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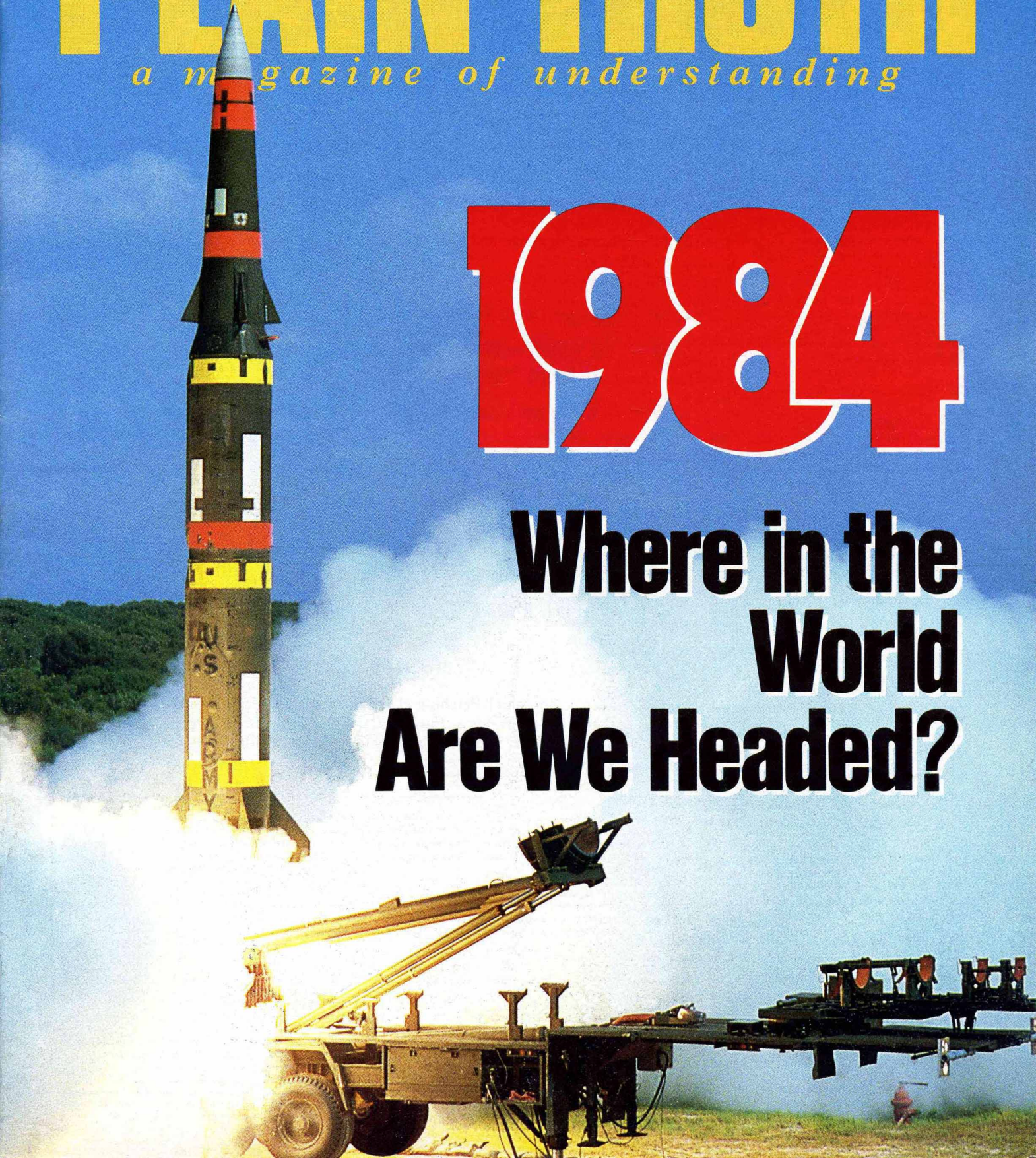
JANUARY 1984

# PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*

# 1984

## Where in the World Are We Headed?



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# the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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JANUARY 1984

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**OUR COVER**

Test launching of Pershing II from Cape Canaveral. Placement of Pershing II missiles in Western Europe to counter latest Soviet weapons forces the U.S.S.R. to rethink its relationship with Central European states.

COVER PHOTO BY RANDY TAYLOR—SYGMA

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## Are People Lost Because of Adam's Sin?

**“W**hy is it,” some people will ask, “that this whole world has to suffer so much now, because of Adam's sin?”

There's a common belief that as a result of the original so-called “fall of man”—meaning the transgression of Adam—that all people are born lost—consigned straight to an everburning torment of hell fire!

But is that true?

Let's look at this ancient event that is called the fall of man! We take a lot of things for granted—we unquestioningly assume much of what has been generally accepted and believed. But when we take out some of these things and take a good look at them, we receive some shocking surprises!

### Was Adam Created Spiritually Perfect?

The common idea in the Christian-professing world is that God originally created Adam, the first man, an immortal, perfect spiritual character. The Bible expression, “God created man in his own image,” has been interpreted to mean that God made man immortal and spiritually perfect—and created of the same composition as God—that is, out of spirit. The body is interpreted to be merely the material garment the spiritual man wears—or the physical house that an immortal soul inhabits. And with this, it is commonly believed, God has completed his creation. The man was perfected, completed, immortal, perfect in character!

And then, this theory continues, along came Satan.

The devil succeeded in wrecking this perfect creation—this man that God had perfected, causing him deliberately to sin! And this sin of Adam is supposed to have somehow effected a change in the man's nature from immortality to mortality. Adam and all his descendants were now automatically consigned, upon the experience that we call death, to be plunged into the eternal torment of hell fire.

Here had stood, in the man Adam, the supreme masterpiece of all God's creation. But Satan succeeded in wrecking what God had created—thwarting God's purpose—upsetting God's plan!

And so, as this prevailing idea pictures it, God had to start all over again, and think out some new plan for repairing the damage!

It is looked upon something like an automobile manufacturer who had manufactured one very far-advanced, perfectly precisioned automobile—his supreme masterpiece—only to find that, on its first drive out of the factory, an enemy had come along and wrecked that car. The idea is that the manufacturer would have it towed back in, and would set out to repair the damage.

### Is Salvation Merely to Repair the Damage?

And so in the commonly accepted idea of Christianity redemption is an effort on the part of God to repair the damage that Satan inflicted in that original sin—to make us as good as Adam was, before the so-called “fall.”

But is a badly wrecked automobile really as good, after it is repaired, as it was before the wreck? Of course not!

This common idea of a professing Christianity is not true at all! It is not the teaching of the holy Bible. It is not the Christianity of Christ, nor the 12 apostles, nor of the apostle Paul!

The general false conception is that ever since the so-called fall of Adam, God has been doing his very best to get the whole world saved—that is, to restore men to a condition as good as Adam was before the so-called fall! And, further, that there is a great competition going on between God and Satan. Satan is very cunningly resisting God, restraining and outsmarting him so that only a small fraction of the whole world's population is actually being saved.

Now this entire

*(Continued on page 28)*

# Coming

## EUROPE BETWEEN EAST AND WEST!

by Gene H. Hogberg

Trends are under way that will dramatically alter the political landscape of Europe.

**S**OMETIMES one startling and unexpected development can help alter the course of history.

Just such a "bolt out of the blue" occurred September 1, 1983, when a Korean civilian

sitive military zones in the Soviet Union's Far East region near Japan and Korea.

For weeks the world remained stunned over the act that terminated Korean Airlines Flight 007. Assertions from Moscow that the plane was on an American spying mission over Soviet "sacred territory" and that its fighter pilots would do the same thing again under similar circumstances further added to rising East-West tensions.

### Impact on Europe

The Korean jet downing has generated considerable political fallout. It has hardened relations between Washington and Moscow. And it has virtually assured that the controversial NATO plan to install new weapons in Western Europe will go ahead as scheduled.

For a while, it appeared that the considerable public opposition to the deployment of the Pershing II and cruise missiles—NATO's new generation

weapons designed to offset the Soviet Union's SS-20 intermediate missiles—might succeed in some key European countries, specifically West Germany. But the

impact of the antinuclear peace movement has been markedly reduced because of the airliner tragedy.

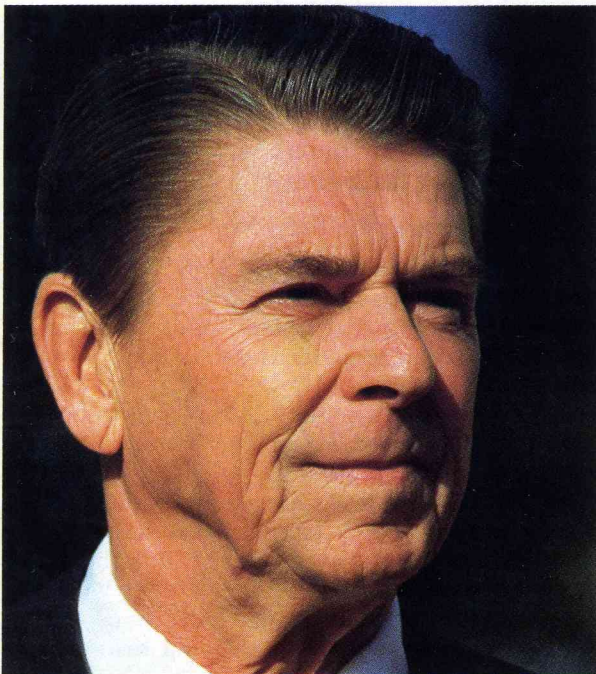
### Verbal Cold War

The question of deploying intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) in Europe has generated some of the harshest exchanges between Washington and Moscow in recent years.

In September Soviet President Yuri Andropov replied blisteringly to a speech in the United Nations by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

In his address, Mr. Reagan offered the Soviets new concessions on the "Euromissile" issue. Yet it didn't impress Mr. Andropov, who said the United States was just "prattling" about flexibility in the Geneva INF talks on the "burning issue" of reducing nuclear arsenals in Europe. The Reagan concessions were, he said, more of the same "deceptive" smoke screen to cover actual deployment (the Soviets especially dread the Pershing IIs, which could strike Soviet territory in less than 10 minutes from launch time).

Earlier, Moscow authorities implied their representatives may both walk out of the Geneva talks and take countermeasures by moving its nuclear forces "closer" to the United States and by putting SS-20 medium-range missiles on the territory of Warsaw Pact allies,



ATLAN—SYGMA

**Firm U.S. policy in defense of Western Europe forces Soviets to rethink policy.**

airliner, with 269 passengers aboard, was shot down by a Soviet fighter plane.

The American-made 747 jumbo jet had strayed off course over sen-

probably East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

#### Unusual Plea for United Europe

The Kremlin leaders have been clearly stung by what they call the White House's "anticommunist crusade," given added impetus by the airliner tragedy. They particularly resent that President Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an "evil empire."

Moscow's assessment of U.S. intentions was further enhanced when Vice-president George Bush toured Eastern Europe shortly after the airliner disaster.

In unusually blunt language, Mr. Bush said in Vienna after his visits to Hungary, Yugoslavia and Romania that "the brutal murder of 269 civilians" only underlined for him Russia's distance from European civilization.

The vice-president went on to condemn the post World War II division of Europe, saying that there was no agreement at the ill-fated 1945 Yalta conference to divide Europe into "spheres of influence."

In his aggressive speech—one of the harshest yet delivered by a top American official since the Cold War days of the 1950s—Mr. Bush referred to "the wound which runs through the heart of Europe."

Addressing an audience in the former Imperial Hofburg Palace in Vienna, the U.S. vice-president called, according to the words of *Daily Telegraph* correspondent Richard Bassett, "for a *united Central Europe* free from the alien influence of the Soviet Union."

Eastern European states, Mr. Bush continued, should choose to free themselves from Soviet domination and join the Free World. Either that, he said, or forever be condemned to what he called a life of ignorance, backwardness and poverty.

Down through the years American officials have supported—usually in the form of lip service—the concept of a united *Western Europe*. Rarely has anyone publicly advocated a united Europe that would encompass countries from Central and Eastern Europe as well.

#### Another Unity Plea in Vienna

Vice-president Bush was not the January 1984

only leading personality to speak out on the issue of European unity from Vienna in September. Preceding him by about two weeks was Pope John Paul II. Since the aftermath of the airliner tragedy still dominated newspaper headlines, statements by the Pope in what was the capital of the once-powerful Austro-Hungarian Empire drew scant attention.

It was the first Papal pilgrimage to Vienna in two centuries. While there, as he has done so often in his five-year-long pontificate, the Polish-born Pontiff once again urged Europeans on both sides of the Iron Curtain to unite on the basis of their common Christian heritage.

In a prayer service coinciding with the 300th anniversary of the bloody liberation of Vienna from the massive Turkish siege of 1683, the Pope said that "this solemn feast . . . draws our vision beyond natural, national and artificial borders over all Europe, over all the peoples of the continent with its common past, from the Atlantic to the Urals, from the North Sea to the Mediterranean."

To the Pope, the people of Europe, despite their linguistic and ethnic differences, nevertheless represent one common *Christian* civilization. He decries Europe's present-day "artificial" division (via the Iron Curtain) into two ideological camps, one dominated by the United States, the other by the Soviet Union.

