internationally accepted body of laws that would govern such proceedings.

Yet national declaration of either bankruptcy or default would radically affect the defaulting country, instantly cutting itself off from additional

monetary and physical aid. One economist equates a national declaration of default with an act of war.

Today, while about \$200 thousand million of the aggregate international debt is considered in *de facto* default, central banking systems as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Bank for International

Settlements (BIS) and the U.S. Federal Reserve System are working feverishly in cooperation with lending institutions, debt-ridden countries and other governments to renegotiate this debt and reschedule payments.

The problem with any major rescheduling program is that future economic shocks and recessions cannot be fully foreseen and could topple any arrangement.

European governments for some safeguards in the event of an impending disaster.

The international debt *again* blazed across the front pages of newspapers in late summer of 1982, when Mexico announced that it couldn't keep up interest payments.

Brazil is now barely able to keep its head above the financial morass, and Argentina floats in the same boat. Add to this that *dozens* of other developing nations queue up almost daily asking banks to reschedule their interest and principal payments.

Where Will It End?

Many banks have made no secret of their desire to cut loose and pull back from the brink. After the Mexico crisis, bankers began to put pressure on President Ronald Reagan to increase the U.S. quota to the IMF by 50 to 100 percent. If something terrible happened to the international loan structure, they reasoned, the additional money in the IMF could cover the bad debts.

As Mexico teetered on the brink of fiscal disaster, the U.S. Treasury quickly complied with a massive infusion of funds, followed by additional sums from the major industrial nations.

The U.S. government has intervened twice since; once in providing a fiscal life preserver in oil prepayments, agricultural credits and short-term loans to Mexico, and again with a hastily arranged short-term loan to Brazil.

The United States also passed the Monetary Control Act of 1980, permitting the Federal Reserve System to assume part of the international debt and issue Federal Reserve notes as collateral. However, as the Fed already has its hands full monetizing the U.S. debt, it would be disastrous to see a flood of U.S. currency being released to cover the major debts of Latin America, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The IMF, to its credit, has quietly demanded the debt-ridden countries to install acceptable austerity

welfare and food subsidies—removal of these in a starving nation means riots and political turmoil. Few economists hold any hope for orderly servicing of the national debt in Yugoslavia, Rumania and Poland.

The warning flags are out and riding high. "Failure to manage and diffuse these strains," warns Mr. Volcker, "could deal a serious blow to the recovery of the United States and the world economy."

Realistically, despite public efforts to paper over barely concealed panic, the situation looks bleak.

South American Economies at a Glance

Country	International Debt* (US\$ billions**)	Unemployment*	Inflation Rate*
Argentina	40	12%	300%
Bolivia	2	11%	60%
Brazil	90	15%	118%
Chile	21	20%	31%
Colombia	9	11%	20%
Ecuador	6	12%	45%
Peru	11	25%	101%
Uruguay	4	14%	45%
Venezuela	28	17%	20%

*as of July 1983

**equivalent to thousands of millions in British usage

Source: Associated Press

measures to shore up flagging economies.

But there is a definite limit to IMF measures. What measure would ever be effective for a Third World economy whose social and financial life resembles a raging typhoon?

Austerity measures mean cutbacks in such social programs as

Meeting in Paris, senior economists and government officials from the Group of 30 (the 30 largest industrialized nations) issued a statement asserting that the debt situation isn't likely to collapse in the near future. But they readily admit that it will take several years for Third World economies to heal following the ravaging by high inter-

Why Are the Banks Upset?

Since the first financial shocks of the late 1970s, private banks and lending institutions have been endeavoring to decrease their risks and involvement in the international debt situation. These institutions have managed to erect safeguards and obtain bail-out measures for most of their remaining

outstanding loans.

Yet, more than one seventh of the international debt remains unsecured and guaranteed by little more than the good faith of the debt-ridden countries. This is what causes banking executives to reach for the sedatives at night.

Of the nine largest American banks, about 113

percent of stockholders' equity is tied up in loans to Mexico, Argentina and Brazil. Were a significant portion of this amount declared in default, the banks would likely require heavy government assistance to remain open. All three countries have asked for new rescheduling of payments.

Bankers readily admit

that there is little likelihood that the international debt will ever be fully repaid, pointing to the unlikely event that the domestic United States debt also will ever be fully repaid. Some loans will be paid in full, while others will be renewed and extended. The banks hope developing countries will reach the point where they can service their debts by making interest payments on time.

est rates and severe worldwide recession.

Other economists regularly qualify their forecasts, asserting that the situation remains critical and unstable. A series of independent wrong decisions could topple the entire picture.

Security from what economists call the "irresponsible doomsday scenario" can only come from major industrialized nations working closely together. Martin S. Feldstein, President Reagan's chief economist, summed it up: "It is surely true, as Benjamin Franklin said in quite a different context, that 'We must all hang together, or we shall all hang separately.'"

But most privately admit that the potential for a major, awesomely destructive fiscal holocaust remains alarmingly high.

The Unexpected Outcome

Other economists and political leaders, not content merely to wait out the crisis, now call for more radical solutions.

Paul Volcker, chairman of
U.S. Federal Reserve

The fiscal
and political risks
"... are without
precedent in the
postwar world."



Writing in *Foreign Affairs*, Albert Bressand (deputy director of the Institut Francais des Relations Internationales (IFRI) declared, "... national policymakers have obviously lost control over their much cherished spheres of economic autonomy." Dr. Bressand asserts that the West must now recognize the *de facto* existence of a global economy.

Will the world ultimately be forced to embrace a global economy?

Yes! Two separate world economies are coming—one to follow the other!

The source of this foreknowledge is available in a book widely available in dozens of languages, but rarely, if ever, consulted in economic matters. We call it the Holy Bible.

The terrible irony is that this overlooked book explains the underlying laws of economics—the means to avoid fiscal disaster—but economists have not realized it.

This book explains the cause of inflation (Hag. 1:6), the biblical rules governing interest rates (Ex. 22:25), the only fully effective way to adjust for long-term economic growth (Lev. 25) and a truly equitable welfare and social security system (Deut. 26:12-15).

Yet, it is virtually ignored—and that accounts for the reason the nations face so much economic turmoil today.

You see, these laws explained in the Bible are just that—*laws*. But they differ from the laws that humanity legislates. God's laws cannot be defied without incurring a visible setback. If they are defied, the adverse effects *accumulate*.

Perhaps you have heard that the Bible forbids actions based on greed. Can you imagine what the fiscal outlook would be like today if that *single* precept was widely followed?!

"These are principles that no one could follow in today's business world," some may

snort.

But continued defiance will only bring disaster on all, including the greedy! Humanity must realize that time is quickly expiring—the room for maneuvering has all but disappeared!

Perhaps you did not realize that there are only two basic ways of life. Science and economics know little, if anything, about these two ways of life.

Humanity has but two choices: to embrace a way of life summarized as a way of *giving*, of outflowing love; or a way of "get," of competitively taking with no concern for others.

The latter way of life in operation in every nation today virtually guarantees eventual destruction!

Sadly, it appears humanity remains bent on choosing the latter way, which will lead to the startling, prophesied rise of a new consortium of nations in Europe and the rise of a *new* worldwide economy in an attempt to get around the consequence of today's greed and selfishness in the marketplace (Rev. 18:11-18; Ezek. 27:1-36). This world economic system will inevitably fall (Rev. 18:11), to be replaced by an efficient, prosperous, internationally linked economy, personally directed by the divine Personage who originally revealed all economic law: Jesus Christ, the son of God.

Look to This!

Mythologic fantasy? Hardly. The economic laws revealed by Jesus under the guidance of God the Father are the only answer, even in this competitive world. They work! God himself declares, "'Prove Me now in this,' says the Lord of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it'" (Mal. 3:10, RAV). These are not lightly made statements—they are authoritative promises that God fulfills to those who seek to obey him.

God is not against people making profits, as long as they're *honest* profits. God wants you to "prosper in all things" (III John 2).

We announce a way that benefits both yourself and your neighbor.

If you truly seek understanding, both of the background to the contemporary fiscal crisis and why mankind fails to lift this world from devastating war, poverty and other ills, we have two free booklets to offer you.

If you're interested, and you should be, write for your free copies of *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils and Managing Your Personal Finances*. These eye-opening booklets carry no further obligation—they are presented free in the public interest.

God's ways are simple, yet profound. May God help the people in this world to understand and apply them! □

For Evolutionists Only...

by Clayton Steep

For too long the creation versus evolution controversy has revolved around points of secondary importance. It's time to get to the heart of the matter!

MOST "creationists" are guilty of the very thing they accuse evolutionists of doing: misinterpreting the evidence!

Actually, the commonly accepted religious concept of creation has changed little since medieval theologians insisted the earth is flat.

Only some six or so thousand years ago, according to this concept, God created "out of nothing" the universe and everything in it.

Not only does this idea overlook the actual biblical account of creation, it also represents a misinterpretation of the physical evidence to support a preconceived and erroneous notion.

One can only wonder how many educated people have rejected the whole idea of special creation merely because they have not heard the true biblical account. The biblical account of creation, as recorded in the first chapters of Genesis, is compatible with the entire body of provable, observable, measurable, recordable scientific data. What this means is that the physical evidence of and by itself does *not* require choosing between an evolutionary process on the one hand or belief in a uni-

verse that is only about 6,000 years old on the other hand. Let us explain.

What the Bible Really Says

Where most "creationists" err is that they assume the Bible places the creation of the universe at a point in time about six or so thousand years ago. The Bible, however, says nothing about such an idea.

Genesis 1:1 states, "*In the beginning* God created the heaven and the earth." Those words describe a complete episode in the prehistory of the universe. There follows a time lapse of indefinite length between this verse and the verse that follows—a time lapse that may well have spanned multiple millions of years as measured by scientists using radiometric dating methods. The Bible does not describe this period in great detail, nor reveal how long it lasted.

As verse two of Genesis 1 opens, we are confronted with a totally different scene. We now see an earth that had *come to be* in ruins, in darkness and covered with water. Some great disaster had befallen the earth.

The English word *was* in this verse is better translated "became" or "came to be." "*Now the earth became* without form, and void; and darkness *came to be* upon the face of the deep." (See the New

International Version rendering and footnote.)

This revelation of earth's history is important because the second major error most creationists make is to attribute the near totality of earth's strata to a flood in Noah's day. They overlook the physical evidence of events, including flooding, before and up to the climax of Genesis 1:2!

From verse two the Genesis account goes on to describe a recreation, how God reshaped and refashioned, nearly 6,000 years ago, the already existing, but now desolate earth. The Bible thus reveals an earlier period for the earth and its original inhabitants long before man was created.

Why Evolution Then?

Many evolutionists have taken for granted the false explanation of the Bible. They have therefore concluded that the written biblical record of creation could not be true. Having carelessly set aside the biblical account, educators and scientists were left with no choice but to believe in some form of evolution and to interpret all physical evidence accordingly.

One highly celebrated proponent of evolution who totally rejects the traditional—and false—explanation given to the Genesis record of creation conceded in private, "The

evolutionary explanation may not be complete or compelling but *nothing else is possible.*"

In other words, the evolutionist, after he has left the Creator out of the picture, because he found the traditional interpretation of Genesis to be in error, has no choice but to try making evolution work. As this well-known author remarked, "no alternate explanation to evolution is possible."

Evolutionists are stuck with evolution. This, in spite of the fact that they cannot adequately explain the mechanism by which evolution is supposed to have taken place. There are all those gaps in the "evolutionary tree."

Oh, there have been attempts to fill those gaps—with a measure of wishful thinking. Charles Darwin, for example, wrote in *The Origin of Species* that "the number of intermediate and transitional links, between all living and extinct species, *must have been* inconceivably great. But assuredly, *if* this theory be true [he doesn't sound convinced!], such *must have lived* upon the earth" (emphasis ours).

"Must have"? But where? When? Who has found the proof that this "inconceivably great" host of intermediate species existed? Where are all those missing links that "must have" lived on earth? One hundred years after Darwin this essential proof is embarrassingly absent!

Even a sizable number of evolutionists have come to accept that "transitional links" will never be found. But since they are aware of no plausible alternative to evolution that would involve God, the Creator is kept out of the picture. In an effort to bridge the gaps in the biological record, as revealed in geology, the idea of "punctuated evolution," or evolution by leaps, has attracted recent interest. If, however, a long, slow process of evolution has failed to leave a credible record, it is certain an evolution-by-leaps has left even less of one.

Some seek to get around the difficulties in the evolutionary concept by resorting to a form of theistic evolution. This brings God into the evolutionary process. But only far enough to get evolution over the rough spots like the origin of the first living cells, missing links and

other such troublesome problems. It is merely another effort to interpret the physical evidence without giving God the credit.

Not that the Bible is specifically a science textbook. It is not. But where the Bible speaks on scientific matters, it is in harmony with the facts of science.

Correctly understood, the Genesis account renders totally unnecessary any attempt to explain the physical evidence in evolutionary terms. Consider a couple of the popularly cited "proofs" of evolution and see how easily they fit into the biblical account of creation.

Evolutionary science places heavy emphasis on comparative embryology. So what if the embryos of humans, chickens, pigs and turtles look similar at certain stages in their development? That's no problem. One Designer designed them all. Why wouldn't there be similarities? Why wouldn't there be a repetition of themes just as individual buildings by the same architect or different models of automobiles made by the same company may have similarities? Most houses and most automobiles look similar in the early stages of manufacture. So it is with embryos. A pig embryo, however, never becomes a chicken. Nor a chicken a turtle. Nor a turtle a human. Each reproduces after its kind.

But what is the origin of the different "kinds" with their individual characteristics? Evolutionists have derided creationists for continually citing examples of the "wonders of nature." But such chiding does not answer the question: How can the design evident in the "wonders of nature" be explained? The skill of the garden spider in building its web, the interdependent partnership between certain insects and flowers, the dead-eye accuracy of the archer fish, the entertaining antics of dolphins and seals, the agile trunk of elephants, and man himself—an assemblage of 30,000,000,000 living cells functioning harmoniously, capable of thought, of emotion, of expression, able to split atoms he cannot see or to construct immense edifices—these and incalculable numbers of other "wonders" cannot be rationally accounted for by a blind, purposeless, unintelligent, time-and-chance process of evolution.

The subject cannot be avoided. Nor can the conclusion: Design demands a Designer!

