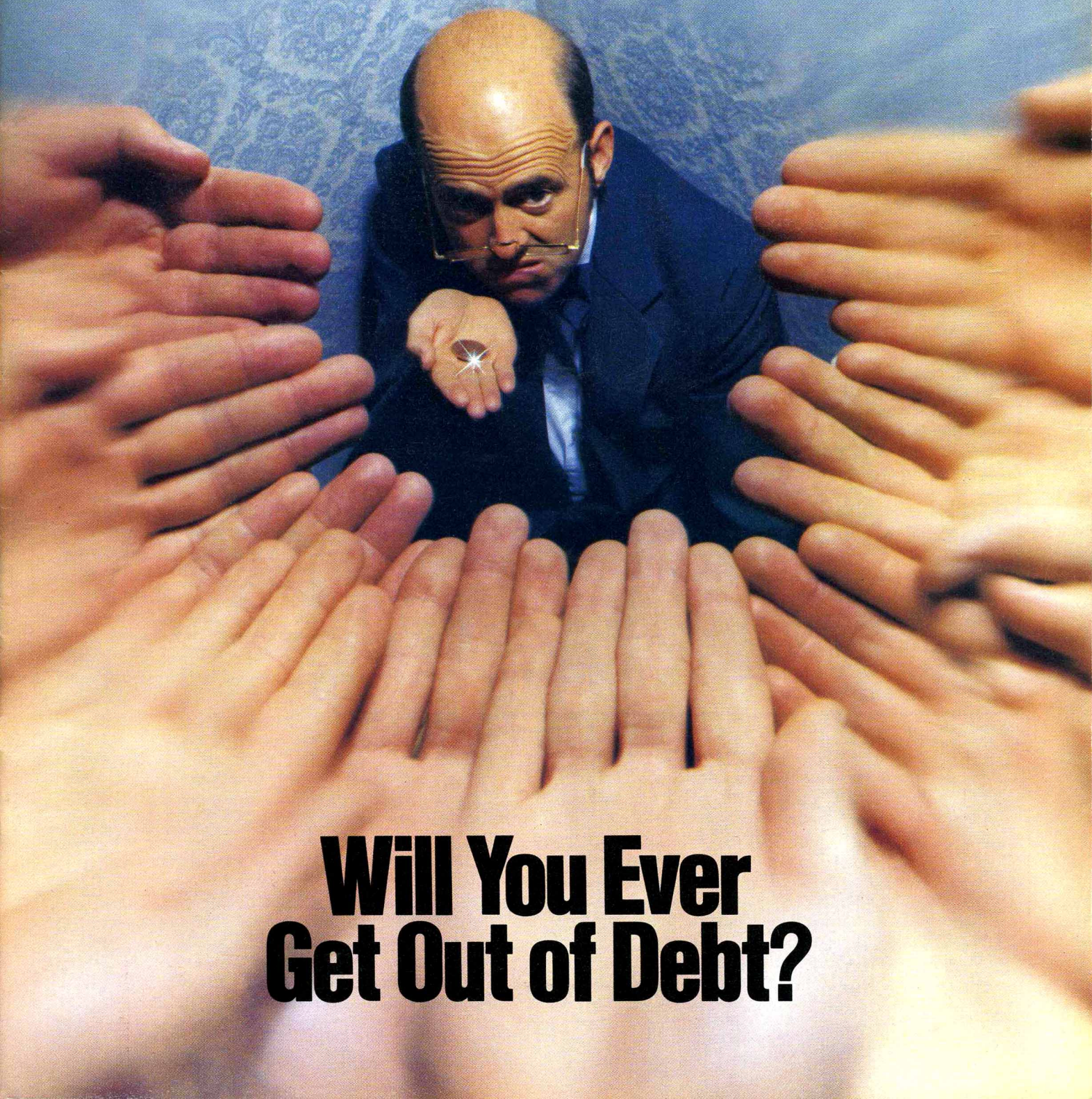


APRIL 1982

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding



**Will You Ever
Get Out of Debt?**

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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ABOUT OUR COVER

The Nightmare of Debt—How to illustrate this cover theme for the article "Will You Ever Get Out of Debt?" challenged our graphics editor and the magazine's design consultant. Many hands were involved in the final product!

Cover photo by Roland Rees

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Personal from...

Utopia—Nearer Than You Think!

Back in 1934, when the *Plain Truth* magazine was born and the *World Tomorrow* program first started on the air, I predicted the future union of the nations of Europe, resurrecting the ancient Roman Empire. That momentous event is near.

When this political, military and religious union in Europe is accomplished, it will completely alter the entire world scene. It will provide a *third* GIANT power, equal to or even superior to either the United States or Russia! And, to the surprise of most, the world will be startled to learn that it will have been provided with military NUCLEAR power!

Nations never in history have produced new and more destructive weapons without using them. It is possible that the nuclear World War III, more frightful than anything in human history, *may* explode on an unsuspecting world *during this decade!*

But THERE IS ALSO UNBELIEVABLE *GOOD NEWS!*

If what I have said looks depressing, there is the brighter side! If this happens, it will be merely the storm before the dawn of a beautiful, happy WORLD OF PEACE.

The future indeed looks bleak and hopeless . . . UNLESS there shall appear AN UNSEEN HAND FROM SOMEPLACE to change it. That possibility is not as ridiculous as many will think. I would even go so far as to say it is *more than possible* such an unexpected turn in events shall occur during *this decade!*

Why *shouldn't* we have UTOPIA *here* on earth? *WHY?*

The Los Angeles *Times* some time ago ran a story on a UTOPIAN college campus. The word *utopia* was used in its headline. It was a story the *Times* did on a unique and different college campus, where there are no riots, but where

everybody is smiling and seems to be really happy!

It is a college campus associated with *The Plain Truth!* It is the campus of Ambassador College, Pasadena, California.

There is a CAUSE for every effect. There is a CAUSE for all the world's troubles. There is also a CAUSE for the enjoyable happiness that radiates all over this campus.

Although there is a saying about it being darkest just before dawn, and we are now rapidly being whisked into that very short period of darkness in world history, it is the most SURE sign of the DAWN immediately beyond. And it is entirely possible that the 1980s may be the decade that brings that very UTOPIA to the world.

And WHY NOT? The dictionary describes Utopia as an imaginary state of PERFECTION. But WHY should it be imaginary or impossible? Why shouldn't we have PEACE on earth, with universal prosperity, good health, right education, abundant well-being for EVERYBODY?

You may call Ambassador College an experiment in UTOPIA if you like—but students and faculty on the Ambassador campus in Pasadena and the two-year sister campus in Big Sandy, Texas, will tell you we surely are approaching utopia—these campuses are happy, joyful places to be. We advocate this WAY in *The Plain Truth*. We practice what we preach. And we certainly ENJOY the result!

True, we do say it actually *will* require this "strong hand from someplace" to solve the world's troubles and bring us PEACE. Then the critic will ask, "Aren't you saying it is IMPOSSIBLE for humanity to solve our problems?" No! We *don't* say it is impossible—we say HUMANITY IS NOT WILLING—humanity REFUSES. It is impossible ONLY because humanity rejects THE WAY to peace, prosperity and all the GOOD THINGS only because humanity REFUSES.

It is not impossible. We are PROVING that at Ambassador College. □

the *REAL* HISTORY of the TRUE CHURCH

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Few indeed know the Bible reveals a great false church, deceiving millions, and a *true* Church of God, persecuted, yet enduring. Few know the real PURPOSE of the Church, who built it and why. Now we are warned of a forthcoming effort to deceive even this generation concerning who really built the present era of the true Church. Here is the plain truth.

Editor's note: We are printing here, serially, a new book by Herbert W. Armstrong with the same title as this article.

FIRST of all, let the true FACT be stated that Jesus Christ built the true Church of God.

It was founded by the resurrected *living* Christ, after his ascension to heaven. He has remained permanently the HEAD of it.

The questions, then, are WHY

was it built—what is its PURPOSE—by whom did Christ build it—and through whom has he built up the present era of the Church?

What is the Church? WHY does it exist? What is its PURPOSE? People in the Western world take the church as an institution for granted—they know not why! A large segment of millions flock to services Sunday mornings.

But WHY the Church?

But WHY? Just *what is* the Church? Is it a building with a sharply sloping roof, with a steeple atop pointing heavenward, a cross

on its facade? Do the members go to the church? Or does the local church assemble in a building or place?

Winston Churchill said before the United States Congress during World War II, "There is a PURPOSE being worked out here below." Does the Church have anything to do with that PURPOSE?

To understand what the world does not understand, we need to consider the world into which Jesus came when he said, "I will build my church."

He came into the same world in

which you and I live today. It's the same world, though it has undergone significant changes in two directions. Its technology, its materialistic science and production have awesomely increased, while conversely the complexity of its social, regulatory, governmental, judiciary and educational systems has tremendously expanded. It has produced appalling evils, unsolvable problems, human discontent, unhappiness and suffering. But all that is merely the expansion of human systems already functioning.

We cannot therefore understand the PURPOSE of the Church until we first understand the origin of civilization—the world into which Jesus came to build his Church. For indeed the Church *is* the Master Plan of the Eternal GOD for working out his PURPOSE here below. What was wrong that needed such a PURPOSE to be worked out?

Not God's Civilization

This world has been blinded from the truth about its very civilization and how it started. Many people assume this is GOD's civilization.

Actually it all started in the dim recesses of prehistory. A super archangel, the cherub Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-15), invisible but immortal and extremely intelligent, was very high in rank in the government of the universe. He was one of two majestic cherubs whose wings overspread the very throne of the supreme Creator God in heaven (Ezek. 28:14-15). At the creation of the earth, Lucifer was set on earth's throne to administer the government of God, in which he was adequately trained and experienced. Lucifer reigned over angels whose abode was then the newly created earth.

But, while still on the *inside* of God's universe-government, perfect in all his ways from his creation, Lucifer allowed vanity to corrupt him into covetousness, envy and rebellion. A spirit of competition entered him. He attempted to *take over* the government of the entire universe. He and his invading army of angels (II Pet. 2:4) swooped up to heaven in violent conquest to overthrow the Creator

God from his throne over the universe.

But they were cast back down to earth. Lucifer became Satan the devil, still on the throne of the earth, but no longer administering God's government. His angels became demons.

This angelic rebellion brought confusion, decay and darkness to the earth (Gen. 1:2). Then God (Ps. 104:30) in six days renewed the face of the earth (Gen. 1:3-25) for MAN (verse 26), created in God's own image, after the GOD-kind—with God's grand PURPOSE to be worked out here below of reproducing himself through MAN! That supreme PURPOSE provides that man shall be born, finally, into the very GOD Family! Yet the world seems never to have grasped that PURPOSE, or the incredible human potential!

Man was created with human spirit (Job 32:8, I Cor. 2:11, Rom. 8:16), which imparts the power of intellect to the human brain. Except for this, human brain is like animal brain. Man was created with power of mind, in the form and shape of God, yet, even as dumb vertebrates, of matter from the ground with only temporary existence.

Man, since rebellion entered his world, has been blinded as to what, and why he is—except for those to whom God has revealed this truth.

Civilization Is Founded

God is composed of Spirit. God is immortal, possessing life inherent—self-containing life. Man's life is animal life—temporary physiochemical existence. But immortal, self-containing life was freely offered the first created man!

That man was named Adam. But he was first made incomplete in two ways: he was of one gender only and to reproduce he needed another gender with him, so God made for him a wife, named Eve. Also his mind was incomplete, with the one human spirit. This gave him capability to acquire material knowledge—to deal with things.

But God's ultimate PURPOSE for him required a close relationship with his Maker, God, and also a workable, peaceful and happy rela-

tionship with fellowman. His mind therefore was incomplete as first created. For completion, another Spirit was needed—the Holy Spirit of God.

All this wonderful truth seems to have been missing from humanly taught knowledge. It is revealed in the incident of the forbidden fruit, explained in the second and third chapters of Genesis. WHY has this been ignored—misunderstood—misrepresented?

The entire founding of man's civilization has lain hidden in this incident of the forbidden fruit. What if—yes, *what if* Adam had eaten of the tree of LIFE? The theologians and religionists seem never to have asked—or answered—that question.

Before the first created man and woman were two symbolic trees. One was the tree of the "knowledge of good and evil." This tree produced the forbidden fruit. That tree (Adam did not eat an apple) represented *knowledge*. To take *to himself* this knowledge production (of good and evil—of right or wrong)—would result in death. The other tree was the tree of LIFE—immortal, inherent life. But it, too, represented KNOWLEDGE. How do we know?

Because immortal LIFE is today offered to the called Christian. And how does he obtain it? Not all at once, instantaneously, but by first receiving the very Spirit Adam lacked—the Holy Spirit of God. When one receives the GIFT of God's Holy Spirit, he becomes merely a begotten child of God. And the Spirit of God *opens the mind* to UNDERSTAND the spiritual Word of God—the Bible!

Man needed *spiritual knowledge* for fellowship with his Maker, as well as for contact with fellowman. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a sound mind—the Spirit by which the mind is enabled to comprehend—to UNDERSTAND—spiritual knowledge as revealed through God's Word (I Cor. 2:9-14).

Placed before the first created man, father of the human family, were two very special trees in the garden of Eden, symbolic of tremendous meaning. The man was required to make a choice. One symbolic tree represented LIFE—

self-containing life inherent—immortality. The other, DEATH!

The tree of LIFE symbolized the gift of God's Holy Spirit, the begetting of eternal LIFE. The forbidden tree was called the tree of "the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil." When Adam disobeyed God and ate the fruit from that tree, he TOOK TO HIMSELF "the knowledge of good and evil"—that is, potential SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE!

Understand at this point. God had created man with a mind capable of acquiring and utilizing material knowledge—the knowledge to work with matter—with things! This knowledge he could acquire on his own. But he had not been created with a mind that could discern, by itself, right from wrong—that is, SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE!

The one human spirit created in man—and born in all humans since—can acquire physical, material knowledge. But it is unable of itself to discern spiritual knowledge. And spiritual knowledge can be imparted to the mind *ONLY* BY GOD!

Adam, in *taking to himself* the "knowledge of good and evil"—that is, potential SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE—limited himself to material knowledge only. WHY? Because the one human spirit in man is not the faculty that sees, hears, smells, tastes or feels. The physical brain sees through the eye, hears through the ear, smells through the nose. And human man is LIMITED IN KNOWLEDGE to that which may enter his brain through these five physical senses!

Adam, father and progenitor of the human family, had chosen self-produced humanly acquired knowledge and death. He lived 930 years and he died. All his children subsequently died after a temporary physiochemical existence! And so, at that time, "the foundation of the world," Christ, the Lamb of God was slain (Rev. 13:8). That is, it was set by God at the foundation of the world that in due time Christ should come and die to pay the penalty for human sin.

It was also decreed that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

It was then that God shut up the "tree of LIFE"—that is, the Holy Spirit, from mankind until after Jesus Christ, the second Adam, had come and paid the penalty of human sin in man's stead.

How Civilization Was Built

God did not shut himself off from man, however. God even appeared to or communicated with Cain, Adam's first son and the first murderer. God called out the Hebrew slaves from Egypt and communicated with them en masse at Mt. Sinai. He gave them his spiritual law—but, not having the Holy Spirit they neither comprehended it nor obeyed it. Lacking the Holy Spirit of God, they neither understood spiritual truths nor obeyed them.

However, God did make one necessary exception, for the ultimate foundation of his Church! He did reveal truths to his prophets, for the writing of the Holy Scriptures, the very written Word of God!

Much of the Church of God is based on the writings of the prophets, and they, with the apostles, became the foundation of the Church, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20).

Now consider the building of this world's civilization, and the world into which Christ came to build his Church.

With the Holy Spirit shut off from man, the human family started building its own world, influenced and swayed and deceived by Satan. *ALL* have been deceived by Satan (Rev. 12:9). Perhaps man did not realize it. Satan is a spirit being, invisible to humans.

Without the spiritual perception of God's Spirit, man does not recognize spirit beings or truths as existent. Yet Satan has been the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2) working *in* and deceiving humans in a manner not realized.

Ideas are transmitted through the air by radio and television waves and ultimately appear in the form of audible words and visible pictures. Does it, then, seem strange or impossible that Satan has transmitted attitudes, impres-

sions, motives and impulses inaudibly and invisibly into human minds whose human spirits are tuned automatically to Satan's wavelength?

It is thus that even infants under one year old, when the teaching of whom is neglected by human parents, are being instilled subconsciously, by satanic broadcast, with selfishness and resentment of authority. Satan doesn't neglect them.

So, as man began to expand in numbers on the earth, *taking to himself* the knowledge of relationships with others, man, swayed by Satan, began building his own system of society. He built his own concepts of human GOVERNMENTS, utterly contrary to the government of God.

Through human-devised and Satan-swayed GOVERNMENT, humans began regulating human lives. Humans began and developed a system of EDUCATION by which an adult generation seeks to brainwash, instill, inject into the minds of coming generations their concepts, ideas, opinions and supposed knowledge.

Humans developed their own system of economics, business, industry, commerce. They developed their own systems of RELIGION, created their own concepts of God—and to this day *not one* organized religion except God's true Church knows WHO and WHAT God really is! Humans developed their own social customs and systems.

Thus CIVILIZATION was produced actually by Satan, using humans as his pawns!

God's way of life is based on LOVE—outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others, and love above all toward God who *IS* LOVE! The world's civilization was built on the contrary way of GET—of vanity, covetousness, envy, jealousy, competition, strife, violence, rebellion against authority.

And *that* is the world into which Jesus Christ was born.

Remember God's ultimate PURPOSE is to reproduce himself in and through MAN—to create in MAN God's own holy, righteous spiritual and perfect CHARACTER! But all

(Continued on page 41)



THE SURGING “RED TIDE” IN CENTRAL AMERICA

by Gene H. Hogberg

The Soviets and the Cubans are moving swiftly to expand influence in Central America. What does this portend for the future of the free nations of the Western Hemisphere?

Once a backwater of world affairs, Central America has grabbed the headlines—at least temporarily—from the ongoing crisis in Poland and Eastern Europe.

Fighting in tiny El Salvador, the current main battleline in the region, generates heated emotional reaction around the world. Few individuals it seems stop to reflect on all that is at stake in the widening dispute.

Fewer yet know the main reason why turmoil in the region is spreading. It is *not*, as many news magazines portray, primarily a political and economic struggle between the “haves” and “have-nots.” Here we make plain the real reason, and why God is allowing this crisis to punish the United States for its mounting sins.

U.S. President's View

On February 24, President Ronald Reagan of the United States unveiled to the Organization of American States a sweeping eco-

nomic program for Central America and the Caribbean. The plan, if approved by the U.S. Congress, involves vastly expanded economic aid and greater access to U.S. markets for exports from the region.

In addition, Mr. Reagan warned: “If we do not act promptly and decisively in defense of freedom, new Cubas will arise from the ruins of today's conflicts.”

“Make no mistake,” added the President, “the well-being and security of our neighbors in this region are in our own vital interests.” He said nearly half of the

U.S. trade flow, two thirds of the nation's oil imports and more than half of the strategic minerals brought into the United States *come through the Panama Canal or the Gulf of Mexico*. The President pointed up that the United States shares "a common destiny" with some two dozen nations that rim the Gulf-Caribbean area, which he termed the "*third border*" of the United States.

Mr. Reagan coupled his economic package with a generalized warning to the Soviet Union and Cuba, supporters of armed revolution in the region, that the U.S. would "do whatever is prudent and necessary to ensure the peace and security of the Caribbean area."

Others See It Differently

Reaction to Mr. Reagan's carrot-and-stick speech spread across the political spectrum.

The reaction throughout Latin America was generally favorable. Lesser developed economies saw the prospect of increased export opportunities. Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga called the plan "bold, historic, and far reaching in concept." Mexico expressed disappointment, since Cuba, with which it enjoys good relations, was excluded from the plan.

Other nations simply don't perceive American anxieties in Central America the same way at all. Of all ten countries in the European Economic Community, only Britain sent observers to monitor El Salvador's March 28 elections. The others viewed the elections, in which the leftist guerrillas chose not to participate, as a farce.

In West Germany, the war in El Salvador has whipped up passions, especially among the young. A leftist newspaper in West Berlin claims it has collected more than one million dollars to buy weapons for the guerrillas battling the U.S.-backed junta.

The most disturbing development—to Washington—is the decision by France to sell \$17.5 million worth of non-offensive military equipment to the Sandinista government in Nicaragua which backs the Salvadoran guerrillas. The Socialist

government of François Mitterrand claims the sale will help Nicaragua from being totally dependent upon the Soviet bloc for arms.

It is obvious that as the fighting escalates in Central America, so will the rift widen between the United States and its Western allies, already strained because of the crisis in Poland.

America is widely perceived in Western Europe as "backing the wrong side" in Central America and becoming enmeshed in "another Vietnam." The Soviets, for their part, are doing their best to split the NATO alliance over the issue.