John Paul's address, as well as speeches by cardinals from Germany, France, Poland and Yugoslavia, was carried live by Austrian television in a broadcast that people in border areas of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia could watch.

At the service, the Pontiff dedicated a nearly 30-foot-high bronze cross. "Under this sign of the cross we place Austria and Europe because only under the cross is there hope," the Pope said. "The cultural unity of

the European continent that continues despite all the crises and division is not comprehensible without the content of the Christian message," he said, describing a "common heritage" for all the Continent.

Significantly, on the eve of the visit, Austrian Primate Cardinal Franz Koenig said the Pope considers neutral Austria as a bridge between East and West. Austria and its capital Vienna appear headed for a vital role in Europe's future.

#### "One-lung" Christian?

Behind the scenes, John Paul II has been working tirelessly to achieve the type of East-West unity in Europe Vice-president Bush alluded to.

His master plan, if one may call it that, is far more extensive than any secular politician has devised to date, because it deals with the healing of fundamental cultural and religious schisms that no political leader knows how to deal with.

For example, at a symposium in



Yuri Andropov lets it be known that a new Europe between East and West is foreseeable.

Rome, the Pope spoke of the urgent necessity of a "rapprochement between the spiritual heritage of the Christian Eastern and Western culture"—meaning the Ortho-

dox communities in the East and the Roman Catholic and Protestant worlds in the West.

The Pope told the visiting scholars that he had confided the following to representatives of various non-Catholic communities in mid-1980, shortly after having visited Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Demetrios I in Istanbul: "One cannot as a Christian, I would even say

stantial agreement on "justification by faith," a key issue that divided the two churches in the 16th-century Protestant Reformation.

The 20 U.S. Catholic and Lutheran theologians said they still recognized some differences in approaches to the doctrine, but that the differences were not sufficient grounds for division.

The report was timely. It was issued during the year of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther.

#### Soviet Long-term Plans?

The hardened Western position on the missile situation and the ongoing Papal "spiritual offensive" in Eastern Europe is, some believe, forcing the leadership in the Soviet Union to seriously consider future ties to the nations of Europe, both East and West.

According to a report from Budapest, Hungary, in the British weekly *The Observer* (July 31, 1983), the Soviet *long-term* approach just might provide for a united—and, it is assumed, neutralized—Europe. *Observer* correspondent Lajos Lederer claims that the idea that such a plan may be in the mind of Soviet President Andropov emerged from remarks he reportedly made to Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader, during three long meetings in Moscow.

The reason for this rethinking, says Mr. Lederer from Hungarian sources, "is the recognition by the Soviet Union that the development of nuclear missiles has destroyed the rationale for maintaining the states of Eastern Europe as a 'buffer' between Russia and the West. However loyal Poland and Hungary and the rest might be in a nuclear war, they could do nothing to prevent the annihilation of the Soviet Union."

Correspondent Lederer then adds, "The Hungarians would not

be surprised if among the offers from Moscow would be a striking one: the withdrawal of military forces from Eastern Europe in exchange for American forces withdrawing from Western Europe."

Such a grand reshuffling of the political map of Europe would shake the foreign ministries of every advanced nation in the world—the U.S. State Department most of all! It would also, of necessity, entail the reunification of Germany. With the rest of Eastern Europe set free—partially, at least, into a condition of strict neutrality—East Germany, the farthest west of the East Bloc satellites, would have no place to go but into a greater German state.

The Soviets, of course, would hope that this new Germany would remain in a harmless, neutralized condition, forever appreciative of Moscow's generosity.

For Moscow to even consider such a course of action shows the dread that the Soviets have of the new generation NATO missiles, as already evidenced by the fury with which they have attacked the deployment program.

On his trip last year to Moscow to visit Soviet President Andropov, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl surprisingly, and to Mr. Andropov's face, forcefully brought up again the German desire for reunification.

That the Soviets, in contrast to past years, did not react with hostility to such a request only confirmed to some observers that they have precisely such a just-in-case policy in the back of their minds.

#### Neutral Austria a Type

The stage is thus being set for some dramatic realignments of power in Europe.

The Soviet Union, notes political analyst William Pfaff, is occasionally "capable of sudden acts of realism." As an example, the Soviets permitted the complete freedom of Austria in 1955—with the stipulation that Austria become a permanently neutral state, not attached to NATO. For 10 years previously,

(Continued on page 43)



In open forests of West Germany older Pershing I launchers are on the move. New generation of missiles will replace them.

as a Catholic, breathe with only one lung; it is necessary to have two lungs, that is to say, Oriental and Occidental."

Within the Western Christian-professing world, too, the ecumenical drive is slowly but steadily producing results.

Last September an official panel of Lutheran and Roman Catholic scholars, after a five-year study, announced that it had reached sub-

# “ Thou Shalt Not! ”

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Are the Ten Commandments negative and therefore a wrong form of law?

**O**FTEN we hear the basic Moral Law impugned by theologians and educators as negative and therefore outdated. Its Giver is often conceived as a stern, wrathful God, who angrily says to us: “THOU SHALT NOT!” It is sometimes looked upon as undesirable for modern, advanced, enlightened man. The Ten Commandments ought to be positive, they say, not negative.

Modern humanity looks upon itself as elevated to a plane of rational thinking, and with knowledge higher than God or God's law. Of course, when we understand, God's truth is the most positive religion or philosophy there is—it eradicates fear! It is the way of faith!

But is the negative form, “Thou shalt not,” wrong for society today? Is it outmoded in building character? Should a perfect law be permissive, containing only dos and no don'ts?

Consider for a moment what is meant by true character.

Character—that is, true character—has been defined as: 1) coming to the knowledge of the true, as opposed to the false values—the right, instead of the wrong way; 2) making, of one's own free will and volition, the choice to do the right instead of the wrong; 3) the exercise of the will in actually doing the right instead of the wrong.

Character, then, once the true knowledge is acquired and the right decision made, involves self-discipline. The truly educated person is a self-disciplined person.

What, then, does this self-discipline involve?

Two things: 1) self-restraint to resist the lower impulses and pulls in human nature—to restrain the self from desires, impulses, habits or customs that are contrary to the right way; and 2) self-propulsion or determined initiative to drive the self to do those things that ought to be done. In other words, in true character in action there is the positive and the negative.

Suppose one rejects the negative as faulty and something to be discarded altogether. Suppose one applies the positive only and impels the self to do those positive

things to be done, but exercises no restraint to resist those things of habit, impulse, desire or custom of others that ought not to be done. Because human nature is what it is, the very nature in such a one will pull constantly in the wrong direction. Thus character is destroyed. That person is out of balance, living in a hopeless world of permissiveness.

We find present in nature both the positive and the negative and the principle of opposites. Electricity functions and performs its work by use of both the positive and the negative. Some elements are alkaline; some are acid. Living things and beings in this world of matter are male and female. There are sins of both omission and commission.

Frequently we read the pitiful, feeble efforts of one who fancies in ignorant egotism that he or she is wiser than God, setting forth an idea of 10 positive commandments. Ten dos, and no don'ts. And what do we find? How much character would such a list of “commandments” produce?

Just about as much character as an electric light bulb would produce light with merely the one positive wire leading into it. Just about as much character as the male

alone, without the female, could reproduce his kind. He might do a few good things, but all his good would be nullified and canceled out by the unrestrained evil he would commit.

No basic law of life, forming the basis of perfect character, could be a perfect law unless it contains, in perfect balance, both positive and negative.

Examine, now, the Ten Commandments, God's basic code, upon which all his laws, social, economic, civil and religious, hang. Here is the basis of true character:

1. "THOU SHALT have no other gods before me." This is stated in the positive form, implying we shall worship and obey the true God. In a sense, this commandment contains both the positive and negative, directing us positively, "Thou shalt," to the true God, and restraining us—the negative—from false gods.

2. "THOU SHALT NOT make unto thee any graven image, or . . . bow down thyself to them, nor serve them." This is negative, restraining from either making or worshiping any thing as a god; also restraining from either worship of, or obedience to, such a false god. To the true God man owes both worship and obedience.

Notice the principle of government in this, as in all the commands. The whole issue is one of government. The first man and woman rejected God's government, refused his rule over their lives, disobeyed four points of the basic law of his government. Christ came preaching the kingdom of God, which is the government of God, commanding humanity to repent of rejection of that government and the transgression of its laws (sin is the transgression of the law—I John 3:4).

3. "THOU SHALT NOT take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." This much-abused commandment is a restraint—negative—to prevent cutting humans off from the power and benefits of the right use of God's name. This command is a negative, making possible the positive and vitally needed blessings through that name!

4. "REMEMBER the sabbath day, to keep it holy . . . the seventh day

is the sabbath of the Lord thy God." Here is another positive command—the only one God specifically commanded us to "remember," and the very one mankind insists above all upon forgetting. Is it not an indicting commentary on unrestrained human nature that this most positive of all the Commandments men flout and disobey with greatest impunity?

Again, notice the perfection—here again is a command including both positive and negative, for while it is primarily positive, yet it includes negative restraints to make possible that positive—"in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son," etc.

5. "HONOUR thy father and thy

**The whole law is  
summed in  
one word, *love*  
. . . . It was given in  
love for us,  
and love is the fulfilling  
of the law—love  
in action.**

mother." Do you see any negative statement in this command? Here is a positive command, with a definite promise of blessing. This heads the six commands regulating our relationship with our neighbor. However, the negative opposite is implied, though not stated.

6 through 10. "THOU SHALT NOT" kill, commit adultery, steal, bear false witness against another, or covet. Here are the famous negatives, yet each implies the opposite positive: as, you shall love and have charitable, tolerant patience toward your neighbor, be true to your wife and respect your neighbors' property.

Here is a perfect law (Ps. 19:7). It outlines, in broad detail, our right relationship with the true God that we may have all the needed guidance, help and bless-

ings from God; and also our right relationship toward human neighbors—including parents, children, husband or wife. This law provides for every human need for our own good in a living, active, continuous relationship with the all-wise, all-powerful, all-loving God.

This perfect law forms the basis of all human relationships, as well as our God-relationship. It provides the wide, basic general rules affecting every phase of life:

a) Religious, in our relationship to God;

b) Family, in our relationship to parents, children, wife or husband, and is designed to preserve the blessed sanctity and dignity of the home;

c) Next-door and personal neighbors and friends;

d) Civil relationships—here are found the very basic civil laws respecting murder, larceny (theft), adultery, perjury;

e) Economic life—honesty, not coveting others' money, goods, property or possessions, which coveting is the very root source of today's economic principle of competition;

f) Social life—such commands as those respecting adultery, false witnessing, coveting, stealing, form the foundational principle of right social attitude and relationship with neighbors.

This law, in its basic principles, defines the whole duty of man (Eccl. 12:13). It is the basis, in principle, for all the Bible. The entire Bible is, so far as its teaching is concerned, a magnification in specific detail of these basic principles.

This law is complete. It contains, in brief summation-principle, all the positive and negative obligations of the perfect, rightly balanced life. It is the very antithesis of permissiveness! It expresses and reflects the very character of God.

The whole law is summed in one word, *love*. It is like God, for God is love, just as his law is love. It was given in love for us, and love is the fulfilling of the law—love in action.

It is love to God, and love to neighbor. It is perfect. It is complete. □



# MIDEAST WAR IN 1984?

by Keith W. Stump

Here is an eye-opening, behind-the-scenes report on the state of war-readiness of a key Arab nation.

## Damascus, Syria

**S**YRIA is a pivotal country in the Arab world. And Damascus is its heart. Israeli forces are only 30 miles away from where I am writing.

It is time our readers understood why Syria has become *the* Arab power that cannot be ignored.

Throughout 1983, events in neighboring Lebanon focused attention of the world on Syria and its President, Hafez al-Assad, one of the Mideast's most formidable leaders.

The attention centered on Syria's adamant opposition to the U.S.-mediated Israeli-Lebanese agreement for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

*Why* has Syria objected to this controversial pact?

### National Motivations

No newsman can intelligently evaluate the situation in the Middle East without an understanding of the motivations underlying the actions of each nation in this critical region. Regardless of whether these attitudes are based in fact, attitudes *motivate* a nation's policies. One may agree or disagree

with them. But to be *unaware* of them is to ignore a major factor in the complex Mideast equation. That is why *The Plain Truth* is bringing you this firsthand report as the year 1984 springs upon us.

"You in the West have not heard our side of the story," a student of literature commented to me at the university here in Syria's capital.

"You call us hostile, intransigent and unreasonable," he continued. "And that is because your news media have failed to report the *reasons* behind our so-called 'hard-line' position. And we *do have* good reasons!"

The student spoke to me with conviction and emotion. Emotions often run high here in the volatile Middle East. Like the vast majority of Syrians, this student knew precisely where he stood on the Arab-Israeli question, and *why*.