What about the "survival of the fittest"? Which schoolchild has not read about the light-colored moths and the dark-colored moths on the tree trunk? The light-colored ones, if more conspicuous, are quickly eaten by birds. The dark moths survive because they are less visible.

"See?" proclaim the evolutionists, "survival of the fittest." And indeed it is. The principle of survival of the fittest does have a place in the natural scheme. But it does not bring about a change from one life form to another! It does not explain the *arrival* of the fittest. It merely helps determine the survivability under given conditions of varieties naturally occurring within the boundaries of each Genesis kind. The dark-colored moths do not become something else. They are still moths. And so they shall ever be.

These are two of the primary proofs given for evolution. And yet, as these examples illustrate, the physical evidence of and by itself does not require an evolutionary explanation. In order to fit into the concept of evolution the physical evidence must be interpreted according to evolutionary thought. It is not the evidence itself that is even the central issue in the creation versus evolution controversy. It is the *interpretation* of that evidence that is the crux of the whole matter!

In other words, the evidence used or discovered by evolutionists does not pose a problem for creationists who understand the true biblical account of creation.

Seeing the Facts Clearly

Interpretation of evidence is one thing. There is unfortunately, however, another factor sometimes at work: lack of candor. *The Plain Truth* published an article some months ago asserting that the marvelously complex human eye could not have evolved from "primitive" eyes. An inquiring reader sent a copy of the *Plain Truth* article to an evolutionist editor for comment. Notice how the answer he received obscures the facts.

"Eyes in existence today," the evolutionist wrote back, "range all the way from light-sensitive spots
(Continued on page 28)

The "NOW GENERATION"...

What Is Wrong?

by Roderick C. Meredith

Why do the "good times" sought by young people often turn sour?

"I JUST want to have fun like all the other kids. I want to be free. I want to experience life and not have to be tied down by a dull job and a dull marriage."

Sound familiar?

It ought to. For a whole generation millions of teenagers and young 20s have wanted fun and fulfillment. And they want it NOW and they each want it for ME.

A genuine cultural revolution has been in the making. In the last 20 years a literal flood of books has appeared on understanding and improving the *self*. We have been abruptly exposed to greater acceptance of sexuality both in and out of marriage, a new preoccupation with the body and physical fitness and, above all, to a frantic search for the "good life," ripe with leisure, new experiences, fun and games.

Where has it all been leading?

The Results

The "now generation" has fallen far short of achieving genuine happiness and self-fulfillment. Life-experiments have not been self-fulfilling. Many are shocked to find themselves with a broken marriage, a ruined career or simply a depressed state of mind.

For teenagers, the "now generation" philosophy has produced booming rates of suicide, new venereal diseases, raging alcohol and drug abuse. Millions of unmarried teenage girls become pregnant.

Instead of rearing children they conceive, hundreds of thousands of these "me generation" girls allow life to be snuffed out by abortion!

With unrelenting emphasis on fun and on *self*-fulfillment, the "now" or "me generation" philosophically presupposes that economic well-being is virtually a right, to be guaranteed by the government. This assumption has run into trouble—even in societies of relative abundance.

According to the 1980 U.S. census, there are 1.8 million children in America alone who have no adult at home after school. And there are millions of "latchkey" children worldwide.

Why?

Well, the story goes, the mothers need to work.

Or the family "needs" to have a bigger income so they can have the "good life."

Maybe the woman has to work because she is divorced. Or, perhaps, her husband *deserted* her.

Again, *WHY*?

Because in the vast majority of divorce cases one or both parties to the marriage are trying to "get" all they can, and "give" as little as possible. That certainly has been my experience as one involved in *hundreds* of marriage counselings over the past 30 years!

And desertion by the husband and father is an even more obvious example of *total selfishness* and thoughtlessness. A U.S. congressional report showed that 79 percent of divorced fathers nationwide do NOT support their own children.

Pure selfishness in most cases.

In another area where children are seriously affected, a shocking article from the April 1983 *Ladies Home Journal* reports the horrifying facts regarding child pornography. The article quotes Bruce Ritter, founder of New York City's Covenant House, a nonprofit youth shelter: "This sickness exists," he states, "because a small segment of society wants it, another segment profits by it, and the rest aren't doing anything about it."

It's hard to believe that that kind of mind exists! *But it does.*

And, please, let's not ASSUME that all of the rapists, robbers, drug addicts, drug dealers, pornographers, child pornographers, adulterers, wife beaters, child abusers and homosexuals are out on some ill-defined fringe of society!

Emphasis on Self

The "me generation" concentrates so sharply on personal desires that instead of achieving the intimate relationships they yearn for, they grow further apart from others. In focusing on their own needs, they discover that their inner journey brings loneliness and depression. They want to expand their lives, but the strategy they use constricts them—drawing them inward toward the ever-narrowing, closed off "ME."

Too many are preoccupied with their inner psychological needs. They think of self as a vast assemblage of "needs"—no matter how infantile or selfish.

(Continued on page 43)

YES

There Is Life Out There!

by Ronald D. Kelly

Millions are being spent in an attempt to contact other life in the universe. What will be found?

WE LOOK up into a black sky, dotted with millions of stars, and we wonder—is there life out there? Are there other creatures similar to life on earth? Are there life forms totally different from ours?

Or is there no life at all in outer space? Is planet Earth unique?

These questions have puzzled mankind for centuries. Even modern men are bewildered about mysterious places such as Nazca in Peru and the Bermuda Triangle.

Science fiction writers have capitalized on our natural curiosity and have produced hundreds of books, magazine articles and movies on the subject of life in the universe.

Throngs see such movies as *E.T.—The Extraterrestrial*. People are intrigued by futurist

movies and wonder if someday there will indeed be *Star Wars* with beings from other planets.

From Fantasy to Serious Business

But man has now moved from fiction to an earnest search for life in outer space. If there is life out there, perhaps—some scientists reason—they are trying to contact us.

The California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and NASA's Ames Research Center have launched a program to search the universe for radio signals from intelligent extraterrestrial civilizations. A spectrum analyzer now being built and tested will monitor nearly 70,000 separate microwave channels and examine them for signs of intelligent signals.

A unit being designed at Stanford University in California will be able, in the future, to examine microwave signals and split them into nearly 10 million channels. The theory is, if there is life in

outer space, perhaps they will be broadcasting on one of those millions of frequencies. And scientists want to be ready to receive their messages.

On the other hand, our own modern technologies have made possible satellite telecommunications that could be intercepted or received by other life forms—if such life existed in other locations in the universe.

There is a plaque attached to one of our space probe vehicles. Engraved on the plaque is the genetic code for human life and stick drawings of a man and woman. Just in case the spacecraft would be intercepted, captured or crash into another planet on which life exists, scientists would like them to know the makeup of our life.

What Has Been Discovered So Far?

Efforts to contact life beyond our planet have, up to now, yielded



nothing. We have been able to send manned spacecraft into earth's orbit. We have been able to send men to the moon and return them safely. Every effort of the various space programs has so far demonstrated no form of physical life exists, or ever did, other than our own life on planet Earth.

Through the *Pioneer*, *Mariner* and *Voyager* space programs sponsored by the U.S. government, prized information and marvelous pictures have been sent to earth from space. Close-up pictures of Mars and other planets are beautiful and exciting. Such space probes have proved beyond any shadow of doubt that no intelligent life exists on those planets and astrobodies that have thus far been explored.

Meanwhile, in human eagerness to contact other life forms, there have been hundreds of accounts of people who have allegedly seen unidentified flying objects. So common are reports of such sightings that the initials UFO are commonplace in our vocabulary.

Some universities and governments have established research centers to investigate and attempt an explanation for the claims about unidentified flying objects. In the vast majority of cases studied, a logical explanation has proved those sightings were weather balloons, cloud formations, reflections off flying aircraft or other equally logical explanations.

In other cases, the whole affair was proved to be a complete hoax—a made-up story to attract publicity or attention.

What we have discovered is that extreme temperatures and hostile environments (to man) not only make life as we know it next to impossible on those planets, but makes life in any form of existence highly improbable. Huge telescopes have made it possible to view astrobodies light years from our own

earth. Still, no hint of intelligent life.

But There Is Life Out There!

The one form of life that does exist and always has existed will never be discovered by the largest existing radio telescope.

The newest spectrum analyzer that will monitor some 10 million channels will not receive messages from these beings.

Yes, there is life beyond our planet. And that life is interested in what happens on earth. Beings in outer space have sent messages to the earth. There have been visits to the earth and at least one major visit is projected for the future.

But it's not the science-fiction-type visit fantasized by writers—little green men landing a spacecraft in a wheat field commanding the farmer, "Take me to your leader."

There have been at least five individuals in human history who have seen and described the only provable form of life beyond our earth's atmosphere. These men have unimpeachable credentials—men of great integrity. And we have written accounts of what they observed.

From their accounts we can understand what intelligent life forms really exist in the universe.

The names of those who have seen and written descriptions of extraterrestrial life are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Paul and John. And their accounts are found in the pages of the books we call the Bible.

The Creator God

First and foremost, the greatest life that exists in the extraterrestrial is the one who made all life—the great Creator God. There is no life greater than God. And he brought all other life forms into existence. I realize that will not win a popularity contest in many scientific circles—but it is the absolute truth.

God cannot be put into a test tube. He cannot be analyzed with a spectrophotometer. He has no anatomical (physical) weight. He cannot be felt, smelled, tasted, touched

or seen by physical means. God is spirit, not matter (John 4:24). Thus, many scientists reject his existence.

Those who believe in creation are often ridiculed by certain members of the scientific community. Life on earth, many scientists reason, is the result of blind chance—a happenstance "big bang" that occurred in the universe hundreds of millions of years ago.

Then, say scientists who oppose creation, just the right chemical combinations resulted in the evolutionary process that has developed all the physical life forms on earth.

They reason further, "If it happened on earth, then perhaps it happened elsewhere in our universe."

The scientific community as a whole has rejected the existence of a Creator God (and though some have not rejected his existence, most have repudiated his revealed message to mankind). Therefore the knowledge of other life forms as revealed in the Bible has been excluded and subjected to ridicule.

But all the while, the one Being who does exist in the universe—the one who created it all—sent this message: "For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: 'I am the Lord, and there is no other'" (Isa. 45:18, NIV throughout).

The plan God is working out in this universe is being worked out on planet Earth and is being fulfilled by human beings. In the pages of *The Plain Truth* we tell what that plan is—what the real purpose for human life is.

In addition, timely booklets and books are available to *Plain Truth* readers. If you haven't read our booklet *Why Were You Born?*, write for it immediately. Also, Herbert W. Armstrong's book *The Incredible Human Potential* will answer many questions about the meaning of life, where we are headed, what the future holds. All our literature is free, so write today or

call our toll free number if you reside in the continental United States.

Yes, there is extraterrestrial life—spirit life—including hosts of created angelic beings in the universe. And from the eyewitness accounts of Isaiah, Ezekiel, John and the others, we can know what that extraterrestrial life is like.

First, the Throne of God

Late in the first century A.D., the apostle John was a Roman prisoner on the Aegean isle of Patmos. In vision, the apostle saw the throne of God and the beauty of its surroundings.

A vivid description is found in the fourth chapter of Revelation. Here, John describes the glory and majesty of extraterrestrial life. He does not picture little green men speeding through the universe in flying saucers. But he does describe majestic spirit beings.

John portrays an awesome throne on what appears to be a platform of clear crystal. Over the throne is an emerald-hued rainbow.

When God speaks, his voice resembles roaring thunder. From the throne of God streak what appear to the human mind to be blinding flashes of lightning.

The glorified appearance of the Creator is described in Revelation 1: "His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. . . . His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance" (verses 14-16).

Seated on 24 thrones before God and Jesus Christ are 24 spirit beings John simply identifies as "elders." They are clothed in white robes and wear gold crowns. These 24 could be considered the "advisory council" to God.

In addition to the 24 elders are other living creatures, described by Ezekiel—cherubim. Contrary to common misconception, cherubim are not chubby creatures with little wings and tiny bows and arrows that they shoot into young lovers. Cherubim are powerful spirit beings who are top aides at God's throne. Some transport the majes-

tic throne as God directs. (See Ezekiel 10:10-14 for a further description.)

In addition to these cherubim, there are others who also hold the position or rank called archangel. Two of these magnificent beings stretch out their wings over the throne of God. Their names are Gabriel and Michael.

At one time, another archangel or cherub resided at God's throne as a covering cherub. The story of this being is told in Ezekiel 28:12-14 and Isaiah 14:12-15. His name meant "shining star of the morning"—"light bringer" or "truth bringer"—*Lucifer* in Latin.

Long before the time of Adam, Lucifer was given responsibility to administer God's government on the planet Earth. In the course of time, Lucifer's vanity and lust led him to form a rebellion against God—he tried to ascend and seize the throne of God and rule over all the angelic beings God had created.

Lucifer drew one third of the angels with him in the rebellion (Rev. 12:4). Their *coup* was unsuccessful. Lucifer and the mutinous angels were cast down to earth where they have resided in a hostile state of mind ever since.

Lucifer became Satan the devil, the adversary of God. The seditious angels became demons.

Satan has injected his hostile state of mind into human minds for the past near 6,000 years of human history since the creation of man. Satan is even the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4), the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2) and has been responsible for deceiving this whole world (Rev. 12:9).

When Christ returns to reestablish the government of God on the earth, Satan (Lucifer) and all the demons will be taken, bound in a giant abyss and rendered totally powerless for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:2-3).

A Host of Angels

Of course, if one third of the angels that God created rebelled with Lucifer, that means two thirds did not rebel—they remain faithful to God.

When John saw the vision of God's throne, he witnessed more

than 100 million angels and said in addition there were thousands upon thousands (Rev. 5:11). So, additional extraterrestrial life exists in abundance—hundreds of millions of angels.

Angels perform a variety of functions in the government of God. They have been used to transmit portions of God's law. When God gave Moses his law, God himself thundered the holy law to all Israel from Mount Sinai and then wrote the Ten Commandments on tables of stone with his own finger. The statutes and judgments were shortly thereafter given to Moses, mediated by angels (Gal. 3:19).

The word *angel* comes from a Greek word that means "messenger." Angels are the messengers of God. Through angels, God in times past revealed his message to the prophets.

Through the apostle Paul, we find, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" (Heb. 1:14).