Deliberate Plan

The nations of Central America—primarily Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua—have been afflicted with more than the usual share of economic dislocation and political turmoil. For example, Honduras, in its 161 years of independence, has had 385 armed rebellions, 126 governments and 16 constitutions!

Despite advances in recent decades, poverty has been the sad lot of the majority of the area's inhabitants, especially the rural peasant class. The derisive term "banana republic" has described the one crop (usually bananas or coffee) economies that most of these countries have had. The economic fates of whole nations rose or fell with world, and especially U.S., prices paid for these commodities.

Carlos Rangel, noted Venezuelan writer and author of the book *The Latin Americans*, takes due note of Central America's chronic instability, corruption, poverty, and even past U.S. policies. He warns, however, in the June, 1981, issue of *Commentary* magazine:

"Communists and their sympathizers must not be allowed to use this sad truth to obscure the plain fact that we are in the presence of a *deliberate and deadly threat to the Western Hemisphere* in a region which Soviet strategists have evidently judged to be the soft underbelly of the Americas."

Many fail to see—or choose to ignore—this fact!

Over the years, Cuba's Fidel

Castro—viewed in some Third World circles as a kind of Red Robin Hood or a "second Bolívar"—had been anxious to encourage revolution throughout the Americas. Early attempts failed, culminating in the death of Ernesto "Ché" Guevara in 1967. United States influence in the region was still too strong.

The Soviets were far more cautious than Fidel Castro all along, and still are. They saw Central America as a vital sphere of U.S. interest, similar to their own position in Eastern Europe. Throughout the 1960s and much of the 1970s, the Kremlin, writes Soviet expert Jiri Valenta in the fall, 1981, issue of *Orbis*, "continued to believe . . . that the United States had the ability and will to challenge outright revolution in Central America."

This perception changed in the latter 1970s because of the humiliating defeat of the United States in Vietnam (proscribing direct American military involvement elsewhere, even closer to home), the relinquishing of the Canal Zone in Panama, and indecisiveness of the Carter administration with regard to the budding revolution in Nicaragua, which ultimately succeeded in the summer of 1979.

Thus, it has been the Soviet perception of U.S. weakness more than anything else that has propelled their drive right in America's front yard. The Kremlin does not believe that the United States, even with the hard line administration of President Reagan, has the will to do whatever it takes to prevent the entire region from going over to the Soviet side.

Bombers in Cuba

As if to prove their point, the Soviets have recently shipped a squadron of advanced MiG-23 warplanes to Cuba. The planes arrived in Cuban ports broken down in crates. One version of the warplane can be used as an attack fighter bomber. It would have a range capable of striking key American East and Gulf Coast cities.

According to other intelligence reports Cuban airfields are also
(Continued on page 42)

What's Wrong With the YOUNGER GENERATION?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Here's an article written for the first issue of *The Plain Truth*, seven years *before* the magazine was finally born in the depths of the Great Depression. Now, in 1982, we think our vast audience of new readers would find this article highly informative.

LONGTIME readers of *The Plain Truth* will remember that in 1965, among old files, Mrs. Armstrong ran across the manuscript of an article written for the very first issue of *The Plain Truth*.

But it did not appear in that first issue. It was published for the first time in 1965.

But our readership has grown so immensely that only a few will remember this article published 17 years ago.

How It Began

Almost immediately after my conversion in the spring of 1927, the vision came to mind of a new kind of magazine I hoped would attain a very large circulation. For 16 years I had been in the advertising and magazine field. I was experienced in the writing of magazine articles—but in the field of business and merchandising—not in the religious category.

The name that came to mind for

the magazine was *The Plain Truth*. I had printers make up a 32-page “dummy” with glossy heavy cover—almost exactly the kind and size of paper you are holding in your hands right now. Only, of course, all the pages were blank white paper. Next, I employed a professional letter artist to design and letter in a front cover, in two colors.



The cover of that first “dummy” *Plain Truth* contained the captions of five or six feature articles I hoped to write for the first issue. Three of those articles were then written.

One contained the headline you see above. Another was captioned: “Putting the Evolutionary Concept into Your Child’s Mind.” We did finally publish that one in July, 1964. A third one, never published in the form then written, was titled “The Foundation for Sunday Sacredness CRUMBLES!” The material in that original manuscript, rewritten, is available in the booklet titled *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*.

But those were the days of financial reverses, trial, test and actual hunger. The way did not open, then, to fulfill the dream of publishing a big-circulation magazine called *The Plain Truth*. What I then had in mind was a magazine to sell on the newsstands.

It was a long and trying seven years before the way opened actually to produce *The Plain Truth*. And when it did at last come, it had

Illustration by Stan Gorman

to be the smallest, least-costly homemade type of magazine conceivable—mimeographed on a borrowed mimeograph—headlines cut by hand without a stylus or scope—type cut on stencils with a borrowed typewriter.

By that time I had made a considerable advancement in biblical knowledge. I realized, then, that *The Plain Truth* could never be sold. The newsstand idea was gone. Besides, who ever saw a *mimeographed* “magazine” sold on newsstands? Don’t laugh. It wasn’t funny—*then!* Also, by February, 1934, the situation demanded other subjects than the article on flaming youth. Probably this article already had become misplaced in that old file—I do not remember.

Anyway, after being “out of sight—out of mind” for 38 long years, this article turned up in an old, almost yellowed manuscript. When it was discovered, I was intrigued. I began to read it. I had completely forgotten it. I found it interesting. Perhaps that was only because I had written it myself—and the facts involved in its sudden resurrection after a 38-year burial. You may not find it a bit interesting—but I simply can’t resist putting it before you to find out.

THINK OF IT! The “Sheik-Flapper” generation about which I then wrote is the 65-75-year-old generation TODAY!

You 65- and 70-year-old people! Were YOU those hell-bent sheiks and flappers of 1927? IMPOSSIBLE! Yet, it’s TRUE! I can hardly believe it—and I doubt if you can!

The thought, however, intrigues me! You middle-age readers, now at least *approaching* old age, are going to read, below, what I wrote about YOU, when you were the hell-bent teenagers shocking the older generation sitting then in such stern judgment of YOU!

And you teenagers among our readers! I wonder if you won’t get a kick out of reading how “wild” and “sinful” were your parents—yes, and even perhaps your GRANDparents—when *they* were *your* age.

You teenagers, with your modern teenage slang. Are you going to

get a bang out of the kid slang your parents and grandparents were using? And I wonder if any of you 65- to 75-year-olds will even *remember* how some teenagers talked then. Perhaps *you* actually *didn’t*—but many others *did!*

But you of the older generation who were the teenagers when I wrote this article—do you remember that the oldsters were out-of-date old fogies then? I remember reading a discourse Abraham Lincoln wrote. I think it was from a speech he made, on the subject of “Old Fogey.” The very *first* old fogies, he said, were probably Adam and Eve. And the older generations have been old fogey to the youngsters ever since!

In 1927, when this article was written, this new psychology on child rearing was just emerging. Today it has fastened itself like a leech or a barnacle onto a deceived and misled society—and the greatly multiplied rate of juvenile delinquency testifies to its efficacy.

Here, then, is the article written in 1927, now published for our many new readers in the kind of magazine of which I then dreamed—and with a few comments I have written in the form of footnotes:

What’s WRONG with the YOUNGER GENERATION?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IS THE younger generation of this modern day hell-bent or is it not?

An older generation dares to sit in stern and solemn judgment. The jazz-crazed, pleasure-mad youngsters hurl back the defiant retort that their old-fashioned, back-number elders simply do not understand. The sheik-flapper¹ generation emphatically assert their ability to take care of themselves. And they simply step the harder on the gas.

The Terhune-Wright Debate

Two literary luminaries—Harold Bell Wright and Albert Payson Terhune²—attempt to settle this moot question in the June *Ameri-*

ican Magazine,³ by engaging in debate. Mr. Terhune says the sheik-flapper generation is hell-bent. Mr. Wright says it is not.

Mr. Terhune believes much of the trouble lies in the newer psychology⁴ in child rearing. Instead of having been whipped and raw-hided into parental obedience, the present generation of youngsters, he says, is the victim of a treat-with-kindness, do-as-you-please psychology. Lack of parental obedience, he believes, is the heart of the difficulty.

Mr. Wright denies that our young people are hell-bent, because, he says, they are merely aping their elders. According to Mr. Wright, the parents are to blame—not in lack of discipline, so much as through example. The real trouble, says Mr. Wright, is that Dad attempts to correct young Willie something like this:

“Willie, I want you to keep out of my cigarettes!” Or, “Willie, if you ever sneak any of my hip-flask liquor⁵ out to a party again, I’ll cut down your allowance!”

Or that Dad will reprimand his flapper-daughter thus:

“Bubbles, you little painted hussy, you let Mother’s lipstick and rouge alone!”

Mr. Wright sees in our snappy, peppy younger generation a real improvement over those immediately previous. Their life, their pep, their zip, their energy, he says, is going to do wonders when they are a little older and take the helm.⁶

Mr. Terhune says human nature has not changed. Our youngsters of today, hell-bent as he pictures them, are doing merely the things the older generation would have done with the lid of restraint thrown off. They haven’t been held down, while the older generation was.

There is, beyond a doubt, much truth in both their views.

The Real Cause

And now I intend to let fly a few observations of my own upon this hotly debated question. I have mixed considerably with the younger generation. I believe I know them and understand them—

at least in part. I am, in age,⁷ just midway between this sheik-flapper generation and the older one that is so ready to condemn. I have mixed with the younger set in their high school and college activities. I know them, I know their parents, and I know their college professors.

It would be simple folly to attribute all the wild and, to the oldsters, shocking characteristics of the young folk to any single cause. Many things, of course, combine to produce the composite sheik-flapper generation.

They are, in the first place, merely the victims of unhealthy influences—and this INCLUDES their parents! They are exactly what training, environment, example and outside influences have made them.

I shall not attempt to rate these influences in order of their importance. That is merely opinion, anyway.

But I want to mention, first, the result of lax parental training. It is true that the parents of the preceding generation refused to "spare the rod and spoil the child." The youngsters of that generation were reared in such strict discipline that, when they themselves became parents, they simply could not bear to be so strict with *their* children as their parents had been with *them*.

Their childhood and youth had been, generally speaking, one of self-sacrifice, strict obedience to parental law and long and frequent "whalings." The memory of this unremitting parental discipline was so indelibly burned into their memory that it produced a definite reaction. So the present crop of younger people were reared in a brand of discipline that swung almost to the opposite extreme. They were not made to suffer the pangs of self-sacrifice, the stern authority, the frequent and extreme whippings to which their parents had fallen heir.

The chief difficulty, though, was not so much a matter of substituting psychology for thrashings.⁸ *Most youngsters were not taught SELF-DISCIPLINE.* They were not trained in SELF-CONTROL.

The greatest handicap to the

younger people today is their utter disregard for self-control. They have been permitted to grow up following DESIRE, instead of DUTY—given reign to *impulse* and *inclination*, instead of using judgment. They have formed the disastrous habit of being led and controlled by their whims, their passions, their fancies. Consequences are seldom weighed or considered, and still less seldom heeded. The question isn't "SHOULD I?" but "Do I WANT to?" There's no control of self.

When power is uncontrolled, then the greater the power, the greater the potential DANGER! If this younger generation is imbued with an excess of pep, energy and power, the greater is the danger, unless that power is controlled—held in check by the force of self-discipline. When such excess energy is permitted to run riot wherever blind impulse leads, there's likely to be a WRECK!

Mr. Wright views this tremendous burst of speed, which we observe being demonstrated by the youngsters, as a wonderful asset for the future, when this generation takes the helm. But will all this pep and speed and energy be wisely and beneficially directed? Will it even be available then? Vitality, like many other things, needs to be conserved. When it's wasted and dissipated, the supply is soon exhausted.

And by what process of reasoning do we know that this sheik-flapper age has greater power of personal vigor than the generations which went before? When the lid's off the teakettle, letting out so much more steam, is there more steam inside than when the lid was on? Our youngsters have thrown off the lid! They are simply letting off, and not conserving, the steam!

Parental Example No Whitewash

I sharply disagree with Mr. Wright in any notion that the sins of the parents can be applied as a whitewash for those of their children. Suppose we grant that Willie cops onto his dad's cigarettes and snitches his bootleg liquor? Suppose Bubbles does learn from her mother to use rouge and lip-

stick and to pluck her eyebrows? It happens, I grant, altogether too often. But that does not make it right.

I know parents who are far more interested in the social popularity of son and daughter than in their soul's salvation—who encourage their youngsters in all the searches after a thrill that keep up the feverishly excited pace. And who do not dream of what goes on beyond the focus of their vision—and *would not believe it if they were told!*

But does the fact that parents are setting the example—even encour-

¹ A sheik meant "a masterful man to whom women are irresistibly attracted." The term was popularized by E. M. Hull's novel *The Sheik*, later made into a movie. A flapper was "a young girl considered bold and unconventional in actions and dress: term popular from about 1910 to 1930." The name is derived from the custom of girls wearing galoshes or overshoes unfastened so they would flap. Quite an attention-getter!

² Harold B. Wright died in 1944. Albert Payson Terhune died in 1942.

³ A major magazine—ceased publication years ago.

⁴ This false modern child psychology was then newly introduced.

⁵ Those were the prohibition years of bootleg liquor.

⁶ They have now taken it. And look at the sorry chaotic world they have produced.

⁷ I was then 35.

⁸ Mere physical punishment, alone, may be totally ineffective or harmful. Too many parents do not spank for the right purpose, at the right time or in the right degree. Too often it is unaccompanied by the necessary *teaching*. It should be used to *impress* the lesson. When the teaching is absent, nothing is impressed but resentment and a sense of injustice.

The child should never be literally spanked into *doing* what he had rebelled from doing—but *because* he rebelled—because of disobedience and wrong attitude. It should be administered immediately upon the offense, or failure promptly to obey—not after repeated threatnings to punish *unless* he obeys—threats expressed *after* initial refusal to obey, and *while* the child *continues* in rebellious refusal to obey. Don't give the rebellious child repeated opportunity to rebel. Be sure he hears and understands what he is told to do. If in doubt of this, repeat the instruction or command once more, plainly. Then, if ignored or rebelled against, punish *immediately*—making him *understand* it is administered because of failure to obey, refusal to obey, or deliberate rebellious attitude. Make him UNDERSTAND he must obey *when spoken to!*—not when he gets good and ready. One exception: if in a public place, where the punishment would attract public attention, and probably indignant criticism or hostile action, tell the child quietly but firmly he is going to have to be punished for his misdemeanor when you return home. Then, on returning to the privacy of your home, talk to him, making the lesson plain and clear, and impress it with the spanking.

Most mothers spank so lightly nothing is really impressed. Make it hurt enough to be impressive! Many fathers spank too hard. Never *injure*. Make it impressive short of injury. Like the stitch in time, the spanking *in time* may save nine others.

aging the tendencies of youth—erase existing sins? If youth is hell-bent, does parental example and sanction alter the path toward hell? Or does it, rather, signify merely that the parents are sliding down on the same toboggan?

Youth is subjected, primarily, to four major influences—the home—the school—the church—and outside friends, activities and amusements. So much for the effect of the modern-day home life. We have not had much to say about the religious influence of the home life—but then, there is so little of that in the average home, it simply requires no mention!

The School Influence

Now for the second influence—the school. Even in the grades and high schools today, the evolutionary concept is planted, ready-manufactured, into the absorbent minds of youth. Not necessarily EVOLUTION—not by that name. But the evolutionary concept dominates every branch of study in the school curriculum today. That concept is the basic point of view that denies the miracles of the Bible—denies the Creation account of Genesis, denies the authority of revelation.

It is the point of view that teaches, instead, that for millions of years man has been slowly, steadily climbing upward. Civilized man once was what the savage is today. Between that prehistoric day of dim antiquity and the present, man has passed through the Old Stone Age, the New Stone Age and the others through which evolutionary science imagines life has traveled.

The chief god, or gospel, of this concept is PROGRESS. Everything is, by natural law, getting constantly better and better. Progress is the gospel of the age! The basis of this concept is NATURALISM and the reign of natural law, as opposed to supernaturalism and possible interference by a divine Creator with the work of his own Creation.

In high school, I say, the young folks are given this CONCEPT. It forms the basis of any study that it might involve. This point of view is merely taken for granted. Not pre-

sented, as such, supported by arguments, and propagated into acceptance. Just simply assumed as a matter of course and taught as a universally known, commonly accepted FACT.

In college, the student gets evolution straight—without any deception or nicknames. A year or two of college, and he is a rare student indeed who is not a thorough convert to the doctrine of evolution.

If he ever held to fundamental religious beliefs, they are shattered to bits by now! His eyes are suddenly “opened.” He now views his old religion in the light of an ignorant superstition—a foolish bit of folklore, not unlike the Santa Claus myth. He may be shaken, bewildered, upset. But his disillusionment is complete. His hope of an eternity in “Heaven” is blasted as a foolish, childish dream. Some few go out and commit suicide.

But most of them, perhaps having exercised a certain self-restraint, due to religious convictions, until now, simply throw restraint to the winds! If they have not done so sooner, they now hop on the bandwagon and join the frenzied gang.

What's Wrong with Churches

Now what about the churches? What is *their* contribution to the modern tendencies of youth? In former generations, the churches held more or less of a balancing, restraining influence upon adolescents. The church, especially in the smaller communities, was a sort of social center. The young folk, most of them, attended Sunday school. In church they often heard inspiring, interesting, fiery sermons.

But that's all changed today. The average church is now about two-thirds empty, the other third being populated with gray heads. The average sermon today is lifeless, boring, lacking in fire and power. The church no longer serves a social need. The automobile,⁹ good roads, modern movies, dances and entertainments, have usurped the churches' social ministrations. The teenagers are no longer interested.

Some churches have attempted

to compete with the lure of modern amusements by bringing movies, amateur plays, dances and other entertainments into the church. But, in the amusement game, our churches have proved themselves pitiful novices. The crowd still prefers its entertainment where it is presented with professional and worldly skill. Other churches have attempted to meet the second great competitor—the fast-spreading “intellectual” skepticism—by turning modernist,¹⁰ and throwing to the four winds all that is vital in fundamental Christian doctrine.

The churches, today, have proved themselves incapable of meeting the modern problems of youth.

Two outstanding lures have robbed the churches of the young people—modern amusements and modern “rationalistic” skepticism, the outgrowth of evolution. The churches have failed to meet these momentous new snares because they have been wanting in sound doctrine. They have turned the Bible upside down.

Sound Bible truth would have met—at every turn of the road—this so-called newer knowledge, which has sprung from evolutionary teachings.

Sound Bible teaching would have kept the ministers, the church leaders, full of spiritual POWER. It would have fired them with vigor, with interest, with heart-warming, soul-satisfying church services. Our young people are simply *heart-hungry*—that's all that's wrong. They're empty—and they want to be filled up and warmed in the inner man. The churches have failed them. They don't understand—how can we expect that they should?—and they are merely seeking the spiritual food they *really* need, in movies, in dances, in wild entertainment, in “necking,” sex and debauchery, and all too often finding the “inspiration” in bootleg liquor! They're getting—and buying at a dear price—cheap

(Continued on page 36)

⁹ These were then in the early stage of development.

¹⁰ The “Modernist” movement was just getting under way. Today it is in dominance.

FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

SURVIVAL GUIDE

by Michael A. Snyder

WHAT DOES it mean to be educated and successful in today's world?

Do you consider yourself educated? Are you on the way to success?

The fact that you read this far shows that you are part of a select group with potential for real success. Perhaps you did not know that nearly *one billion* human beings today cannot read or comprehend this or any other written sentence. And many more have barely mastered the basic skills of reading and writing. They are lacking real potential for success in this present life.

Does this mean that these people are inferior by nature? Absolutely not! What it does mean is that people who cannot, or have trouble, reading and writing, are at a distinct disadvantage. The ability to communicate in written form is an essential key to success and to true education.

The fact that so many are unable to read points up a major flaw in this world's educational systems. But it's only one symptom of a major crisis—a crisis largely ignored worldwide—in modern education.

Today's Situation

The 20th century has experienced a virtual knowledge explosion. Within the span of a single human generation, men and women have gone from horse and buggy transportation to interplanetary exploration. Communication cables line the ocean floor; microchips put vast computer technology at the fingertips of the common man; and complex probes from both the U.S. and the Soviet Union plunge deep into the solar system.

But, at the same time, starvation and squalor grip vast areas of the earth. Through sophisticated television networks, people in the developed countries can watch contemporary continuing crises in Southeast Asia, Latin America, the Persian Gulf

and many other areas.

But *why* this contrast between man's scientific achievements and his moral and social failures?