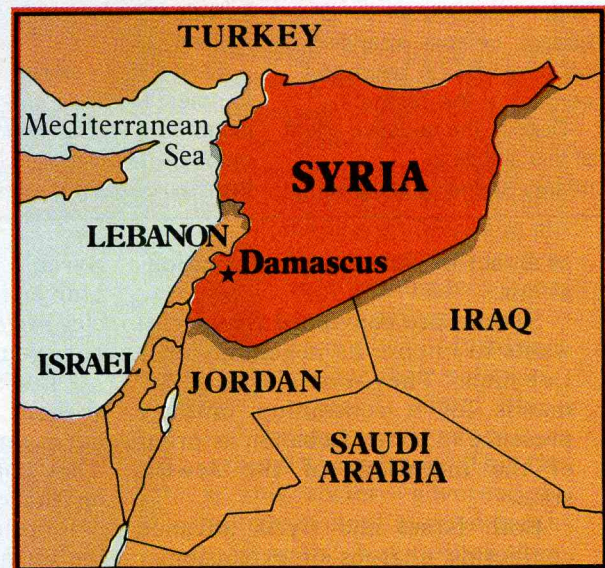
Yet how many in the media-saturated West know *why* he and his fellow countrymen believe and act as they do?

To be informed, we need to understand why Syria rejects the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, and

how Syrians view the Mideast situation at this moment.

### Expansionist Designs?

By the terms of the Israeli-Lebanese accord, Israel has agreed to withdraw its troops from battle-scarred Lebanon only when Syria does likewise.



Syrians, however, see no link between their own presence in Lebanon and an Israeli withdrawal.

From Syria's point of view, its troops are in Lebanon on an entirely different basis than are Israeli

soldiers. The Syrians insist their presence in Lebanon was legitimized by a Lebanese invitation to intervene during Lebanon's 1975-76 civil war and later formalized as an Arab peacekeeping force by the Arab League.

In contrast, Syrians contend Israeli troops are in Lebanon as the result of an *invasion* in the summer of 1982, an invasion Syrians regard

Most Syrians are convinced that Israel has definite expansionist aims in neighboring Arab countries. The words *plots*, *conspiracies* and *intrigues* are regularly used in the Syrian press to describe Israeli intentions in the region.

Syrians feel threatened by Israel, and most anticipate an eventual Israeli attack on their country.

"It is *Israel* that is hostile, not

country's military preparedness.

Despite its military setbacks in the 1982 Lebanon war, Syria remains Israel's most formidable neighbor. The Soviet Union—Syria's major weapons supplier and political backer—has replaced all of Syria's combat losses with even more powerful arms (see box).

In a short time, Syria's revamped military has become a major fighting force. Israel's edge is slowly being eroded as Soviet deliveries continue to flood into Syria's arsenal.

What is the possibility of these weapons actually being *used*, of Syria and Israel being drawn into direct conflict—a fifth Middle East war?

"If Arab territories occupied in 1967 are returned and the rights of Palestinians are respected, we will seek peace with Israel," said a Syrian army officer. "But as long as the Palestinians continue to be denied their right to self-determination, *there can be no peace!*"

In the opinion of most Syrians, Israel's "intransigence" prevents a fair and peaceful resolution of the Middle East problem. Thus *war*, they believe, is the only answer.

"War is coming. There is no doubt. And we are

ready!" asserted one army reservist. In the minds of the vast majority of Syrians, it is no longer a question of *if* war comes. It is only a question of *when*. A big war, they believe, is *inevitable*.

Most Syrians are confident of their ability to score a victory in the next round of fighting with Israel. Popular feeling is overwhelmingly enthusiastic at the prospect of finally settling past scores with the Zionist entity, as Israel is often referred to.

"We will fight Israel 100 times. We will fight for a year, two or three," declared Syria's defense minister Mustapha Tlass last July.

(Continued on page 31)

## Syria's Formidable Military

Syria is Moscow's chief ally in the Middle East. More than 5,000 Russian military advisers and civilian technicians are stationed in Syria. Russian military equipment is pouring into the country at an unprecedented rate.

The Syrian army is considerably stronger now than it was just a year ago. Experts believe it is at *twice* its strength compared to what it was at the outbreak of the 1973 October War.

Syria is reportedly spending more than *half* its national budget on defense. Under the 1983-84 Syrian budget, defense spending will total US\$2.6 billion (54 percent of the budget).

Despite the negative effect of this ambitious military-spending program on

the nation's economy, most Syrians aren't complaining. These weapons, they warn, are essential to answer "Israeli aggression." "There are Israeli forces within 30 miles of Damascus," they remind journalists.

Syria has more than 3,600 Soviet-made tanks in its arsenal, including the T-72, the Kremlin's most advanced tank. Syria's air force boasts more than 600 MiG fighters.

Even more significantly, the Soviet Union has provided Syria with long-range SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles. SAM-5 missiles have not before been deployed outside the Warsaw Pact nations.

SAM-5 radar allows Syria to detect Israeli aircraft at longer ranges than ever before. The missiles themselves have a range of

more than 150 miles. The SAM sites thus give Syria the potential of spotting and attacking Israeli aircraft as they take off from airfields deep within Israel.

The SAM sites in Syria are manned by Soviet crewmen, and are well protected by batteries of other surface-to-air missiles. That the sites are manned by Russians adds an additional unsettling factor to the Mideast picture: an Israeli attack could kill Soviet personnel.

On the ground, Syria has some 230,000 men under arms, and can call up another 100,000 reserves on short notice. Syrian ground forces performed with skill in Lebanon in 1982, as even the Israelis admit. "We put up a good fight, we held the line," says one Syrian soldier. Since then, the Syrian army has been further expanded and modernized.

as an act in violation of international law.

Syrians are convinced that Israel wants to impose its hegemony over Lebanon. They cite Israel's demands for a continuing military presence in south Lebanon as proof of the intentions of the Jewish state.

Both Israel and Syria advance conflicting charges of expansionist intentions. Israel accuses Syria of attempting to incorporate areas of Lebanon into an envisioned "Greater Syria." Syrians, on the other hand, claim that Israel's actions in Lebanon are just another chapter in the Zionist state's expansionist "grand design."

Syria," asserted a student at the University of Damascus. "Our policies are *defensive*. We must protect our security."

"Look at the record," another student declared. "The Israelis have annexed our Golan Heights. They continue to build settlements on the occupied West Bank—and will probably annex it. They oppose the formation of a Palestinian state. Now they want to annex south Lebanon. They are expansionists. What other conclusions can we draw?"

### Big War "Inevitable"?

Syria's determination to "stand firm" against Israel hinges on the

# WHY the Passion for Pleasure?

by Jeff Zhorne

Millions indulge in entertainment as a way of escape. Here is a better pursuit!

**N**EARLY everyone enjoys being entertained. Yet few realize why entertainment and pleasure do not provide the hoped-for escape from personal burdens or international problems.

To be sure, there's plenty to escape from! World leaders tiptoe for fear of making the waves that could climax in nuclear disaster. Mounting environmental and social problems threaten life. Financial worries prove awfully frustrating.

So people turn to pleasure, excitement, illicit and licit drugs—including alcohol—illicit sex and new religions all for temporary relief. None, however, can offer true, lasting solutions.

But there is hope! A way that leads to peace of mind here and now, as well as into the future.

## Era of Bliss?

We have reached an unparalleled point in technological advancement. Some insist that technology will usher in a scientific world, providing everyone with happiness, ease and security.

A prediction by *U.S. News & World Report* forecasts that in 50 years "people will live to a healthy old age of 100 or more, as superdrugs cure diseases such as cancer and senility. Genetic techniques will expand food production and

curb pollution. Space colonies will orbit the earth, and the moon will be mined for its wealth. . . ."

The outlook endeavors to calm fears of famine and disease and focuses on "enormous amounts of data and entertainment."

In a book titled

*The Coming Boom*, the founder of a major U.S. think tank—the late Herman Kahn—has written how within the next two decades technology will make "more and more aspects of our private lives a breeze." He envisions the Free World as able to solve any anticipated problems concerning pollution or resources.

But, we ask what of the millions of earth's inhabitants *now* sunk in abject deprivation? Have politicians and economists reached that point where they can prevent joblessness and the collapse of the debt market?

What of the institutions of marriage and family? Will our neighborhoods be made safe from crime and violence by some means that has escaped our thinking till now? And do we think nations proliferating nuclear stockpiles to protect themselves from other nations—just in case—will suddenly change their policies?

Does it sound like a *man-made* utopia is around the corner? The fact is this society governed by humans cannot survive another 50 years! Yet millions pretend these appalling evils are not real and that somehow they will just go away.

## A New Society Coming

Even more than world-scale problems, people seek to escape their daily pressures. What with tense



employer-employee relations, corporate competitiveness, berating relatives, congested traffic, mounting bills—you name it—little wonder nearly every country is plagued with drug abuse and alcoholism as forms of escapism.

“Reality is for people who can’t handle drugs,” goes the poignant and twisted reasoning that seems to express a prevalent attitude of despair.

Perhaps many of you who pick your copy of this magazine off the newsstands are disenchanted with reality, in despair about the future, confused about values, bereft of a sense of purpose, or searching for further meaning in life. We hope by reading this article you will discover there is genuine hope of lasting contentment and fulfillment both now and in years to come.

Other people will spend a lifetime in search of something to alleviate the despondency and depression in their lives. They don’t realize that within the physical realm alone true fulfillment will always remain elusive. They will always find that pleasures only lift their burdens temporarily. It’s wrong medicine for the sickness.

Rather, the only permanent pursuit, in place of the *get way* of pleasure seeking, is the *give way* of life. When will people finally learn “it is more blessed to give than to receive”?

#### **Mad Craze to Escape**

Twenty years ago *The Plain Truth* reported that Americans alone were spending \$41 billion annually on fun or leisure-time activities. Today that figure is about six times as large and three times as much as the United States spends for national defense!

At least one entertainment magazine has a special category titled “Escape” in its classified directory. Many see this as an innocent escape valve.

Twenty years ago we also reported: “Mere escapism, drifting away from reality, is bad enough, but human nature is never satisfied with time-killing fantasy . . . desires that constantly demand newer and more exciting thrills.”

Some seek new limits in life-

risking activities. High risk “sure beats the boredom of a desk job,” said one such seeker.

Of course, there’s nothing wrong with living a balanced, activity-packed, goal-oriented life. Entertainment, recreation, athletics, in themselves, are not wrong! Far from it!

Wholesome family entertainment and outings, whether picnics, softball games or a host of other activities, are necessary parts of a well-balanced life.

Balance is a necessary ingredient. Many take part in recreation to fill empty, boring lives, instead of doing something that could be used to directly improve their capacity to contribute to the well-being of themselves and others. To participate in sports and other diversions exclusively to test extremes and limits is to miss the point.

#### **Filling Empty Lives**

Several years ago a metropolitan newspaper carried an advertisement by a man disenchanted with pleasure seeking. The advertisement read: “I’ve tried a dozen ways of being happy—some of the finest pleasure I know: hunting, sailing, travel, marvelous restaurants, theater, ball games, races—the works. But they’re nothing. I feel like a free loader. I’ll never get a kick out of those pleasures. . . .”

Travel, of itself, can be educational and beneficial too, but too many feel a nagging urge to travel just for the sake of escaping.

Others seek a way out in gambling casinos, or hedonistic living rife with rich food, plenteous drink and sexual skylarking.

Afterward, these same indulgent persons are as unhappy as before, none of their revelries having produced any genuine gratification or satisfaction. But isn’t there anything tangible that *can* bring lasting fulfillment and peace of mind, a true escape from daily pressures and world problems?

The answer lies not in solely accumulating material possessions. A former governor of California correctly said: “Our values are out of kilter if we think that just producing two or three cars apiece, an economy of obsolescence and

increasing mobility and material accumulations is the good life. . . . Every civilization that has gone to a sensate, sensual culture has fallen.”

#### **Finding “the Way Out”**

The Creator of mankind knows it is innately human to be dissatisfied with a material existence. The Creator also knew that mankind would live in fear’s grip because humans refuse to acknowledge the only way to a rewarding peace of mind revealed by the Creator.

“So will I choose their delusions, and bring their fears on them; because, when I called, no one answered, when I spoke they did not hear; but they did evil before My eyes, and chose that in which I do not delight” (Isa. 66:4, RAV throughout).

“But God is unreal,” millions insist. “He is an elusive, ambiguous figure lost in a mythological labyrinth.” Of course God is unreal to those who look only to the physical realm for answers to their problems.

Humans have forgotten God and put pleasures of this world in place of God. It was prophesied! “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God” (II Tim. 3:1-5).

Don’t you think it’s time you claimed the promise in Isaiah 59:1: “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear”?

God is conscious of and fully able to fill the human need for security, peace and fulfillment. But God has conditions that must be met before he makes that fulfillment available.

The first step is admitting you have been wrong. No one can have peace of mind until he or she admits to contention, resentment, jealousy, anger, greed and a host of other causes (Gal. 5:19-21) that have led to the general misery and unhappiness in the individual. The world’s inhabitants have gone directly opposite to God’s way of give, outgoing concern, joy and peace that are only truly possible

(Continued on page 31)

# CANADA FIGHTS FOR UNITY!

by K. Neil Earle

In the world's second-largest country two cultures are locked in struggle.

**C**ONTROVERSY surrounds Canada. Not only among her American neighbors but throughout the world at large.

Are the stolid, commonsense Canadians about to tear their country apart? some have wondered. Others perpetually wonder out of sheer curiosity: Why haven't Canadians joined the United States? Aren't they practically identical people?

Why does Canada still submit to the British monarchy?

Is Canada a loyal NATO ally? What about those socialist governments we hear about?