As messengers of God, the angels function between the throne of God and the earth. What the Bible reveals about angels is (1) they are spirit beings; (2) they are servants of God; (3) they are generally invisible to human eyes; (4) they do have the power to manifest or make themselves visible to mankind if they choose.

The apostle said of angels, "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it" (Heb. 13:2).

In the days of the patriarch Abraham, about 19 centuries before Jesus, angels came to tell Abraham that his descendants would become great nations and also to tell him that his nephew Lot would have to leave the wicked city of Sodom.

These angelic messengers appeared like human beings. They sat with Abraham, talked with him, walked alongside him and ate with him. Read the account in Genesis 18.

Later, two angels personally visited Lot and escorted him and a portion of his family from Sodom (Gen. 19).

So when angels have appeared, they appear like human beings. No little green men. No two-headed monsters. No flying saucers or ray guns.

So there is extraterrestrial life! There are intelligent forms of life in the universe other than human life on earth!

It is not the Buck Rogers, *Star Wars*, *E.T.* or *Chariots of the Gods* type science fiction.

Extraterrestrial life consists of hundreds of millions of angels, seraphim (described in Isaiah 6),

the midst of it all, a beautiful blue and brown jewel in the universe, swaddled in clouds of white, glistening against the blackness of darkness—the planet Earth. On earth, God created all physical life forms that exist. The crowning glory of creation is mankind—made in the very image of God the Creator.

The Bible nowhere reveals even the slightest hint any other creation of physical life exists anywhere else in the universe.

Ironic, isn't it? We are sending a

to nowhere in particular, the turmoil of human life on earth goes on. It's time to devote a lot more time, thought and energy in contacting the Creator God and understanding his message than it is to search the universe for possibilities of extraterrestrial physical life forms.

There is a message from that eternal Life-force we call God to human beings on earth. That message, simply put, is that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, will visit the earth and establish the government of God on it.

The intervention of God in the course of human events is vividly described in the 19th and 20th chapters of the book of Revelation. When extraterrestrial beings do intervene, the heavens will be rolled back like a scroll, and the Son of God will descend to the earth.

That message has been consistently taught by the servants of God throughout the ages. Patriarchs and prophets in the Old Testament dispensation, and apostles in the New Testament Church and today have proclaimed the message.

The prophesied time for God's intervention in the affairs of man is at hand. That visit from outer space will probably occur in the lifetimes of many or most of you reading this article.

In the meantime, men vainly scan the skies in an attempt to contact presumed physical life forms.

The creative extraterrestrial spirit Life that really does exist is only a prayer away, and the written word of the Bible is that Life's communication to mankind.

Better it is to spend time and effort communicating with God than listening to the empty crackling of static on 10 million microwave channels. With God there will be real and tangible results. □

As *Pioneer*, *Voyager* and *Mariner* spacecraft speed on their journeys to nowhere in particular, the turmoil of human life on earth goes on.

cherubim, and at God's throne a variety of spirit beings, including the 24 elders—and of course God on his throne and Jesus Christ who sits now at his right hand (Heb. 1:3). There are at least two high-ranking cherubim or archangels, Michael and Gabriel, who oversee God's throne.

God created this vast universe with its galaxies, the stars (suns), the planets and their moons and, in

plaque with the genetic code for life with a stick drawing of a man and a woman. We are trying to tell the only life out there—including the one who made us—what we are. I wonder if God chuckles at the plaque and the crude little drawing?

A Message from Outside of Space

As *Pioneer*, *Voyager* and *Mariner* spacecraft speed on their journeys



COURTESY NASA

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan of the United States proclaimed 1983 "The Year of the Bible." To religious leaders this was an opportunity to focus the eyes of the nation on the book of the year.

Yet how many people who have even read the Bible entirely from Genesis to Revelation really understand what it says?

What a paradox it is that the Bible is consistently the best-seller every year with millions of copies or portions printed and distributed throughout the world in more than 1,400 different languages—yet so few understand it!

To many, the Bible has become dull, dry history of the ancient past—having nothing to do with today's modern space age. Yet no other book is as up-to-date as the Bible.

The Bible was written for our day—this generation. It predicted today's chaotic world conditions in which destructive forces threaten to extinguish the human race. But it also reveals what will be done to prevent world self-annihilation.

Bruce Barton called the Bible "the book nobody knows." Yet in its pages are revealed the causes of today's ills—the social problems, the economic problems, international problems.

The Bible shows where world events are leading and what the final outcome will be. In the prophetic books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Revelation we are given a skeletal framework of past and future events.

The Bible is the written revelation of the Creator God for mankind. It contains absolutely vital knowledge that everyone needs to understand—but which would be

Have You Read the **BOOK OF THE YEAR** ?

by Robert Boraker

Read how this important book
can change your life.

inaccessible by any natural means.

Without the Bible we could never understand the lessons of the past, the meaning of the present and the purpose of life.

Much of the Bible is a record of what has happened when God's great law of love has been violated—both individually and nationally. God intended that we should learn from the record contained in the Bible. If humanity would learn from biblical history, we would not continue to make the same mistakes and suffer from the same results.

Speaking of historical events recorded in the Bible, the apostle Paul stated: "It all happened to them *by way of warning* for others, and it was written down for the purpose of instructing us whose lot has been cast in the closing hours of the world" (1 Cor. 10:11, Moffatt trans.).

And: "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope" (Rom. 15:4, RAV).

God has laid bare the lives of those with whom he has worked over the centuries so that those who read and study the Bible might learn and avoid mistakes similar to those made in the past. The Bible contains the most meaningful case histories of human behavior ever recorded.

A Unique Book

The Bible is not an ordinary book. It is unique in that it contains *revealed* knowledge from the Creator of the universe. The Bible is the written word of God in print. It is the "Maker's Instruction Manual" to explain how the human creation is to be operated. It explains why the Creator put human beings on earth. It instructs us how to live.

Human behavior cannot be correctly interpreted apart from the Bible. Why does evil exist? What is sin?

In its pages are revealed the causes of today's ills—the social problems, the economic problems, international problems.

What is good? What is normal and what is deviant? Only the Word of God can supply the true answers to these and other crucial questions with which humanity is faced.

God, through his written word, tells us what we are, how to live, and how and when we can achieve our ultimate human potential. The Bible spells out the way to peace and happiness for all humanity—vital knowledge that is missing from our schools, universities and even our churches.

The Bible claims to be God's revelation to man of *basic knowledge*—knowledge of laws and principles that man is unable to discover for himself. The law of gravity, for example, is not directly revealed in the Bible. God equipped man with the powers and abilities to discover the law of gravity for himself.

But man has not been able to discover with assurance *what* he is and *why* he was put here on earth—whether there is a real *purpose* for human life or what that purpose is. Man has not been able to discover the true way to peace, happiness, abundant well-being and real success.

Only in the Bible can one find this necessary basic knowledge.

The Foundation of Knowledge

God inspired the Bible to be the very *basis* of true education. The Bible, then, is the *foundation of knowledge*. It gives the true approach to the acquisition of knowledge in the fields of history, education, psychology, sociology and the health sciences. It reveals basic principles concerning business, commerce, science, the arts, law, government, philosophy and religion.

But ironically, this "book of the year" is the least understood of all books.

Why?

Simply because when most people try to read the Bible, they try to understand it through the beliefs of their particular religious views.

People could understand the Bible—if they were really willing to study it and accept it for what it says. And it doesn't say what most people think it says. The Bible is plain and simple. It means exactly what it says. If we take it as it is—without trying to read personal opinions into it—then the Bible makes real sense. It presents what some have called "the thinking man's religion."

For more than 25 years, the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course has been helping thousands to understand what the Bible says. This course is a totally different method of Bible study. It makes the Bible easy to understand and shows how it is

relevant to the space age. It is dynamic, down-to-earth. It tells the truth straight from the Bible itself.

Students from all walks of life are enrolled in this course—even ministers of religion. They are enthusiastically discovering new truth in their Bibles with the guidance of each lesson.

They are learning that there is hope for the future—that there are *solutions* to the seemingly insoluble problems of today. They are learning the keys to understanding Bible prophecy and the principles that lead to success, financial security and a happy, abundant life.

You, too, can begin to share these same experiences by studying the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. There is no tuition cost. To enroll and obtain your free lessons, write to the office nearest you. The address is on the inside cover.

Although 1983 was proclaimed "The Year of the Bible," the Bible should be studied daily—*every year*. It is the Book of Life for *all times*. □



G.A. BELLUCHE JR.—PT

Evolutionists

(Continued from page 20)

near the heads of some animals, to indentations, to indentations with a membrane, to lens-like membranes, to everything up to humans." So far, so good. This is evidence. It is true. No creationist would deny it.

Now comes the interpretation! The evolutionist takes the quantum leap and takes for granted that evolution has occurred. The letter continues, "... all the various stages in the evolution of the eye still exist today." But that is only one way of interpreting the evidence. That is not proof. A creationist could just as easily say that "all the various kinds of eyes God created still exist today."

But then the evolutionist clouds the issue even further. He concludes his short reply, "By looking at [all the varieties of eyes in] the living world, then, we can easily see how something as complex as the eye could evolve."

Notice that! "*Could* evolve." Is he claiming it *did* evolve that way? Is he claiming that if you line up all existing eyes in the living world in order of complexity, from the light-sensitive spots to the human eye, that the arrangement would show how the eye evolved? No, he is not. He would be laughed out of the laboratory by his fellow evolutionists.

Why? Because if you line up all living creatures in an order based solely on the complexity of their eyes—from simple eyes to complex eyes—the position of the creatures themselves in such a lineup would be out of conformity with the "evolutionary tree."

The statement, then, that by looking at all the different eyes "we can easily see how something as complex as the eye could evolve" implies what evolution itself cannot support. Yet this type of reasoning—even in textbooks—misleads many people.

When all is said and done, we are still left with the question, how did the different eyes develop if they were not created?

The Creator's Credentials

The realm of the physical sciences confines itself to what can be experimented with, observed, measured and weighed—the physical, material

universe. While many scientists—including evolutionists—may allow for the possible existence of God, most freely admit they do not allow belief in the spiritual to affect their theories. They pride themselves in their powers of inductive reasoning. But they leave out data from an entire dimension—the spiritual. Why? Because they cannot quantify it—measure it. There is, then, a built-in *antisupernatural* bias in most scientific reasoning.

It is no wonder science never even claims to have the truth! Rather, its avowed goal is only to find a closer approximation to "truth." Significantly, the Bible describes as one of the characteristics of our times that some would be "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Tim. 3:7).

Jesus Christ promised his followers, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). He meant spiritual truth, certainly. But not exclusively. He also meant truth concerning even a *physical* matter that affects one's worship and perception of the true God.

Some have suggested that *The Plain Truth* should not take a position in the evolution versus creation question. The realm of science, it is claimed, should be kept separate from religion.

Where science sticks to the facts in areas such as chemistry, physics or mathematics, there is no argument. But when human beings depart from strict observation and measurement of physical laws and begin to theorize and interpret evidence erroneously, when they ignore an entire dimension of evidence—the spiritual—when they seek to take away the credentials of God the Creator and Lifegiver, then it is they who have encroached upon the realm of the spiritual, and not vice versa!

The credentials of the true Creator God set him apart from all gods. One day the apostle Paul confronted a crowd of idolators and admonished them to worship the real God. Which one? The "living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein" (Acts 14:15). That is how God is identified.

On another occasion Paul was

standing amid lifeless idols worshiped in ancient Athens. But Paul didn't worship those gods. He worshiped the *real* God. How did Paul identify this one true God and distinguish him from gods humans had made? Listen to Paul! "God that made the world and all things therein... he is Lord of heaven and earth..." (Acts 17:24).

The theory of evolution attempts to strip the Almighty Creator God of those credentials, making him little different from impotent idols, the works of men's hands! That is why *The Plain Truth* cannot remain silent.

To demonstrate God is the Creator, we don't have to produce lengthy volumes detailing all the proofs. The evidence is already available. It is everywhere. It is beneath our feet, in stratified deposits. It is all around us, in everything we can see, hear, touch, taste and feel. It is above us, stretching out incalculable numbers of light years into space. It has been gathered by geologists, biologists, paleontologists, astronomers. It has been written up in countless volumes. One needs only to separate erroneous interpretation from measurable facts.

Whereas scientists who acknowledge God as Creator can look at the physical evidence and see God's handiwork—brilliant, imaginative, colorful, sometimes even humorous—evolutionists look at the same evidence and try to construct a workable godless theory. Those who understand the true account of creation simply give God credit for his workmanship and marvel at what he has done and at the ultimate purpose of life; evolutionists have to contend with an idea whose mechanism they cannot explain and which is purposeless.

It all boils down to a matter of rejecting the false and unscientific, traditional explanation of creation and accepting the true biblical record of creation (this makes all the evidence explainable), or rejecting God as Creator (in which case faith in some form of evolution, with all of its difficulties, is the only—and erroneous—alternative).

Why not look at all dimensions of knowledge—including the most important? □

“ You Mean THAT’S IN THE BIBLE?”

by Clayton Steep

Many—even some who have read the book for years—express surprise and amazement when they learn what the Bible really says!

“THE BOOK nobody knows,” a famous agnostic once remarked, referring to the Bible.

He was almost right.

Certainly it is the book few people know. It is safe to say that no other book on earth is so widely read and at the same time so misunderstood.

Why should this be?

Take the “Christmas story” for example. Most people assume that if anything comes from the Bible surely the popular notion of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus does. Yet, amazingly, when one looks at what the Bible really says, it becomes apparent that there are major discrepancies between the birth of Jesus as described in the Bible and the Christmas story so familiar to the world.

Not in the Winter

The Bible nowhere says Jesus was born December 25. It doesn’t tell us which day Jesus was born. It doesn’t even tell us the month. The Bible does, however, show that Jesus’ birth did *not* take place in late December or, for that matter, in any of the winter months!

In fact, when Jesus was born, “there were in the same country

shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night” (Luke 2:8, RAV throughout). The shepherds were living out in the open fields, sleeping with their flocks at night.

Shepherds would not be doing this during the cold and rainy winter months. Contrary to what some have assumed, it did—and does—get cold during the winter in Judea. Even in April, in the early spring, when Jesus was crucified, certain “servants and officers . . . made a fire of coals . . . for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself” (John 18:18).