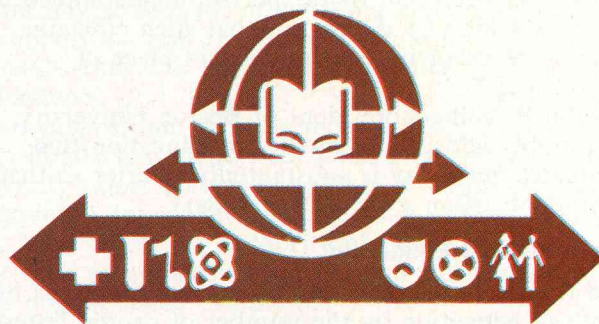
There must be a cause for *every* effect.

And the cause is wrong, misguided education!

When is education, education? And when is education faulty and erroneous indoctrination?

Unfortunately, the word *education* has lost its meaning in today's world. You hear of "receiving an education," or the place where one "gets" an education.

Neither definition is true. Richard Franko Goldman, in an address at the Peabody Institute in

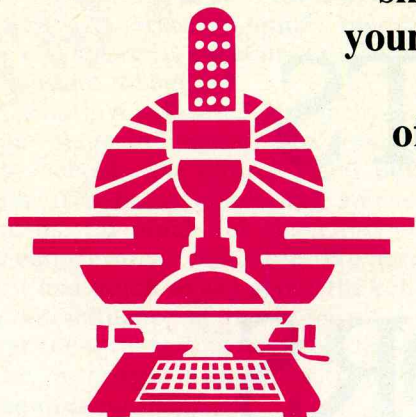


**Read widely with
understanding;
don't limit yourself
to one field.**

Illustrated by Terry Smith

Baltimore, Md., said: "It is certainly *not* possible to mass-produce educated men and women. *They have to produce themselves*, and this is a concept highly unpopular in our times. Education is not something

**Develop your communication
skills so that
your education
will be
of benefit to
others.**



that one receives. One has to desire it, and to work for it" (emphasis his).

Today's higher so-called education resembles a mass-production factory. It has been reduced in most instances to mere certification. One enters an institution certified to disseminate knowledge by members of that and other institutions, and proceeds to qualify for a certificate that signifies that the individual has completed certain classes arranged to expose him or her to selected fields.

It's a simplified process, and one basically recognized throughout the world. The conferring of a higher degree has become tantamount to official certification by society that one is an expert. Dr. Goldman comments: "This is of course an aspect of another superstition: that expertise is guaranteed by the possession of a degree, or that such officially sanctioned expertise can function in place of intelligence."

John R. Silber, president of Boston University, regrettably adds, "The quality of education that graduates get today is substantially inferior to that of students 50 or even 20 years ago."

The Nature of Education

The tragic consequence is that society measures its depth of education by the number of capital letters one can add to the end of his (or her) name, or titles (as in Europe). A false sense of security in an institutionalized educational system develops.

The tragedy is compounded further by the fact that much of institutional education is falsely based!

Higher education cannot answer the questions of *why* man is here and *what* is his purpose. Knowledge learned at the vast majority of institutions is totally *materialistic*. Young people generally learn how to make a living, but by no means do all even learn this, and most certainly they don't learn *how* to live!

As values shift in society, the popular degrees

sought shift also. This mirrors a society groping for answers to seemingly unanswerable questions.

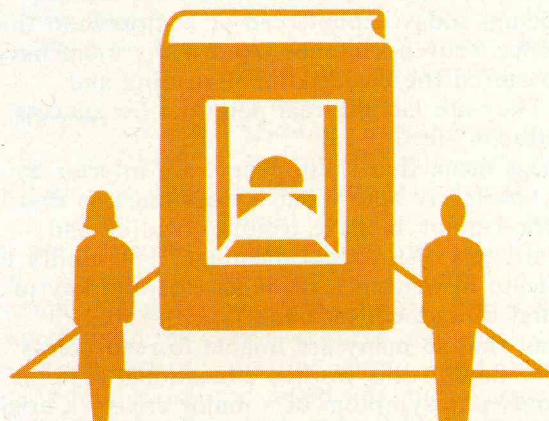
In the late sixties, psychology, sociology and political science were popular degrees. In the seventies many shifted to law. Now the master's degree in business administration (MBA) is popular. As one official characterized it, the shift worldwide is once again toward *materialism*. People want to make as much money as possible and get as much as they feel they deserve.

All the while, feelings of emptiness accompany the average person pursuing education. Many institutional participants (also known as *students*) experience deep loneliness, depression, anxiety. To help spot problem students, college applications often ask whether the student has mental and/or emotional problems. Counseling centers dot campuses in an effort to help students "cope" with the pressures of academic life.

"What *is* the hope of the future?" is the often expressed question.

Finding True Answers

Education, therefore, is the process by which men and women are taught to interpret and understand their environment and background. Through the five senses, people drink in knowledge of their physical surroundings and past history. But often, many are caught up in the mere acquisition of this limited knowledge. The more they know, the better off and



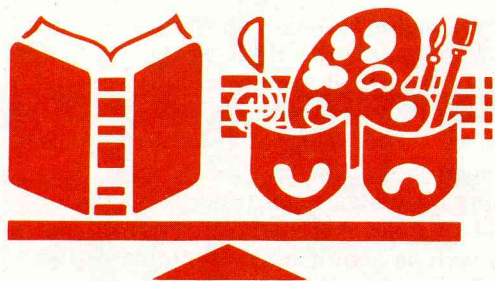
**Don't become
institutionalized;
keep studies in perspective.**

more secure they think they feel. Philosopher Henry James noted in 1900 that "nothing in education is so astonishing as the amount of ignorance it accumulates in the form of inert facts."

Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong has often remarked that "knowledge is of *no* value unless it can be used."

In addition, false knowledge compounds the problem. A little over a century ago, for example, it was widely believed in medical circles that by

lacerating an artery and allowing certain amounts of blood to escape, a person could recover from many diseases. Often, this blood-letting so weakened the



**Balance academics
with cultural activities;
learn to appreciate
the best the arts have to offer.**

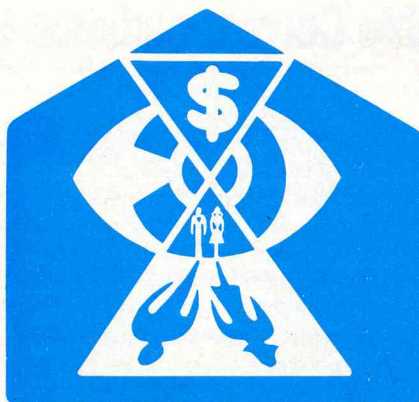
person that he (or she) died all the faster.

Today's educational system suffers similarly because it is not based on an understanding of the purpose of human life. Many educators regard the purpose of human life as mere *survival*. Yet it is FAR more than survival. Avoiding nuclear obliteration is the awesome *problem* facing man today, but man's purpose for being here is far more profound.

The answer to this profound problem is *spiritual* in nature—yet most have no understanding that even the social and moral problems besetting the world today are *also* spiritual in origin.

Man, through his five senses, can only

**Focus on learning *how* to
live, as well as how to make
a living.**



comprehend the physical and materialistic! He (and we mean the traditional pronoun to include the female gender) cannot discover, of and by himself, things spiritual. Therefore, *man is unable to solve his deeper problems*—he is cut off from true spiritual knowledge—the sorely neglected basis of education that would lead to real success!

Now—grasp this—there is only one divine source of spiritual knowledge. It is knowledge that has been *revealed*. This source is none other than the Holy Bible!

Cause of Unhappiness, Turmoil

The tragic basic premise that locks men and women

**Stay with the
basics;
keep your
educational
“feet”
firmly planted.**



in the way of despair, of suffering and war is the presupposition that the Bible is *not* truly rational—that it is not to be thoroughly understood.

No supposition could be more false!

In intellectual vanity, educated men and women generally reject both God and his revelation to man of essential knowledge one could not otherwise find out. Most reject the authority of God's government over their personal lives and instead substitute a false dogma called evolution.

Evolution—an explanation of a creation without a Creator—permeates *all* of man's acquired knowledge. It taints his speculations on the origin of the universe, his educational philosophies, concepts of law—and much more!

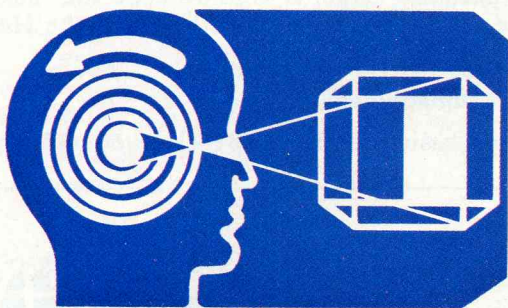
By rejecting the *source* of revealed knowledge, the Holy Bible, man *guarantees* tragedy, despair, unhappiness. By basing his educational system on a false premise, he automatically flaws the entire system. Top to bottom!

Can man know that God exists? “. . . what may be known about God is *plain*. . . For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—*have been clearly seen*, being understood from what has been made

[that is, the intricate laws governing the universe], so men are *without excuse*" (Rom. 1:19-20, New International Version).

Yes, to deny God's existence with prejudice—without seriously investigating the possibility—is intellectual vanity.

Note here also, that God will not reveal himself



**Understand the basis
and background of what you
learn; don't blindly accept
unsubstantiated "knowledge."**

on just any terms. Men falsely assume that God is some sort of genie that must hearken to their every beck and call. If God doesn't comply with their queries, men reject him in their vanity of mind. The consequences emanating from this attitude, which permeates education, are authoritatively explained in our free booklet *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*. If you're not afraid of *truth*, write for your free copy today. (See inside cover for addresses.)

Reconciling God and Science

Some critics assert that they cannot accept God because religion *suppresses* scientific activity.

Is scientific activity altogether contrary to God's revealed religion?

"Wisdom is supreme; therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7, NIV). That's what your Bible says. Granted, much of this world's religion is tradition and superstition, and historically has suppressed scientific activity. But God never established these man-made religious superstitions.

God expects man to develop himself, to learn about his world and surroundings. "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter" (Prov. 25:2).

But God qualifies the kind and basis of real knowledge: "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ" (Col. 2:8, NIV).

The Bible discloses important knowledge about prehistory that is *vital*, that science knows nothing of. This important information is also available to you, free, in the full-length book, *The Incredible Human Potential*. Request your copy today.

Foundation of Education

At Ambassador College, an institution affiliated with *The Plain Truth*, the Bible is the foundational textbook. Inscribed prominently on one of the main buildings on the Pasadena, California campus is the statement, "The Word of God is the foundation of knowledge."

Basing its educational process on the revealed purpose of man, Ambassador students learn *how* to live as well as acquiring marketable skills.

At Ambassador, values that generate happiness, prosperity and peace of mind are incorporated in the academic process. Students are exposed to the basic questions of human existence—and find the answers.

Of course, not every one wants a college degree. And contrary to public opinion, a college degree is not necessary to enjoy a fulfilling, interesting life.

However, the basic principles revealed in the Bible *are* necessary for happiness. If you'd like to begin to establish the foundation for *real* education, we have a *free* correspondence course from Ambassador College. By enrolling in the course, you will receive free monthly lessons about prophetic world events and spiritual knowledge missing in education today. Each lesson utilizes the Bible as the textbook.

Of course, there is never any obligation or follow-up. These fascinating and gripping lessons are offered free in the public interest. In them you will learn, from the pages of *your* Bible, the purpose of man and what God has in store.

We invite you to enroll in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and begin your real education today! □

Have You Enrolled In Our Free Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course?

This is a totally new, different kind of study course, designed to lead you, by the study of your own Bible, to understand the whole meaning of today's world chaos, of the purpose being worked out here below, of prophecy, of salvation.

The most vital, most important questions of your life are thoroughly gone into, and you are directed to the clear, plain, simple answers in your Bible! You will learn how to study the Bible—why so few understand it. You will prove whether the Bible really is the inspired Word of God!

Just address your letter requesting the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.

WILL YOU EVER GET OUT OF DEBT?

by Ronald Kelly

You need to learn how to handle your personal finances, how to get out of debt, and how to stay out of debt!

THE CHANCES are you, right now, are in debt!

If you are an "average" citizen in Canada or the U.S., for example, you have obligated nearly 25 percent of your take-home pay to short-term credit purchases. And you are going to pay for them with monthly installments and add-on interest charges for two or three or even five more years.

But as you pay off on one account, you will have charged on another. Some of you may not foresee a time you will ever get out of debt.

And in addition you are probably making long-term monthly payments on your home, your furniture or your automobile.

The world of CREDIT BUYING has made it all possible.

Time to Pay the Piper

At the same time millions of families accrue debts by credit buying, scores of thousands among them are filing for bankruptcy.

How did these scores of thousands reach the point of economic collapse? Surprisingly, most of these families were average. They were not multimillionaires who went broke over bad investments. They were the average neighbors down the street in suburbia who hold regular jobs and have regular debts.

Here is a profile.

The typical bankrupt family in Canada or the U.S. earns between \$15,000 and \$25,000

annually. The head of the household will be in his middle 30s. The family will have a 30-year mortgage on a middle-class home in the suburb of a major American city. They will have accumulated credit debts in addition to the home mortgage of a little more than \$8,000. *And they can't make the payments!* That's what you might call "head over heels in debt."

How It Got That Way

Let's analyze this "average" family for a moment. You might fit the mold yourself. You certainly want to avoid the pitfalls so many have fallen into.

During the past quarter century credit buying has become a way of life. If you do not have a wallet full of plastic cards, you are indeed handling your finances different from the average person. You may have even felt compelled to obtain a credit card since many stores today will not even take a check in payment unless accompanied by your driver's license *and* not only one, but two major credit cards.

Obtaining these credit cards has heretofore been fairly simple. Just fill out an application where you bank and one comes in the mail. Lured by high-power ads on television and in magazines we have found it convenient to charge gasoline, clothing, department store pur-



chases—almost everything we needed or thought we needed.

Young couples could furnish their apartments or homes within a few weeks of marriage. Their parents probably started with a hand-me-down bed and a used dining set and then accumulated furniture over 10 or more years. No need to wait today. Buy it on credit. Pay for it over three or four years. Enjoy a new couch, an entire bedroom suite and, of course, the ever-present brand new television and stereo.

Each item seems so affordable—the furniture, the car, new clothes.

The first thing you know, the used car dealer sends for the car to be repossessed. A credit collection agency sends snide and threatening letters.

Panic. Bankruptcy.

It happened to more than 1,300 American families *every single day* last year.

Credit Buying Is Nothing New

It might surprise you to know it's an old American custom to buy on credit. It goes back to the very foundation of the country.

In his book, *Buy Now, and Pay Later*, Hillel Black shows just how much of a problem this debt menace has been, historically, as well as in the 1980s. On page 6 of this most-revealing book, Mr. Black states: "Being in debt is not new. The Babylonians, the Celts and other civilizations extended credit. Even the pilgrims on the Mayflower booked passage on the installment plan."

Most Americans probably are not aware that the founding fathers started the New World on money borrowed to be paid back later.

But, an alarming *new trend* was noted in the middle part of the 20th century. As a result of a consumer credit explosion, not only in the United States but in the whole industrial world, the total private debt proved greater than the *combined* private debt of mankind *throughout history*. Never have so many owed so much. Never has so much profit been made out of the debt itself.

Here we are, living in a world of spectacular push-button luxury—

and much of it STILL BEING PAID FOR month by month, check by check, patiently hoping that all this glittering world we live in will someday be our very own.

At the present rate, it probably never will be! The average family will continue to go deeper and deeper in debt in the years just ahead.

What About You?

The chances are you are an average American, or Australian, Briton, Canadian or South African. And the chances are to one extent or another you have been caught in the *swirling vortex* of credit buying!

But where has it brought you?

The same average family probably lives in fear of their financial world closing in someday. After months of paying for the car, the television or the stereo, the desire to purchase more soon overwhelms the responsibility to pay off old debts first.

You are going to have to see where it is heading and learn it has to end somewhere. And you will have to discipline yourself to make yourself do what is best.

How to Begin to Solve Money Problems.

While this flurry of consumer credit buying is going on, let's stop to ask a moment—where has God been all this time?

Are there any laws and principles from the Bible telling us how to handle our money?

Undoubtedly, the average man does not know.

Most people wouldn't know where to turn in the Bible to find out if all this credit buying is good or not! Many would laugh if anyone even suggested searching the Scriptures to find how to run a family budget and handle money matters.

There is not one single facet of life the Bible does not touch upon and, in principle, tell you what to do. Your personal finances are included—there is a great deal *in the Bible* about money matters.

So, the place to start straightening out your financial problems is the Word of God.

Go to the source.

The apostle John was inspired to write in III John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." It is God's desire we have brimful, jam-packed lives—lives abounding with good health and the prosperity to enjoy that health.

Christ said one of the reasons he came was "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

You certainly cannot have a happy, abundant and prosperous life if you are up to your ears in debt. You need to find the way to prosperity and abundant living.

Put God First

The first law of financial happiness and PROSPERITY is to *put God first*. Don't turn to him in a last minute, last ditch, effort of desperation to save yourself from disaster. Find out now what you should do!

Of course, if you are already halfway down the road to financial collapse and ruin, the only thing you have left to do is try it God's way.

If you are a newly married couple—or if your debts have not piled up beyond reason—you need to learn what to do to avert a future disaster in your financial life.

Whether you are now under deep financial obligations or have already undergone bankruptcy, or if you are just getting started on a life of earning money and providing for a family, you need to put God's way first and foremost in your planning.

Most people never stop to think the very soil they till, the factory where they work, the home where they live, in reality all belong to God! It never enters the mind of the common man on the street that the paycheck he receives initially belongs totally to God.

God gives us the land, the water and natural resources that make our jobs possible. He gives us food to eat, air to breathe and water to drink so we can work at our jobs. The universe, the earth and all its natural resources, yes, even the very buildings we build, BELONG TO THE ALMIGHTY CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

In that sense of the word, nothing we do or have really belongs to us. It all belongs to God.

But God is a generous God. He has not demanded we give it all to him. He has given it all to man to use. Man can work the land, till the soil, use the earth in any way he chooses or sees fit. God has given *laws* whereby man *should* do all of this, but he has not forced human beings to do it the right way. He has left that up to us for a period of 6,000 years.

In Deuteronomy 30:19, God gives us a choice, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."

There are two ways to go.

One leads to curses, sickness and *financial disaster*. The other choice is do it God's way. That way will result in life as life is intended to be lived. And it includes monetary blessings.

The question remains—do you want to do it God's way?

Obviously, if someone is going broke and standing on the brink of collapse, he is spending more money than he has coming in. A \$200-a-week American factory worker cannot live in the same fashion as a \$1,000-a-week executive. He would go broke the first month he tried to live that way. And the \$1,000-a-week executive cannot spend money on the same scale the highly paid \$1 million-a-year professional athlete does.

No matter what salary you make you have to control how you spend what you have.

God's 10 Percent

Most people in today's society receive a wage or salary as income for labor. Whether a laborer, clerk, blue-collar or white-collar worker, businessman or banker, we receive money for our efforts.

The reason so many are failing is that they *never have been taught the right way*. Here's what people haven't learned from Malachi 3:8-9, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye

are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Remember, God owns the land—it's all his! Yet God tells you and me we can have 90 percent of all the increase we can make from the land or in our jobs. Think of it—a God so generous he gives us *90 percent of all the earth will produce*.

But he is careful to point out that the 10 percent (that is what the word *tithe* means) that belongs to him must faithfully be paid to him *for his use*—it cannot be used for our own spending. Because people *have not known that*—they have been robbing God and face the potential for financial disaster.

Just look around you to see whether or not that scripture is literally being fulfilled today. Malachi gives sound and stable *financial counseling*. His writings have been preserved for us and are not out-of-date but up to the minute. If you are willing to follow this counsel there will be abundance and prosperity. Notice the next verse—verse 10, "Bring ye all the *tithes* into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, *that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*"

That's God's promise to you!

And he challenges you to prove it. Thousands upon thousands of people are finding out that God's way of tithing and being generous with offerings does work. God will do for you what he promises.

Tithing Teaches Budgeting

There is more to family financing than sitting down and watching God cause paper money to grow on trees in your backyard or garden. I have not yet heard God has done that—and I'm sure he won't. But he will bless you—if you will diligently apply his way.

God said, "The *laborer* is worthy of his hire." He did not say the man who sits around will get rich.

When you begin to pay God his tithes, God will *begin* to add to you as he sees fit. But you must learn to

control your income. The chances are God will not give you a salary increase double your present amount the very first month you begin to pay tithe.

First, you must learn to handle your present salary.

Budgeting principles can be learned from the tithing principle—this teaches dividing your income and expenditures up by percentages.

The first thing you should do when you receive your pay is give God the 10 percent that is his in the first place. (In most nations, the government will already have taken its tax revenues out before you even see your check.)

Remember, though, God's tithes come out of the total increase or adjusted gross income, not on the after-taxes amount.

God has given you control over 90 percent of the remaining income. (The government, of course, has taken whatever it has decreed is its fair share.) The remainder becomes *your responsibility* to handle. It may not make sense to you now—and you probably will not be able to put it down on paper—but when you begin to properly tithe, God will see to it that *your 90 percent* will go further than the entire 100 percent used to—one reason being you begin to make wiser decisions.