*The Plain Truth* is a magazine of understanding. It's time to clear up long-standing myths and misconceptions about the world's second biggest country (in land mass). A warning though: Canadians aren't easy to analyze. One of the country's major writers saluted her in a collection of essays as *The Unknown Country*.

## The Identity Crisis

An identity crisis some people call it. Even Canada's friends get confused, almost universally mistaking Canadians overseas for Americans (except, of course, for the telltale "eh?"). The *New York Times* went so far as to label Canada's identity crisis as a peculiar national pastime, ranking with ice hockey.

Perhaps a humorous anecdote helps shed a little light on the elusive Canadian national character. Three students, one American, one

French and the other Canadian, were assigned essays on the theme "The Elephant." The American chose "Advertising Elephants for Fun and Profit." The French student covered "The Mating Habits of the Elephant."

The Canadian's choice? "The Elephant—A Federal or Provincial Responsibility?"

Most Canadians enjoy this droll tale. It seems to illustrate some of their past and present predicaments.

cratic maneuver just to hold together. "You stifle your potential with red tape," Canadians are told. "You need decisiveness and precision in your leaders."

Others have taken to referring to some Canadians as wild-eyed separatists, a placard in one hand and a bomb in the other. What are the facts?

An important point to remember in all this is that the media's fixation with federal-provincial bicker-



Queen Elizabeth II signs the proclamation of the Constitution Act of 1982, severing Britain's last formal legislative link with Canada.

It also highlights the caution and wariness in the national character, the hesitation expressed in tedious conferences and dreary negotiations that (unknown to outsiders) conceals a great national strength.

A few critics see only a people north of the 49th parallel endlessly embroiled in complicated bureau-

ing and the semiparalyzed economy obscures some solid facts. Debates and referendums are safer than bullets; separatism in both ends of the country has met checks; the traditional institutions of Confederation have emerged secure from a severe test of nationhood.

How has Canada survived?

Survival itself is an accomplishment for a democratic society spanning a giant continent, where a small population earns its living in a north temperate-arctic climate. It is no less an achievement considering that multicultural Canada borders on a military and economic colossus to the south.

For these reasons, Canada's best writers and thinkers sense that her national experience is significant for the world as a whole. Canada's enduring test of nationhood is a remarkable triumph of flexibility, moderation and common sense. The Canadian story is well worth the telling: If Canada with all its diversity can survive and flourish, her historians ask, why not mankind?

First, let's tackle the cherished myths.

### The Real Canada

Canadians and Americans, while setting the best example of neighborliness and friendship in the world, are not identical. Canada's founders were French. To this day 1 out of 4 Canadians is of proud French stock. Canada's largest city, Montreal, is the major French-speaking community outside Paris. Many British Canadians descend from the United Empire Loyalists—refugees from the American Revolution. These loyalists chose the harsh wilderness and the British connection over a republican system. No indecisiveness here.

Queen Elizabeth II, the titular head of state, is Queen of Canada, yes, but only in the sense that she is Queen of Australia and of New Zealand as well. The Queen reigns but does not rule. And she reigns by the consent of most Canadians.

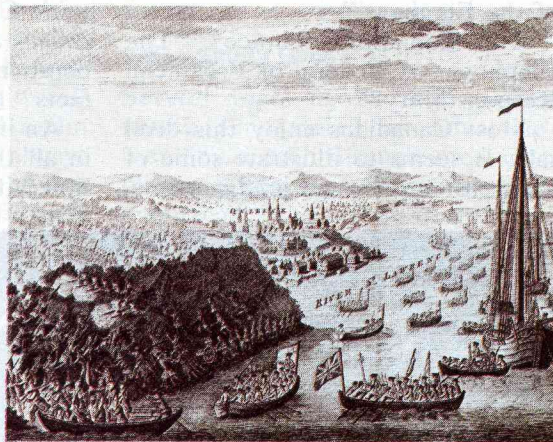
It works like this: In Canada, as in Britain, the power and the glory are separate. The monarchy is represented in Canada by the Governor General, while the Prime Minister and his cabinet run the day-to-day affairs of the country.

Most Canadians feel this is a convenient arrangement. Politicians—the good, the bad and the mediocre—come and go, accounta-

ble to the ballot box, while the hereditary monarch stands above elections, recessions, depressions and wars as an enduring symbol of national unity.

Any serious study reveals that Canada's monarchy is no afterthought or irrelevant relic, but an organic part of the parliamentary system.

Socialist governments? The province of Saskatchewan elected the first socialist government in the Western Hemisphere in 1944. True, the new Democratic Party, one of three major Canadian parties, is definitely left of center. But Canadian socialism draws on the cooperative movement, rather than the Soviet Union, for inspiration. Example: One prominent socialist, ex-Premier Allan E. Blakeney of Saskatchewan, is also a longtime



member of the Canadian Monarchist League.

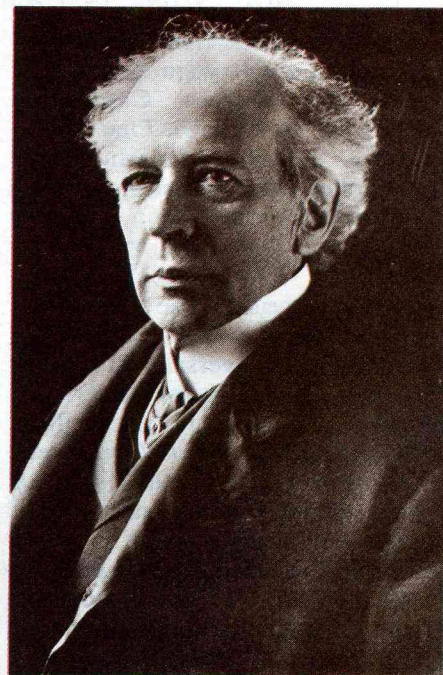
Canada and NATO? Even Third World superstar Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau is now calling for a stronger Western alliance. Few of Canada's critics have heard of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), the joint Canadian-American venture in continental defenses. NORAD, headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is a joint Canadian-American venture. Historically, Canada's commitment to the defense of the West is sealed in blood.

From the Crimean War to the Korean conflict, Canadians have not flinched from paying the price of freedom as they saw it. Her 1,642 casualties in Korea were next only to America's and Britain's. The Second Canadian Division in

World War II stormed the beaches of Normandy with their Anglo-American cousins. And who can forget the "Canadian caper" in Iran, the spirited away of six American embassy personnel from Tehran in February 1980? A forcible reminder of where Canadians stand in the crunch!

Disputes over acid rain and U.S. investments in Canadian firms pale before the ultimate fact: The world's longest undefended border runs between Canada and the United States.

Is the Confederation of 1867 collapsing? There is no sidestepping the truth: Canada is in grave peril



The PLAIN TRUTH



sacrifice and goodwill. In this she shares in the global malaise of the late 20th century.

### The Causes of Canada's Spiritual Problems

History has shaped Canada mightily, as much as has her abundant geography. If she appears baffling and contradictory, it is partly because hardly anyone—Canadians included—understands the inspiring story of her uphill, tenacious struggle to unite and remain united. It is significant that the phrase “We stand on guard” occurs three times in the national anthem.

Why? Let's survey Canadian history and see.



PHOTOS AND ARTWORK FROM CULVER PICTURES

From 1000 to 1500 Canada's eastern shores were host to occasional Viking, Basque, Irish,

French and English explorers and fishermen. After Jacques Cartier pierced the St. Lawrence River in 1534, the bold and energetic Samuel de Champlain fortified the strategic bastion at Quebec City in 1608. While the habitants of this New France farmed the fertile St. Lawrence estuary, daring hunters and fur traders pushed up the Great Lakes, sailed down the Mississippi and laid claim to Louisiana (named after the French king).

Meanwhile, sturdy English settlers carved 13 colonies from the Atlantic seaboard. Conflict was inevitable, climaxing in 1759 with the capture of Quebec City by the English general James Wolfe.

The Treaty of Paris in 1763 formally ended French claim to North America.

Yet French Canadians greatly

outnumbered the British garrisons. Thus Britain's Quebec Act of 1774 reintroduced French civil law and virtually established the Catholic Church in French Canada. Note well: The primary French culture was from the beginning officially sanctioned by the British.

Indeed this Quebec Act helped trigger the American Revolution (1776 to 1783), which profoundly altered North America. Thousands of American Tories, those choosing the British connection, settled what is now Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

As the newcomers multiplied and prospered, French Canada felt threatened. Although both founding peoples joined forces to repel invasions from the south in 1777 and in the War of 1812, antagonism festered. Britain's first attempts to organize her remaining North American colonies was a ramshackle division into Upper and Lower Canada. This failed to appease French-Canadian fears of absorption and English-Canadian desires for energetic commercial expansion.

Rebellions broke out in 1837. Confrontation led to compromise.

The result was the Earl of Durham's productive visit and his recommendation to reorganize British North America into two provinces—Canada West (basically Ontario) and Canada East (mainly Quebec). This time though a central legislature would sit in Kingston, Ontario.

Even though political deadlock continued throughout the 1840s and 1850s, Canadian legislators patiently pinpointed the main areas of contention. The tedious spadework that was a prerequisite to nation-building was proceeding slowly but inexorably. A Scot named John Alexander MacDonal gained valuable experience in conciliation and negotiation. He also earned the support of the leading French-Canadian politician, Georges Etienne Cartier. Both men were appalled at the endless bickering and waste.

Meanwhile, other seeds of unity were sprouting. Greater internal communication helped it along. The railroad and canal booms of the 1830s forged workable internal links. In 1854, a Reciprocity Treaty with the United States greatly stim-

**The Fathers of Canadian Confederation (center photo); Lord Durham (top); John A. MacDonal, first prime minister of the Dominion of Canada (right); Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's first French-Canadian prime minister (left); the capture of Quebec City by the English general Wolfe in 1759 (far left).**

as she enters the last years of this century. Yet recently, the flexible, practical compact painstakingly pieced together 116 years ago withstood another test. There is a breathing space right now for Canada to ponder her biggest problems. These problems are spiritual, not constitutional. What do we mean?

Canada, like the rest of the Western world, is facing a character drain—the erosion of such precious intangibles as family life, self-

ulated east-west trade across the colonies. By 1857, MacDonald had come to power in Kingston. The stage was set. The final push came in 1865-66.

The United States emerged from the bitter Civil War of 1861-65 enraged with Britain over her tacit support of the Southern Confederacy. The United States suspended the Reciprocity Treaty. She also branched a formidable army.

Now even the most blind Canadians grasped the folly of further disunity. MacDonald had met with the leaders of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in 1864 to coyly preach the gospel of Confederation. The time was ripe.

The Confederation of Canada was proclaimed in London by the British North America Act, effective July 1, 1867. George Brown, a former adversary of MacDonald's but a leading father of Confederation, spoke the words forever giving the lie to those who would truncate Canada: "No man who has a true regard for the well-being of Canada can vote against this scheme unless he is prepared to offer some better remedy for the evils and injustices that have so long threatened the peace of our country."

Georges Cartier's statesmanlike reply? "There is the question." It still is.

Unity brought blessings. Psalm 72:8 enshrined the national motto: "And his dominion shall be from sea even unto sea." A salute and a prophecy! Canada prospered. By 1905 nine provinces stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the vast western prairies filling with settlers eager for a slice of the "last, best West." Canada, in the words of historian A.R.M. Lower, was "carpen-tered together, not smelted."

But the hard-won unity was still vulnerable, very vulnerable.

The vast western prairies represented colonial-like ties to the old heartland of Ontario and Quebec. The Western Rebellions, an uprising of combined Indian and part-native settlers, shocked eastern Canada. It also sold them on the need for a continental railway, another massive boost to unity completed in 1885.

In 1896 came a new milestone—Canada elected her first French-

Canadian Prime Minister, Wilfrid Laurier. The elegant and cultured Laurier helped smooth over rankled domestic feelings aroused by Canada's participation in the Boer War (1899-1902), which some viewed as a squalid police action of the British Empire.

World War I plunged Canada into the boiling conscription crisis of 1917. Mandatory conscription, as blood flowed in Flanders' fields, enraged some French-Canadians who resented defending the British Empire. The issue flared anew in World War II.

Yet the 1950s and 1960s were remarkably stable and cohesive. Population soared from 15.5 million to 23 million between 1955 and 1975. The gross national product multiplied 2½ times. But affluence, secularism and the pervasive mass media eroded the church-oriented, traditionalist social order in Quebec. Theology counted for little on the job market. Too often the best jobs went to the English. A "quiet revolution" ticked away in Quebec. The feeling that Quebec must modernize and catch up went hand in hand with the growing desire to be *maitres chez nous*—masters in our own house.

In 1968 Rene Levesque, a fiery journalist and academic, founded the Parti Quebecois, outwardly committed to separation from Canada. Quebec grabbed world headlines in October 1970 when a cell of separatist militants murdered a provincial official and kidnapped a British trade commissioner. Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, a devout federalist, speedily crushed the urban terrorists.

The last decade of Canada's history is readily available. So let us now turn to Canada's future.

### The Future

Today, a pause has settled over Canada. It is a time to take stock. Was it the heady prosperity of an affluent society that accentuated the regionalism, the fragmentation, the decentralizing forces that almost tore Canada apart in the 1970s? Today she is an incredibly fortunate country. She has survived an acute threat to nationhood waged on four fronts at once—

regional, economic, constitutional and political.