Hardly indicative of the kind of weather for sleeping out in the fields. Or for having a baby in a stable and laying him in a manger (Luke 2:7)!

So we know when Jesus was *not* born. The fact that Jesus’ birth date is purposely not recorded is also clear evidence that God never intended us to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. When God revealed certain days he wants his people to observe, no room was left for doubt as to when those days occur.

The Prince of Peace?

When Jesus’ birth was announced to the shepherds they heard “a

multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!’” (Luke 2:13-14). The reason one of the members of the God family came to earth as Jesus Christ is as generally misunderstood as are the events surrounding his birth.

“Peace on earth, good will to men,” proclaim Christmas decorations and greeting cards at this time of the year. And “The Christ child came to bring peace.” But where is that peace? Where has it been for the last near 2,000 years?

Wars and armed conflicts have not ceased to grow in numbers and intensity. Bitterness and hatred divide races, nationalities and religions. The structure of the family is breaking up because people are unable to get along with each other. Peace on earth starting from the time of Jesus’ birth? Not according to history. Not according to today’s news.

And, not according to Jesus! He himself declared, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword” (Matt. 10:34).

Have you ever heard that

scripture before? It's not quoted often in this world's churches. And yet it's in the Bible! Jesus said it!

What does it mean?

The purpose of Jesus' First Coming nearly 2,000 years ago was not to usher in world peace. The angels' proclamation "Peace on earth, good will toward men" is a prophecy that this very Jesus who was born in Bethlehem will—in the near future—impose world peace. He will do it at his Second Coming, for which the way is even now being prepared.

Jesus came over 1900 years ago to die for the sins of humanity, to qualify to replace Satan as ruler of this world and to establish his Church. But Jesus promised he will come again (John 14:3), this time to bring that peace foretold by the angels at Jesus' birth. This time, as King of kings, he will establish and maintain worldwide peace. It is then that "of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end" (Isa. 9:7).

Over the centuries between Jesus' First and Second Coming, however, it is impossible to calculate how much hatred, persecution and warfare have been the result even of misunderstanding Jesus' teachings. The angels' proclamation to the shepherds, however, did include a second truth: that, even though surrounded by a society gone awry, those who yield to God and obey his laws now experience peace and good will in their individual lives (Ps. 119:165).

And that can include you if you are willing to admit where you have been wrong and begin to live God's way instead.

The Magi and Their Gifts

You're familiar with the "Nativity scenes"—representations of a stable showing a haloed baby in a manger, Mary and Joseph nearby being joined by shepherds and three "wise men" and varying numbers of winged angels. Such scenes, widely displayed at Christmastime, differ extensively from the biblical account of how it really was.

The shepherds, who were from the region close to Bethlehem, as soon as they were told about Jesus'

birth, immediately sought out the stable as they were instructed to do. They quickly found it (Luke 2:16).

The "wise men" or Magi, on the other hand, came from a considerable distance. Traveling from the East, searching for the one who was born "King of the Jews," they came to Jerusalem first. From there they journeyed to Bethlehem (Matt. 2:2). When they reached Bethlehem, they found Jesus no longer in a manger in a stable. Jesus and his family were living in a house (Matt. 2:11).

At the time of the arrival of the Magi, Jesus may have been two or more months old. When king Herod learned from the Rabbis and the Magi that Jesus was born to be a ruler, he was worried for his own position's sake. He decided that this child must be eliminated. So when he questioned the Magi, who at that time were in Jerusalem en route to find Jesus, he was able to determine the initial appearance of a star announcing Jesus' conception and birth. When the time was estimated, Herod ordered the slaughter of all male children "from two years old and under" (Matt. 2:16).

Herod did not order the slaying of all newborn babes, or all babes a few weeks old. He extended the limit up to two years to prevent any possible escape.

When the Magi finally located the house where the "*young Child*" Jesus (Matt. 2:11) was, they presented gifts they had brought. These were not birthday gifts, the day of Christ's birth having long since passed. The Magi, aware that Jesus was born to be a king, offered gifts to him because it was, and still is, customary in such circumstances to bring costly gifts when entering the presence of royalty.

The giving of gifts by the Magi is often used to justify the practice of exchanging Christmas gifts. What is overlooked is that the Magi did not exchange gifts among themselves. Rather, they presented all their gifts "to Him"—to Jesus (Matt. 2:11). How different from the modern custom of trading Christmas gifts and giving nothing to Christ on a

day mistakenly assigned as his birth date.

Can you imagine a birthday celebration where all the guests bring gifts, exchange those gifts among themselves and the person they are supposedly honoring receives nothing? It doesn't make sense. Neither does the modern custom of trading Christmas gifts while supposedly honoring Christ.

Angels and Halos

Most Nativity scenes portray three Magi, usually one each of the three general racial divisions of mankind. But this is pure imagination. The Bible does not say there were *three* "wise men." There may have been as many as 12. Nor does the Bible indicate that they were of different races.

The Bible states that the Magi were led to Jesus from their land in the East by a "star" (Matt. 2:2). Exactly which presumed star or planet this was has given rise to much speculation. The Bible, however, leaves little doubt on the subject. The "star" moved, leading the Magi on their long journey and finally stood over the house where Jesus was (verse 9). A planet, asteroid or distant star could not move and position itself in such a way as to point out a specific house in a little city in a small country on earth. This "star" was something else.

In the Scriptures, angels are sometimes referred to as stars (Job 38:7; Rev. 1:20). The righteous angels are spirit beings, ministering in God's service, able to appear as flames of fire (Heb. 1:7, 14). The "star" that guided the Magi was such an angel.

Angels do not have wings as most Nativity scenes and popular notion portray them. There exist some spiritual beings called seraphim and cherubim. They do have wings. But the Bible never describes ordinary angels as having wings, nor always playing harps of gold, nor appearing as the chubby infants so prevalent in medieval paintings.

Even the halos artists have placed over the heads of their representations of Jesus and various saints are not biblical. Jesus, for

(Continued on page 42)

Become a HARDER TARGET FOR CRIMINALS!

by Donald D. Schroeder

Here's how to avoid being an easy mark for theft and violence!

IT's exasperating and discouraging to be a victim of crime. I know, I've been a crime victim twice in recent months.

Even though I constantly read about increasing crime, I was still jolted and upset when I became the victim.

In both cases I had been doing something that I've done many times in past years without loss or harm. But after looking back on each crime incident, I came to realize I was not as diligent as I should have been in considering rapidly changing social and crime patterns. As a result, my guard was down, my vulnerability was high.

First Loss

The first incident with crime occurred when in the company of a friend and his children visiting from another country. We went in my car to a nearby popular mountain campground.

After enjoying a refreshing hike along a mountain trail and stream, we returned to the campground parking lot. But my car, an older model, wouldn't start. It was totally dead.

Getting out of the car and opening the hood, I found my battery, a new one, had been ripped out and stolen. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised. My car, made by a

major U.S. manufacturer, hadn't even been designed with a hood lock. It had only a simple outside hood latch that anyone could open.

Miles from any gas station, I had to ask another campground visitor for a ride down the mountain to a phone. There I called a friend to pick me up and take me home. Once home I fortunately had another car, purchased another battery and then drove back to my stranded guests to install it.

As it turned out, the incident wasn't a highly serious matter compared to what can be involved in brushes with crime. But it could have been. What if we had been in a really isolated area? Or suddenly found ourselves in the dilemma with night and bad weather rushing upon us?

The next day I read a newspaper article about how my popular mountain recreational area was becoming a rapidly growing crime area. The article cited as one of the causes the willingness of more individuals to seize opportunities to commit crimes.

One beneficial thing did result from this theft. I took steps to lock the hood of my car so entry would not be easy. But I also checked my other car, a vehicle only a few years old. To my surprise I found that despite this car having a hood-unlocking lever within the car compartment (connected by cable to the hood latch) the hood was still easy to

unlock from the outside. I took steps to harden that vulnerability.

Greater Crime

My second incident with crime was more serious. It happened a few months later with the same car previously broken into. I was on an outing with my teenage son, one of his friends and a dog in a California desert and farming area.

Because of rains earlier in the week I parked my car next to a paved country road instead of driving into dirt roads around the fields. I had occasionally parked along this paved road in past years without problems.

After a long day walking in the countryside and being tired and hungry, we returned to the car only to find—no car. It was gone. Stolen. Of course there was that initial sinking, empty, panicky feeling. And the prospect of a long walk to find help.

I knew the chances of finding my car in the maze of back country roads, high brush and old farm sheds by my own efforts, were nil. The car thieves could be miles away by now, I thought, or headed for the Mexican border.

But just then a pickup truck came down the road. To my surprise the driver immediately stopped when I flagged for help. I told him that my car had been stolen and I needed to contact the police. After learning what kind of

(Continued on page 34)



SECURITY BEGINS WITH YOU.

On these two pages we offer some basic steps to help you avoid being an easy target for crime. In addition, many law enforcement agencies have crime prevention units offering programs or brochures on how to prevent various types of crime, including fraud. Seek their information and help. Also, many books on deterring crime are available.



HARDEN YOUR HOME

There is plenty you can do to protect yourself and home from a burglar—in fact, only you can do so.

- As soon as you move into a new residence, have the door locks (at least tumblers) changed.
- Don't hide a key outside near a door. Most burglars know where to look. Don't leave notes outside saying you are gone.
- Don't leave front (or back) doors unlocked if you're in the back (front) yard. It only takes a few moments for a thief to dash in and whisk away purses, jewelry and loose valuables.
- A dog that barks at strange noises is a good deterrent to many burglars.
- Have good outside lighting at night.
- Never enter a residence that looks burglarized. The burglar may still be there. Call police instead. If you confront a burglar suddenly, don't block his exit, he may suddenly panic and turn violent to escape.
- Get to know reliable neighbors. Join in a neighborhood crime watch program to provide more eyes and ears for police.



HAVE STRONG DOORS AND LOCKS

It is preferable to have **solid core doors** with securely-affixed strike-plates. Exterior-mounted hinges should be pinned. Locks that can be easily forced, such as key locks in door handles, and slip-bolt latches, are an invitation to burglars. All outside entrance doors should have quality **dead-bolt locks** in addition to existing locksets. Garages should also have good locks.



LIGHT UP YOUR HOME . . .

and trim shrubs around doors and windows so they can't conceal an intruder.



CLOSE AND LOCK WINDOWS

Unlocked, unsecured windows make it easy for the burglar, but most won't break a secured window. Most windows can be secured (in addition to locks) by drilling a hole on a slight downward slant through the inside

frame and into the exterior frame. A nail or metal dowel in the hole will secure the window. With sliding glass windows and doors, to keep the window from being lifted up and out of its track, install metal screws in the upper track, and back them out so there's just enough clearance for the window to slide.



LEAVE YOUR HOME LOOKING "LIVED-IN"

Whenever you're leaving for an extended time, notify your police or sheriff's department. Have a trustworthy neighbor pick up newspapers, mail and such. Arrange for garden, lawn and pet care. Have someone change the positions of blinds and drapes daily. Put lights on an electric timer.



BEWARE OF STRANGERS

Never let a stranger in when you are alone. Burglars and rapists may pretend to be salesmen. Don't let a stranger use your phone. If you expect a repairman, verify his identification **before** letting him in.



MARK AND RECORD VALUABLES

Unmarked valuables are easy for a burglar to sell. Mark your driver's license number on all valuable property with an electric engraving tool.



PROTECT YOUR CAR AND YOURSELF IN IT

- Check the back seat before entering your car.
- As soon as you enter your car, lock all doors and keep them locked.
- Don't carry identification tags on key rings. Don't carry car keys and house keys together.
- In a public parking lot where you must leave the key, leave only the ignition key.
- Never leave keys in the ignition no matter how short the stop.
- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Whenever possible, travel on well-lit, well-populated streets.
- Park in well-lighted areas at night.
- Always keep your car in good working order with the gas tank at least a third full.
- When approaching the car, have your keys ready.
- If your car stalls on the highway, open the hood or tie a white scarf to the door handle or antenna. Get inside the car, roll up the windows and lock the doors. If a stranger offers help, ask him to call a repair service or the police for you. Do not go with him.
- If someone tries to break into your car, honk your horn repeatedly and drive away if possible.
- Remove standard door lock buttons and replace them with tapered ones.



MAKE YOUR CAR MORE THEFT-PROOF

Alarms can be wired to go off if any door, the hood, or the trunk is opened. Or you can add a device to the system which will detect any movement of the car—even when the car is being towed. Unfortunately, many alarm systems are easily shut off by the thief by merely cutting a wire.

Other anti-theft devices include:

Hood locks. A cable travels from an integral lock mounted under the dash into the engine compartment. At the end of this cable is a pin that engages a hasp mounted on the underside of the hood.

"Cane"-type steering wheel locks.

Metal "cane" hooks around the brake pedal on one end, and around the steering wheel rim or spoke on the other. The device is drawn tight and locked with a key.



Fuel and electrical cutoffs. Devices can be installed between the tank and fuel pump to shut off fuel to a vehicle engine shortly after starting, if the vehicle is stolen. Hidden switches can be wired to prevent starting a car with a stolen key or to help deter easy jump starting.

Temporary snap locks fit over the bulge in the steering column of late-model American cars, where the ignition lock is, and prevent ignition from being turned on.



Car immobilizers. Mounted in a hidden place somewhere inside the car, it acts as a time-delay ignition cutout in its *on* position.



DON'T WALK INTO DANGER

- If you must walk alone, walk briskly and look confident. Criminals look for preoccupied, less alert, less threatening victims. Your body language counts.
- Plan your route carefully and know where you're going. Vary your route when possible. Be aware of locations and situations which would make you vulnerable to crime.
- When approaching alleys or doorways, walk near the curb to avoid surprise. Be aware of what is happening around you. If you think someone is following you, do not hesitate to turn and look. You may wish to cross the street or change your pace. Be alert as to where help may be, should you need it.
- Travel with a companion whenever possible.
- Do not carry large amounts of cash anywhere. Do not flash money or wealth. You are asking for trouble.
- A woman's loose dangling purse is easy to snatch. Carry smaller purses with a cover, or clasp it next to the body. Never put a purse in a market basket or on the floor in a restaurant, restroom or theater. It can be easily snatched when you're distracted.
- Men's rear hip pockets are easiest for pick-pockets. Front coat or front pants' pockets are harder to pick.
- Keep credit cards and identification separate from money.
- Avoid laundromats and isolated public buildings if you are the only person. Avoid stairwells under the same circumstance.
- In elevators, if you are at all suspicious of another passenger, wait for the next car, or get off at the next floor.
- Don't allow your actions, speech or dress to evoke danger.