Follow These Basic Rules

Once you have decided you will handle your finances God's way, you have a place to start. How you control your after-tithe-and-offering and after-tax income now becomes a matter of *budgetary discipline* and wisdom. There are rules you must follow if you want to be financially successful.

Since living conditions are so different from one part of the country to the next—and different in one nation from what they might be in another nation—it is difficult to properly advise *exactly* what each of you should do. But there are basic rules which apply to all people everywhere.

The first financial need most families face is that of *housing*. You will either rent or buy a home. There will be furniture for

the home. Once settled in a residence, you must provide food and clothing for your family. After those things, there will be smaller day-to-day necessities and you might have room for a few luxury items that must be placed last on your list.

The first and foremost rule of family financial planning is never obligate yourself to more than you can afford to pay back.

Principal Budget Areas

Follow that basic rule of thumb and you will never be in debt above what you can afford to pay. There are many books available on the subject of family money management and budgeting. Most family financial planners will advise that an average family in Canada or the U.S. must plan to spend about 25 percent of income for home mortgage or monthly rent payments. Because of the spiraling cost of mortgage rates and housing costs, this percentage might have to be increased to 30 percent. Any family that spends more than 25 percent of income for the monthly house payment needs to realize there will be sacrifices in other areas. This housing payment should generally include the cost of utilities and furnishings where possible.

After housing costs, you will have to consider food and items purchased at the grocery store. This will generally average about 20 percent of the monthly income in developed countries. Of course, married couples without children can spend less than larger families. Food is cheaper in some areas of a country than others. Many more families are turning to backyard gardens and forming neighborhood co-ops in order to save money in food purchases. You can adapt a particular percentage to your own local condition—know how much groceries cost and how to properly spend your money for food. This responsibility is often delegated to the wife in the family. A wise and cautious shopper who buys the best quality foods at the best possible prices can be a real asset to family budgeting.

Some families can get by on clothing expenditures of approximately 5 percent to 10 percent of their annual

income. Other families where certain type clothing might be required for business might have to spend more. This is another area where self-control becomes important. Changing fashions and intensive advertising campaigns draw our attention to clothing items, and we become easy targets for over extension of our budget in this area.

This is a good time to once again encourage you to exercise caution in using credit card purchases. It is not at all unusual to purchase clothing items on credit plans and have the item of clothing worn out, or in the case of children, outgrown, by the time it is paid for.

After these three basic necessities—food, shelter, clothing—you will probably have to take care of your transportation needs. For most, that will be in the form of a car payment and operational costs for your automobile or for public transportation. Don't forget to budget car repairs. If you live in an area where public transportation is available you may use public transportation more frequently and not buy as late a model car as you might if you simply have to have a car for daily transportation needs. If you must purchase an automobile, purchase one you can afford—it may have to be an older model than you would like and don't forget to calculate the cost of operation.

If you've been keeping track of the percentages, you soon will realize that the basic necessities of life often consume the lion's share of your salary. After God's 10 percent plus offerings, the government takes perhaps 20 percent, and 25 percent goes to housing, 20 percent to food and 5 percent for clothing. All of a sudden, 85 percent or more has been consumed and you have not been able to buy insurance, get the dry cleaning done, go to the dentist, and you haven't had any entertainment built into your budget or set aside savings.

Recently, I was covering some of these principles in my college class and we all jokingly concluded at the end of the lecture that with all of these costs and percentages, we could not afford to be alive. Of course, that's not true, but it does illustrate the point. No matter how

much money we earn in salary, it seems we'll always be able to spend it. Only a few wealthy individuals make more money than they can spend. Since we are in the same boat trying to keep up with spiraling inflation and enjoy the conveniences of modern life, we all face the same problems of budget and control.

If you want to control your money and stay out of debt, you will have to know where you're spending it.

The most helpful hint I can give you here is to keep records. One of the best things a family can do is *sit down together* and *plan* a realistic budget and help each other stick to it. Perhaps it means moving into less expensive housing quarters, or stepping down in the style of transportation. It often means delaying purchases for items you would like to have but really can't afford at this time. Then, make an accurate listing of all expenses for a period of about three months. This will help you analyze your outgo. Whether you keep your records in a notebook or shoe box, keep them where you can have them available. Set up some kind of system so you can write down your needs and payments *every single paycheck*.

And most important, before you buy any major new item, or before you take that trip—*sit down and talk it over as a family!* Impulse buying is one of the great culprits in creating consumer debts. The salesman knows how to tempt you and lead you into the purchase. Many salesmen are trained experts. They subscribe to a study that generally states most purchases will be made on the first visit. Have you ever wondered why that used car salesman puts so much pressure on you when you're wandering through the lot merely looking out of curiosity or because you had a little extra time? If he can get you interested, see the glint in your eye over a particular car or in the case of housing, if you express an interest in that time-sharing plan, he will put the pressure on. And thousands of people fall for it every day.

Make it a personal rule in your family that you will make no purchases, make no financial decisions,

(Continued on page 44)

BRITAIN TODAY

The Slow, Soft Slide Downhill

by T.C.F. Prittie

THIRTY YEARS ago an American friend complimented me on the wisdom of my country's government.

He waxed eloquent: The new policy of decolonization, he believed, was the finest thing that had happened in Britain's history for centuries—perhaps in her entire history. A new and more powerful realm, he thought, would arise, based on freedom and mutual respect. A new clutch of nations would be hatched, harbingers of an era of coherent and cohesive world development.

And Britain would be the greatest beneficiary of all. For her creative talents and calm commonsense, I was told, would be concentrated essentially on her own needs. Britain would be the workshop, trader, banker of the world and, more than all that, a beacon of intellectual life—another, greater Athens.

I had my doubts. I had lived through the futile, fickle thirties and had made my own, juvenile contribution to that most irresponsible decade—only pulling myself together and joining the army when the Munich Agreement was signed. I became painfully aware of the utter unpreparedness of the British army to fight a war, of the lack of planning and purpose, and the vain hope that the threat of Hitler and the Nazis would somehow fade

away. Britain's moral decline would have been less apparent to me, had not my mother launched into a series of letters and newspaper articles on this subject.

Britain's defenselessness in 1940 was a nightmare to someone taken prisoner on the sands of Calais, with the sun shining down on the white cliffs of Dover and German soldiers pointing derisively across the narrow belt of water that shortly they expected to cross. Britain, as it happened, was saved—more by the sea than the gallant young men of the Royal Air Force.

A New Elizabethan Age?

My main doubt about a "new Elizabethan Age" in Britain's history rested on the thought that the loss of the Empire would not bring a surge of British imagination and initiative within the narrow confines of the United Kingdom, but would dispirit and diminish national morale and national effort.

Britain, historically, has been at her best when faced with a real challenge, as in her "finest hour" in World War II. But British response to challenge began to fade by the 1950s.

One British newspaper, *The Dai-*

ly Express, believed that the spirit of the first "Elizabethan Age" could be revived. A whole series of articles acclaimed the "new Elizabethans," introducing each in turn with "I'll give you . . ." The roll of honor was impressive, but the names themselves had much to do with the past, and little with the future. The past was still a fine, colorful canvas, with an over-heavy emphasis on the 1940-41 Battle of Britain, when the country stood alone against the might of Nazi Germany. In sad contrast, the future was beginning to look like a gray twilight.

Fifteen years ago, as guest of the government of Yugoslavia, I paid a visit to the lovely little port of Dubrovnik. Its history, especially from Venetian times onward, has had to do with the sea, and a link with Britain was predictable. Dubrovnik's Maritime Museum contains, among much else, models of every ship built for the merchant marine of Yugoslavia from 1919 onward—for Yugoslavia was successor to a landlocked Serbia, which never possessed a ship to its name.

There, in a single room in Dubrovnik's Maritime Museum, were the models of ships from Tyneside, Teesside, Merseyside, Humberside, Clydeside, the Firth of Forth, Southampton Water, Belfast Lough and the shipyards of a score of lesser-known waterways. Every detail of every ship, as to dimensions, tonnage, date of delivery and length of service, was meticulously recorded.

We have asked the Honourable T.C.F. Prittie to give readers a personal evaluation on the state of Britain today. Mr. Prittie was a correspondent with the Guardian (Manchester) from 1945 to 1970, and was diplomatic correspondent between 1963 and 1970. He has written a number of books including Germany Divided (1960); Israel, Miracle in the Desert (1967); A Biography of Konrad Adenauer (1972); Willy Brandt (1973); and Whose Jerusalem? (1981).

It was a wonderful display; but something was missing. From 1939 onward, there was no single model of a British ship. What had happened, I asked. My guide, a former officer of the Yugoslav navy, made an apologetic gesture. British ships, he suggested, might still be best. But there was the awkward question of price, and the inevitable doubt over delivery date. His was a poor country; it had to spend wisely and as little as possible. And so, from 1945 onward, the names were of ships built in Osaka and Kobe, Hamburg and Bremen—not of Newcastle, Glasgow and Liverpool.

Great Britain and the Sea

Every shred of Britain's past greatness was related to the sea in one way or another. The wide oceans were the lungs of a country that began on the road to world power when Francis Drake defeated the Spanish Armada, and which grew rich from the commerce of colonies. Rudyard Kipling's "Recessional" warned against the crumbling of an Empire, which he saw as the failure of a vision.

By the 1930s Britain was beginning to turn her back on the oceans that had given her health, as well as wealth and power. By the 1970s silence was spreading in the shipyards of those heaven-sent waterways—the best in Europe and the best placed to exploit the trade of two hemispheres. Teesside today is an ultimate sadness of unemployment and a despair of would-be rescuers with patchwork plans to bring a little business back. Harland and Wolff of Belfast is a husk; the lower Clyde no more than a broad backwater. Kipling knew more about armies than navies, but he would be quick to recognize the saddest symptom of all of Britain's decline today.

What Loss of Empire Has Meant

It must be hard for people outside Britain to understand what the loss of an empire has meant. The United States, for instance, has administered overseas territories. But they have been a miniscule of the huge, compact territory of the United States itself. Britain, in her so very

recent heyday, administered territories 140 times the size of the parent United Kingdom in area, and 13 times greater in population.

Kipling has been accused of bombast and arrogance. In fact, he believed implicitly in a mission for Britain of potential service to more than a quarter of the people on earth. It is hardly surprising that Britain, having lost that responsibility and all sense of mission, is adrift and purposeless. The real value of something in life is often not recognized until that something has been lost. So it has been with the British Empire.

What has taken place in Britain in the last 30 years has been a *slow, soft slide downhill*.

Because it has been slow, it has seemed to many to be imperceptible, and therefore not happening at all. Because it has been soft—softened, that is, by measures designed to alleviate stress, but never to supply real remedies—Britain's gray twilight has seemed at least bearable. Most people in Britain, indeed, have up to the very recent past been apt to react with anger to any suggestion at all of national decline.

"Don't knock dear old Britain!" has been the standard response, often taken up with shrill anger by the most-read and least-influential organs of the press. This sort of pseudopatriotism has been dangerously counterproductive because it has made a major contribution to the lackadaisical popular attitude to any kind of reform, or even repair. When there has been a choice of doing something or doing nothing, the public has been steered in the direction of negation.

Some Disturbing Trends

On a single day, just before year's end, the London *Times* carried these stories:

The United Kingdom's unemployment figure was set to reach 3.25 million early in the New Year, or roughly 13 percent of the labor force. Already, nearly 150,000 school-leavers had joined the dole queue and their number was expected to rise further. No figure, of course, could be given for "concealed" unemployment.

The United Kingdom's total economic output is scheduled to go *down* by 2 percent over the last financial year. Yet wage-claims have often been as high as 10 to 15 percent. (Fortunately the coal miners, who were standing out for at least twice that amount, settled for 9.5 percent.) So where should the money come from to satisfy these wage-claims? From resources of wealth that are actually declining? The real sufferers will be old-age pensioners—expected to subsist on a ridiculous £1,000 (approx. U.S. \$2,000) a year, and forced to go cap in hand to beg a few pounds more under the derisory title of "supplementary benefits." Also to suffer are the young—for whose upkeep and education less money will be available—and the physically or mentally disabled.

Armed robberies, one learned on the very same day in December, were reaching record levels; in London there were more in the first nine months of 1981 than in the whole of 1980. A change in pattern was proving a problem for the police. Criminals were switching their attention to "minor" business premises that were relatively unprotected.

But, one was told on another page of the newspaper that prison sentences were proving an "ineffective deterrent" for the proliferating number of small-time burglars who regarded them as an "occupational hazard." A steadily increasing number of criminals go to prison rather than pay a fine, and serve time at the taxpayer's expense.

Many of Britain's prisons were built in the Victorian era. They are not yet falling down but, in the typically British way, are just gently flaking away. In the same issue of the *Times*, there was an article on the sorry state of one of Britain's largest hospitals; the principal sufferers there, in Caterham, were mentally handicapped children. Nothing unusual about this case, for Britain's state-run health service is like an aging ship, which creaks and leaks but just manages to stay afloat. Just how backward Britain's health service is was illustrated to me during a recent visit to

Taiwan's capital of Taipei. In its central hospital there are a dozen of the most modern body-scanners—nearly twice as many as exist in the whole of London.

Some of these stories, one would think, deserved considerable exposure. All of them, on December 23, 1981, were tucked away on inside pages of the *Times*. The British are past masters of understatement.

Welfarism, however well-meant, has contributed to the growing disorganization and confusion of Britain's social life. Of course, there is a credit side to the Welfare State, but it has been a powerful disincentive to self-help or mutual help. It has encouraged a sense of personal impotence and dependence on the State among a people that used to be the most independent minded in the world.

Trade union action, also, too often has tended to hit the man in the street and to impact the national good.

The Philosophy of Envy

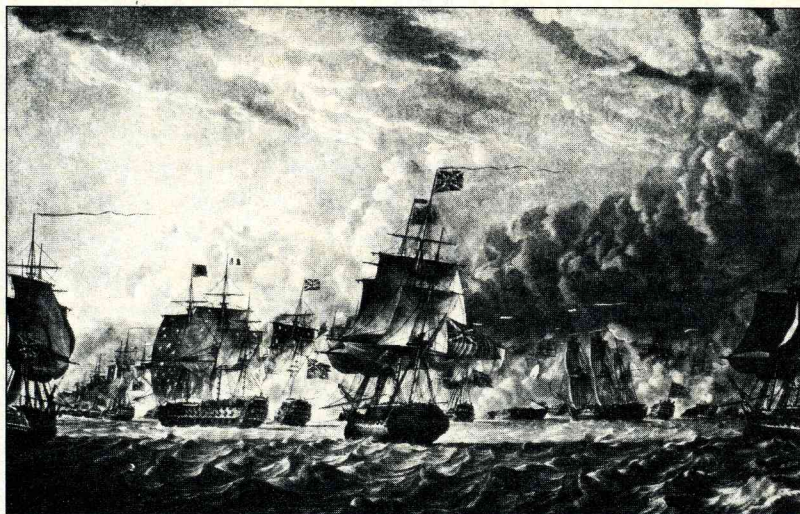
Fifty years ago Howard Spring began writing novels, with a message. He was a socialist who believed in social justice. Mr. Spring would be shocked if he could see what has become of "radical" philosophy. The compassion and honest protest of the 1930s has given way to the current "philosophy of envy" in Britain.

All sorts of factors have contributed. There has been economic decline, inflation and, paradoxically, a rise in living standards that has primed an appetite for more and more of the good things of life. Revolutions, it was said at the time of France's in 1789, come on bellies already half-filled.

The decline of organized religion has played its part, too. The churches in the big cities have been

increasingly empty for several decades. It was otherwise in the countryside, but there too they are now emptying. The bond of religion had an important social significance—and this was particularly true in the villages.

And let us not forget the decline of the family. Today the family is threatened by factors common to all industrialized societies—the divorce rate (Britain is now the leader in Europe!), the generation gap, the lure of the television screen, drugs and drink that



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encourage delinquency, and the perversion of sex by pornography.

Some Positive Points

The philosophy of envy may be the biggest single factor in Britain's inability to stage a real revival, for it makes its own contribution to the gradual disintegration of the social fabric. Of course, the picture of British society is not totally one of despair. It still often shows itself to be "caring." Thus when the crew of the Cornish village Mousehole's lifeboat perished last December, a very large sum was raised by voluntary subscriptions.

Even the radicalization of the left wing of the Labour Party has not projected a specter of red revolution. On the contrary, it has led to the creation of a middle-of-the-road, "third" party of common-sense and moderation (but, it has to be said, little charisma).

After a succession of "trimmers," from the Conservative Harold Macmillan to Labour's James Callaghan, Britain today has a Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, of a boldness and decisiveness that used to be associated

only with the male sex.

Political extremism of both left and right has made gains, but they are not spectacular. Still, how terrible to find Jewish students at British universities denied the use of facilities paid for by the community as a whole—the work of the Left—while British neo-Nazis of the Right openly denounce the "lie" of the near six million Jewish dead of the Holocaust! Yet the great majority of the British people still treasure truth and tradition, as was strikingly demonstrated at last summer's royal wedding.

Hope for a Revival?

May there be a break in the clouds which wreath Britain's once-sceptred isle? Sadly, for the time being at least, Dean Acheson's dictum, that Britain had lost an Empire, but not found a new role for herself, holds true. It is easier to tear down than to create, and Britain's society has suffered severely.

A revival will only come when the abilities of the British people are given free rein, mobilized and deployed by an act of national will. There is no sign of such a revival on the horizon today! □

TOMORROW'S CITIES

An Exciting Preview

by Eugene M. Walter

TOMORROW'S cities are going to surpass your wildest imagination!

They will be the most exciting, the most spectacular, the most modern up-to-date cities the world has ever known. They will be like sparkling jewels on the landscape—filled with radiant beauty, with peace and prosperity, with happy, healthy people. Mankind will never have seen anything like it!

Sound too good to be true? Sound impossible? It isn't.

Such cities are coming—and that before the end of this century!

But where will they be built? And WHO will build them—and how?

Blueprints Already Prepared

Basic plans for these fabulous cities have already been drawn up. All the necessary resources to see this entire plan through to successful completion are available.

The plan is already so far along that a select group is right now being given top-flight training to qualify for future responsibilities as administrators of these cities.

Everything is being carefully worked out. Nothing is being left to chance. The major problems of today's cities will be completely solved in advance before construction on tomorrow's cities ever begins.

Today's cities, by contrast, are a mess. And the bigger the city, chances are, the bigger that mess is.

Problems That Need a Solution

Today, city air is laden with every kind of foul pollutant imaginable. Noxious soot, dust and chemical debris from industry. Toxic monoxide fumes and lead from hundreds of thousands of motor vehicles. Stale, filthy smoke from the millions of cigarettes smoked daily. In some big-city areas multiple tons-per-square-mile of such refuse and waste float down every single month.

City water has frequently been reused oftener than anyone cares to remember. The water being used in one city today has often been flushed down a commode and into the sewer in another city just a few days before.

The food eaten by city dwellers—probably grown on depleted soil to begin with—has been waxed, polished, colored, pasteurized, homogenized, taken apart, preserved and chemically "enriched" until it contains pathetically little nourishment.

The noise level is right on the brink of what the human mind can tolerate and still remain sane.

The normal working day's routine for many begins and ends with a nerve-wracking fight through miserably congested traffic. And what are the sights along the way (besides the back end of the car in front of you)?

A miserable jungle-like labyrinth of steel, glass, wire, asphalt and cement—of streets, supermarkets, shopping centers, housing tracts, office buildings, railroad tracks, electrical lines and industrial smokestacks. A helter-skelter conglomeration of unsightly billboards and gaudy neon signs. A sickening bluish-yellow haze called smog.

Small wonder so many people seek escape!

But these are by no means the only problems.

Personal Safety and Crime

In today's cities personal safety is almost nonexistent. Without God's protection you aren't safe anywhere—not even in your own home. Not even with an elaborate alarm system.