Canada's future hinges on the spirit of cooperation, not confrontation. Her historians and writers have always known this. It was statesmanship, conciliation, the willingness to negotiate, the patience to muddle through the giant obstacles sprinkled with a dash of optimism for the future—these intangibles have been the strength of the Canadian Confederation.

Patience, caution and a practical optimism—these are spiritual qualities. Not glamorous attributes, yet they made Canada possible. Canada's original English-French duality opened the door for a distinctive accomplishment: not a melting pot but a mosaic; not a conquering manifesto for mankind to embrace but a practical necessity to build a society where fair play and tolerance might override diversity. Conciliation, not confrontation, is the Canadian way.

Canada demonstrates to the world how a sprawling continental power with a mixed population can hold together if there are enough men of goodwill to moderate the harshness of debate, to see the other's point of view.

This tolerant common sense wedded to a sense of excitement about the future has always made Canada attractive to outsiders.

It is a national destiny that Canadians did not particularly choose. History and geography handed it to them. Patiently forging links of unity and community in a land where the individual can easily be swallowed, in a land sometimes bleak and inhospitable for much of the year—this is a distinctive Canadian achievement. No wonder they traditionally prize cooperation, common sense, the middle way.

These qualities must be guarded if Canada is to endure. For Canadians to ignore them in their immense land prone to overweening regionalism is to strike at the roots of national existence.

As the 1980s continue, Canadians need to heed the wisdom pronounced in the same book that gave her her splendid national motto: "And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand" (Mark 3:24). □



# Love, Marriage & Sex!

by Ronald D. Kelly

It's important to get them in the right order.

**T**HE THREE most important ingredients to successful marriage have been terribly abused.

Some fall in love and never marry. Others marry but are not in love. Millions of people experiment with sex without even being in love.

Still others are in love and are married but fail to understand the importance of a wholesome and proper sexual relationship.

Not many seem to be putting all three—love, marriage and sex—together in the right order.

## Love to Build a Relationship

Almost everyone has experienced what he or she thought was love, only to find out it really wasn't. Perhaps your case was typical. It probably first happened early in the teen years when you were first attracted to a member of the opposite sex.

There was the strange, tingling, excited feeling that would just not go away. You thought you saw shooting stars. Felt like you were

walking on air. And you could have danced all night.

Later, you probably came to realize that was not love at all. Your parents tried to tell you it was "puppy love." It was just infatuation.

Maybe you even experienced these feelings of "love" three or four or more times—each time thinking this new feeling was the really one true forever and ever love.

Unfortunately thousands of people make terrible mistakes because of not knowing how to handle adolescent emotions. It often leads to premarital sexual experience, which in turn often leads to premarital pregnancy—and millions of babies born out of wedlock every single year.

Others, misinterpreting their feelings of "love," leap into premature marriages. A large percentage of those who marry and don't divorce are not really happy. They stay married for the sake of the children, or for religious or financial reasons. They find they are not really in love at all.

How sad.

And of course where and when

to fit the sexual relationship into this picture is often confusing. The signals of our liberated society tell us to practice sex whenever, however, whyever and in whatever manner we want to. "Consenting adults" is the catch phrase.

The God-given formula for happiness and success in marriage is usually totally ignored. That formula is the title of this article: Be in love, marry and have a healthy sexual relationship. You can't build a marriage without love. And sex should NEVER be practiced outside the confines of marriage.

## But What Is Love?

If you had to choose just one word to describe God, LOVE would be the best word. The apostle John simply stated it: "God is love" (I John 4:8).

From what God is and what God does we can understand the deep and significant emotion called love.

God's love was most manifest by the ultimate gift he gave mankind: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should

not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Love, you see, is not a feeling of selfish tingling emotions, like the flaming sunset in an orange colored sky. It’s not that feeling of desire and passion so often mistaken as love.

Real love is the ability to put one’s selfish interests and feelings aside and GIVE to the other person.

Outside of marriage, the passions that lead to sexual experimentation are nothing more than lust.

Can you imagine a teenage couple necking in the backseat of a car whispering to each other, “Oh, how I lust after you”?

No, they say, “Oh, how I love you, I love you, I’ll always love you.” But what they *really mean* is, “I am lusting after you.” The chances are that affair will last only a short time, and they will each be whispering the same thing to another person later on.

Love—real love—is not even possible without a degree of maturity. Mature love that prepares a couple for a lifetime of marriage and commitment begins slowly and grows. Love never stands still.

Of course love has to start somewhere. Romantic love begins with an attraction to a member of the opposite sex. There will probably be a beginning feeling of infatuation. But love that leads to marriage must grow beyond that and not be based on attraction alone.

### Understanding Love from the Greek Language

In the English language there is the one word *love*. Because of that, few are aware that there are different meanings to the words in the Bible translated into English as *love*. In the Greek language, the language of the New Testament, three different words translate into the English word *love*. By understanding them, one can better grasp what kind of love to strive for in marriage.

The first word is *eros*. It forms the root of our English word *erotic*. It is the kind of love discussed in this article up to now.

Of course *eros* is an important kind of love. Author H. Norman Wright defines *eros* in his book

*Pillars of Marriage*, as love that seeks sensual expression. It is desire. It is romantic, sexual love. It is inspired by the biological structure of human nature—placed in mankind at creation.

Of itself, *eros* is not wrong. But it is a kind of love that should never act alone. Unfortunately it is the only love many people ever experience. But romantic, sensual love is only part of the God-given concept of TOTAL love.

The second kind of love comes from the Greek word *philia*. Again you may recognize the meaning—for example, the name of the city of Philadelphia means the city of “brotherly love.” *Philia* is friendship, companionship, the physical as well as emotional sharing of time and interests. It shows a desire to cooperate.

Mr. Wright suggests the difference between *eros* and *philia* is that *eros* is a face-to-face relationship while *philia* is a shoulder-to-shoulder relationship. When applied to marriage it depicts a husband and wife working together. And parents and children and brothers and sisters working together.

A friend is someone whose company you prefer. Someone you want to be with. Every good marriage has *philia* love—husbands and wives who want to be with each other.

But these two words do not tell the whole story of love.

### The Greatest Love of All

There is yet another Greek word that explains the deep and spiritual meaning of love. The word is *agape*.

*Eros* produces romance—makes your mate your lover. *Philia* makes your mate your friend. But *agape* goes far beyond. *Agape* is a love of total commitment. *Agape* means “selflessness.” *Agape* is total GIVING love.

This is the love God expressed when he gave his only begotten Son. He had no self-interest. He was giving the one gift that would make possible the forgiveness of sin and would save mankind.

In the human sphere, *agape* love is thoughtfulness, concern, sensitivity to the needs of others.

But *agape* is not a natural love. We were not born with it. It is not the love of adolescence. *Eros* is essentially in mankind by creation. *Philia* comes naturally—we all want friends. But *agape* is acquired by maturity.

And the highest form of love we can attain is a gift that God can give us. The very giving and loving nature of God can be put within human beings by a supernatural miracle. Paul wrote, “. . . the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit] which is given unto us” (Rom. 5:5). That is *agape* love.

One has not truly loved until that selfless love has been experienced. It is when every desire is for the other person. Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). If and when, in marriage, you come to the point you would give your life for your mate, then and only then, have you experienced the penetrating meaning of love.

Relevant to *agape* love in marriage Paul further said in Ephesians 5:28-29, NIV: “In this same way, husbands ought to love [*agape*] their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church” (verse 25).

It is natural to love the self. It is not so natural to love someone else that much. Thus God says that we ought to grow in love toward our mates equal to the love we have for ourselves. No one can expect more. But so few ever come close. Most are simply so selfish they do not achieve the real depth of love.

Too many marriages are based on only one kind of love—*eros*. That love usually will not hold up under pressure. And sadly, too many marriages don’t even have *philia* love. Some husbands and wives are not even good friends.

When I was graduating from college, I went to a respected faculty member for advice. I had dated a number of young women, but didn’t really know my own feelings clearly about romance. One whom I had dated throughout my college years had become my best friend—

but I hadn't thought seriously about marriage to her.

As we talked, the faculty member gave me some good advice. He said, "Every time you talk about the girl you most respect and enjoy being with, the girl you talk about is Norva Lee. You are really in love with her, but you just haven't admitted it to yourself."

He was right.

I just needed that gentle shove in the right direction. She was everything I ever wanted in a girl. But I had only thought of her as one of my best friends.

We were married a year later and now have more than 23 wonderful and happy years together. I think we have not only found the first two kinds of love, *eros* and *philia*, but are growing in *agape* love together more and more each year.

That faculty member, by the way, is now the editor of the *Plain Truth* magazine, Herman L. Hoeh. I wonder if he ever knew till now how much his advice of nearly a quarter a century ago was appreciated?

### Love Leads to Marriage

Since *eros* or erotic love is a natural love, as also is *philia* love, it's natural that when couples spend a lot of time together they begin to think about building a permanent relationship.

But in the adolescent years it is not possible to develop true and full *agape* love. It is not the time to settle into a permanent relationship.

The widely practiced custom of going steady only leads to difficulties. Young people who spend too much time with only one member of the opposite sex create circumstances where passions can get out of control. Sexual experimentation then begins *before* marriage. Serious mistakes are made that lead to deep regret later.

The teen years should be spent developing a wide variety of friends from both sexes. At a proper age young people can begin to date—but not just one person.

That way, a person can experience being with a variety of members of the opposite sex. You can know much better the type of per-

son with whom you could spend the rest of your life.

Don't even consider marriage unless it is built on a relationship of growing love. Don't marry for convenience, desire, security, money or any other single reason. Marry because you have grown to love the person with whom you want to share the remainder of this physical life.

And never live together outside the sacred bonds of marriage.

From the beginning the Almighty God instituted the marriage covenant as the most sacred of all ceremonies. It is the start of a new life together—the beginning of a new family unit.

On the day God created Adam and Eve, he said, "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh" (Gen. 2:24, NIV). God presented Eve to Adam in the first marriage ceremony.

Marriage should be the most wonderful part of life. And the wedding one of the most joyous days to remember. As a minister, when I begin a marriage ceremony I usually start by saying, "There is no more joyous ceremony than this we now enter! Marriage is a natural union, but a divine institution ordained by the Creator God."

A beautiful bride dressed in white, a handsome groom in a tuxedo or suit, and an event shared by family and friends should be a happy occasion well worth remembering.

How sad that too many marriages are not based on true love and don't last long. Joy turns quickly to sadness. Happiness turns to tragedy.

If only everyone would put these things in the proper order. First, learn to love—really and truly love. Then *before* beginning the sexual experience, plan a wonderful wedding.

### Sex—Only After Marriage

God designed the human sexual experience to begin only one time in life—AFTER the marriage ceremony.

I know that doesn't sound modern and up-to-date. But it is the truth!

And the truth about why God created sex is vitally important.

Sex is part of the *eros* love God designed. It is part of our nature, our makeup. Sex, when practiced in love and in the confines of marriage, is holy and pure. The apostle Paul said, "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed [sex in marriage] kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral" (Heb. 13:4, NIV).

Only two generations ago sex was a taboo subject. It was often wrongly regarded as dirty. It was seldom, if ever, discussed. Most were ignorant of the true meaning of the human sexual experience. Sex life within marriage was often tragically unfulfilling.

Then following two world wars the world burst into sexual experimentation and promiscuity.

In the 1950s Dr. Alfred Charles Kinsey conducted his research on human sexuality. More and more people became educated about sexual functions. Now there are literally hundreds of books and pamphlets on the subject.

At the same time moral standards declined. Organized religion exerted less influence. Liberality became the pacesetter. The result is a modern society gone rampant with sexual experimentation.

Virginity is an almost obsolete word. Peer pressure and false or unbridled emotions have led to a great deal of premarital sex experimentation.

The modern argument is, "Those who have experienced intimate sexual relationships before marriage will be better sex partners in marriage."

How sadly wrong that argument is.

The Almighty God who created us male and female designed sex to be practiced **ONLY** in the confines of marriage. Any other practice of sex is sin! Premarital sex is called fornication. Extramarital sex is adultery. Both are capital offenses against the holy law of God!

But sex within marriage—practiced in love—is clean, holy, pure.

The most obvious reason for sex is the reproduction of mankind. God has designed the marvelous  
(Continued on page 43)



HAL FINCH—PT

# CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

by Dan C. Taylor

Here's a solution to one of today's fast-growing tragedies.

**D**IVORCE is far more than an unpleasant fact of life. For those who have experienced what it is like to have a marriage fall apart around them, it's a nightmare.

Yet in spite of the pain and sorrow divorce can cause, the trend of failed marriages is still upward. When will we humans learn what we are doing to ourselves?

The casualty figures are enor-

mous. Millions of lives are shattered. Parents who become irreconcilable and experience divorce know how traumatic it can be. And the very nature of some legal systems only creates more hostility between divorcing mates.

Somewhere in the divorce process, however, children of divorce often become of secondary importance unless parents are careful. Many parents, caught up in the emotions of court battles, can forget how deeply and profoundly their children are being affected.

How do children react to divorce? How will it affect them? How can you, if you are a divorced parent, help your children adjust to the circumstance of life in a single-parent family? Is there hope of a brighter future for them?