IF YOU ARE ATTACKED

Money can be replaced. So can possessions. Your life and health cannot. Most police suggest the best defense against harm from a confrontation with a criminal is to comply with demands for money and valuables. Do not move suddenly or insult, threaten or provoke an assailant. Only if your life is in danger by a vicious criminal attack should you attempt physical restraint. Then, if possible, scream and try to get away.

- If you are apprehensive about a situation, it is better to move or run away (if necessary, into a street or public place) if you can. If chased, scream if possible. Some authorities feel yelling "Fire!" will tend to cause more people to respond.
- Carrying firearms or injurious weapons for use against criminals not only frequently injures innocent people but could be used by an assailant against you. There are also risks of legal problems if you improperly use such a weapon.

car it was, the rancher said he saw some men pulling it down another road with their car several minutes earlier. "Hop in," he said. "We'll see if we can catch them!"

Without further thought the two boys, the dog and I jumped into the back of the truck and roared down to the road where the rancher had last seen my car.

Then I began to think. What was I going to do if we did catch up with the car thieves? What if they were armed and violent? I didn't want us to have our lives endangered.

The rancher had great persistence. He didn't see the vehicles on the road where he saw them last. So he turned and sped down another. Then another. Then he stopped to ask farm laborers in a field if they had seen a car being towed. They hadn't. "They had to go the other way!" he said. So we sped down another road and looked. We had traveled several miles by now.

Finally, after I felt the effort was futile, we came to an isolated field with high brush. As we passed a narrow road cutting into it, suddenly I glimpsed my car with another car before it. Four men were starting to strip my car.

I jumped out of the truck, dog at heels and dashed in there on the run. Three of the car thieves tore off into brush that to me looked impenetrable with brambles and thorns. They paid a painful penalty.

The remaining car thief stood there shaken and frightened. He was astounded we found them. I did not threaten him in any way, but I did firmly order him to put my car wheels back on, put gas back into the tank and put things stripped out of the trunk back in order.

Fortunately, because of the strong hood lock put on after the battery theft, the car thieves tried but couldn't open the hood to steal or damage critical engine parts.

Then I ran face to face with another all-too-frequent situation experienced by victims of crime. The rancher said if I reported the incident I would have nothing but a lot of red tape, and with justice as it

is, the car thieves would soon be back, possibly seeking to do me harm. Besides, he said, we needed to get out of there because the fleeing thieves could be circling back with weapons.

The situation dictated we should, indeed, get out of there fast. We let the almost-successful car thief go with a strong warning.

Before departing, the helpful rancher turned to me and said, "You know: It's a miracle you got your car back! I had mine stolen but I never got it back!"

I agreed with him. I knew the recovery of my car intact was more than just good luck. I was providentially helped out of a potentially costly and troublesome problem.

Hard Lessons

These two experiences with crime caused me to rethink how changing social and economic problems are altering moral attitudes and crime patterns. It taught me I had to be much more careful than I had been.

I had not realized crime was much of a problem away from the city. But now it is. Rural crime is growing.

Again, I didn't think a car thief would be interested in a car several years old. I was wrong. Car thieves are interested in stripping anything of value they can get their hands on, even though they probably would only get a small amount of money for any item.

I saw how easy it was to punch out an ordinary trunk lock. Or rip off even a locking gas cap. Or to drop a wire between the windows and door frame to pull up the ordinary knobbed door lock latch.

My car had no strong wheel lock. There was no hidden ignition cutoff switch. There was no horn or alarm to announce forced entry or movement. Such devices are useful to deter forced car entry and theft. I also realize that many newer cars simply are not hardened as they should be to discourage theft.

Others Not So Fortunate

Many *Plain Truth* readers, I'm sure, have had similar or much worse experiences with crime and

criminals, or know of others who have.

The media are filled with numerous accounts of losses of prized possessions or costly equipment when homes or businesses are broken into with relative ease, simply because the owners didn't take basic security measures. In addition, sometimes emotional trauma and suffering are caused when mates or children are criminally threatened or assaulted—even in broad daylight.

In more cities in recent months, police have had to warn citizens to lock cars at all times. Car drivers are told to keep purses or valuable items hidden from view even while they are in the car. Do not leave valuable possessions on car seats, say police. Incidents are increasing of men and women, waiting in their cars at stoplights, being robbed or assaulted because brazen criminals size up a vulnerable situation. They simply open an unlocked car door or smash a window to seize what they want before the startled occupants can respond.

It Can Happen to You

We may not always be able to prevent every incident of crime or theft. But we should do what we can to avoid making ourselves or our property appear an easy target.

While professional thieves are capable of breaking through any barrier if they believe a large haul is involved, most thieves or criminals look for the easiest, most vulnerable targets. They don't want attention drawn to themselves. They don't like to take a long time to do their dirty work. If too much time and noise or risks and obstacles are involved, they would rather go elsewhere.

In Britain, a study of robbed households found one in four left windows open at night. Four out of five did not tell police they would be on holiday (vacation). More than half did not lock up their valuables. And one in five did not cancel newspapers and milk when they were away.

Nearly 25 million American households experienced a theft or violent crime in 1982. Wealthier,

urban and black households were found to be the most vulnerable, said a recent U.S. Justice Department report. One fifth of U.S. households were victimized by theft in 1982. One third of urban households were touched by some type of crime last year.

What a horrible indictment against our modern societies! God sees, and for this and other serious lawbreaking, he is going to respond (Ezek. 7:23-24).

Don't Be Careless

We must not assume we will never be a victim of crime or violence. That attitude, say police, is exactly what makes a crime victim.

Neither should we become unbalanced by fearing crime at every corner. The way to cope with the possibility of crime is to take positive steps to avoid being an easy target. And if we are also diligent to please and obey God we can have his extra help to pre-

vent or deliver us from crime situations (Ps. 34:7).

Prevention means taking time to think and plan how to avoid potentially dangerous crime areas or situations. It may also mean spending a little money for appropriate strong locks or security devices for doors and windows. Such expenses need not be exorbitant. Police departments often have free detailed suggestions on how to simply but effectively make your home or possessions more secure. Police say they alone cannot deter crime. Only together with an alert concerned citizenry can this be done.

On the previous pages are fundamental steps you can take to help prevent yourself, loved ones and property from being an easy target for criminals. Further research on how to do so is, of course, recommended. Our free booklet *Crime Can Be Stopped—Here's How* offers added crime prevention measures. □

HISTORY

(Continued from page 12)

power will be damaged almost beyond repair.

The "Terrible Time"

Frederick II dies in 1250. He is the last of the great Hohenstaufens. With his death, the Empire crumbles.

The last of the German Hohenstaufen dynasty (not crowned, however, as Emperor) is Conradin, grandson of Frederick II. In 1265 the Pope forms an alliance with Charles of Anjou, the brother of the king of France, in which he offers Charles the kingdom of Sicily as a reward for ridding Italy of the Hohenstaufens. By 1268 the Hohenstaufen forces are defeated. Young Conradin is beheaded in the public marketplace at Naples for treason.

The Papacy has won its victory over the Hohenstaufens. The dynasty is extinct. But the Papal victory has brought political instability to Germany. Germany becomes more a geographical term than a nation. It is a loose confederation of separate princes. The German king has become one of the weakest territorial rulers on the Continent.

The Great Interregnum (1254-1273), as this period will be known to history, is a stormy and confused period. It is the *kaiserlose, schreckliche Zeit*—"the terrible time without an emperor."

Western Europe is now about to enter a new phase.

The Great Interregnum comes to an end in 1273. In that year, the imperial crown is revived and given to the Austrian Count Rudolf of Habsburg. The Empire now has an Austrian head.

Rudolf's ancestors had built a family castle in Switzerland in the 11th century. They had called it *Habichtsburg*—Castle of the Hawk. Hence, the word *Habsburg*.

Rudolf is the first Habsburg to ascend the imperial throne. He will succeed in establishing some degree of order within the Empire.

The House of Habsburg will play a leading role in European affairs for centuries to come. The ideal of universal rule—unity under a single authority—is by no means dead.

(Next Month: "The Rise of Habsburg") □

CRIME

WILL YOU BE ITS NEXT VICTIM?

Crime is everybody's problem today. Murder, rape, robbery, white-collar and corporate crime, government corruption—the list goes on. How can you protect yourself against this growing scourge? And—could you become a criminal yourself? You need to read our free booklet *Crime Can Be Stopped* . . . Here's How! For your copy just use the literature request card in this issue or write to our Plain Truth office nearest you.

CRIME CAN BE STOPPED

Here's How!

INTERNATIONAL DESK

(Continued from page 14)

right. Or just because learned men question something Jesus said, it doesn't therefore become suspect.

Scholars have questioned whether Jesus was really the Son of God, or even whether he existed. Ministers have openly debated whether he actually did die on the cross. Today we have theologians who have suggested that God is after all not *all* powerful. They think that he would *like* to do something about this awful world, but he can't. He lacks the power to combat the overwhelming evil.

This kind of nonsense is being advanced by some who claim to be Christian teachers. The apostle Paul described them well—ever learning but never coming to the truth! The trouble is, they take

others down with them. Like that woman in Austria.

I hope what I told her gave her some of her faith back.

I explained to her that the clear words of hope that she had once read in the Bible *were still there*. But I also warned her that before she "bought a line" from a teacher, she had better check if he is telling the truth.

In matters of religious belief, a person had better be sure of where he stands. During centuries past an honest man had to consider carefully what he believed. In the casual religious climate of the West today, we can get away with being nonchalant and superficial. But we are again coming to a point in history when religion will be of great consequence. If we are to believe Bible prophecy (do we?), millions are going to be deceived, and will be caught up in a massive lie. Thus, Jesus Christ is

coming again—in spite of those who say he isn't. Tragically, millions who believe themselves to be devout Christians will resist him with the full fury of modern warfare. They will have been told that he is the Antichrist—and *they will have believed it*, having accepted someone else as the Christ.

Could you be among them? You could—if you are not basing the things you believe on a sure foundation of truth.

For 50 years, this magazine has claimed to be *The Plain Truth*. Yet editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong has always said, "Don't just believe us—check it up in your Bible." In other words, make sure what you believe is the truth.

Today, it will mean a renewed faith, confidence and peace of mind.

Tomorrow, it may mean life itself.

—John Halford

Conservative World

(Continued from page 7)

unity of purpose and its ability to bring together political parties which share common ideals." All admirable—from an idealistic point of view.

Precious Little Liberty!

International freedom, justice and liberty were basic themes of these meetings. But in truth there is precious little of these commodities left in the world. In general, totalitarianism reigns in the world. Politically speaking, millions upon millions of human beings experience few personal freedoms.

True, human beings do join themselves together with other human beings. They associate themselves with others to accomplish a common purpose. But that purpose that is common to them is often at variance with the goals of another group or groups.

The Coming of a World

Human groups are in a constant state of confusion. Some members are always splitting off to form other groups. And the purposes, aims and goals of any one group tend to change over time. In the end it seems people unite to eventually divide.



At the birth of the International Democrat Union (IDU), its leaders claimed the support of 150 million people, double the support of the Socialist International. These figures mean little in the world of international politics.

Only the eternal God can bring order out of all this chaos. This is the promise of all the prophets in the Holy Bible. The Word of God speaks of "*the times of restitution of all things*, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21). The overriding purpose of this magazine is to herald that future world government—a

utopian state with superhuman rulers who will finally unite this divided world through a common purpose.

Jesus said to pray, "Thy Kingdom come!" When that happens God's government will "girdle the earth with a great dominion of mind and spirit." Then the world will "have a new birth of freedom." □

"THE WORLD TOMORROW"

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of *The World Tomorrow* on TELEVISION and RADIO.



TELEVISION LOG

Listed by state or province are the station's call letters, location, channel number and time when *The World Tomorrow* program is aired.

U.S.

ALABAMA

WBRC, Birmingham — 6, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WOWL, Florence — 15, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WHNT, Huntsville — 19, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WCOV, Montgomery — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

ALASKA

KTVA, Anchorage — 11, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVF, Fairbanks — 11, 11:00 p.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KNAZ, Flagstaff — 2, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KTVK, Phoenix — 3, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KVOA, Tucson — 4, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

ARKANSAS

KTVE, El Dorado — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KTVP, Fayetteville — 29, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KHBS, Ft. Smith — 40, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KARK, Little Rock — 4, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

CALIFORNIA

KBAK, Bakersfield — 29, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
KJEO, Fresno — 47, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KHJ, Los Angeles — 9, 10:00 p.m., Sun.
KTTV, Los Angeles — 11, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVU, Oakland — 2, 8:00 a.m., Sat.
KQVR, Sacramento — 13, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KSBW, Salinas — 8, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KCST, San Diego — 39, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KSBY, San Luis Obispo — 6, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

COLORADO

KRDO, Colorado Springs — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KOA, Denver — 4, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KWGN, Denver — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
KTVS, Sterling — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

CONNECTICUT

WVIT, W. Hartford — 30, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WDVM, Washington — 9, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WBBH, Ft. Myers — 20, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WTLV, Jacksonville — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WTVJ, Miami — 4, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WEAR, Pensacola — 3, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WCTV, Tallahassee — 6, 12:00 noon, Sun.
WPEC, W. Palm Beach — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WXFL, Tampa — 8, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WESH, Winter Park — 2, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

GEORGIA

WTSG, Albany — 31, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WXIA, Atlanta — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WTBS, Atlanta — 17, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WAGT, Augusta — 26, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WRBL, Columbus — 3, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WMAZ, Macon — 13, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WTOG, Savannah — 11, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WVGA, Valdosta — 44, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

HAWAII

KIKU, Honolulu — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

IDAHO

KBCI, Boise — 2, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

ILLINOIS

WICD, Champaign — 15, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WCIU, Chicago — 26, 10:30 p.m., Sat.
WFLD, Chicago — 32, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WGN, Chicago — 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
WSIL, Harrisburg — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WQAD, Moline — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WEEK, Peoria — 25, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KHQA, Quincy — 7, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WTVO, Rockford — 17, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WICS, Springfield — 20, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WTVW, Evansville — 7, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WKJG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WTHR, Indianapolis — 13, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WTWO, Terre Haute — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