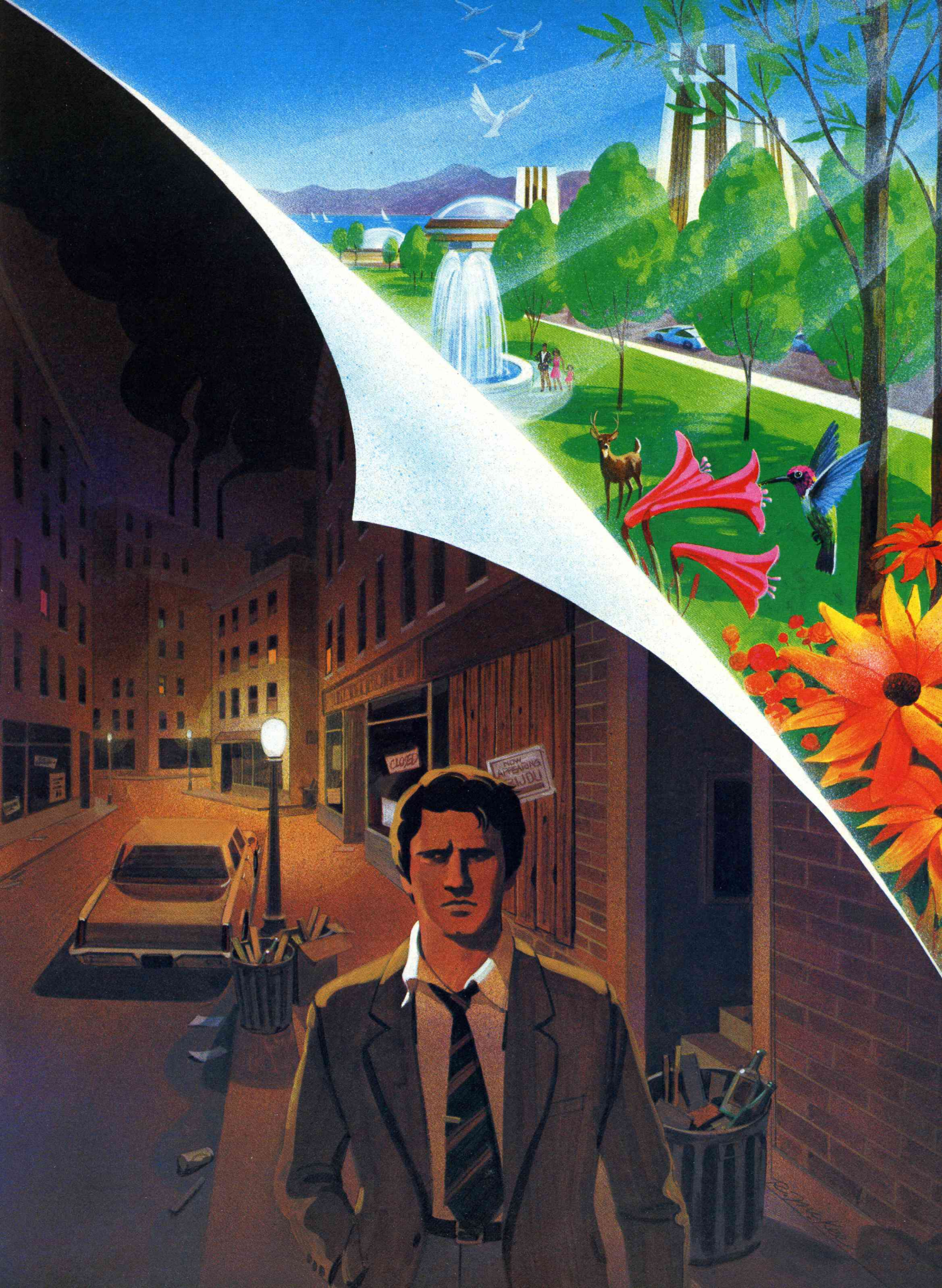
And on the street? Anything can happen! Day or night.

The danger on city streets is no longer confined to traffic accidents. Today, the "normal" street dangers include the possibility of being robbed, assaulted, stabbed or murdered. It includes the constant danger of someone suddenly going raving mad and shooting everyone in sight.

In certain areas, especially at night, the streets have plenty of motor traffic, but the sidewalks are empty. And if you do see an occasional person on the sidewalk, you immediately wonder whether he is about to commit a crime or if he has lost his mental balance.

This is the shocking point to

The PLAIN TRUTH



which we have progressed—or retrogressed—in this “enlightened” 20th century!

Huge sections of some cities are designated as “crime containment zones.” Poverty, unemployment, overwhelming welfare loads, wall-to-wall children, illegitimacy, looting, riots, racial tensions and gangs are the trademarks of these areas. Here crimes of every description run so rampant that the police hope, at best, merely to keep this excessive crime from spilling over into other areas.

Farther downtown there is the bowery or skid row. Its trademark is cheap hotels and saloons, filled with hopeless derelicts, dope addicts, prostitutes and similar types of degenerate humanity.

And out in suburbia—in the nice part of town? Well, the problems of today’s society are here, too.

The homes out here may contain two-car garages, boats and double ovens. But they also contain family strife, broken homes and divorce. The fear of not being able to meet next month’s payments on the house, car, boat, stereo and color television. Envy at the neighbors next door who just installed a backyard swimming pool and are planning a trip to Europe.

Bored with the blessings of life—but coveting more—many of the inhabitants of suburbia seek escape in the excitement of wild, permissive parties—replete with alcohol, drugs, and sexual debauchery.

And the younger suburbanians, with too much free time on their hands and with too little parental supervision, run the usual gamut of licentiousness from vandalism and crime to promiscuity, drunkenness and drugs. At every level of city society and in every part of town we see serious problems in need of a solution.

And we have yet to mention the matters of corrupt business practices, bribery, cheating, bitter labor disputes, organized crime, payoffs, weak and ineffective city government and exorbitant taxes.

Add all these problems together and you can begin to comprehend what a tremendous top-to-bottom change is necessary for our cities to become decent places in which to live.

But thank God, such a change is coming—and soon!

But how? Who and what will bring it about? Where would you start if you were responsible for undertaking such a gigantic project?

Biggest Problem Solved First

Today men seek to solve the problems of our cities by money, schools, integration, night lights to deter criminals, new laws, more police.

But all these methods ignore the basic reason that today’s cities are the way they are.

What is the biggest problem in cities today? What makes cities so bad?

It’s *people!*

It’s the fellow who takes off for work in the morning with his eyes filled with smog and depressing sights, a hostile look on his face, the din of traffic in his ears, his lungs and nostrils full of foul air and cigarette smoke, his stomach full of nutritionally raped food, his veins full of drugs and tranquilizers, and his mind filled with the violence of the previous night’s television programs or his plans to beat the other guy out of as much as he can when he gets to work. He’s the problem in today’s cities—along with millions of men and women just like him.

And what is it that makes *people* so bad? It’s their unconquered HUMAN NATURE. This nature is a nature of vanity, jealousy, lust and greed.

In tomorrow’s cities, this basic cause of human suffering is going to be solved first.

Human nature will be changed.

But HOW?

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God gives us the answer: “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put *my spirit* within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. . . . I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded” (Ezek. 36:26-27, 33). See also Jeremiah 31:31 and Hebrews 8:10.

Human nature will still exist in tomorrow’s cities. The inhabitants of these cities will still be physical, flesh-and-blood human beings. But God is going to give these people his power—his Holy Spirit to resist and overcome the downward pull of their human nature. They will be able to direct, control and guide their lives into constructive channels. They will obey God’s laws. They will live in the way that brings peace, happiness and prosperity for all.

God’s Holy Spirit is available today. But mankind as a whole is not interested in God’s Spirit. He is by nature hostile to God and thinks he can solve his problems without God’s help. He won’t submit to God’s way unless he is forced to. And that is where tomorrow’s mayors come in.

Tomorrow’s Mayors

The mayors in today’s cities are little or no different from those over whom they rule. They, too, have human nature. They, too, are subject to vanity, jealousy, lust and greed—all too often increased because of their position.

Mayors often must ignore urgent problems because to bring them out into the open and to suggest a concrete solution would offend a certain bloc of voters and wash their whole political career down the drain.

And when a mayor does make a sound proposal for getting rid of some evil in his city, it often gets bogged down or lost entirely in a mountain of bureaucratic red tape or in political haggling. Meanwhile the city suffers on.

Many mayors are mere figureheads. Their office sounds important and impressive, but often in fact it is weak and rather powerless.

The mayors of tomorrow’s cities will have no such problems. They will possess the power they need. And they will not be motivated by greedy, selfish desires in using this power. They really WILL have the interest of their people at heart.

The rulers of tomorrow’s cities, as shocking as it may seem, will be divine Spirit Beings. They will be members of the God Family, the Kingdom of God—immortal SPIRIT

The PLAIN TRUTH

BEINGS ruling in God's government on this earth under Jesus Christ!

God has promised a position of rulership in the soon-coming world tomorrow to ALL who by their lives in this present age—the world today—meet the conditions which God has laid down.

"And he that overcometh [and that includes human nature], and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give *power over the nations*: And he shall *rule* them with a rod of iron" (Rev. 2:26-27).

For some this "power over the nations" is going to involve *rulership over cities*. This is shown by the parable of the pounds in Luke 19. In this parable example, rulership over two, five or ten cities is given to those who qualify. Those who overcome and produce more are given the greater rewards (verses 16-19). Those who fail to produce anything receive no reward (verses 20-27).

God is going to appoint as tomorrow's mayors those who qualify for positions of rulership over cities. For more details about the entire pattern of God's government, as it will be in the world tomorrow, write for our free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.

Tomorrow's cities will be ruled by Spirit Beings who are God. And *how* will they rule? Why, with all the resources of wisdom, understanding, love, might and POWER of the God Family!

How These Mayors Will Rule

These rulers won't cater to some groups and individuals at the expense of others. They won't be influenced in the least by petty politics. Their rule will be *just*.

They won't fear being thrown out of office by unruly troublemakers. They will possess the power to swiftly put down any self-exalting, rebellious elements.

Neither will these rulers tolerate filth, shiftlessness and degeneracy. Today when uncultured families are put in new apartments and schools by the government, what happens? Do these people appreciate what they are given? In many cases NO! In a period of months many new facilities have fixtures

stolen, doors and windows are broken, the smell of urine pervades halls and elevators and the whole place is a *wreck*!

In tomorrow's cities people will be taught that this is not the way to live. They will simply not be *allowed* to be degenerate. Those who *insist* on being that way will be punished so swiftly and surely that they will learn very quickly. And all will hear and fear!

Yes, tomorrow's mayors will guide their subjects to obey God and to receive his blessings. They will impose a warm and merciful rule that will bring *joy*! They will *insist* on happiness for their citi-

Why can't city streets be clean, broad, tree-lined avenues interspersed with sparkling fountains, interesting malls and imaginative sculpture?

zens. They will *demand* goodness in their lives. And they will **COMMAND** them to be healthy, and filled with a sense of well-being and contentment!

And most of these subjects will quickly learn that God's way is best. They will *want* God's Spirit to lead and guide them. They will *desire* to obey God's laws. They will be converted, cooperative people.

With this kind of divine ruler and this kind of subject, the rest is a sheer joy to think about.

Can Cities Be Clean, Beautiful, Safe and Inspiring?

Why can't city streets be clean, broad, tree-lined avenues interspersed with sparkling fountains, interesting malls and imaginative sculpture? Why can't the city's

conglomeration of bright lights be arranged in beautiful, artistic schemes and designs? Why can't unsightly poles, conduits and wiring be universally hidden from view? Why can't gaudy neon signs be toned down and ugly billboards be eliminated? Why can't necessary information on buildings be done in neat lettering with good taste?

Why can't city buildings have appealing architectural flair and design—complementing one another in an aesthetic, harmonious whole? Why can't public buildings, schools and churches be devoid of pagan symbols and be kept undefaced and unmarred?

Why can't air and water be clean and pure? Why can't dumping unnecessary soot, waste, refuse and chemicals into air and water be stopped? Why can't industry be located in a separate part of the city, where its natural noise and dirt wouldn't affect the homes, schools and stores?

Why can't cities have adequate parks and playgrounds with trees, shrubs, flowers, birds, animals, lakes and streams?

Why can't cities have fast, efficient systems of transportation that will whisk people downtown without having to clog the street with their cars? Why can't cars be built so they don't pollute the air?

Why can't cities be *safe*? Why can't elderly people go for an evening stroll without being assaulted? Why can't children play without fear of being molested? Why can't people go shopping without fear of being robbed—either by a pickpocket or by the cheap, shoddy, misrepresented products they buy?

The answers to all these questions—and dozens more like them is—**THEY CAN!** Cities **CAN** be clean, beautiful, safe and inspiring.

But about the only hope of ever achieving these things in today's cities is to *start from scratch*! And that is exactly what is going to be done. But *how*?

Today's Cities to Be Destroyed

As we have already shown, in tomorrow's cities, God is going to establish a program to *rehabilitate human nature*. As this program gets into full swing, the sociological

problems—the problems of crime, violence, immorality, divorce, delinquency—will be solved.

Then it will be possible to go to work on the physical aspects of the city—the streets, buildings, parks, homes, schools, transportation.

Here, too, God will start from scratch. But HOW? How can you start from scratch in cities like Chicago, New York, London, Sydney, Toronto, Johannesburg, Tokyo or Manila?

In the same way that Berlin, Warsaw and other European cities started from scratch after they were destroyed in World War II!

Yes, shocking as it may be, Bible prophecy reveals that our present-day cities are going to be devastated with all the destructive force of modern warfare! But WHY?

WHY Our Cities Destroyed

God is going to allow this world's cities to be destroyed for the very reason why they are festering sores on the earth's face to begin with—and that reason is SIN! Our cities are full of sin. Of course all this could be avoided.

Speaking to modern Israel—the United States, the British Commonwealth peoples and the democracies of northwest Europe—God warns:

“For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; if ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever” (Jer. 7:5-7).

Yes, if we as a people would *even now* QUIT SINNING and turn to God, our land and cities could be spared from the catastrophes shortly to come. If we were willing to cooperate with God, he would work out some other way to make our cities decent places to live—without having to suffer the ravages of war. But human beings refuse to do this (Jer. 7:8-10, 28; 8:5-6; 9:5-6, 8).

Yes, it is because of SIN that God is going to punish us and destroy our cities. Whole chapters and books of the Bible are devoted to

warning us of this sobering REAL fact.

Notice Ezekiel's dire prediction: “In all your dwellingplaces *the cities shall be laid waste*, . . . And mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: *I will recompense thee according to thy ways and thine abominations* that are in the midst of thee; and ye shall know that I am the Lord that smiteth. . . .

“The sword is without, and the pestilence and the famine within: he that is in the field shall die with the sword; and he that is in the city, famine and pestilence shall devour him. . . . They shall cast their silver

Why can't cities be safe? Why can't elderly people go for an evening stroll without being assaulted? Why can't children play without fear of being molested?

in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the Lord. . . .

“Make a chain: for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence. Wherefore I will bring the *worst of the heathen*, and they shall possess their houses. . . . And ye shall know that I am the Lord: for ye have not walked in my statutes, neither executed my judgments, but have done after the manners of the heathen that are round about you. . . .

“They shall eat their bread with carefulness, and drink their water with astonishment, that her land may be desolate from all that is therein, because of the violence of all them that dwell therein. *And the cities that are inhabited shall*

be laid waste, and the land shall be desolate; and ye shall know that I am the Lord” (Ezek. 6:6; 7:9, 15, 19, 23-24; 11:12; 12:19-20).

What a terrible time of destruction that will be. But, thankfully the story doesn't end here!

The Joyous Rebuilding

An all-wise God will have to deal with us in the only language we understand—PHYSICAL FORCE and PUNISHMENT.

But once he has dealt with us in this way, and once we have learned our lesson, then Jesus Christ will return to this earth to set up God's government. And then our cities will be rebuilt—this time God's way.

Notice the loving tone in which God comforts Israel whom he has had to punish:

“For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and *make the desolate cities to be inhabited*” (Isa. 54:7, 8, 3).

“For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession. The seed also of his servants shall inherit it: and they that love his name shall dwell therein” (Ps. 69:35-36).

When God sets his hand to build tomorrow's cities with the help of his spirit servants, how fantastic do you think those cities will be? They will be beautiful beyond description!

And they will be filled with joyful thankful people:

“I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and *will build them, as at the first*. . . . Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say shall be desolate without man and without beast, even in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast, The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of

the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the Lord of hosts: for the Lord is good; for his mercy endureth for ever . . ." (Jer. 33:7, 10-11).

A city can only be as prosperous as the hinterland upon which it depends for its food and raw materials. In the world tomorrow this problem will be solved, too. Agricultural prosperity will be unbelievably great in all rural areas. "And the desolate land [most of today's earth] shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. . . . I will increase them with men like a flock" (Ezek. 36:34-35, 37).

In the world tomorrow, city dwellers aren't going to be crowded into small, crackerbox apartments with no backyards and almost no privacy. Instead, "they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and *they shall plant vineyards*, and drink the wine thereof; *they shall also make gardens*, and eat the fruit of them" (Amos 9:14).

Imagine! Gardens in the city!—actually growing food! And imagine people interested in *having* a garden and working in it! With good food and sufficient exercise, fresh air and sunshine, city people will be robust and healthy instead of pallid and sickly.

Yes, the cities of the world tomorrow are going to be far superior to anything on earth today. God promises: "And I will multiply upon you man and beast; and they shall increase and bring fruit: and I will settle you after your old estates, and *will do better unto you than at your beginnings*: and ye shall know that I am the Lord" (Ezek. 36:11).

Jerusalem the Capital City

In just a few short years Jerusalem will be the *showcase* of the whole world. In the world tomorrow it will be the world capital and the model city from which all other cities will get their example. It will be fabulous beyond description.

Jesus Christ, as chief ruler, will make his dwelling there. With him will be many other high-ranking spirit rulers and assistants who will help him administer God's world government.

Here are a few highlights of what Jerusalem will be like then:

"*Beautiful for situation*, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion [a part of Jerusalem], on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge" (Ps. 48:2-3).

"Out of Zion, *the perfection of beauty*, God hath shined" (Ps. 50:2).

"Jerusalem shall be *safely inhabited*" (Zech. 14:11).

"Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein" (Zech. 2:4).

The gates of Jerusalem will be open day and night (Isa. 60:11) so that the various peoples and nations can bring gold, silver and valuable materials into it. They will be richly blessed for doing this, and those who refuse will be "utterly wasted" (verse 12).

All kinds of rare woods will be brought "to beautify the place of my [God's] sanctuary; and I [God] will make the place of my feet glorious" (verse 13).

Jerusalem will be called "The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel" and it will be made "an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations" (verses 14-15).

"For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise" (verses 17-18).

"Thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city" (Isa. 1:26).

Truly, "Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God"! (Ps. 87:3.)

Delegations from all nations will go up to Jerusalem to worship, to offer praise and thanksgiving, to be spiritually uplifted and inspired,

and to receive instruction from God and his servants.

"Jerusalem is builded as a city that is compact together [skyscrapers]: whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces" (Ps. 122:3-7).

"It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: and the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts: I will go also. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord" (Zech. 8:20-22).

This is what Jerusalem will be like in just a few short years!

Tomorrow's Cities and YOU

There is much, much more that could be said about tomorrow's cities.

They will have for visitors delightful restaurants whose personnel cheerfully and courteously serve sumptuous meals—*without* a sickening pall of cigarette smoke hanging heavy in the air. They will have no obscene and violent movies—only clean, wholesome, entertaining, educational films—all under supervision of God's government. They will present thrilling musical productions. They will have exciting recreational centers. They will have interesting, scintillating museums of art, science and natural history.

Cities ought to be places where people go to be intellectually challenged, to be mentally stimulated, to be socially invigorated, to be culturally enriched and to be spiritually inspired!

In the world tomorrow, cities **WILL BE** this way.

The big question for you is, will **YOU** be there to enjoy it? Will you have a part in making these cities fabulous places for people to live? □

TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN TRUE MORAL STANDARDS

by John D. Stettaford

WHEN BABY is finally born, doting parents look expectantly for those distinctive features that make that helpless, bundle of joy something special to them:

"He looks like you!"

"He's got your mannerisms and your smile."

But when he (or she) grows up, who will he *think* like?

Is there any way we can know? After all, even the world's worst dictators were all adorable babies once.

Why Child Vandalism and Violence

Reports from around the Western

world show the immense change that occurs from infancy to adolescence. Vandalism is mostly committed by teenage children between the ages of 14 and 16. According to one police crime report, an average London child, for example, will have committed 100 thefts by the time he leaves school at age 17—that is, if he's average! Petty thefts maybe, but criminal *theft* nonetheless.

Nowadays young thugs seem to "patrol" the streets of Western cities in packs. Typical was the group of Italian youths who sadistically tortured, repeatedly raped and finally brutally murdered a 19-year-old girl in Rome just "for kicks." Such young thugs were

once unheard of except for the isolated incident. This group were late-teenage sons of wealthy parents—parents who didn't and would not subscribe to that kind of conduct.

Surely the children who commit such acts aren't learning this kind of behavior from Mother and Dad—or from school? So where *are* they learning it? In the home on television, at movies and from peers in and out of school.

No Moral Conscience?

Indications are that young people judge the seriousness of a crime against the value of the item stolen. They also feel that the severity of the punishment should depend



J.P. LaFont — Sygma

Reports from around the Western world show that vandalism is mostly committed by teenage children between the ages of 14 and 16. Nowadays young thugs seem to "patrol" the streets of Western cities in packs.

upon the status and identity of the victim.

On this basis, the theft of a valuable painting from an impersonal museum may be viewed as a less serious offense than half a bar of chocolate stolen from the school locker. And a purse stolen from a busy housewife out shopping is viewed nowhere near as serious as a similar sum of money stolen from a defenseless widow or pensioner.