## Divorce and Children

No two children have quite the same reaction to their parents' divorce, but there are some typical responses.

Divorce, for children, is a time of confusion and helplessness. They have no sense of control over their lives, and they fear for their relationship with their parents.

As a result of the turmoil caused by divorce, many children, even adolescents, have trouble sleeping, concentrating or even controlling bodily functions.

Their moods may swing radically from near total withdrawal to hyperactive aggression. Overall, there is a pervasive feeling of loneliness and depression.

The basic question in children's minds is, "What's going to become of me?" But not all of their thoughts are self-centered. They also worry about their parents. "Where will Daddy live?" "Who'll take care of Mommy?"

Many children may believe that they caused their parents' divorce and bear a huge burden of guilt. Keith Black of the Winnipeg, Manitoba, Child Guidance Clinic noted, "I have talked to children from divorced or separated homes, and they keep wondering and asking themselves if they are to blame."

Younger children have difficulties mainly because their understanding of the situation is superficial, and yet their feelings on the matter run deeper than they or most adults realize. They have neither the confidence nor the vocabulary to state how they feel. And those pent-up feelings can be a time bomb just waiting to go off sometime in their lives.

Children suffer conflicts of loyalty. And this emotional tug-of-war can be compounded by bitter criticism of one mate by the other. Preadolescent boys especially identify with their fathers, so any criticism directed at Dad may wound them as well.

Many children feel angry. Young children may throw temper tantrums while older teens may scold or criticize one or both parents for destroying their family unit.

All children caught up in their parents' divorce suffer an enormous loss of self-esteem. The rejection they feel is both profound and lasting. Unchecked, these feelings of rejection can severely handicap children of divorce in present and future relationships.

Such childhood experiences are documented in an American study published in 1980 entitled *Surviving the Breakup: How Children and Parents Cope With Divorce* by Drs. Judith Wallerstein and Joan Berlin Kelly. This is a landmark study available at many public libraries in North America—and well worth the time invested in reading it.

The Church of England's Children's Society also published (in June 1983) a significant study on this subject entitled *Children of Divorce: The Report of an Ecumenical Working Party on the Effects of Divorce on Children*. According to this study, "Divorce may affect children detrimentally in the long term, and probably does so to a greater extent than is commonly realized."

#### **How Children Are Affected**

One area in which children are readily affected is in that of academic performance. In a study by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Planning and Evaluation, it was found that the positive and negative influences of home life have a direct bearing on one's academic performance.

In this study, children who lived in a two-parent family in which the mother did not work outside the home scored the highest average of any group on an achievement test.

Conversely, children from single-parent families where the mother worked full time outside the home scored the lowest.

The difference between these two groups was threefold: the amount of stress the children were under, the security of having a mother there when the need arose, and the blessing of living in a two-parent family where a father was earning the living.

There are effects that may go

unnoticed, however. Dr. Marshall D. Schecter, professor and director of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania, has dealt with these problems for 35 years.

The divorce of loved parents, reports Dr. Schecter, can cloud a child's or a young adult's outlook on marriage. In the back of their minds, many children of divorce wonder whether their future or present marriage will fall apart just as Mom's and Dad's did.

Many have concluded that the children of divorce have a higher rate of divorce than those who have not had divorce in their background. But, hard data are unavailable to confirm what professionals who have studied the effects of divorce suspect. If these educated guesses are true, then someone who grew up in a broken home, married, had children and later divorced, could well have set in motion divorce as a family way of life for his or her own children.

Can divorce become literally a way of life? For millions it has!

#### **What Parents Can Do**

If you are a divorced parent and want to give your children the best possible chance under the circumstances, here are some things to consider.

For your children's sake, don't follow the crowd. Many authorities estimate that 80 percent of preschool children receive no explanation at all of their parents' divorce. Though your mutual partnership has ended with your mate, your parental responsibilities have not. Both parents should explain this to their children.

Your children *need* to know—and be shown—that they are loved and wanted. They need to know that *both* of you are concerned about their welfare.

Make sure your children understand that they are not to blame for your divorce. Reaffirm this, many times, since they need that reinforcement. Tell your children that you know they are hurting. Get them to talk about it. If you have small children, spend more time with them, hold them and reassure them. They desperately need your time and concern at this juncture.

Don't make negative comments about your former mate in front of your children. And don't turn your children into messengers or spies. This only adds to their hurt and divided loyalties. As one 13-year-old boy put it, "My father has to understand that when he shoots arrows at my mother, they have to go through our bodies before they reach her."

Try to minimize the changes in your life until you and your children can adjust to the situation of being in a single-parent family.

Be dependable. How many times have children eagerly awaited the arrival of a parent on visiting day or some important function only to be disappointed when that parent doesn't show up or is late. Usually, the visit is cut short and no explanation is given—soon none will be asked for.

Don't try to buy your children's affection. They don't need or want armloads of toys, nor do they have to constantly go to some recreation center in order to enjoy time with you. Children want your love, concern and affection.

If you are the parent with custody, do not deliberately cut your former mate or grandparents and relatives off from your children. It is important for children to know their roots. Children who have access to relatives on both sides of the family have an easier time adjusting to life in the single-parent family.

Get with your ex-spouse and work out some ground rules you can both agree to in order to avoid conflicts that can arise during visits.

If you have custody, and the other parent has simply fled or his or her whereabouts are unknown, consider moving closer to your relatives. Children need role models, and in most cases, your family can help ease the void of an absent parent for your children. But, remember, though you may be living near or with your family, they are *your* children, not your relatives'.

Don't forget that your children still need discipline. After they've been emotionally hurt by divorce, they especially need a routine and guidelines.

As Maria Isaacs, director of the Families of Divorce Project at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic,

put it, "Guilt often prevents parents from setting limits, but a kid gets very frightened in a house with no rules. At this time more than ever—when so much else is changing—they need firm clear limits."

Finally, don't forget your financial obligation to your children. It is vital to their welfare.

### Child Support

Child support or maintenance has become a big issue, especially in the United States and Canada.

The problem of negligence has become so great that, to quote the cover story of the March 21, 1983 issue of *Maclean's* magazine: "With default of divorce settlement payments running at 30.9 per cent in the United States (and with 75 per cent of agreements in arrears in Canada, according to 1976 figures), [divorce] insurance may become as prevalent as wedding gifts."

One government survey done in 1982 by the U.S. Census Bureau found that only 46.7 percent of those eligible were receiving the full amount of child support they were entitled to under the terms of their court settlement.

In 1981, U.S. child support payments averaged \$2,110—up \$310 from 1978. But when inflation is taken into account, the average payment total actually declined by 16 percent. Along these lines, a study by the U.S. National Conference of State Legislatures found that men's disposable incomes actually rise 42 percent after a divorce while women's fall by 73 percent. And women in the United States are their children's guardian nine times out of ten in a divorce.

What is the answer to this serious problem? Should divorce settlements—child support or maintenance—simply be deducted from the absent parent's wages? Many heartily agree.

Absent fathers, however, point out that the reason many payments are withheld is that they're often not allowed to visit their children. They add that should the government ask for these payments to be withheld from the paychecks, they would find a way around it should visiting rights be withheld.

But who are the real victims? Once again it is the children. All of

the arguing and bickering will not solve the fact that if many children do not receive income from child support, they do without clothes and other necessities—even food. Society as a whole has a stake in the matter because many of those guardian parents who do not receive child support payments have nowhere else to turn but public welfare.

However, though human legal processes seem to be paralyzed on the matter of child support, there is an authority that is quite clear on the subject of financial support of one's family—and on divorce as a whole.

The Bible plainly states: "But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household [his flesh and blood], he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever" (I Tim. 5:8, RAV).

For parents to treat their children like chattels or bargaining chips is the crudest form of selfish pride.

God does hear the cries of the fatherless in their affliction (Ex. 22:22-23). To those who earnestly seek God's will and help, God says he will grant them relief (Ps. 146:9).

### Why There Is Divorce

Man was never intended to have to endure the pain and turmoil of divorce (Matt. 19:7-9). God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16). Nevertheless, God did allow a way out of unendurable situations in a marriage.

The Roman world during the apostle Paul's day was troubled by divorce. This trend even affected Christians of the day. But while admonishing believers not to seek divorce from unbelieving mates, Paul did make allowance in cases when the unbeliever departed (I Cor. 7:10-15).

Nevertheless, the fruits of divorce—any divorce—are pain and suffering. Sadly, children suffer along with their parents.

Before the turn of the century, divorce was rare and handled much differently from today. For example, in the United States, the father almost automatically received custody of his children in a divorce. But aside from all of the problems attributable to the Victorian age, on this point uncanny wisdom prevailed.

Men were reluctant to divorce because they would have been saddled with greater responsibilities than they would have wanted to handle. Women, in turn, would have lost access to the children whom they had borne, loved and nurtured. In this sense, the custody laws of the day were neither pro-male nor pro-female. Rather, they were pro-family.

As times changed, so did human divorce laws. For instance, in the last 50 years, the number of divorces in the United States has increased 700 percent! And nation after nation has followed the U.S. lead in liberalizing divorce laws. People have become accustomed to these figures, though many are becoming alarmed. Even today's professionals in the area of divorce and child care are having second thoughts about decades of free-wheeling divorce.

"There are times," said Dr. Schecter in a telephone conversation with *The Plain Truth*, "I've wondered very much whether the old-fashioned idea of putting up with a spouse with whom you have a certain level of decency and satisfaction—for the purpose of looking at the children's interests—might really be the best thing in the long run."

Dr. Schecter noted that some situations in marriages would simply be inappropriate to remain in, but added, "If people are relatively solid, they may be able to live in some comfort together and develop some of their interests."

Sadly, however, staying together is not the trend. Chances are divorces will continue to increase and take their toll on society. As Cornell University professor Dr. Urie Bronfenbrenner noted, "Never in the history of any society have we had a situation in which only one person and sometimes less than one is left with the responsibility of bringing up a child... it's a very unreliable structure."

However, after man has done with debating the pros and cons, what needs to be realized is that the family is not some invention of man for mere convenience—a passing phenomenon of social evolution. The family was ordained by the Creator God (Gen. 2:18, 24) as the funda-

# SELECTED DIVORCE RATES\*

RATE PER 1000 PEOPLE	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF DIVORCES
.19	Italy	11,109 (1981)
.32	Mexico	21,394 (1978)
1.31	Japan	154,000 (1981)
1.55	Belgium	15,341 (1981)
1.56	Germany (West)	96,222 (1980)
1.59	France	85,000 (1979)
1.62	Norway	6,634 (1980)
1.65	Switzerland	10,500 (1980)
1.96	Netherlands	27,900 (1981)
1.96	New Zealand	6,100 (1979)
2.04	Scotland	10,521 (1980)
2.26	Czechoslovakia	34,595 (1981)
2.42	Sweden	20,160 (1981)
2.62	Australia	37,854 (1979)
2.78	Canada#	67,671 (1981)
2.83	Denmark	14,500 (1981)
2.90	Germany (East)	48,551 (1981)
3.01	United Kingdom (England & Wales)	148,301 (1980)
3.48	Soviet Union	931,000 (1981)
5.10	United States+	1,180,000 (1982)

\* Figures are latest year available as reported in the 1981 United Nations Demographic Yearbook unless otherwise indicated.

# Source: Statistics Canada

+ Source: Monthly Vital Statistics Reports; Vol. 31, No. 12; National Center for Health Statistics, Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PT CHART BY MONTE WOLVERTON

seeking—a society bent on learning every lesson the hard way.

A survey done in the U.S. a few years ago by *Parade* magazine showed that, after a year of having thought about their divorce, 60 percent of the men and 73 percent of the women questioned felt that they had made a mistake in divorcing their former mates.

What a pity that so many are either ignorant of their Creator or refuse to listen to him. And because of parents' mistakes, children suffer the consequences, sometimes all their lives.

God hears the cries of the children of divorce. He sees every tear. And soon now, the very God who created the family will step in to save that institution.

God in his tremendous mercy has provided mankind a way out. Christ has paid the penalty for our sins (Rom. 3:25, I John 2:2)—not to allow us to remain in our sins (John 8:11) but to enable us to make a *fresh start*. The soon-coming kingdom of God will give the world that chance.

We can begin to make that new beginning even now. God gave us an instruction book that lists teachings on every facet of life. We call that book the Bible. The Bible has much to say about child rearing, divorce and human relations in general. The book of Proverbs is full of sound counsel for young (and old) people.

Now is the time to be forearmed with the knowledge God has made available to us in the Bible. The problems that beset the children of divorce can only be dealt with after the fact. But if you are a parent in this situation don't stand idly by—blow off the dust on your Bible and read it.

Find out how to deal with life, marriage, children. Put to practice the counsel mentioned in this article. More important, learn to seek God's will in each aspect of your life. With God's help and a lot of diligence on your part, perhaps your divorce will be the last in your family. And your children will be grounded in a way of life that will stand them in good stead in the world tomorrow—a world in which there need be no children of divorce, just children who are happy, loved and free from fear of a shattered family. □

mental building block of society.

Because of its importance, God made laws to protect the integrity of the family (Ex. 20:12, 14, 17). In addition, many biblical statutes emphasize the marriage and parent-child relationship, and admonish humanity to uphold them both.