IOWA

WOI, Des Moines — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KIMT, Mason City — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KWWL, Waterloo — 7, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

KUPK, Garden City — 13, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KCTV, Kansas City — 5, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KAKE, Wichita — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KENTUCKY

WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WAVE, Louisville — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 11:30 p.m., Sat.
KATC, Lafayette — 3, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KTAL, Shreveport — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

MAINE

WVIL, Bangor — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WGAN, Portland — 13, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WHAG, Hagerstown — 25, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

MASSACHUSETTS

WCDC, Adams — 19, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBK, Boston — 38, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WGGW, Springfield — 40, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WUHQ, Battle Creek — 41, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WTOM, Cheboygan — 4, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WZZM, Grand Rapids — 13, 12:00 noon, Sun.
WILX, Lansing — 10, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WJBK, Southfield — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WPBN, Traverse City — 7, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

KDLH, Duluth — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KMSP, Minneapolis — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
KSTP, St. Paul — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

MISSISSIPPI

WLOX, Biloxi — 13, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WAPT, Jackson — 16, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

MISSOURI

KRCG, Jefferson City — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KODE, Joplin — 12, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KPOB, Poplar Bluff — 15, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
KOLR, Springfield — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KPLR, St. Louis — 11, 10:30 p.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KCNA, Albion — 8, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KHGI, Kearney — 13, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KMTV, Omaha — 3, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
KDUH, Scottsbluff — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KSTF, Scottsbluff — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KSNB, Superior — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

NEVADA

KLAS, Las Vegas — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
KOLO, Reno — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

WMUR, Manchester — 9, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KGGM, Albuquerque — 13, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KSWO, Roswell — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WTEN, Albany — 10, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WBNG, Binghamton — 12, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
WGRZ, Buffalo — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WENY, Elmira — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WNEW, New York — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
WOR, New York — 9, 9:30 p.m., Sun.
WOKR, Rochester — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WIXT, Syracuse — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WPCQ, Charlotte — 36, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WRAL, Raleigh — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WITN, Washington — 7, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WWAY, Wilmington — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WXII, Winston-Salem — 12, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

NORTH DAKOTA

WDAZ, Devil's Lake — 8, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
WDAY, Fargo — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WAKR, Akron — 23, 11:15 p.m., Sun.
WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
WUAB, Cleveland — 43, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WBNS, Columbus — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WDTN, Dayton — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
WDHO, Toledo — 24, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
WYTV, Youngstown — 33, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

OKLAHOMA

KTEN, Ada — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
KOKH, Oklahoma City — 25, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
KOKI, Tulsa — 23, 11:00 p.m., Sun.

OREGON

KOIN, Portland — 6, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KMTR, Springfield — 16, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

PENNSYLVANIA

WTAJ, Altoona — 10, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WSEE, Erie — 35, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WLYH, Lebanon — 15, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WPHL, Philadelphia — 17, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WPXI, Pittsburgh — 11, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
WNEP, Wilkes Barre — 16, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WPRI, Providence — 12, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WCBD, Charleston — 2, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

WIS, Columbia — 10, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

WPDE, Florence — 15, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

WYFF, Greenville — 4, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

SOUTH DAKOTA

KHSD, Lead — 11, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

KOTA, Rapid City — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

KDLT, Sioux Falls — 5, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WDEF, Chattanooga — 12, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WKPT, Kingsport — 19, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

WTVK, Knoxville — 26, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WPTY, Memphis — 24, 9:30 p.m., Sun.

WNGE, Nashville — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

TEXAS

KAMR, Amarillo — 4, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

KTXA, Arlington — 21, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

KTVV, Austin — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

KWAB, Big Springs — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

KZTV, Corpus Christi — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KTSN, El Paso — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

KGBT, Harlingen — 4, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

KPRC, Houston — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

KCBD, Lubbock — 11, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

KTRE, Lufkin — 9, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

KTPX, Midland — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

KJAC, Port Arthur — 4, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KENS, San Antonio — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

KLTU, Tyler — 7, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

KFDX, Wichita Falls — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

UTAH

KUTV, Salt Lake — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

VERMONT

WVNY, Burlington — 22, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

VIRGINIA

WVIR, Charlottesville — 29, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

WVEC, Norfolk — 13, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

WXEX, Richmond — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WSLS, Roanoke — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KNDU, Richland — 25, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

KIRO, Seattle — 7, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

KXLY, Spokane — 4, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

KCPQ, Tacoma — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

KNDO, Yakima — 23, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA

WOWK, Huntington — 13, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

WISCONSIN

WQOW, Eau Claire — 18, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WLWK, Green Bay — 11, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WXOW, La Crosse — 19, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WKOW, Madison — 27, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WITI, Milwaukee — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WAEO, Rhineland — 12, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WAOW, Wausau — 9, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WYOMING

KCWY, Casper — 14, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

KYCU, Cheyenne — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KSGW, Sheridan — 12, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

CANADA**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

CJDC, Dawson Creek — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

CJFC, Kamloops — 4, 9:00 a.m., Sat.

CHBC, Okanagan — 2, 9:00 a.m., Sat.

CKPG, Prince George — 2, 8:00 a.m., Sat.

CFTK, Terrace-Kitimat — 3, 8:00 a.m., Sat.

CHAN, Vancouver — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CHEK, Victoria — 12, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

ALBERTA

CFAC, Calgary — 2, 5:30 a.m., Wed.

CHAT, Medicine Hat — 6, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

CKRD, Red Deer — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

KXLY, Spokane — 4, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

SASKATCHEWAN

CKSA, Lloydminster — 2, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

CKTV, Regina — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

CFQC, Saskatoon — 8, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

CJFB, Swift Current — 5, 10:30 a.m., Sat.

CKOS, Yorkton — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

MANITOBA

CKX, Brandon — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

CKND, Winnipeg — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

ONTARIO

CKVR, Barrie — 3, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

WGRZ, Buffalo — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

CKNY, North Bay — 9, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CJOH, Ottawa — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CJIC, Sault Ste. Marie — 13, 11:30 a.m., Sat.

GLOBAL, Southern Ontario — 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.

CICI, Sudbury — 5, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CKPR, Thunder Bay — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CITO, Timmins — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

QUEBEC

CFCE, Montreal — 12, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

ATLANTIC CANADA

WVIL, Bangor — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CJCH, Halifax, N.S. — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

CKCW, Moncton, N.B. — 2, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

CHSJ, St. John, N.B. — 4, 12:00 noon, Sun.

CKLT, St. John, N.B. — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

NTV, St. John's, Nfld. — 6, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

CJCB, Sydney, N.S. — 4, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

AUSTRALIA**A.C.T.**

CTC7, Canberra — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.

NEW SOUTH WALES

AMV4, Albury — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

WIN11, Bateman's Bay — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WIN6, Bega — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WIN3, Broker's Nose — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

CTC10, Cooma — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.

CMV10, Deniliquin — 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WIN3, Eden — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

CTC10, Goulburn — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.

GMV8, Jerilderie — 9:30 a.m., Sun.

AMV4, Khancoban — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

NBN10, Merriwa — 6:25 a.m., Sun.

NBN1, Murrumbidgee — 6:25 a.m., Sun.

WIN11, Narooma — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

NBN3, Newcastle — 6:25 a.m., Sun.

NBN10, Rossgole — 6:25 a.m., Sun.

TEN10, Sydney — 6:30 a.m., Sun.

CTC10, Tuggeranong — 7:30 a.m., every second Sun.

RVN2, Wagga Wagga — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

WIN4, Wollongong — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

RVN6, Young — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

NTD8, Darwin — 10:00 a.m., Sun.

QUEENSLAND

QTQ9, Brisbane — 6:00 a.m., Wed.

SEQ1, Gympie — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

DDQ10, Kingaroy — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SEQ8, Maryborough — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SEQ5, Monto — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SEQ10, Nambour — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

DDQ5A, Toowoomba — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SDQ4, Warwick — 11:30 a.m., Sun.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SAS10, Adelaide — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

TASMANIA

TNT10, Burnie — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT11, Derby — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT48, Devonport — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TVT6, Hobart — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TNT9, Launceston — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT6, Lileah — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TVT8, Maydena — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TNT11, Prospect — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TVT8, Queenstown — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TVT10, Rosebery — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TNT7, St. Helens — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT11, St. Marys — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT7, Savage River — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT11, Smithton — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TVT8, Strathgordon — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TVT8, Swansea — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TVT8, Tarooma — 10:00 a.m., Tues.

TNT11, Waratah — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

TNT5A, Wynyard — 10:30 a.m., Tues.

VICTORIA

GMV10, Alexandra — 9:30 a.m., Sun.

BTW6, Ballarat — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

AMV11, Bright — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

GMV3, Eildon — 9:30 a.m., Sun.

ATV10, Melbourne — 6:00 a.m., Sun.

AMV9, Myrtleford — 10:20 a.m., Sun.

BTW7, Nhili — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

BTW11, Portland — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

GMV6, Shepparton — 9:30 a.m., Sun.

BTW9, Warrnambool — 8:00 a.m., Sun.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GSW9, Albany — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

BTW3, Bunbury — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

VEW8, Kalgoorlie — 5:00 p.m., Sun.

VEW3, Kambalda — 5:00 p.m., Sun.

BTW10, Katanning — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

VEW6, Merredin — 5:00 p.m., Sun.

BTW6, Narrogin — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

BTW6, Quairading — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

VEW63, Tammin — 5:00 p.m., Sun.

BTW11, Wagin — 8:30 a.m., Sun.

VEW47, York — 5:00 p.m., Sun.

PHILIPPINES**LUZON**

Baguio — RPN Chan. 12, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Bayombong — RPN Chan. 7, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Iriga — RPN Chan. 10, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Legazpi — GMA Chan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.

Legazpi — RPN Chan. 2, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Metro-Manila — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Metro Manila — GMA Chan. 7, 8:30 a.m. Sat., 9:30 a.m. Sun.

Palawan — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

MINDANAO

Butuan — RPN Chan. 12, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Cagayan de Oro — GMA Chan. 12, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.

Cagayan de Oro — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Cotabato — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Davao — GMA Chan. 7, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.

Davao — RPN Chan. 4, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Iligan — GMA Chan. 2, 9:30 a.m., Sat. and Sun.

Jolo — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Marbel — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Oroquieta — RPN Chan. 13, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Ozamis — RPN Chan. 13, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Pagadian — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Surigao — RPN Chan. 13, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Zamboanga — GMA Chan. 3, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 8:00 a.m., Sun.

Zamboanga — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

VISAYAS

Antique — RPN Chan. 6, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Bacolod — RPN Chan. 8, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Bagacay — RPN Chan. 4, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Cebu — GMA Chan. 7, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; 9:00 a.m., Sun.

Cebu — RPN Chan. 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Dumaguete — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

Tacloban — RPN Chan. 5, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

CARIBBEAN

Bermuda, ZFB-TV (Eng) Hamilton — 8, 7:30 p.m., Wed.

Bahamas, ZNS-TV, Nassau — 13, 1:00 p.m., Sun.

Jamaica, JBC-TV, Kingston — 11, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

Puerto Rico — San Juan Cable TV WGN, Chicago 5, 8:30 a.m., Sat.; WOR, New York 9, 9:30 p.m. Sun., WTBS, Atlanta, 13, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

Virgin Is., (U.S.A.) WSVI, Christiansted, St. Croix — Ch 8, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

Trinidad and Tobago TV — 9 and 14, 6:00 p.m., Sun.

OTHER AREAS

Central America, TVTV, Belize — Ch 7, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

Guam, KUAM, Agaña 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

Luxembourg, RTL Radio/Television 11:05 p.m. Fri.

Monaco, TMC, Monte-Carlo — 10, 5:15 p.m., Sun.

See next issue for radio log.

NOISE POLLUTION

It's More than Meets the Ear!

by Clayton Steep

High noise levels are not just disagreeable—they are injurious to health and peace of mind.

"SILENCE is golden," says an old German proverb. And for the millions packed together in urban sprawls, silence is indeed becoming as valued as the precious metal.

Harried city dwellers are subjected to the confused din of autos, buses and trucks, the rumble of trains, the wail of sirens, the jolt of jackhammers, the roar of jet planes, the noises of industry, commerce, construction and demolition. And all the other activities that are part of today's city life.

The suburbs aren't necessarily quiet havens either. Starting with the jangle of the alarm clock in the morning, the eardrums may be assaulted throughout the day with strident, nerve-racking sonic dissonance coming from household appliances, TVs, stereos, power lawn mowers, chain saws, garbage trucks, passing motor bikes and, oh yes, the incessant yapping of the neighbor's dog.

"Our society is driving itself nuts with noise," declared Dr. T. Carlin, director of the Speech and Hearing Institute at the University of Texas Health Service Center. Noise pollution, he said, cannot only be blamed for loss of hearing, but also brings about other physical ailments, stress in

marriage, a letdown in worker productivity and "all in all makes life miserable" (AP interview by Rob Wood).

What Is "Noise" Anyway?

For convenience, let's make a distinction between sounds and noise. There are many sounds that are beautiful, peaceful, awe-inspiring, edifying. These are pleasant to hear. There are other sounds that are not necessarily beautiful, but which are acceptable by-products of human activity. Then there is noise. Noise, as someone once wrote, is any undesired sound. It is sound at the wrong time and in the wrong place.

A dog barking as it cavorts across the countryside is an understandable and acceptable sound. In the middle of the night, 10 feet from a bedroom window in a city, a dog's barking is an aggravating noise.

For the most part, noise is the result of human activity. Why is the dog barking 10 feet from a bedroom window instead of out in a field where it would rather be? Because it is tied up or otherwise trapped in circumstances of human devising—a part of city life.

Whenever people are crowded together into cities, the noise made by some disturbs others. It is nothing new. The poet Decimus Junius Juvenalis commented on conditions in ancient Rome: "Insomnia causes more deaths

amongst Roman invalids than any other factor. . . . How much sleep, I ask you, can one get in lodgings here? Unbroken nights—and this is the root of the trouble—are a rich man's privilege. The wagons thundering past through those narrow twisting streets . . . would suffice to jolt the doziest sea-cow of an emperor into permanent wakefulness."

Today, in addition to the noise of modern traffic, we have to endure a deafening tumult from a multitude of modern mass-produced mechanical noisemakers.