What really disturbs the authorities—police chiefs, magistrates, social workers, educators and the like—is this added ominous fact: children who don't actually commit criminal acts, who don't vandalize or steal themselves, no longer regard such unlawful acts by others as serious offenses.

Increasingly, children have an almost complete lack of moral consciousness either for their own actions or the actions of others. Too often the "11th commandment" is simply—"Don't get caught!"

Today's children will be tomorrow's adults. What a child accepts as morally correct today will be the standard of tomorrow's society. The trend of youth today tends to indicate where society is headed in the future.

At the turn of the century the whole Western world collectively subscribed to a rigid social morality. Everyone knew the rules and

the punishment for breaking them. Today's society is subject to an almost continuously changing moral standard. What is now accepted as moral is no more than a code of behavior based on social consensus. As society's standards change, so do belief and behavior.

For example, the pressure in the United States to legalize marijuana is largely due to a social morality shared by those who say, "What harm does it do to society?" If and when the majority—or even the highly vocal minority—can demonstrate that marijuana is now acceptable to their society, legalization will follow.

Social morality has degenerated into the do-what-you-like-as-long-as-it-doesn't-hurt-others attitude peddled by so many moral experts and progressive churchmen.

But our actions and those of our children are hurting the whole of society both individually and nationally. Except in some communist and Arab states most categories of criminal behavior are showing rapid rises in virtually every country. Maybe we should examine why it is that certain regimes *are* able more or less to contain criminal activity.

The Chinese Method

The Chinese have never tolerated criminals. In the West we would all

probably think twice before turning over to the police a man we had seen commit some petty crime. But Chairman Mao's brand of morality placed all the responsibility of bringing criminals to justice firmly on the people—not the State. Until recently the Chinese citizen would unhesitatingly report the criminal both for his own good and the good of the community. Since limited Western reforms were introduced after Mao's death, China too has experienced increases in Western-style crime.

Formerly the emphasis was always placed on *detering criminal action*, and it was this philosophy that determined both the Chinese moral code and social morality. As British M.P., Andrew Faulds, put it in *The Times*: "The [Chinese] emphasis [was] on hard work, *responsibility to the community and denial of self*." The result was a much lower crime rate by Western standards.

Contrast this with shifting Western standards. John March, former assistant chairman and counselor of the British Institute of Management, examined business ethics in a paper presented to the Royal Society of Arts in 1970. "Everything we stand for," he stated, "is being challenged again and again. . . . It is an age when the young are savagely questioning the values and habits of



James Andanson—Sygma

The Chinese have not tolerated criminals (and this was true even before the communist takeover in the 1940s.) . . . The responsibility of bringing criminals to justice [is] all firmly on the people—not the State.

a sorely perplexed generation. Dogmatic slogans are strident and yet our uncertainties are greater than ever."

The situation has not improved in the decade since this was written. The day when morality meant obedience to and acceptance of the existing social order has long since gone.

In a report entitled "Progress and Problems in Moral Education," the National Foundation of Educational Research (NFER) in England and Wales addressed the increasing concern felt by British teachers about what parents expect of them as cultural transmitters. The report agreed that schools provide the initial link between the morality of the home and that of the world at large. But public morality is of a less fixed and certain nature than that taught in the home. The duty of the teacher is therefore problematical. They, too often, feel they must teach the pupil not a fixed code of morality, but how to adapt to expediency, situation ethics and a flexible approach to morality. We live in the age of the sophisticated double standard!

It All Begins in the Home

Today's morality is based on no more than personal convictions tempered by time and circumstance. The old moral codes based on rather fixed religious standards have virtually been abandoned as "founded on untenable assumptions and as educationally unjustifiable" (NFER report, page 57.)

Morality, then, has been largely dismissed as not the job of the teacher but of the parent. So if you want your child to grow up with certain moral standards, *you'll* have to educate him morally and spiritually yourself. And, in addition, exercise control over visual and written material penetrating the home on television, in magazines and newspapers. Add to that the need to supervise the quality of movies and the choice of friends in and out of school.

Teaching morality at home presents none of the many philosophical problems teachers face. After

all, morality is really not an abstract philosophy, but a way of life. And if a parent really exemplifies the way of life he wants to impart to his child, the youngster learns not by some abstract, philosophical argument, but by *the right example!*

Today's teachers often feel they are only there to impart information and the pupil must do his own evaluating. But the parent should feel no such constraint.

Stages in Morality

Initially a young child accepts as truth whatever he is told. Tell him that Santa Claus comes down the chimney, and he'll at first accept it as fact. The danger comes in thinking that the child will always remain that way. The older he becomes the more a child will weigh up what he can currently observe against past childhood teachings.

Parents need to realize that children go through various stages in developing moral standards. U.S. psychologist Lawrence Kohlberg found evidence that in the earliest stages of training, reward and punishment play an important part in making wise moral judgments. He concluded that the child should be punished or rewarded according to the *moral* implications.

In the next stage the primary consideration is whether an action meets the approval of others. At the higher stages (Kohlberg concluded that many adults never reach this stage) moral decision-making is guided by a reciprocal sense of responsibility toward others. A child, for example, will learn in time to wait in line for his ice cream because he expects others to do the same.

The highest stage of moral development (as identified by Kohlberg) is where relatively abstract principles, such as justice, mercy and toleration, are paramount in governing both thought and action.

But, today's morality is largely based on the slippery slopes of situation ethics—not fixed transcendental codes. The result? Shifting moral codes are catching up with

society in the form of increased crime, greater violence to the person and much less natural affection.

Today, morality has been divorced from religion. People want to be free to do as they wish, without any deference to revealed spiritual considerations. A humanist moral code instead of the Bible is usually advocated, based on a universal but undefined human "law of love." But it is not God's definition of love—outgoing concern for others.

But no matter how appealing this approach may appear, it just doesn't tell man *how to love*. Modern morality is without specific guidelines and erroneously leaves it up to each individual to judge right and wrong for himself. It is God who determines what is right and what is wrong. It is ironic that in adopting this empty, futile humanist approach, society has abandoned the one and only divine "law of love" that really works.

This true law of love is expressed in Christ's two great commandments: love of God and love of neighbor. These two great principles are then broken down into specific guidelines by the Ten Commandments and further expounded on throughout the Bible.

Man can work out no better moral code for himself or his children. If properly applied it is most certainly *not* a negative law that places us in a straitjacket of dos and don'ts. On the contrary it is a constructive code of law that forms the basis for building both happy lives and safe societies.

Above all, it provides parents with a truly sound basis for the positive moral education of their children. And parents who live their lives according to these principles will not be setting double standards. They will live a way of life that stands up to scrutiny—particularly the scrutiny of their own children as they reach their teens.

Teach your children the Ten Commandments and explain to them the meaning of this great spiritual law. You'll never regret it! □

A POWERFUL new thrust is being introduced by the Vatican into the European political arena.

The world's press has almost totally overlooked its significance. Many bishops—and even cardinals—of the Roman Catholic Church have not fully grasped its importance.

Yet it may well be the *biggest news* of the 1980s!

That new thrust is a papal commitment—a “mission”—to UNITE EUROPE religiously and politically!

The stage is being set for far-reaching changes—the most momentous in the history of Europe since the Protestant Reformation!

An Institution Beset With Troubles

Over the past two decades the authority and unity of the Catholic Church have been severely shaken. Beneath the veneer of public enthusiasm and admiration so apparent during papal journeys abroad lies a seriously fragmented institution. The Pope is widely admired—but not always obeyed.

It was the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) that opened the floodgates of dissent and paved the way for the crisis that now besets the Catholic Church. The innovative Pope John XXIII had called for the council—a general meeting of the bishops of the Church—to “bring the Church up to date” and work for spiritual renewal.

But he died and the “breath of fresh air” he hoped would fill the Church turned out to be a devastating whirlwind.

The festering issues of birth control, abortion, divorce, celibacy, homosexuality, women in the priesthood, political activism of priests, papal infallibility and distribution of ecclesiastical power

subsequently have troubled the Church. Differences among Church traditionalists, conservatives, progressivists and radicals tear at the fabric of the papacy.

As Pope Paul VI himself augured, somewhat cryptically, when he neared death, “The Devil has entered the Church, there is smoke around the altar.”

Many even in the upper echelons

Ahead...

RELIGIOUS UNITY OF EUROPE

by Keith W. Stump

Forces have been set
in motion that will
revolutionize the
face of Europe—and
the role of the
Roman
Catholic Church!

of the Church hierarchy remain uncertain and apprehensive—not quite sure what comes next.

Common Need

At the same time, the continent of Europe itself stands at an historic crossroads.

Divided politically and ideologically and beset with increasingly serious economic and military concerns, Europe faces a potentially explosive situation. Fears over the future are growing among Europeans.

Europe, like the Catholic Church, is weakened by division. And both prelates and politicians alike realize that a house divided against itself *cannot stand*.

In the face of this division, voices within both European political circles and the Catholic Church are appealing for UNITY.

But *how* is that elusive unity to be achieved? How are the rifts to be healed—both within the Church and within Europe itself?

The record of the recent past does not augur well for the future. On a purely political basis, the nations of Europe have been unable

to unite. The European Economic Community (EEC) or Common Market has largely failed in its goal of bringing about increased political unity among member nations. The slow process of *gradual* strengthening of the EEC's political institutions has simply not worked.

Likewise, the Catholic Church remains philosophically divided from within, despite the best efforts of unity-minded churchmen.

Confronted with these realities, leading European politicians and Catholic clergymen have come to an important realization. There is only *one possible course* for the future, they believe.

If they are to solve their respective problems, Europe and the Catholic Church *need each other's help*. Their *common need* for unity can be achieved only by *working together*.

Influential churchmen within the Vatican have come to believe that the only way to inspire unity and bring new life into the Church is to *plunge it into a cause larger than itself*. That cause, they believe, is the *unification of Europe!*

Historically, the Roman Catholic Church has exercised a powerful *cohesive effect* on Europe, binding the differing nationalities and cultures on that continent by the tie of a *common religion*. This, some

political leaders believe, might well be the formula for unity *today*—a reconstitution of the whole of classic Europe, along the lines of the old Holy Roman Empire, under the Catholic aegis.

Where will it all *lead*?

Religious Unity

First, consider the religious sphere.

The theme of European unity on the basis of a common religious and cultural heritage has been raised frequently by Pope John Paul II. For him it is no casual, passing concern. He has made it very clear that he believes he has a literal *calling from God* to unite Europe!

During his well-publicized trip to his native Poland in June, 1979, Pope John Paul II declared: "Europe, despite its present and long-lasting division of regimes, ideologies and economic and political systems, *cannot cease to seek its fundamental unity and must turn to Christianity*.... Economic and political reasons cannot do it. We must go deeper...."

Nine months later, John Paul II renewed his call for a united Europe including the Western European nations *and the Communist bloc countries*. During an audience with more than 3,000 Yugoslavs on March 21, 1980, he stressed that Europe must seek religious unity if it is to advance beyond its present divisions.

The world's large, mass-circulation newspapers and magazines took little notice of these and similar statements—overlooking one of the potentially biggest stories of this century!

In a private audience on October

25, 1980, John Paul II told a group of 200 European journalists that they had a serious responsibility to help shape public opinion in the effort to create "a united Europe." Yet they still appeared not to realize the significance of his words.

The days are rapidly approaching when the theme will not be ignored!



Ric Eggenbright

**Europe and the
Catholic Church need each
other's help . . . unity can be achieved
only by working together.**

John Paul II takes the subject very seriously. This was evidenced in an address to top European theologians. In it, the Pope asserted his conviction that "the problem that assails us is really to save Europe and the world from the *final catastrophe*!"

Recurrent Theme

Now see how this theme of a unified Europe has been developing

within the Catholic Church over recent decades.

Pope John Paul II's predecessors—Pius XII (1939-1958), John XXIII (1958-1963) and Paul VI (1963-1978)—all threw their considerable weight behind moves for the creation of a supranational European community. John XXIII said that Catholics should be "in

the front ranks" of the unification effort.

Pope Paul VI was especially vocal in his support for European unity.

In November, 1963, soon after assuming the papal throne, Paul VI declared: "Everyone knows the tragic history of our century. If there is a means of preventing this from happening again, it is *the construction of a peaceful, organic, united Europe*."

In 1965, Paul VI declared that "a long, arduous path lies ahead. However the Holy See hopes to see the day born *when a new Europe will arise*, rich with the fullness of its traditions and animated by a common will to build the best possible future for the millions of inhabitants of Europe."

Perhaps the most forceful of Paul VI's calls for European unity came on October 18, 1975. It was an address in Rome to participants in the Third

Symposium of the Bishops of Europe. Present were more than 100 bishops, cardinals and prelates representing 24 European countries. Addressing the question of the role of bishops in spreading the Catholic faith, Paul VI asserted:

"Can it not be said that it is faith, the Christian faith, *the Catholic faith that made Europe* . . . ?"

Paul VI continued: "And it is there that *our mission* as bishops in

Europe takes on a gripping perspective. *No other human force in Europe can render the service* that is confided to us, promoters of the faith, *to reawaken Europe's Christian soul, where its unity is rooted.*"

Paul VI called the Catholic faith "the secret of Europe's identity." In discovering this important secret, he said, Europe could then go on to perform "the providential service to which God is still calling it."

The Kingmaker

On June 27, 1977, Paul VI took a major step toward promoting his vision of European unity—a step whose full ramifications are yet to be felt!

On that day—slightly a year before his death—Paul VI elevated Giovanni Benelli, the dynamic archbishop of Florence, to the rank of cardinal.

Numerous reasons lay behind the move. But sources close to the Vatican reveal that a major objective was to give Archbishop Benelli the standing with which to effectively undertake an important role—the role of *organizer of a "new soul" for Europe!*

Cardinal Benelli's commission is to galvanize new unity on the Continent, to actively push the idea of a *united Europe.*

Giovanni Benelli is a man with many friends—and enemies. His friends describe him as "tough-minded," "hard-driving," "tireless," "politically adroit" and even "charming." His adversaries call him "dangerous," "ruthless" and "despotic."

Cardinal Benelli, 61, has had a long and successful career. Born near Pistoia in Tuscany, he was ordained a priest in 1943. In 1948 he joined the Vatican diplomatic service and subsequently served in numerous overseas posts, including Ireland, France, Brazil, Spain and Senegal.

Cardinal Benelli served for many years as Pope Paul VI's "chief of staff" or administrative right-hand man. He was an intimate adviser and was named deputy secretary of state in 1967.

Vatican sources reveal that he was clearly favored for the papacy by Paul VI before his death. Archbishop Benelli's elevation to cardinal in 1977 and appointment to the See of Florence to round out his experience were reportedly designed to signal that fact.

In his new role of organizer of a "new soul" for Europe, Giovanni



Fabian—Sygma

Cardinal Benelli's commission . . . is to actively push the idea of a united Europe.

Benelli delivered the main speech at an important conference in Bavaria, West Germany, in September, 1977. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the religious contribution to the first direct elections to the enlarged and strengthened European Parliament. In attendance were many influential political figures, including West Germany's Franz Josef Strauss.

Cardinal Benelli said in his

address that Europe would be united effectively *only if proper value is placed on its religious heritage.* He suggested that one reason for the lack of enthusiasm for a united Europe might be weakening of the religious spirit in Europe. That trend, he asserted, would have to be reversed.

In the pope-electing conclaves of 1978, Giovanni Benelli emerged as "the power behind the throne." Cardinal Benelli engineered the election of Albino Luciani (the short-lived Pope John Paul I) in August, 1978.

In the balloting for Pope Luciani's successor in the October, 1978, conclave (which eventually elected Karol Wojtyla as John Paul II), Giovanni Benelli fell only a few votes short of being elected pope himself! Cardinal Wojtyla reportedly voted for Cardinal Benelli in the early balloting.

Sources in Rome familiar with the Vatican's inner workings say that Cardinal Benelli's failure to be elected was due, in part, to the fact that he was considered to be simply "too young"—57—in 1978. This was three years short of the minimum age for a pope by traditional standards.

With this in mind, knowledgeable churchmen, when asked before the October, 1978, conclave about Cardinal Benelli's chances of becoming pope, remarked, "Not this time, *next time.*"

Cardinal Benelli is definitely *a man to watch* in the new Europe!

Europe and the Cross

The Popes' calls for "the formation of the spiritual unity of Europe" have been echoed by influential spokesmen in the political arena.

Most prominent among these is Otto von Hapsburg—a key figure in the movement for European unification. Dr. von Hapsburg is the eldest son of the last Austro-Hungarian emperor.

With the endorsement of his longtime politician friend Franz Josef Strauss, Dr. von Hapsburg won a seat in 1979 in the European Parliament. Observers of the European political scene feel Dr. von Hapsburg's views will carry in-

creasing weight in months ahead, as crises force a painful reassessment of European goals and directions.

Otto von Hapsburg, 69, has continually stressed the importance of religion in the formation of a united Europe. He regards the Roman Catholic Church as Europe's *ultimate bulwark*. "The cross doesn't need Europe," he once stated, "but Europe needs the cross."

Perhaps today—in view of growing crises within the Catholic Church—Dr. von Hapsburg also grasps the "cross's" complementary need for Europe.

Inter-European unity has long been a quest of the Hapsburg family. Otto von Hapsburg has often pointed out the similarities between the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages—over which his family ruled for a time—and his view of a coming "United States of Europe."

Europeans, he believes, must be reawakened to their historical religious heritage and realize the utility of religion as a "glue" for Europe. In this regard, he has called attention to the potential role of the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which today resides in the Schatzkammer (Royal Treasury) in Vienna.

Christopher Hollis, in the foreword to Dr. von Hapsburg's book *The Social Order of Tomorrow*, points out that Dr. von Hapsburg "would like to see Europe resume her essential unity, and in the symbolism of that unity he thinks that the imperial crown of Charlemagne and of the Holy Roman Empire might well have its part to play."

Under the Holy Roman Empire, the temporal power of the emperors was closely linked with the spiritual power of the popes. Catholicism served to integrate European society. In practical terms, this meant

that the papacy wielded significant worldly power. Europe, in face, came to be virtually dominated and led by the papacy.

It is to this medieval church-state model that popes, cardinals and European political figures such as Otto von Hapsburg are now looking for the answer to *today's* political and religious woes!

A revived alliance between church and "empire," they believe, may be the very key—the *only*

as *The Plain Truth* recently reported, events are heading inevitably toward a large-scale crisis confrontation with the Soviet Union. Poland is just the beginning.

Inside the Catholic Church, prospects are also disturbing. In his book titled *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Church*, former Jesuit professor Malachi Martin examines the decline of unity and authority in the Catholic Church. Dr. Martin concludes that "as things now stand,

there appears to be no reasonable hope that this decline can be arrested."

"It is very late for the church of John Paul II," Dr. Martin observes. He calls John Paul II "a pope of transition. . . ."

The situation, admittedly, is serious. Dr. Martin feels the Church's decline is irrevocable.

But is it?

Dramatic Reversal

The answer, remarkably, is found in the pages of the very Bible from which the Christian-professing world purports to derive its faith.

Bible prophecy reveals that a *dramatic reversal* of this decline lies just ahead—a *religious revival* of monumental proportions!

As explained frequently in *The Plain Truth*, prophecies in both the

Old and New Testaments foretell the emergence of a final end-time restoration of the ancient Roman Empire. This powerful entity will be composed of "ten horns"—meaning 10 nations or kingdoms (Rev. 17:12)—under the overall leadership of a single powerful political figure (verse 13).

Prophecy further reveals that this united European power—a great Third Force in world affairs—will be a *religiously dominated* federation of nations. A great church, led by a religious figure of unprecedented authority and strength, will sit astride the "empire," giving direction to it



**Under the Holy Roman Empire,
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key—to European survival in the face of Soviet communism.

Too Late?

As crises mount, such appeals by political and religious leaders may begin to reach more responsive ears.

And crises *are* mounting.

In recent years, Western Europe's economic troubles have intensified. Inflation, unemployment and slow growth now plague most of the Continent. Fears over military security—centered on the question of U.S. reliability as an ally—further aggravate the picture.

In the nations of Eastern Europe,

like a rider guides a horse (Rev. 17:3).

The prophetic picture is clear. In the face of a growing communist threat, a great political figure—arm-in-arm with a powerful religious leader—will step into the gaping void of leadership and radically alter the direction of both Europe and the Catholic Church.

In these turbulent last days of the 20th century, the “spiritual unity” of the Continent—as so often urged by recent popes and political leaders—*will* be realized!

The Church will surmount the ideological division of Europe and, in turn, the political influence of a united Europe will be used to promote religious uniformity. Many of the Church’s “wayward daughters” will be brought back into the “mother-fold.”

Man of the Hour

Now notice *how* this religious-political configuration is beginning to take shape.

As students of Bible prophecy understand, the “ten horns” (10 nations or groups of nations) of Revelation 17 correspond to the 10 toes on the great statue described in Daniel 2. The prophecy of Daniel reveals that these 10 entities will constitute a political system that will exist at the return of Jesus Christ to establish the Kingdom of God on this earth (Dan. 2:44-45).