God considers the role of parents to be vital. God is called the "father of the fatherless" (Ps. 68:5). This phrase applies to the children of widows, to those who may not even know who their fathers are, those whose parents are separated for economic reasons or pending a reconciliation, as well as the children of divorce.

## There Is a Way Out

God takes seriously the problems caused by divorce: "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse [utter destruction]" (Mal. 4:5-6).

For 50 years, the pages of *The Plain Truth* have thundered God's warnings about the dismemberment of the family to a world wrapped up in its own pleasure

# WHY THE DUTCH BEAT BACK THE SEA

by John Ross Schroeder

For a thousand years the Dutch people have battled the North Sea. Were it not for multiple thousands of acres of reclaimed land, half of Holland would now be under water. What secrets are locked up in these 10 centuries of land reclamation?

**T**HE STORY of the Netherlands is a story of the sea!

Uniquely, the Dutch fulfill an ancient prophecy pertaining to one of the tribes of the so-called lost 10 tribes of the House of Israel. Zebulun's descendants were to "dwell at the haven of the sea" and "be for an haven of ships" (Gen. 49:13). Moreover they were to rejoice "in [their] going out" (Deut. 33:18).

These ancient prophecies have been fulfilled in the Dutch, a sea-going, colonizing people. Is it mere coincidence?

## Reshaping the Coastline

Before A.D. 1000, it is said that the Dutch were content to "let God's water flow over God's land." After that time they began to resist the natural flow of the seawaters.

The prophet Jeremiah reveals that God "placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it" (Jer. 5:22).

God himself determined the basic limits and boundaries of the sea. Yet he permits nature to alter the coastline over long epochs of time. And he has allowed the Dutch peoples to artificially extend and straighten their coastlines.

About 2,000 years ago the Roman historian Tacitus described what is now known as the Netherlands as an inhospitable area—neither land nor sea—a marsh intersected by numerous creeks. No real progress came about until a millennium had passed. Then the struggle really began.

The first efforts were rather primitive and could only be accomplished at low tide. Then came the invention of the windmill and later the steam engine to pump out the water much more efficiently.

## How Sea Becomes Land

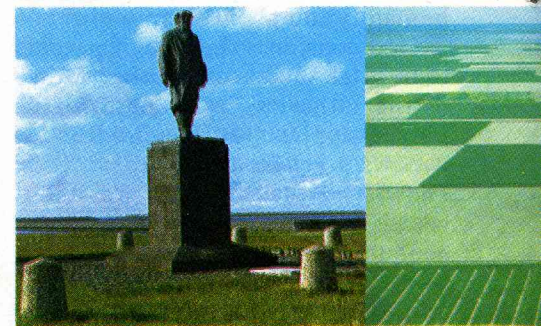
In more modern times, the reclaiming of land from sea has been boiled down to quite a simple process known as impoldering. It is the conversion of submerged land into fertile polders (a polder is a piece of low-lying reclaimed land) through dikes and drainage.

The first step is to build a dike around that portion of sea area to be reclaimed. When this con-

struction is completed there is, of course, water still on both sides of the dike. This problem is simply solved by the careful placement of one or more pumping stations.

After the dike is closed, the water is then drained out of the designated area by modern pumping equipment. It takes a number of months, but the bottom of a new

**THE NETHERLANDS TODAY—A Kinderdyke windmill, right, dominates landscape. Modern technology has made the traditional Dutch windmill obsolete. Below, left to right: statue of Dr. Lely, father of the IJsselmeer project; farmlands on a polder in the region; downtown Amsterdam, one of the great cities of Europe; the IJsselmeerdam; a Dutch smile, with Amsterdam residential area in background.**



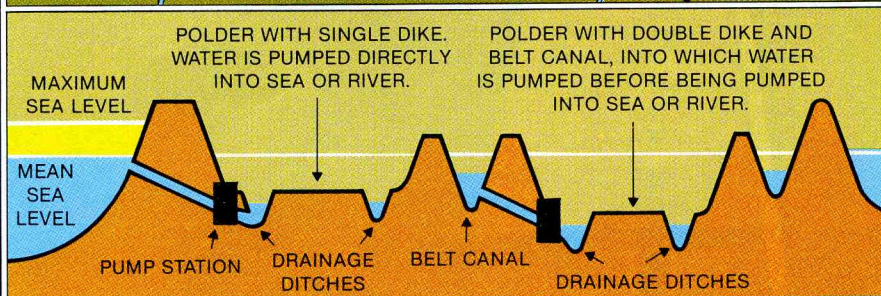
TOP: WILHELM—AFTER IMAGE; BOTTOM: FROM LEFT: POLYVISE-HILVERSUM; RANCIAN—SYGMA; POLYVISE-HILVERSUM; RANCIAN—SYGMA; FLAKSDIENST VOOR DE IJSSELMEERPOLDERS; RANCIAN—SYGMA; POLYVISE-HILVERSUM; RANCIAN—SYGMA



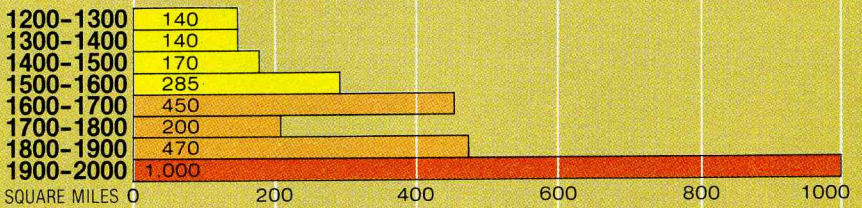


# THE NETHERLANDS — A HISTORY OF LAND RECLAMATION

- Land reclaimed 1200-1600
- Land reclaimed 1600-1900
- Land reclaimed 1900-1970
- Possible land reclamation



## LAND RECLAIMED PER CENTURY



property. The sea level and weather factors are continually monitored and fresh ideas and efforts to defend the reclaimed lands are part of an ongoing plan of survival.

But creating and protecting a polder is not an end in itself. New lands must produce abundant crops and support herds of healthy livestock. New towns and villages must be constructed to serve and shelter the people who come to live in the new polder area. Remember that the Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with 14¼ million human beings—including 537,000 unnationalized foreigners, 133,000 Dutch nationals of Surinamese extraction and 30,000 Dutch nationals of Moluccan extraction. They live in an area one-seventh the size of Great Britain and one-third the size of the state of South Carolina.

This the Dutch have done. A number of new towns were planned and built in the polder areas. However imperfectly, the Dutch peoples have followed some vital biblical principles in their overall planning and construction. For instance, barns are almost always built before farmhouses. What does Solomon say in the book of Proverbs? "Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house" (Prov. 24:27).

Monocultures are not allowed. Trees are planted to attract beneficial birds and insects. Scientifically discovered ecological principles and a sense of balance in nature are encouraged. Farmhouses are usually built in twos so neighboring farmers can help each other.

## Knowledge for the Future

Of course conditions in Holland are far from perfect. Much of Dutch culture is still not what it should be. Amsterdam has become a mecca for dangerous drugs and illicit sex. Crimes of all description are on the increase in the Netherlands.

For such immorality and law breaking, the wise among the Dutch are aware that retribution cannot be far behind. The nation will have to be punished to one

polder will gradually emerge. Wheat fields can actually be found in bloom in the third year after reclamation.

As an ongoing process, a vast network of dunes and dikes has been built to promote and protect the west and north of the Netherlands. Continually at risk are the densely populated areas encompassing Amsterdam, Rotterdam and

The Hague. The danger is never altogether past. A dike can never be too strong.

Dutch engineers have not forgotten their land level is gradually sinking (one twenty-fifth of an inch a year) and the sea level is rising. On rare occasions in the past the sea has swept over the dikes to penetrate the polders and do untold damage to land and

# Land Reclamation and Sea Defenses

The Netherlands has a long tradition of winning land from the North Sea. In 1919 the Dutch launched an ambitious project to gain more than half a million acres in about 70 years time. The Zuider Zee gulf area (renamed the IJsselmeer) was dammed up into a freshwater lake in 1932. Two big polders, the Wieringermeer and North-East, have been diked, drained and converted into land ideally

suitable for farming and animal husbandry. Eastern Flevoland became the third polder to be diked in 1956.

Southern Flevoland finally fell dry in 1968. The area town of Almere is well under way as a major shopping and urban center. It also serves as a shipping point for the surrounding agricultural area. Recreation and entertainment have not been overlooked in Southern Flevoland. Up to a quarter of the polder area has been

zoned for woods and natural beauty spots.

Another potential polder area, the Markerwaard, is under discussion at this time. Some think that a polder in this area could only be developed at the loss of a unique body of water.

Farther south, the Dutch have been working on what is known as the Delta Project. Its purpose is to dam the mouths of the Rhine River and form

another large freshwater lake. Three big dams are fully completed; the fourth is slated to be finished in 1985.

These dams were designed to prevent flooding disasters like the storm of 1953. About 375,000 acres were then temporarily submerged, threatening the livelihood of some four million people.

The long-term goal is to construct a continuous sea defense line extending all the way to the Frisian Islands in the north.

# Ethnic Origin of the Dutch People

Though the biblical prophecies referring to the Dutch people are relatively few, we can understand their origins by comparing their modern characteristics with early prophetic details.

The people of the Netherlands fulfill the prophecy given about the descendants of ancient Zebulun, who were to lose their ancient language, migrate northwestward from Palestine and finally dwell at the "haven of the sea" (Gen. 49:13). That is what Holland is today. The Netherlands truly has been, and is, a "haven of ships"

(Gen. 49:13). Rotterdam is world renowned as a Europort—a vitally important shipping link in the European Economic Community.

A further prophecy in the book of Deuteronomy shows that Zebulun would "rejoice"—be blessed—"in thy going out" (Deut. 33:18). Zebulun would be blessed in vast commercial enterprises arising through his colonial efforts in intimate association with the sea.

Notice what author Luigi Barzini says about the Dutch peoples in his book, *The Europeans*: "This passion for the sea drove them [the

Dutch] to conquer not neighboring provinces . . . but to set up distant trading points all over the world. . . . They settled in New Amsterdam [which became New York City], a vast natural port, cluttered with flat sandy islands large and small, at the mouth of a big river, which evidently reminded them of home; in South Africa, Japan, Formosa, Brazil, Ceylon, Indonesia, the West Indies and other profitable places." Indeed the Dutch are a great colonizing people who have been truly blessed in their "going out."

Consider now another

statement in the same chapter of Deuteronomy. Zebulun was to "suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand" (verse 19). Holland has consistently fulfilled this ancient biblical prophecy in more than one way. The obvious way is through international commerce as a direct consequence of her shipping fleet. Also, the Dutch are world famous for building dikes and reclaiming land for use by farming and for animal husbandry. Holland's tulip industry is utterly dependent on lands reclaimed or "sucked from the sea."

No other country fits the prophetic descriptions of Zebulun as does the Netherlands.

degree or the other—along with the rest of the modern descendants of the ancient 10 tribes of the House of Israel residing in Northwestern Europe, the British Isles, the Commonwealth nations and the United States.

But after this prophesied coming period of severe divine correction, God will usher in a new era of unparalleled growth and development—both spiritually and materially. This millennial utopia will be marked by the restitution of all right things (Acts 3:21) and will

offer those with a proper pioneering spirit a unique opportunity to rebuild and redevelop the surface of this physical planet.

It is then that the Dutch peoples will truly come into their own. Centuries of struggling with the sea have produced a fund of creative knowledge that is unsurpassed in the field of land reclamation and real estate development. That knowledge will be put to a vital use in the fulfillment of God's master plan.

Notice the prophet Ezekiel's

description of the world to come. "Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities [*first* the punishment] I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, *and the wastes shall be builded*. And the desolate land shall be tilled. . . . 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" (Ezek. 36:33-35).

God speed that day. □



## The Other Germany: A Power in Its Own Right

**T**HE FIRST impression most people get of the German Democratic Republic (to give East Germany its proper name) isn't usually a good one. At the border, barbed wire fences, machine gun towers, searchlights, tank traps—or if crossing from West Berlin, the wall—all get a visitor's imagination working overtime.

Armed police—making little attempt to make friends or influence people—check your passport, your vehicle—and you. They ask: Where are you going? Why are you going there? Have you got any newspapers? . . . books? . . . gifts? Not until they are fully satisfied that you are not a smuggler, a subversive or a spy will they wave you through the formidable barriers that guard the entrances to their country.

More uniformed officials are waiting to check your money and insist that you change some of it into theirs—at an official rate of exchange. Like I said, your first impression isn't likely to be a good one.

But most people don't need to visit East Germany to get an unfavorable impression. The "other Germany" is seldom described in Western media as being anything but a repressive, lackluster, 1984ish

police state—and definitely second-rate compared to its glittering neighbor, the German Federal Republic (commonly known as West Germany).

There is, of course, some truth in this. East Germany is a tightly regimented society. It certainly does not have the dazzling prosperity of West Germany. And everyone knows that its borders are patrolled by guards under orders to shoot when its citizens try to leave without permission. What is less well-known is that East Germany is one of the most powerful nations in Europe, and potentially among the most influential countries in the world. We should take a realistic look at the "other Germany."