Emotional and Physical Effects

Sound is measured in decibels. A prolonged noise level of from 65 to 80 decibels puts a severe strain on the ears. A short period of more than 90 decibels can damage the hearing. Tiny hairs in the hearing mechanism, once destroyed by excessive noise, never grow back. The damage is permanent.

You think you are not exposed to excessive noise in today's technologically oriented society? Well, a vacuum cleaner registers about 70 decibels; a hair dryer, 100; a garbage disposal, 80; a power mower, 90 to 100; an average factory, 85; an electric shaver, 90; heavy traffic at 25 feet, 90; a motorcycle at 50 feet, 80 or more; a jet plane at takeoff, 150; a typical disco, 120. Daily exposure at lower but constant levels, from air conditioners, freeways or other

background noise, can over a long period cause hearing loss ranging from slight to total deafness.

But excessive noise does more than damage the delicate hearing mechanism. It has been found to affect the nervous system, the endocrine system, the stomach and emotions. Likewise there is indication that noise adversely affects the heart and blood vessels, causing high blood pressure and an increase of the cholesterol level.

Sudden noise, such as a car backfiring or fireworks, can cause a jump in pulse rates and blood pressure, muscular contractions and changes in the flow of digestive juices. Noise sets nerves on edge. It produces stress emotionally and physically.

It is becoming increasingly recognized that the noises of civilization are partly responsible for the diseases of civilization. Still, some people, more often than not young people, enjoy noise—at least they think they enjoy it. But chances are they've known nothing else. To them noise is often synonymous with power. A loud motorcycle or automobile says, "Look at my power, everybody!" and in some cases even serves as a kind of mating call.

The deafening (literally!) audio level at which disco or rock music is usually played has an actual physical impact on the body. While it may be interpreted as being powerful and desirable, it is far from that. Dr. Carlin said he went to a disco with two deaf friends. "I was going to tell them I had to leave because the noise was hurting. They left first be-

Noise sets nerves on edge. It produces stress emotionally and physically.

cause the decibel count was so high they felt pain in major organs of their body [*sic*] although they could not hear."

Young or old, we are victims of more than the noise we can hear. Many machines produce noise above or below the range of human hearing. Even though our ears cannot pick up these noises, they too may affect the body, bringing about such symptoms as headaches, nausea, loss of equilibrium and fatigue.

What Can You Do?

Unless you attempt to flee to the country, miles from civilization, foregoing all of its loud gadgets, you cannot completely escape harmful noise. But to some degree you can lessen its effects.

Here are some of the recommendations of various experts who have studied the problem of noise pollution:

- 1) Avoid wherever possible subjecting yourself to loud noise.
- 2) Keep background noise to a minimum.
- 3) Keep doors and windows closed when there is a lot of outside noise.
- 4) Use heavier draperies, weather stripping and other noise deadening materials.
- 5) Have ear plugs available for use when needed.

There are laws on the books in many areas that, if enforced, would cut down on some noise. Enforcement, however,

is a problem. The police are too busy chasing criminals to answer a "loud stereo" complaint. The reply one police department gave demonstrated its frustration. When a caller complained because a neighbor had set up an amplified drum set in his backyard, the police officer asked, "What do you want us to do about it?" "Well," the caller remarked, "can't you get him for disturbing the peace?" To which the policeman responded, "He's not disturbing *our* peace!"

The real solution to the noise problem involves a fundamental change in the way society functions. Speaking about the harmful effects of noise, Dr. Carlin stated, "Adults should know better, but it is the children I worry about. With the loud music, the other noise pollution, the future doesn't look good for them unless their values are turned around."

The values of the whole world do need to be turned around. So much needless stress from noise could be eliminated if people would just be considerate of others. Keeping the stereo turned down, keeping the dog quiet, not honking the horn or squealing the tires without reason, not revving the engine. Just plain unselfish consideration. Rare in this world.

The other basic step in solving the problem is to eliminate harmful noises at their point of origin by designing products and using procedures that do not exceed realistic, enforced noise level standards.

That's the way it will be in the world tomorrow. When society is set up to run God's way, there will be thoughtful planning against injurious side effects from human endeavors. There will be plenty of joyful sounds, but nerve-racking, harmful noise will no longer be a factor in people's lives.

God describes that time this way: "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places" (Isa. 32:17-18). □



Last War

(Continued from page 4)

will break the pride of your power" [Lev. 26:19] . . .

"The United States has stopped winning wars. . . . America was unable, with all its vast power, to conquer little North Vietnam! The United States is fast riding to the greatest fall that ever befell any nation!" (Write for your free copy of Mr. Armstrong's book today if you haven't read it.)

It is high time that we understood why the United States no longer enjoys God's protection and "strong arm" in battle, once very evident.

Of America today God exclaims, "Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters!" (Isa. 1:4, RAV throughout.)

God says of the nation, in verse 5, that "the whole head"—meaning its governing apparatus—"is sick" and that "the whole heart"—referring to its national soul and morale—"faints."

Of American society, God further says, "From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores."

Concerning America's low moral standing, God refers, with few exceptions, to its leaders and its citizens in explicit terms. "You rulers of Sodom," God thunders, "you people of Gomorrah."

Full-length magazine articles sympathetic to "homosexual rights" proclaim that a "new maturity" is occurring in the nation's homosexual community.

Homosexuals, it is editorialized, are on the verge of "real political gains in the 1980s."

Meanwhile, an unsure public and its officialdom—even much of the clergy—afraid of being labeled as prejudiced, fail to speak out on practices God clearly condemns as abominable (Lev. 18:22).

A retired U.S. Congressman claimed that homosexuals are high up in government, business, the professions—even the clergy itself.

"So what?" he commented. "We are everywhere."

The nation is being leavened with this and other deplorable sins such as

pornography, drug addiction and abortion. Meanwhile, God says that he is taking away "the mighty man and the man of war . . . the captain of fifty and the honorable man" (Isa. 3:2-3).

People of stature who could lead the country out of its impending doom are fast fading from the scene. "O My people!" God exclaims. "Those who lead you cause you to err, and destroy the way of your paths."

God's Warning Apparent

God is dealing with a sin-laden America in a way that few realize yet—but all will soon see clearly enough!

Back again to Central America, there is still residual pride in some quarters in the projection of U.S. power. Some believe events in Central America offer the opportunity to "refight the Vietnam War." The United States will win this time, they contend, and in so doing demonstrate the resolve which was so lacking in Vietnam.

But God says otherwise. He says he will break—once and for all—the pride in the nation's power.

And in connection with this, God will bring on other calamities in order to teach a sinful nation that it is going the wrong way. Note the second half of Leviticus 26:19 quoted earlier: "I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze."

There is now every indication that the so-called "Big Drought of 1983"—which suddenly descended upon an otherwise waterlogged country—could turn into a prolonged Dust Bowl-like situation. God, whether Americans fully see it yet or not, is beginning to deal with their country in a profound manner.

Strong words? Maybe to some in

a culture that has gone soft—especially soft on sin. But God says to his *true* ministers, in Isaiah 58:1: "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your



PAOLO BOSCO—LIAISON



JOHN HOAGLAND—LIAISON

At new facility in Puerto Castilla, Honduras, U.S. advisers train government troops from El Salvador (camouflage uniforms in bottom photo). Honduran soldiers, top photo, police the base.

voice like a trumpet; tell My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

It's time for America to repent—before it's too late! □

Time Is Running Out!

(Continued from page 6)

of concern for others, to the test. It may sound simplistic in a world filled with complicated peace initiatives and selfish, territorial claims. But this is the only real way to peace in the family, among neighbors and between nations!

What nation is willing to heed this message today?

But even if the nations do not heed the way to peace, world peace is coming—and it will be imposed on mankind by the Almighty God for our own good.

Jesus Christ, the second Adam (I Cor. 15:45), unlike the first Adam, overcame Satan's every temptation (Matt. 4). He qualified to become this earth's ruler. He promised to return to this earth as "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16) to bring this world peace by restoring the government and the laws of God to this earth (Acts 3:19-21).

When Christ returns he will take charge, putting down and eliminating all opposition to God and God's way of life (Rev. 19). Satan will be then bound for 1,000 years so that he can't continue deceiving the world (Rev. 20:2).

Hate and violence will subside. Stockpiling and making military weapons will become a thing of the past. Weapons will be converted into peaceful, productive implements. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks" (Isa. 2:4).

Methods of warfare will no longer be taught. Says God, "Neither shall they learn war any more" (same verse). Instead, God's way of life will be taught from childhood. "And he will teach us of his ways" (Isa. 2:3). Knowledge about God and God's way of life will prevail worldwide. Peace in the home and among nations will reign.

What wonderful good news—the very good news or gospel (*gospel* means "good news") that Jesus brought nearly 2,000 years ago. The world has rejected that message. We announce that message in the pages of *The Plain Truth*. You have now read it. □

IN THE BIBLE?

(Continued from page 30)

example, looked like the average man of his day when he had grown up. Judas had to point him out by giving him a kiss. Why would that be necessary if Jesus had a halo?

Do Some Checking

Such terms as Christmas ("Christ's mass" or "mass of Christ"), Noel and Yuletide never appear in the Bible. There is no record in the New Testament of the early Christians celebrating Christ's birth. They commemorated Jesus' death annually in the early spring as they were commanded to do (Luke 22:19; I Cor. 11:26). But never his birth.

Even so, the Bible does talk about what has come to be called

the Christmas tree. The Christmas tree is not a modern invention. Its history goes back to distant antiquity, a few thousands of years before Jesus' birth. (Write for our free article "Christmas 2,000 Years Before Christ.") People were decorating such trees in the prophet Jeremiah's day. If you want a real surprise, read what God inspired Jeremiah to write about the practice (Jer. 10:1-5)!

And if you want to know why there are all the festivities surrounding December 25, consult the section under "Christmas" in any major encyclopedia. You will be in for quite a shock!

Isn't it high time to read and believe what the Bible really says, rather than what most people—without checking—*suppose* it says? □

CHRISTMAS

Do you know its origins?

Few people stop to think about why they believe in Christmas and its customs. How much do you know about the origin of Santa Claus—of the Christmas tree—of exchanging gifts? Can you tell if the following statements are true or false?

- T F Christmas is the birthday of Jesus Christ.
- T F The Santa Claus myth is a harmless story for children.
- T F The Christmas tree is a fairly recent innovation.
- T F Exchanging gifts stems from the wise men's example.
- T F Christmas observance, with all its traditions, honors Christ.

How do you think you did? All the statements above are false. Surprised? Our free booklet The Plain Truth About Christmas offers important facts you need to know—and preferably before December 25. For a copy, just mail the literature request card in this issue, or write to our office nearest you.

The Plain Truth
About
CHRISTMAS



NOW GENERATION

(Continued from page 21)

Society is going to *come apart at the seams* unless some fundamental changes are made in today's patterns of thinking and patterns of living.

There was a time in Britain, America and Western Europe when marriage usually meant till death do us part. People weren't perfect and neither were marriages. But, a deep sense of *responsibility* was abroad in our lands. A man's word meant something. The family was a strong unit of society. Parents felt *responsible* for their children. People saved up their money before buying a car, a washing machine or other expensive items. Most folks tried to live within their means.

WHY?

You find the answers when you read early American history, and the history of the British nations of the period. You find a great many references to "*the fear of God*," to "Divine providence," and to a *sense of purpose* in building nations, or in "winning the West."

But in our present-day selfish, hedonistic society, any real sense of purpose seems to have vanished from most people's lives. People don't know *why* they are, *what* life is supposed to be all about or *where* they are going.

The Source that Reveals Life's Purpose

Though most moderns seem unaware of it, there is a great manual for human survival. It is an instruction book sent from the Designer of the human mind and body to tell us *how* to live. It is called the Holy Bible.

In this Book of books, your Creator states, "Where there is no *VISION*, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov. 29:18).

The *correct* vision, the true understanding of why we are here and where we are headed, is vitally important to a genuinely happy and balanced life. But, cut off from the Creator, most men have *no idea* of that great purpose.

They are concerned only with "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die."

With this shallow "me generation" philosophy, they proceed to *take, get and grab* at happiness, exploiting their fellow human beings in the process. Rather than trying to *build* their marriages with outflowing love, kindness, patience and service, they seek desperately to "get" happiness from him or her—and then look on in wonderment when the agony of separation or divorce occurs.

Not knowing the sincere *JOY* of serving one another, they try to dull the pain of their emptiness and frustration by intemperate use of liquor, by various other drugs or perhaps by illicit or "kinky" sex. Having *no purpose* in life and finally realizing that the deep and abiding happiness they are searching for is *NEVER* going to be found—at least not where *they* are looking—they may ultimately "freak out" on

**The true understanding
of why we are
here and where we are
headed is vitally
important to a genuinely
happy and
balanced life.**

drugs or finally kill themselves!

The Abundant Life

Some 2,000 years ago, a great Being from another place, another time, descended through outer space and came to settle, for a little while, on planet Earth. This majestic Being emptied himself of the glory and power he had shared from eternity with God.

His name was Jesus, the son of God.

He said, "I am the *WAY*, the *truth*, and the *life*" (John 14:6).

He said, "I have kept my Father's commandments" (John 15:10).

And again, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:30).

This inspired Son of God did indeed keep his Father's commandments and find that his Father's "yoke" was easy. Understanding and truly following the Ten Com-

mandments—the great "law of liberty" (Jas. 2:12)—is indeed a happy way of life.

Knowing this, Jesus stated, "I am come that they might have *life*, and that they might have it more *ABUNDANTLY*" (John 10:10). If you follow that way, you will be deeply rewarded not only by your own happiness and *inner peace*, but by the joy, the appreciation and the returning love you will arouse in others around you.

For those who persist in following the "get and grab" philosophy of the "now generation," God says, "*The way of transgressors is hard*" (Prov. 13:15). Although they don't yet know it, their vain, selfish hedonistic society is soon coming to a sudden *END* when God intervenes in world affairs. "And . . . there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. . . . And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the [nations, original Greek text], that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:15, 18).

A wonderful world tomorrow is coming! If you begin to get the picture and want answers *in detail* that make sense, write *today* for our free booklet explaining the *WAY* of life described in this article. Send for your free copy of *The Ten Commandments*.