There are, of course, five toes on each foot. This may well indicate that, as historically, the coming reconstituted Roman Empire will include elements of both *Western* and *Central* Europe! (Central Europe as used here, refers to that tier of states west of Russia and east of the nations of Western Europe.)

Will some nations of Central Europe—now behind the Iron Curtain—succeed in freeing themselves—or being freed—from Soviet domination?

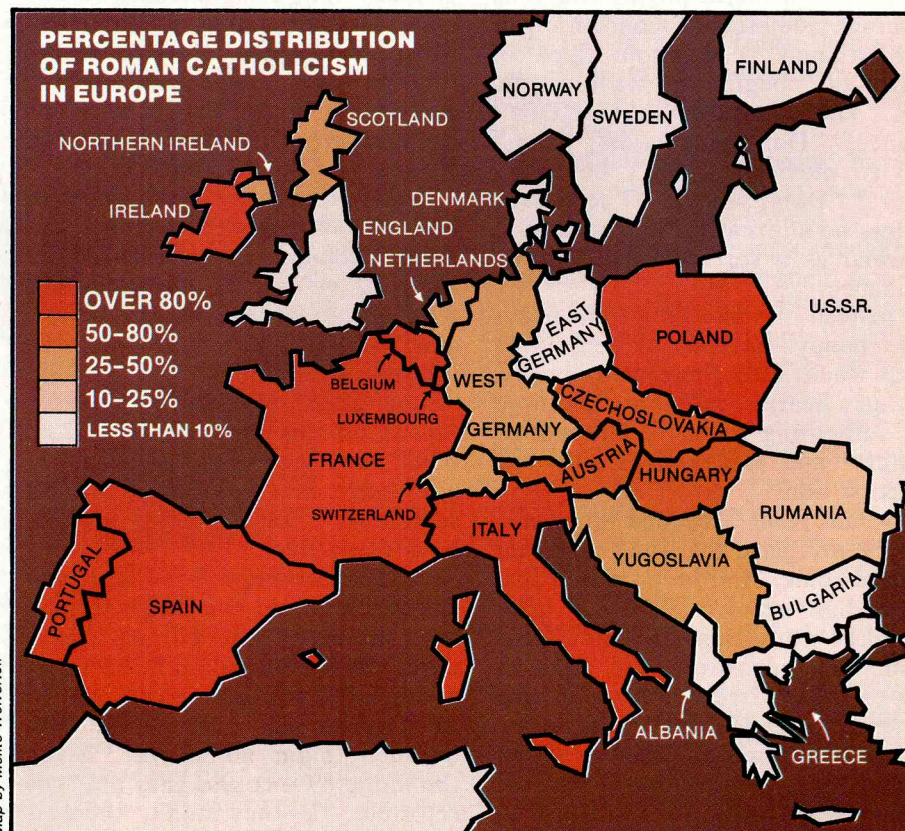
The Kremlin *fears* the Polish Pope—politically the most powerful pope of modern times. John Paul II is indeed in a unique position to lay the groundwork for

ultimate participation of Central Europe in the master plan of European unity. As Malachi Martin has also observed, “Karol Wojtyla . . . seems to have been born for this hour.”

John Paul II has had a great impact on Iron Curtain politics. His voice is the source of enormous influence in that region. Many even in Central Europe’s Iron Curtain countries have caught his vision of a pan-European Christian alliance

and her neighbors, weakening the hold of the Kremlin sufficiently to open the way for a political deal between Europe and the Kremlin that would allow elements of Central Europe to associate themselves with an evolving West European power.

Vatican specialists point out, however, that it might be left to a subsequent pope—one with less of a personal preoccupation with Poland—to assemble the continent-wide unity package. In other words,



POTENTIAL ROMAN CATHOLIC INFLUENCE in Europe is illustrated by the above map. Vatican initiatives toward unity with other churches could further extend papal authority in its confrontation with communism and secularism.

against the secular materialism of both East and West.

Austrian Cardinal Franz Koenig has observed of the Soviet satellite countries “. . . Marxism as an intellectual doctrine is no longer of importance among the young generation. They are looking for a spiritual orientation, a spiritual support, and here the religious sphere offers itself very strongly. . . .”

Vatican observers speculate that John Paul II’s voice might continue to stir nationalistic fervor in Poland

someone geared to think and act in the tradition of the great medieval statesman-popes.

Dramatic Times

Events are taking shape that will radically change the face of the European continent. The coming *Renovatio imperii Romanorum*—“restoration of the empire of the Romans”—will astound the world! Europe—and the Church of Rome—will once again be powers to reckon with. □

GENERATION?

(Continued from page 10)

Woolworth jewelry, when what they really crave is the pearls of a heart-warming, Spirit-firing Christian experience!

The Sinful "Don'ts"

Religion has come to be considered, by these youngsters the oldsters condemn, as a dark, gloomy, profitless, penance-paying life. The average adolescent's conception of Christianity is a whole flock of "Don'ts," beginning with capital Ds. The churches shout "Don't dance," "Don't play cards," "Don't go to movies," "Don't bob your hair," "Don't smoke." The church offers no alternative. Christianity is viewed as a sort of living painful penance.

Instead of something that makes one happy—instead of something that would feed those cold, empty, hungry hearts—religion is pictured as something gloomy, foreboding, painful and cold and as silly and superstitious.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he promised that the Comforter would come. And he promised that "ye shall receive *POWER* after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you." The apostles were *FULL* of *power*, and fire, and vigor and interest, after the day of Pentecost. What's become of that *POWER*? What have men done with the heart-warming, soul-satisfying Comforter that Christ sent down from heaven? That's what our young people are really seeking. But they don't know it, and it seems there's no one to tell them, or lead the way!

What Parents Don't Know

Now what about the outside influences? The automobile. The movie. The cabaret, the night club and the speak-easy? The dance hall. The social affairs of high school and college? These have degenerated into artificial, devil-inspired outlets that are doing in a false way what the churches and the homes have failed to do in a right and healthy way—ministering

to the passion of modern youth for an internal warming-up.

I know something of the modern conditions from first-hand investigation. And while I realize full well that the average parent of middle age or past will never believe what is actual fact and truth—it is my conviction that Judge Ben B. Lindsey," while offering a dangerous solution, presents at the same time a really true and accurate picture of the moral status of the young folk of today. The real shocking results take place, of course, under cover. Most older people refuse to believe the real truth. Judge Lindsey is in position to know. Listen to a few brief excerpts from his book *The Revolt of Modern Youth*.

On the testimony of thousands of high school students—average students, including all classes—*more than 90 percent* of all the youth who go to parties, attend dances and ride together in automobiles, indulge in hugging and kissing. "Some girls," says Judge Lindsey, "insist on this kind of thing from boys they go with, and are as aggressive, in a subtle way, in their search for such thrills as are the boys themselves."

A certain very beautiful and spirited girl told the judge frankly that she refused to go out with a certain boy because he lacked pep, and didn't know how, as she put it, to "love me up." "Do all the boys do such things nowadays?" asked the judge. "Of course they do," she retorted. "If they don't, there is something wrong with them."

But there is another type in the flapper world—quite numerous and common—not at all oversexed, but who nevertheless permits promiscuous liberties. He quotes the conversation of such a typical girl—extraordinarily keen and intelligent—of well-to-do and apparently good parents. She is unusually attractive to boys. She is a typical flapper—glib, slangy, sarcastic, cynical. She permits occasional kissing, because it's expected.

1927 Teenage Slang

"But don't you resent the way they dance?" asked the judge.

"Oh, you mean the button-shin-

ing?" she asked casually. "Not at all. Close dancing affects some girls—but it never has any effect on me."

"There is a common impression to the contrary," observed the judge.

"I know there is," she came back crisply. "All the old killjoys and weeping-willows in the country think the dirt that is in their own minds. That's the way *they'd* feel; and how they do envy us the thoughts we don't think!"

"But——" the judge began.

"I'm telling you the truth," she went on. "Most of us girls don't get any special thrill out of close dancing. We do get a thrill out of dancing itself; and we go to parties with these young crumpet munchers and snuggle pups because we like to dance, and for no other reason."

"And the—er—crumpet munchers?" the judge asked, trying to snap the words out the way she did.

"*They* dance for the kick they get out of it," she said promptly.

"In the dancing?"

"Yes, in the dancing—holding the girl close, you know. And afterward, in petting, heavy necking and other things, if she'll stand for it. I don't."

I have quoted this conversation in detail, because it is a fair sample of the kind of language employed by high school pupils of today, especially in the cities, and it is absolutely typical of the prevailing situation.

Hell-bent?

Are the youngsters hell-bent? Listen to some of the judge's statistics and estimates, based upon, beyond doubt, the best information available in the United States.

Says Judge Lindsey: "*At least 50 percent* of those who begin with hugging and kissing (and that is 90 percent of all high school pupils) do not restrict themselves to that, but go further, and indulge in other sex liberties, which, by all the conventions, are outrageously improper—halfway sex intimacies that wreck the health and morals alike." And the judge continues that "15 percent to 25 percent of those who

begin with the hugging and kissing eventually lose their virtue completely." Not necessarily from promiscuity, or frequency, he explains, but it happens.

Most people will not believe these facts. But they are based upon investigation and upon actual records. The truth is that the real *facts* are far worse than most people WANT to believe. I know parents of high school and college children who simply scoff at any such statements of conditions as outlined above—and whose very own children are on the same road right now, in its earlier stages—and yet these parents would never believe it, and are doing nothing to prevent it.

They have never taught their children frankly and honestly about sex problems. They have not brought them up in sound religious teaching. They have not trained them in self-discipline and self-control and right direction. They have permitted them to grow up following blind impulse, desire, inclination and whim. Their children have been equipped with no safeguard—no protection. They're getting a good dose of evolution and atheistic teachings in school—and they're out on wild parties continually. Are they hell-bound?

Parental Responsibility

The parents of today simply do not realize the DANGER. Never has the pathway of youth been paved with so many temptations and pitfalls—and strewn with so many moral casualties—as today. Never has the responsibility of child rearing and parental guidance and training been so grave.

You who are parents—if you love your children—do not underestimate the danger. The school influence—the outside influences—all must be counteracted. The responsibility falls squarely upon the shoulders of you parents.

The alert, watchful, thinking parent need not be alarmed. The danger lies in ignorance, in laxity and in blinding the eyes to existing facts and conditions. Don't underestimate the influences your chil-

dren will be called upon to face.

Be a pal¹² and a chum to your children. Get, and hold, their confidence. Take an interest in their interests. Try to *understand* their point of view. You may need, tactfully and wisely, to help them alter it. Get them to confide in you, and make them *want* to come to you with all their problems and troubles.

Don't be ashamed to teach them frankly, yourself, the sacred and holy mysteries of sex¹³—teach them young—before they become informed in a wrong way from other children. Ignorance of these matters is their worst handicap—knowledge, if imparted in a right and sacred way, is their greatest protection. Virtually ALL wrongdoing, of every possible nature, is merely a result of LACK of understanding!

Above all, teach your child self-discipline. Teach him to resist inclination and impulse—to do what he OUGHT to do, instead of what he WANTS to do.

Bring your children up in sound Bible doctrine—it is the one best protection against all forms of temptation and evil in all the world. Teach the children to UNDERSTAND. Explain the WHY of Christian doctrine. It is reasonable, rational—don't let them regard it as something foolish or silly. Let them realize that a true Spirit-filled Christian life is a FULL life—a happy life—a joyful life—a peaceful life—a life of power, of strength, of service, of accomplishment.

Jesus was humble. He was meek. He was lowly. But Jesus was STRONG—POWERFUL. He is the most powerful man who ever walked on the face of this earth—the actual Maker and Creator of this very earth itself! And yet, with all this supreme power, he was humble and meek. That is the way we should be. Not self-exalting—not glorying in self—not vain—but realizing that all power and strength comes from God, through the Holy Spirit, and then seeking all of it we can get, and giving the praise where it belongs—to the Eternal!

We parents need to realize that

times have changed. Our youngsters face influences and conditions far different from those we faced. Don't justify your own laxity by saying, "I don't believe conditions are as bad as they're painted."

An ostrich can't escape threatened danger by sticking his head in the ground and hiding his eyes from the danger. Young people today are thinking frankly, talking openly, about subjects and problems that never used to be discussed. They're asking questions. Don't think you can hush them up. Safety lies in open, frank, honest, straightforward, God-fearing explanation—in knowledge and understanding.

The adolescents of today have hungry minds and hungry hearts. Their fate lies in *our* hands.

Let's not make the fatal mistake of thinking we can steer them safely from the shoals of worldly temptations merely by saying: "Don't dance! Don't go to movies! Don't smoke! Don't drink!"

Their starved emotions, their pent-up energies, are going to find an outlet, one way or the other. If we don't want them to fall victim to this world's tawdry imitations, then we must show them the REAL THING. If you don't give your children something constructively BETTER, they *will* dance, they *will* drink, they *will* dissipate, in spite of you. Never have we needed the help and the power of God as we need it now! □

¹¹ Benjamin Barr Lindsey, 1869-1943. From 1900 to 1927 (the year this article was written) world-famous judge of Juvenile Court, Denver, Colorado. Later, judge, Superior Court, California. Authority on juvenile court laws and juvenile delinquency. Author of books on this subject, and the explosive book that shocked the world, late 1927, *The Companionate Marriage*.

¹² I had to learn that this advice, written before my two sons were born, was unsound. I tried to practice this advice. But when my sons were 3 and 5 years old, and I 41, I learned I could not reduce my thinking and manner to the 5-year level, and they could not ascend to the 41-year level. I started by calling my eldest son, Dick, "My Pal." When Garner Ted came along, he said one day, "Well, I'm your Pal, too!" Thereafter Dick became "Pal One," and Ted, "Pal Two."

But we were not really "pals." We were father and sons. Today I would change the above advice to read: "Be a sympathetic, understanding parent and counselor, maintaining close and loving companionship with your children."

¹³ We now have available the proper textbook to help parents in this: *The Missing Dimension in Sex*.

NOW! READY TO RIDE



Like ghostly specters of deception, war, disease and death, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse appeared to John in vision at the close of the first century A.D. Each symbolizes a horrible tragedy to afflict mankind, culminating in this generation. Our free booklet *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* explains the significance of these prophetic symbols and shows you how you may escape. For your copy, send your request to our office nearest you (see inside front cover for addresses).

THE FOUR HORSEMEN of the Apocalypse



WHY GIBRALTAR Is Still the ROCK OF CONTENTION

by John Ross Schroeder

The Spanish government has finally agreed to reopen its borders to Gibraltar.
Will the quarrels over the famous Rock at last pass into history?

FOR NEARLY 300 years Gibraltar has been a rock of contention between the British and the Spanish.

It seems, understandably, that nothing upsets Spanish pride more than a British royal visit to the Rock of Gibraltar.

Prince Philip's visit in 1950, for example, served to spotlight the controversy. And to highlight the British Parliament's long-range goal to grant self-government to the Rock's 30,000 inhabitants. Madrid immediately perceived that the vast majority (mostly foreign in origin) would not vote for a return to Spanish sovereignty.

Again, when Queen Elizabeth II stopped off at Gibraltar to complete her world tour in 1954, the Spanish blamed the British government for this "deliberate," provoc-



ative act. The Spanish press hauled out British "sins" from the so-called rape of Gibraltar in 1704 to Henry VIII's treatment of Catherine of Aragon.

All the furor finally ended with Premier Francisco Franco forbidding Spaniards to visit the Rock. (In 1969 Spanish authorities completely sealed off the border link-

ing Spain with Gibraltar.)

The last time the "royal yacht touched the Rock" was in 1981. Spain's King Juan Carlos declined to attend Prince Charles' wedding because Gibraltar was chosen as a convenient place to begin the royal honeymoon cruise in the Mediterranean. Over a week before, *The Daily Express* ran a headline captioned: "Spain Ready to Open Gibraltar." The upshot of that British decision to begin the royal honeymoon at Gibraltar was perhaps to delay the opening of the Spanish

frontier.

But despite another wounding blow to Spain's sensitive national pride, why has Madrid finally agreed to open up Gibraltar to the mainland?

Spain Ready to Reenter Europe

In simple terms the reason for Spain's about-turn is her desire to

GIBRALTAR IN HISTORY

Recorded possession of the Rock extends far back into history. The ancient Phoenicians once held it. The early Greeks occupied it next, followed by the Phoenicians of Carthage and then the Romans.

Threatened by barbarian invasions at home, the Romans left the Rock in the early fifth century A.D. Three centuries later, in 711, Tarik-ibn-Zaid's invasion from North Africa began a

long Moorish domination of much of Spain.

Then in 1309 the Rock was taken by the Spaniards only to be retaken by the Moors in 1333. It became Spanish once more in 1462. Gibraltar was formally incorporated within the domains of the Spanish Crown by Queen Isabella in 1502.

Two centuries later in July, 1704, Spain in turn lost control of the Rock during

the War of Spanish Succession. A combined British-Dutch naval force under Admiral Sir George Rooke seized Gibraltar after three days' siege. Finally in 1713 Spain ceded the Rock to Britain in Article X of the Treaty of Utrecht.

Various Spanish expeditions were undertaken in subsequent years to recapture the Rock—all ending in failure. The last great attempt by Spain to

regain Gibraltar by force came in June, 1779. This "Great Siege"—one of the most memorable in history—lasted more than 3½ years as a combined Spanish-French army of 60,000 blockaded, but never quite conquered, the small British garrison of 6,000 under General George Elliot, the governor of Gibraltar.

In 1783, Britain's possession of the Rock was once more confirmed by the Treaty of Versailles. This ended Spanish hopes in a military sense.

effectively reenter modern Europe. Spain wants to join, finally, both NATO and the European Economic Community (EEC).

NATO's 15 members all appear to favor the Spanish application. And Spain hopes to formally enter the Common Market on New Year's Day, 1984.

Spain's basic decision to discard its traditional isolationism by becoming an integral part of the Western family of nations is a fundamental turning point in her modern history. It would be incongruous for Gibraltar to continue to be a bone of contention between two treaty partners in both a major economic and an important military alliance. Besides that, Spain desperately needs British support if her application to the EEC is to succeed at a time when wealthier community members are beleaguered with all sorts of internal economic problems.

In return for agreeing to open her borders to Gibraltar April 20, Spain received a British promise to hold more talks on "all differences over Gibraltar." There are some surprising elements in *The Economist's* comment on these proceedings. England's leading news magazine stated: "Britain has no objection in principle to handing Gibraltar over to Spain—providing this is acceptable to the majority of the Rock's inhabitants" (January 16, 1982).

It may surprise one to learn that even conservative thinkers have no objection to giving Gibraltar away.

The fact that the majority of all Gibraltarians want the Union Jack to fly over the Rock *may not always* guarantee British control, however. One provision hammered out during the recent talks between Spanish Prime Minister Calvo Sotelo and Mrs. Thatcher was to allow Spanish workers to take jobs in Gibraltar after April 20. That particular proviso may prove to be the thin end of the wedge. For instance, if and when Spain is allowed to enter the EEC, these Spanish workers will automatically receive more favored status. This in turn opens up the possibility of a new scenario.

The Christian Science Monitor expressed it very succinctly: "What Gibraltarians fear is that Spain will encourage enough [workers] to establish themselves in Gibraltar to swing the vote in Spain's favour in any future referendum to decide the colony's eventual status" (January 18, 1982).

Gibraltar in Prophecy?

It looks as if Gibraltar is going the way of the Panama Canal. Britons seem determined to negotiate the Rock away in the same basic manner that Americans turned the Canal over to ultimate Panamanian sovereignty.

In some ways the Spanish attitude puts Britain to shame. In the words

of a contemporary book, "Gibraltar is not a necessity to Spain—strategic, economic or political. . . . It goads Spain's pride" (Benjamin Wells, *Spain: The Gentle Anarchy*, page 234). Without a doubt that is an overstatement, but it serves to help make this basic point: Spaniards are divided on many important political and economic issues, but they all agree on one point.

Pride in a Spanish Gibraltar

Lackadaisical Britons with little pride in their power or in their inheritance are ready to negotiate the Rock away. In the ringing prophetic words of a long previous issue of *The Plain Truth*: "Gibraltar is destined to fall—not in glorious and heroic defense after a famous siege—but in utter ignominy. In useless and helpless sacrifice—in disgrace and shame" (June, 1965).

Few understand why we could say this in *The Plain Truth* 17 years ago. Fewer still understand what Gibraltar really represents to Britain. Little do the British realize who gave them the Rock, why it was given and why it will be taken away. If you have not before heard of the answers to these questions, then you should request our free book entitled *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. It will give you a new understanding of the Gibraltar controversy that you never had before. And a new look into the surprising future of Europe in the 1980s. □

REAL HISTORY

(Continued from page 4)

mankind had gone astray. The prophet Isaiah was inspired to write: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way . . ." (Isa. 53:6)—contrary to the way of God's CHARACTER.

How, then, get humanity back? **HOW** carry out the divine PURPOSE?