If you want to go even deeper, write for the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. It is a study of the Bible, the prophetic events that lie ahead and how *you* ought to be living in preparation for these momentous times. This remarkable Correspondence Course is *free* of charge to you—we only ask that you *set yourself* to study it regularly with your own Bible.

Thank God! Very soon, the "now generation" philosophy will be "gone with the wind"—replaced by a generation both understanding and experiencing the awesome *PURPOSE* being worked out here below! □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



"The Other Land of the Free"

Your article is an excellent example of the stability of old world rule. King Bhumibol of Thailand proved to the world that in the 1980s traditional values can be kept and still used proficiently side by side with modern ideals.

Loretta Lewis
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

Law Enforcement

As the Chief of the Training Division of the Western Police District, I would like to request copies of your magazines for our WPD Library.

In line with our moral regeneration program, I believe this could help as a tool in strengthening the moral fibers of our policemen in order to develop them to be "law enforcers with a heart," and to improve in their performance of their duties.

Virgilio M. Paz
P/Lt. Colonel, INP
Manila, Philippines

I wish to congratulate you on your article "What's Your Source of Protection?" in the June issue, and particularly your balanced report on the gun control issue. This provided a welcome contrast to the emotional and biased reports I have come to expect from other publications. I am only too well aware that legal controls on firearms adversely affect only the law-abiding citizen.

The crime rate in Western Australia is as high or higher than other Australian states even though gun control laws are far more stringent here. The only response from politicians and police is for more restrictions upon ordinary firearm owners and less upon criminals.

Kevin Caimanos
Albany, Australia

New Readers

It is the very first time I know that there is a free-of-charge magazine which is also colorful. Frankly speaking, such a magazine costs two portions of food in my country.

As a new subscriber of *The Plain Truth*, I want to ask you for the free booklets *Does God Exist?*, *Why Were You Born?* and *The Seven Laws of Success*.

Hadi Subianto
Bromo, Malang-Jatim
Indonesia

I am a typical teenager (17 years of age) who is involved in the search for identity. I am fascinated with the articles you're publishing in your magazine, especially those which render practical counselling.

I am also engrossed by the ideas advocated in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.

Raul A. Omana
Pateros, Metro Manila
Philippines

Last February my husband died in an encounter with the New People's Army right in our municipality. He was just promoted as officer in charge of the Bansalan police station here in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines, when the incident happened.

Now, I am left alone and very lonely, most especially when the children are all out to school. There are times when I cannot hold back my tears.

Then one evening, I came across the *Plain Truth* magazine. (I was once a free subscriber in 1979-80). Could you enter me in your subscription to *The Plain Truth* again for free?

Cesaria E. Arcenas
Bansalan, Davao del Sur
Philippines

I started getting your magazine in January. At first I didn't really look at it until I read your article on "How to Rear Happy Children." Since then I have re-looked over my back issues of *The Plain Truth* and found plenty of other good articles.

Doug Liverance
Warton, Ontario

Having been delighted with my first copy of the *Plain Truth* magazine, I thought I should simply write in to express my appreciation for a fine publication. The fact that *The Plain Truth* can continue to be circulated due to donations by readers—and by the grace of God—is indeed a wonder in this day. Please accept this small contribution which could hardly cover the value of the knowledge which *The Plain Truth* imparts.

D. Schroeder
East London, South Africa

Islam

I must put in a good word from some Islamic friends of mine, who were spellbound with the article in the June '83 issue—"Seeing the World Through Islamic Eyes." It was the first time they had ever seen an article written in the Western world with so much honest truth about their religion. Once again you've done a great job!

Roberta Boswell
Hamilton, Ontario

I have read with interest the article on Islam which appeared in the June edition of *The Plain Truth*. We welcome such a fair-minded approach to a subject in which interest is growing daily, and think that it will do much to help to create better understanding between people of different faiths.

The Islamic Council is a non-governmental independent

organization which exists to further understanding of Islam in the West. It was founded in 1973. One of its most important achievements is the Universal Islamic Declaration of Human Rights, which was proclaimed in Paris in 1981 before a widely representative audience, including many international figures. The Declaration is based entirely on the Qur'an and the Sunnah, and demonstrates a fundamental tenet of Islam by pointing out that man's rights are also his obligations. Indeed, the basic difference between this declaration and the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights, and the Western perspective in general, is that whilst the latter is what might be called man-conscious, recognizing man as the centre of all things, the Islamic perspective is God-conscious, in that man is beholden to God and must account to Him for all his actions.

Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
London

I was very impressed with your article on Islam. Your impartial and true picture on the religion to which I belong was very understanding, and I do hope many people around the world would not get the wrong impression or blame Islamic teachings for incidents that take place in violent climates like Iran.

Wahid Omardeen
Gasparillo, Trinidad

I extend my deepest appreciation for the Islamic article you printed June 1983. There was far more fairness than I had ever anticipated, since it was the first time I had ever taken the opportunity to read your magazine. I consider the article "Seeing

the World Through Islamic Eyes" as a great blessing especially since it was in circulation during the month of Ramadan.

As a Muslim, I extend my fullest appreciation once again, furthermore, that I find it extremely refreshing to know that such a source of Christians and good Christian literature still exists.

Stanley F.H. Shaheed
Atlanta, Georgia

Your article entitled "The Role of Television in the Decline of U.S. Prestige" was superb. It told me some very informative things. I never knew anything about U.S. television in foreign countries giving a distorted idea of what daily life is like in the U.S. I'm a new subscriber and already I am very impressed with the *Plain Truth* magazine!

Matt. T. Estrada
San Jose, California

Conquer Your Fears

I take this opportunity in thanking you for this wonderful magazine. Keep up the good work. I especially enjoyed the article you published entitled "You Can Conquer Your Fears." I hope to see many more similar articles especially on the human mind.

Mrs. Budhram
Pietermaritzburg,
South Africa

General Comments

Please continue to supply me *Plain Truth* for another year. Its unconventional, logical and convincing messages reflected through various articles distinguishes it from the rest of the innumerable printed pages flooding the troubled world today.

Dr. N.S. Jodha
Sr. Economist
Icrisat Patancheru
India

Referring to your article in *Plain Truth* (July-August) about Australia: We here most strongly object to the absurd idea that this country is "condemned," alongside England and America, both of

whom have violated, suppressed, plundered and corrupted people in other countries all over the world.

D. Taylor
Brisbane, Australia

Being an insurance broker, I have to visit the homes and offices of many people and am amazed and glad to see the copies of *The Plain Truth* in those places. These people are not even Christians, but are Muslims or Hindus.

Davis R. Ephraim
Montreal, Quebec

I am not working away from home any more. I have been promoted from secretary to domestic engineer, hopefully for good. But I want at this time to say what a privilege it has been to tithe. That will be the only thing I will miss about working outside my home.

Myrna Hargrave
Cochrane, Alberta

Correspondence Course

... As for your Bible Course, well I don't think that would be for me, as I am a Catholic. But I noticed that your magazine is very fair with all religions. I enjoy your magazine, especially the articles on the different religions in Europe and the Middle East. I never understood much about them but your magazine explains them quite well.

Clair McKenrick
Chatham, New Brunswick

I think I should be allowed space in your fast-growing magazine to encourage readers to enroll in the Bible Course. I personally appreciate the way the course is compiled. The course is simple and straightforward and it's the most up-to-date and realistic Bible study. Also, it relates the prophecies of God to the happenings of the present age. I really appreciate your services.

Fortune M. Jones
Lueve, Bulawayo
Zimbabwe

I must let you know that even though I've been through

the material just once, it has been and continues to be an eye-opening and thrilling experience. I started the first lesson of the Correspondence Course last night and I couldn't put it down.

Stephen T. Wheeler
Mississauga, Ontario

Czechoslovakia

People reading the article on life in Czechoslovakia get a wrong impression of the nation under communism.

People do not wait in queues for simple purchases just because of a bureaucratic distribution system but because of the whole economic and social system; the working morale is low and the productivity is low. A very high proportion of national product in communist countries (higher than in the West) is spent on the production of arms.

The writer mentioned that Czechoslovakia was "liberated" from the Nazis by the Soviet Army. However, it should have been mentioned that in May 1945 units of Patton's army reached the outskirts of Prague but had to withdraw since Stalin insisted that the Red Army must enter Prague first!

R. Kratochvil
Torrens, Australia

Communication with the Dead

The article by Keith Stump, "Communication with the Dead—Is It Possible?" has been particularly helpful to me. Your magazine will be a springboard to a new life-style.

Arnold Banda
Cwaka Agric. College
Empangeni, South Africa

Good for Food?

This refers to the article in your July/August issue entitled "Is All Animal Flesh Good for Food?" I was amazed to learn that clams, oysters, lobsters, shrimp as well as bacon, ham, etc., are prohibited by the Bible.

If we all adhered to this type of abstaining, the pork as well as the seafood industries' restaurants would meet with a national catastrophe.

I would be interested in learning the views of other theologians on this subject.

Eugene Krebs
Staten Island, New York

"World Tomorrow" Program

I watched your show for the first time this Sunday. I often asked myself what was wrong with the world today. Seeing what the *Plain Truth* magazine is all about, I know that it will help me see the world with a clearer vision.

Stella M.F. Chiu
San Francisco del Monte
Quezon City, Philippines

I watch you through television. I myself am Hindu in belief but your words and saying are attracting me.

I appreciate highly what you have offer through television and I always make time to follow the truth you offer to the audience.

I.G.N. Santawirya
Makati, Metro Manila
Philippines

One night when I was working I turned on my radio and heard your voice. I listened very carefully to what you were saying and it does make a lot of sense. I now listen to you every night and sometimes twice a night on two different stations.

I have never in my life heard anyone else speak like you do. I have also been reading *The Plain Truth* and it has given life a real meaning to me. Through it, I am learning how to discipline myself.

Clinton Green
Edmonton, Alberta

Change Others?

I enjoyed the article "Should You Try to Change Others?" It reminds me about my school days when we were forced to attend Bible Study classes. A lot of students now actually stay away because of that.

I like the way you explain things in the Bible and tell us to read it ourselves.

Anthony Johnson
Ysterplaat, South Africa

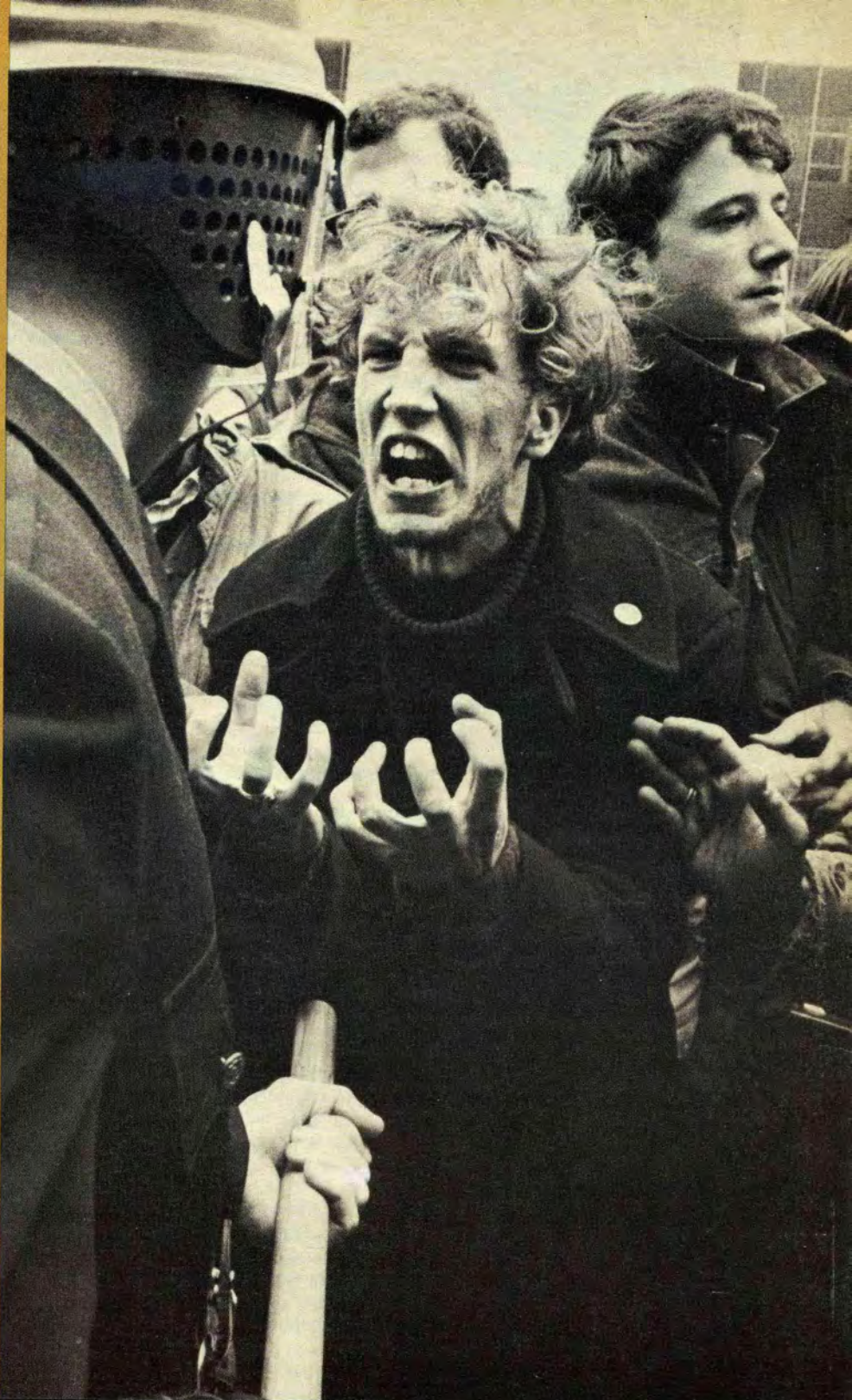
WHY THE PARADOX ?

Mankind has achieved astonishing materialistic progress! So why is the world plagued with unhappiness, violence, war and ever increasing human decadence? Scientific and technical knowledge has produced awesome achievements, but human knowledge production has also brought mankind to the brink of extinction! Why do we lack the know-how to solve world troubles? Our free booklet makes the answers plain. For your copy use the reply card inside this issue, or write to our office nearest you.

**NEVER
BEFORE
UNDERSTOOD**

Why Humanity
Cannot
Solve Its Evils

by Herbert W. Armstrong



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