The Purpose of the Church

How could God have offered salvation to the children of Adam and Eve? Satan had broadcast and inoculated their minds during infancy with the attitude of SELF-centeredness. Before they were old enough for conversion (as Christians know it), they had already sinned, and incurred the DEATH penalty.

None could be reconciled to God and receive his Holy Spirit until their death penalty had been paid for them! Therefore it was pre-arranged for the Word, who also was God, to be born of a human woman, to become Emmanuel (God with us), God in human flesh—both man and God. He, tempted in all points like the rest of us, never sinned. Though he did not incur the death penalty, he paid it—for YOU and for me—for all humanity!

So, in God's Master Plan for working out his PURPOSE, "as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Cor. 15:22) by a resurrection. Judgment was not yet passed on the deceived in Satan's world. But it was appointed for men once to die, and after this the judgment (Heb. 9:27). All who ever died shall be made alive by resurrection (I Cor. 15:22-24; Heb. 9:27).

But HOW was Jesus Christ to become SAVIOR—to save all lost humanity? Just dying for us was not enough. God's CHARACTER had to be built into us. God performed an act of creation in Adam. That was a PHYSICAL creation! It began with the first Adam. But the SPIRITUAL creation began with Jesus Christ. The true Christian will "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness"

(Eph. 4:24). We become a NEW CREATION. So God's spiritual creation is still in progress!

Now WHY the Church? What is its PURPOSE? It is God's means of working out his PURPOSE here below—his overall PURPOSE! That NEW CREATION—that SPIRITUAL CREATION—started with the Church of God!

How the Church Was Started

Notice now how Jesus started the Church. First, after being baptized himself—after being tempted in the

“

What is the Church?
Why does it
exist? What is its
purpose? People in the
Western world
take the church as an
institution for
granted — they know
not why!

”

supreme temptation by Satan, and overcoming Satan—Jesus started by CHOOSING 12 disciples. A disciple is a learner—a student being taught. Jesus was the teacher.

Even these disciples were still carnal. Yet he said that when they received the Holy Spirit, the Spirit would bring to remembrance all that he had taught them—and then, with the Holy Spirit, they would UNDERSTAND!

These disciples were not the Church. They and the prophets preceded and became the foundation of the Church.

Jesus used these 12, taught in advance, to form the foundation and to teach and rule the Church.

The disciples were not volunteers. They were chosen. Those in the Church are ALSO CHOSEN! Jesus said emphatically, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him . . ." (John 6:44).

In the same way, God has chosen the CHURCH to become disciples—students—learners—starting not only a new Spirit-led life and way of living in themselves, but also to "grow in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18). The repentant, believing Spirit-led Christian must BE TAUGHT SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE. He is being converted—that is, *changed!* From carnal to spiritualmindedness. From this world's way of living to GOD'S WAY OF LIFE!

As the disciples were a foundation for the Church, so the Church is a foundation for the KINGDOM OF GOD, to be reestablished on earth at Christ's return in POWER and GLORY. He will reestablish the GOVERNMENT of God through the FAMILY OF GOD, then to become the KINGDOM OF GOD.

The Church was assigned a dual commission: 1) to carry Christ's Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD to the world *for a witness* (NOT to convert the world at this time); and 2) to "feed the flock"—instruct the Church as the members GROW in spiritual knowledge and character.

At Christ's glorified return to earth, the dead in Christ will be resurrected, and the living in Christ instantaneously changed from mortal to immortal, and all shall rise to meet the returning Christ in the air and to reign and rule with him in the KINGDOM OF GOD!

Satan shall then be removed for a thousand years. The Church will then BE the KINGDOM or FAMILY OF GOD. We shall be kings AND PRIESTS, reigning ON THE EARTH (Rev. 5:10).

But, looking into our time today, what about the Church TODAY? By whom and THROUGH whom did Christ build up the present era? That modern history will be covered in a succeeding number. □

CENTRAL AMERICA

(Continued from page 6)

believed to operate as a base for the Soviet TU-95 heavy bomber, code-named "The Bear" in the West. This bomber was classified in the SALT II treaty as the Soviet Union's primary heavy bomber. Planes of this type are now being used in reconnaissance flights against U.S. naval vessels along the Atlantic Coast for the first time.

Such a deployment amounts to a clear violation of the 1962 post-Cuban missile crisis agreement whereby the Soviets agreed not to station further offensive weapons in return for a U.S. promise not to overturn the Castro regime.

Thus it turns out that Premier Nikita Khrushchev and not President John Kennedy was the real—meaning *long-term*—winner of the 1962 Cuban missile confrontation. An embarrassed Khrushchev lost the initial skirmish, having little choice but to ship the weapons back home. However, the future of Cuba's revolutionary government was assured, free to haunt a weakened America in the years to come. (The leaders of China, incidentally, refer to the missile crisis and its resultant "understanding" as the "Caribbean Munich.")

The First Domino

Nicaragua, observes Carlos Rangel, is the first domino to fall in Central America. The Soviets hope, he says, that it will topple "collapsible pieces going south toward Panama and the Colombian rim of the Caribbean, and north toward Mexico."

To help promote the regional revolution and to secure the Sandinista victory, Nicaragua's regular army has expanded from the 8,000 men during the time of the late dictator Anastasio Somoza to close to 40,000 today. The goal is a 50,000-man regular army supported by 200,000 reservists—a force greater than the combined strength of all the other Central American countries. (The Nicaraguans claim they need the huge army to protect the country from

minor raids by ex-Somoza followers located nearby in Honduras and as far away as Florida.)

Of greatest concern to Washington is Nicaragua's obvious intent to become the region's unchallenged air power. Runways of at least three Nicaraguan airports are being extended to accommodate Soviet-made MiG fighter aircraft. The Nicaraguans are expected to take delivery soon of from 12 to 18 older model MiGs, probably from Cuba (expendable because of the new MiG-23s delivered there). About 80 Nicaraguans have been sent to Bulgaria for pilot training, presumably for handling the MiGs.

Rumors persist that some MiGs piloted by "friendly" powers are already in place. Yasser Arafat boasts that Palestine Liberation Organization pilots are now flying for the Sandinistas.

El Salvador and Beyond

The battle front has shifted now to El Salvador, secondly to Guatemala.

The leftist guerrillas in El Salvador are doing everything in their power to sabotage that beleaguered nation's ravaged economy, in an effort to force negotiations with the government. From a negotiated settlement to outright control would only be a matter of one or two easy steps.

Despite a stalemate on the battlefield, observers believe that the leftist insurgents have the greater *will* to win.

The United States is clearly in a dilemma over El Salvador. It is considering sending hundreds of millions of dollars more in aid—but will the aid be used effectively? Should the extreme right come to power again, the position of the United States would become untenable. Washington would be seen as "supporting oppression." But should the guerrillas win despite deepened U.S. involvement, their victory would amount to another shattering Vietnam-style defeat for the United States—this time close to home.

Leftist insurgents, taken to Cuba and East bloc countries for training, are now making headway in

Guatemala as well, especially in its remote Indian-populated hinterlands. Counteraction to leftist attacks has been violent.

Max Singer, deputy director of the Hudson Institute, issues this somber warning:

"If El Salvador's revolutionary government [of José Napoleón Duarte] falls, there seems to be little possibility of preventing either the repressive military regime in Guatemala or the freely elected civilian government of Honduras from being replaced by Marxist-Leninist regimes allied to Cuba. *Then drastic polarization is likely to be started in Mexico*, which is nominally revolutionary but socially backward. Violent conflict in Mexico would be likely to have *serious security implications for the United States.*"

And that's putting it mildly! Certainly *several million* Mexicans would stream across the U.S. border, paling into insignificance the refugee problem from Cuba, El Salvador and elsewhere in Central America today.

Mexico's political leaders are walking a tightrope. Their challenge is to maintain Mexico's 70-year tradition of revolution—which has included support for guerrilla groups in Latin America—while dampening any flames of *real* revolution at home over the country's rapidly escalating economic problems.

The seeds of revolution, which the Communists could capitalize on for their own advantage, certainly are present in Mexico. Some 40 percent of rural workers are said to be unemployed and the majority of Mexicans in the cities, earning very low wages, are caught in a vicious inflationary vise.

In February, the Mexican peso tumbled precipitously in value in the face of the country's sagging oil revenues, whopping federal deficits and soaring inflation.

Costa Rica and Panama

After being forced into exile in 1979, deposed Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza warned that Communist insurgents could be "on the Rio Grande"—the U.S.-

Mexican border—in a few years' time.

Unchecked revolution in Central America's larger countries would not leave the smaller ones unscathed, he warned.

The present democratic government of poor, underpopulated Honduras would not last long on a Communist-dominated isthmus.

Southward, Costa Rica would be under some heavy pressures. Central America's most peaceful (no army for the past 33 years) and democratic state, Costa Rica is nevertheless subject to internal dissension because of its economy. The tiny republic, for all intents and purposes, is now insolvent.

Central America's Communists do not see Costa Rica ripe for picking—yet. Guerrilla leaders in El Salvador boast that once insurgents have seized power elsewhere in Central America, they'll have Costa Rica "for dessert."

The biggest Soviet target of all, of course, is Panama. At stake is continued Free World access to the Panama Canal—the "jugular vein" of world commerce—now no longer under exclusive U.S. control. The relinquishing of U.S. sovereign control of the Panama Canal in 1979 (with all U.S. troops to be out by the year 2000) will ultimately prove to be the most serious U.S. blunder of all in the spreading chaos in Central America!

A Communist clamp on the canal would not only be disastrous to the United States, but would place several South American nations such as Colombia, Peru, Chile, even Brazil, in extremely serious economic straits (to say nothing of Japan, the canal's chief user)—unless they "cooperated."

The insightful prime minister of Singapore, Lee Kwan Yew, recently warned of Soviet designs on strategic regions of the world, especially its vital waterways.

The Strait of Malacca, at the eastern entrance of which Singapore is located, is one of the five strategic "choke points" of the world, noted Mr. Lee, "besides Gibraltar, Suez, Panama and the Cape of Good Hope. They must never become 'chokable' by the Soviets."

The U.S. clearly faces a bleak future in its own backyard, Central America and the Caribbean—the region Soviet geopoliticians refer to as America's "strategic rear."

Why the U.S. Decline?

Why is this happening? Why does the United States appear confused before the clear challenge of its enemies? Why did the United States lose control over the Panama Canal, its major "seagate"—the biblical term for what the Soviets call a "choke point"?

Why did Britain lose control of the Suez Canal—and why is she on the verge of relinquishing, not too far ahead, Gibraltar? Why the Soviet drive into southern Africa, with the clear aim of controlling the vital route around the Cape of Good Hope?

The answer—simply put—is that the God who blessed the peoples of Britain and of the United States with incredible wealth, power and prestige, has removed his blessing and protection because of mounting national sins.

Very few Americans, or others in the nominally Christian but largely secularized Western world, have ever known the real secret for America's unprecedented success and security in the past—and why the United States is confronted with manifold challenges today. The noted Italian author Luigi Barzini, writing in the December, 1981, issue of *Harper's* magazine, comes close to the truth. He observed:

"The United States is . . . a great nation, in many ways *the greatest nation of all times*. . . . Very few imitators have understood that the secret of the United States' tremendous success is not merely technology, know-how, the work ethic or greed. It was a *spiritual wind* that drove the Americans irresistibly ahead.

"Behind their compulsion to improve man's lot was at first an all-pervading religiousness, later the sense of duty, *the submission to a God-given code of personal behavior*, the acceptance of a God-given task to accomplish and [the acceptance] of all the necessary sacrifices.

"Few foreigners understand this, even today. The United States looks to them like the triumph of soulless materialism. The religious fervor and the Protestant ethic that were so blatantly evident in the past are certainly less visible now. But they are still there, even if few Americans mention them. They are feeble, *discredited by intellectuals*, corroded by *the doubts of these impious times*, but without them, or *what is left of them*, America would not be what it is." (Emphasis ours.)

How many Americans any longer "submit to a God-given code of personal behavior"—meaning the Ten Commandments?

Because so few do, and because America leads the world in crime, drugs and immorality, God has turned his back on the people who still vainly proclaim "In God We Trust." The Almighty is now removing the "hedges" (Isa. 5:5) that have kept once-secure Americans safe in their own ocean-buffered hemisphere.

Modern-day "Midianites" and "Philistines" are attacking in the border regions because Americans are doing "evil in the sight of the Lord" (compare Judges 13:1).

The Lord, moreover, "will send upon you curses, confusion, and frustration . . . [and] cause you to be defeated before your enemies" (Deut. 28:20 and 25, RSV).

The United States cannot even stand before Nicaragua, a tiny nation whose new national anthem proclaims America to be "the enemy of mankind."

It's time for Americans to awaken from their sins and slumber, and see the "Morality Connection" in what is happening round about them. The problems in the Western Hemisphere deal not so much with *inequality* in Central America but *immorality* in America itself!

In-depth understanding of where the United States is mentioned in Bible prophecy is found in the free book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. If you have not yet read this gripping book, write for it today. It will make sense out of today's world news, as no other publication does. □

OUT OF DEBT?

(Continued from page 18)

until you have gone home and talked it over. Sit on it for a day, or a week—even a month. In most cases, it will still be there when you go back. The salesman would like you to believe it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—pass this deal up today and it will forever be gone. If that's the case, let it be gone. At least you won't go bankrupt.

As you budget, base your budgeting expenses on what you *need*—not what you want. Set up a system of budgeting that best adapts to your own needs—and be sure you stick to it!

What About Credit Cards?

Early in the article, we talked about credit cards and installment buying, which have a great deal to do with our present day financial situation.

If it were not for mortgages, most of you probably would not have the home you now live in. You probably could not be driving your car, using your furniture or even wearing the clothes you have on.

It is not wrong to have a credit card—or to take out a 30-year mortgage on your home. That is, it is not wrong if you can *adequately make the payments*. But many over-extend themselves. For these, it is not all right. Perhaps some should not be sitting on a particular item of furniture or they should not have that extra coat they bought at the department store on credit. That put an extra strain on the budget that was already near the breaking point. A wallet full of credit cards for half of the stores in town can become a curse.

If you can't control installment buying, don't have credit cards—and don't open charge accounts.

If you have been able to control credit buying, be careful it doesn't sneak up on you—thousands get in trouble thinking they have enough money to go ahead and say, "Charge it."

A word about installment buying. While hire-purchase or time-payment buying can at times be

helpful, it must be used with great care and caution. The cost of credit is out of sight—and most people do not stop to think of what they're doing when they buy on time. In the last few years, credit buying plans have become increasingly more expensive. Interest rates are soaring beyond 24 percent per annum and credit cards can now cost upwards of \$50 a year. That's expensive credit!

Truth in lending laws in the U.S. have helped consumers understand exactly how much it's going to cost to take out a loan or to make a credit purchase. Be sure you fully understand the terms of the loan or the credit arrangements. You'll have to determine if the item you wish to purchase is worth the interest charges—or whether it would be better to save and buy it for cash later.

Start Now!

It is never too late to start straightening out your family financial problems. The longer you delay, the deeper in debt you are going to be.

The 1980s well could be a time of economic concern greater than any since the Depression of the 1930s. Gold and silver prices have fluctuated wildly up and down in the last few years. Interest rates have soared and fallen. World economy rides the roller coaster ups and downs with balance of trade deficits and costs of importing oil from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Double-digit inflation has us still rocking and reeling.

The financial future is at best uncertain.

You want to be on sound footing. You want your finances under control and blessed by God. The laws of financial success start with God and end with your wise money management. Break any aspect of those laws and you will suffer economic crisis.

Keep them and you will weather the storms. Try them and see if they won't work for you. Write for our free booklets *Ending Your Financial Worries* and *Managing Your Personal Finances*. They will go into even greater depth of the whys and hows of getting out of debt. □

WHY NOT PUT GOD TO THE TEST?

WHY such worry over making ends meet? Here's a remarkable free booklet that offers the answer. *Ending Your Financial Worries* reveals an often-overlooked law governing financial stability. It's backed by sound scriptural documentation. Prove it for yourself and put God to the test! Hundreds of thousands already have.

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What Our Readers Say

Australasian Comments

I have been impressed with the high production quality and obvious conviction of the new TV programs.

The timeless penetrating articles of recent issues combined with improved printing and distribution arrangements have also given *The Plain Truth* new life.

Don G. Hensley
Margate Beach, Queensland

The quality of the articles and the color production is a great credit to the publication and its desire to understand the message of God. For the past few years I have been reading your magazines and studying your booklets. In this troubled world it is a great joy to have the opportunity to read a magazine such as yours relating God's words with today's problems.

Samson K. Wenie
Alotau, Papua New Guinea

Your magazine and many booklets have benefited me tremendously. I am 21 years old. All my life I have been looking for just what I am receiving now. I realize there is more to life than just myself. I can look at life more calmly and appreciate all the things I have. I have finally come to understand the words of God.

Boniface Lucas
Lutong, Sarawak

I like what your magazine has to say. It pleases me that you tell the truth and are not concerned with popularity.

George Ball
Towradgi, New South Wales

I have been reading *The Plain Truth* for about a year

now, and have always found it a very interesting magazine. There are still some areas where I find myself in disagreement; however, I could not agree more with you when you state that this world is rapidly drawing toward the end of its present age. I, too, look forward eagerly to the Kingdom of God. Surely it is the only hope for this world.

R.J. Hermann
Redcliffe, Queensland

New Readers

The article "What Is the Rational Diet?" attracted my attention. (My dad had the magazine turned to that page.) After I read that article and found it was interesting, I turned to the contents. I ended up reading the whole magazine.

Janice Barnett
Gary, Indiana

Today I was introduced to your magazine *The Plain Truth* by a very dear friend who receives it, and I think it is great! Especially the article "Britain's Last Gasp of Joy and Splendor." You see, I was born in Birmingham, England, and came here in my late teens. Even though I married an American and had four wonderful children, I still love my native country and enjoy to the fullest all written or seen of the Royal Family. To me they are very dear! I am now 80 years young and a great student of the Bible.

Dorothy Reifel
Joshua Tree, California

A Universal Language

I'm really surprised by the way Mr. Raymond F. McNair in his article entitled "A Uni-

versal Language" stated: "In 1887, a Russian Jew, Lazarus Ludwig Zamenhof (Dr. Esperanto) published his now-famous work, Esperanto." I would like to mention that Mr. Zamenhof was not a Russian Jew, but a Polish Jew, who always said to his friends: "I am a Pole, Hebrew religion." Therefore, he was a really Polish patriot.

Czeslaw Witkowski
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

• In 1887, Poland did not exist as a separate nation, though the Polish people retained their identity under Czarist rule. Zamenhof was a Russian citizen and a Polish patriot.

Lesson in Financing

I am amazed that you are able to publish such an excellent magazine without actively soliciting paying subscribers, and/or advertisers.

In any case, many of our weekly periodicals could certainly take a lesson from your staff, in the straightforward, clear and concise manner which the staff presents each topic within *The Plain Truth*.

Martin J. Feldman
Panorama City, California

Chemical Wastes

I would like to express my appreciation of Jeff Calkins' recent article "Chemical Wastes—They Ruin the Earth and Poison Our Water!" Such a report gives us a good indication that our present civilization is on the verge of calamity. As you may know human society annually produces three to four billion [thousand million, for our British readers] tons of solid waste in addition to 20 billion tons of carbon

dioxide from the combustion of fossil fuels. Certainly it is difficult to see how mankind can survive many more years as long as we continue to pollute our biosphere so profusely. I found Mr. Calkins' statement "the time of God's Kingdom will probably be an era when the very nature of certain physical processes will be transformed by new and surprising knowledge," to be extremely encouraging.

Paul Justus
Mission, Kansas

Key to Radiant Health

Just recently, Mr. Armstrong, I read your article "The Key to Radiant Health" . . . We eat far too much carbohydrate (particularly simple sugars) . . .

You ask why excess carbohydrate does not raise our body temperature. The reason is that the body has a thermostat in the brain to control body temperature. In addition, cellular metabolic rates are under control by hormones and feedback mechanisms. Excess carbohydrates are stored in the liver or adipose and *not* excreted in the urine (unless there is already some pre-existing pathology, i.e., diabetes). Consumption of excess carbohydrate can, therefore, lead to obesity. Carbohydrates are *not* fats (or oils), nor are fats (or oils) converted into carbohydrates in animals. On the other hand, carbohydrates may be converted into fats (especially triglycerides). Fats and oils are known as *lipids*.

L.L. Schroeder, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
of Biochemistry
Roseau, Commonwealth
of Dominica



DOES GOD EXIST?

Skeptics doubt it. Many scientists say it cannot be proven. Yet no question is more fundamental to man's *own* existence. How can you know for sure? Can the existence of God be demonstrated to the rational mind? Is there tangible evidence that a Supreme Being sits at the controls of the Universe? Our free booklet *Does God Exist?* provides, with reasoned proof, a solid answer. To request your copy, use the card in this issue or write the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.

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