### Why There Are Two Germanies

When the Nazis surrendered in May 1945, ending the war in Europe, the German state ceased to exist. It was divided into four zones of occupation, each under the direct control of one of the victorious Allied powers—the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. (Berlin, although deep in the Soviet zone, was also divided four ways.) The future of Germany was in the hands of its conquerors. The



East Germany's army—modern, well equipped, disciplined

intentions of the wartime allies toward their former enemy were soon seen to differ.

By September 1949 the Federal Republic of Germany, comprised of the American, British and French zones of occupation, was granted

self-government. Currency reform and the Marshall Plan helped the demoralized people get back on their feet. With determination and energy unmatched in history (unless perhaps by the Japanese) the West Germans got their battered country going again. Today they are once again the most powerful nation in Europe.



FRANZMAN—SYGMA

**Young East Germans  
at National War Memorial**

In the East it was a different story. The Russians had had enough—twice in one generation they had been invaded by German armies. They were in no hurry to see their old enemy strong again. They ruled their zone of occupation with a firm hand. Reparations were demanded. They insisted that factories and industrial equipment that had survived the war be dismantled and be sent by rail to Russia. Then they had the rails pulled up and sent too. A pro-Soviet regime was established, and three weeks after the creation

of the Federal Republic of (West) Germany, the Soviet occupation zone became the German Democratic Republic. At first under tight Russian control, the GDR became a sovereign state in March 1954, and soon after, a member of the Warsaw Pact.

### **The Other Economic Miracle**

The cold war ended whatever hope of quick reunification the Germans may have had. For the foreseeable future, they were to be a divided people. As prosperity in the West increased, more and more workers in the beleaguered East tried to flee there. Starting in May 1952 the GDR began to seal their 860-mile frontier with West Germany. The only aperture left was the border between East and West Berlin. Refugees continued to pour through. It has been estimated that three and a half million people, one fifth of the East German population, crossed from East to West between 1949 and 1961. Many were highly trained scientists, technicians, teachers and skilled workers.

No nation—but especially a nation trying to recover from near destruction—can tolerate such a hemorrhage of talent. And the stern regime was in no position to improve conditions to make life more inviting.

On August 13, 1961, the world awoke to find the last remaining access between the two Germanies blocked by a rising Berlin Wall. At first it was just a barbed wire barrier, later reinforced by cement block. It has since become one of the most impregnable barriers ever devised—29 miles of

floodlights, land mines, 10-foot concrete walls, automatic machine guns, guard dogs and wire mesh designed to collapse and cut off the fingers of anyone trying to climb it.

It is undoubtedly one of the most dangerous places on earth . . . but it achieved its purpose. Overnight the flow of refugees was almost halted. Most East Germans, now that they could no longer seriously contemplate getting out, settled down to the task of getting on with rebuilding their country.

The East German economic miracle is less well-known than West Germany's *Wirtschaftswunder*—but in its way, it is even more remarkable. Although tied to the apparatus of a centrally planned economy, and lacking nearly all natural resources except low-grade coal, the factories of East Berlin, Dresden, Jena and Leipzig began to produce again.

Some years ago the *Times* of London commented: "The East Germans are a tough and capable people. If anybody can make a Soviet-type system work they can." In the last 20 years we have seen how well they can make their system work. The GDR has become by far the most economically successful country in the communist bloc. Measured against West Germany, of course, their record may seem unimpressive (but then, so does nearly everyone else's). Yet the East German gross national product is higher than several of the capitalist countries of Europe. They are well fed and generally well housed. One in three families has a car. The



HALFORD—PT

**Capital and showcase city of the D.D.R.—East Berlin**

consumer goods may be unimaginative, but they are of excellent quality.

Although its population is only 17 million, the GDR produces more than all of Germany during the heyday of the Third Reich. With loans from the West the GDR has become the ninth industrial power in the world. Even making allowances for exaggeration in "official" figures, they have done well—and have the potential to do even better. In spite of this, the East Germans struggle with a national inferiority complex. They try to counter their also-ran reputation by striving to excel in every field open to them. Their *(Continued on page 42)*

## PERSONAL

(Continued from page 1)

erroneous teaching pictures Satan as more powerful than God—he's getting the best of the competition. It represents Satan as being able to thwart God's purpose, to step in to upset God's plan and then to use his cunning and his deception and his wiles to outwit God and to prevent God from repairing the damage in the case of more than a very small fraction of the human race.

### What the Bible Really Teaches

Now let's go back into the book of Genesis and see just what the Bible itself says about all this.

In Genesis 1:27, it certainly does say that God created man in his own image. But it does not say that man's composition was the same as God's—that God made man of immortal spirit!

Notice what it says about what God made man out of—Genesis 2:7: "And the Lord God formed man"—not the house that man was to enter, not the garment or cloak he would wear, but man—"of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Not that man has an immortal soul, but man became a living soul. That is, man is a living soul.

The word "soul" as it was originally inspired and written by Moses in the Hebrew language was *nephesh*; and *nephesh* means the life of animals—of animals who receive their life from the breath of air. It is the very antithesis of anything immortal. It means material life sustained by blood and the breathing of air—that's what the very word *nephesh*, translated here "soul," means.

A number of times in the first chapter of Genesis the various animals were called *nephesh* in the original inspired Hebrew—only the translators in our English version of the Bible translated it "creature" there, and "soul" when it came to man.

The word "breath"—the "breath of life" here simply means "air" or "wind." Isn't this exactly what every man breathes in and out of his nostrils? Why certainly! It was this same "breath of life" that God

caused to be breathed in and out of the nostrils of animals.

Notice the time of the Flood in Genesis 7:21-22. It is recorded that "all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: all in whose nostrils was the breath of life. . . ." That includes all of the animals, as well as man, in whose nostrils was the breath of life—"of all that was in the dry land, died." There we see the identical Hebrew word that is used for man—and God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life—used for breathing in and out of the nostrils of animals.

### The New Testament Teaching

We read in I Corinthians 15:53, ". . . this mortal must put on immortality." The Bible says that man is dust—that man is mortal, but that man can receive immortality and that he must put on immortality at the resurrection of the just. Now turn to Ezekiel 18:4, ". . . the soul that sinneth, it shall die." It isn't immortal! And that's repeated again in the Bible—it's given twice. Sinful man shall not live forever, but die!

And, what did God say to Adam in the garden of Eden? This was before the so-called fall.

Beginning with verse 15 of Genesis 2: "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:15-17).

How could that be if Adam were already immortal? If the man were perfect in character—if here were perfection, the masterpiece of all God's creation, and God had completed the creation and was through with it—would he have said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"? It wouldn't have been possible if the man were perfect—the man couldn't have fallen if he had been perfect, could he? He said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely

die"—not live forever. He didn't say, "You'll live forever in some other place or condition—in hell." No, the penalty for sin is death!

### What Actually Happened

Satan came along to deceive this human, mortal man, that had been made from the dust of the ground. First, Satan called God a liar when God said that the man was mortal, subject to death if he committed sin. God said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"—in other words, man is mortal—subject to death. But, you read in Genesis 3:4 that the serpent said, "Ye shall not surely die." He questioned the veracity of God's word! Satan argued that the man was already immortal—an immortal soul that would not die—that he would live forever anyway. But God had said, just as you read in Romans 6:23, that the "wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life."

Satan argued that if we disobeyed God—if we commit sin—that we will be as God—like God. We'll be like gods ourselves—that is, immortal spirit. And so, somehow, ever since, most people have just assumed and gotten into their minds the idea that when Adam was created "in the image of God," he was created and made of the same composition as God—that is, composed of immortal spirit and of perfect character, and that he was created in the same character and the same nature of God originally, but that his nature changed and he fell to mortality and utter sinfulness.

In John 4:24 in the New Testament, you read that "God is a Spirit." But nowhere does the Bible say that man is a spirit, or that man is spirit. Rather, the Bible says that man is dust—"unto dust shalt thou return," says God. In I Corinthians 15 of the New Testament, it says that "man is of the earth, earthy."

### What Is the Image of God?

How was Adam made in the image of God? How could he have been in the image of God if he was of different composition? I once saw a statue or image of American President Abraham Lincoln. That statue was composed of iron. I have seen images composed of wood, bronze or stone. Abraham Lincoln was

made of flesh and blood, but the statue, made in his image, was of iron.

Almighty God is made of spirit, but the man who was made in his image was made of the dust of the ground—he was made flesh and blood. God Almighty is not flesh and blood, God Almighty is spirit. Jesus Christ said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh”—plain flesh and blood of the dust of the ground—“that which is born of the Spirit,” he said, “is spirit.” He said also that man can be born of the Spirit, he shall become spirit and then he will be spirit, but he is not spirit now.

Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus (see John 3) that man is mortal—man is flesh—but that he may be born again, and he must be born of God before he can become immortal. Eternal life is the gift of God.

How can man be in the image of God and still not be of God’s composition? Turn back to I Corinthians 15:45: “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul”—that’s a living *nephesh*, which means material, mortal life—“the last Adam”—who was Christ—“was made a quickening spirit”—that’s an energizing or an immortal spirit. Verse 47, “The first man is of the earth, earthy”—that’s the first Adam, made of the earth. It’s the man, not the garment he wore, not the house he was in, not the body he was inside of. The “man is of the earth, earthy: the second man”—Christ—“is the Lord from heaven.”

Now in verse 49: “And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” Here it’s talking about composition—here it’s talking about one man being made of the dust of the ground, another being of spirit. And, we have only borne the image of the dust of the ground, but we shall bear the image of the heavenly. We are only in the form and shape of God now, but not of the radiant composition, not of the same character. We’re merely the clay model and God Almighty is the Master Potter. He made us of matter so that he, the Master Potter, could reform and shape us into the final image that it was

his purpose originally to make us.

The “fall” of man wasn’t what you have been supposing. Satan was never more powerful than God—he never frustrated God’s purpose, and he never will.

#### Why Man Sins

There are five senses, the senses of seeing, of hearing, tasting, smelling and feeling. When God created Adam, he put in Adam the same five senses that are in you! Let’s examine these senses and see their role in Adam’s sin—or, let’s take Eve, because the account of her sin is described in detail rather than Adam’s.

After the devil had tempted the woman, “when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes”—here are her five senses at work—“and a tree to be desired to make one wise”—there is vanity—“she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat”—that was stealing—“and she gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” (Gen. 3:6). There is the first human sin.

Do you comprehend?

The woman could see, she had the sense of sight—she saw that the forbidden tree was pleasant to the eyes. Now, she had the sense of taste. She realized that the tree tasted good—but God had forbid it. God said it is not good for her. It may look good, it might even taste good, but to eat it involved an act that was spiritual poison to her. But the woman saw otherwise. She thought otherwise in her carnal mind—her appetite was aroused—she craved the taste of it. Then, vanity was aroused in her—it was, so she believed, desired to make her wise.

And all of these desires that break the tenth commandment caused her to break the commandment against stealing, and to take the fruit that did not belong to her and that had been forbidden to her and her husband. In so doing, she obeyed Satan—she had another god before the true God, and she dishonored her only parent, so she broke the first and the fifth commandments.

Yes, sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4)—and God’s law was broken in four distinct places in that first sin in the garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were originally created with

the same five senses, with the same desires and appetites that you and I have today.

Now when the first man and woman yielded to those appetites and desires—that God had originally created in them—and transgressed God’s law, committing the first sin, then what happened? Did they then fall from immortality and become mortal all of a sudden? That is ridiculous!

Notice what happened. Genesis 3:16-17: “Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception. . . . and unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life”—there was a curse on the ground, but not any change in the physical composition of the man.

Notice, “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us”—like God—“to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever”—lest he gain eternal life, an immortal life that was offered as God’s gift in the garden of Eden—“therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life”—lest man go back and become immortal.

No, the man was not immortal. He had the opportunity of becoming immortal but he spurned it—he turned it down.

#### A Resurrection for All!

Notice I Corinthians 15:22: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”—the same “all” that die in Adam. Why? Simply because Adam was originally made mortal—made of the dust, composed of flesh and blood—of matter, not of spirit. Does this say that because *Adam fell* all die? No, most certainly not. But, as in Adam all die—that’s speaking of this first death—so after that, a resurrection. The wages of sin is not just this

first death that people die. The wages of sin is an eternal death.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”—that’s the good, bad, and indifferent—all people—sinners and saved alike. (See Revelation 20:5, first sentence.) The first death is not the ultimate penalty of sin! The final penalty of sin is the second death (Rev. 20:6), from which there will never be a resurrection—it is eternal punishment. Death is that punishment, forever—eternally.

We were born from our parents, and so on back to Adam who was created mortal—formed of the dust—composed of flesh and blood. In Adam—as long as we are his children—born of him—we all die this first death. But in Christ, all who are not in the first resurrection will be made alive by another resurrection to mortal life in which they will have their first calling from God to understand his truth and come to know the way to eternal life (compare Revelation 20:5, 12 and I Corinthians 15:40 with Luke 11:31-32 and Ezekiel 16:55).

In Christ we can be born again and have immortal life so that we never can die. That comes through the first resurrection.

Notice Romans 5:12—“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned”—the real death penalty—the second death—passes on you, because you have sinned—because all have sinned, and NOT BECAUSE of Adam’s sin.

Notice, sin entered this world by one man—sin is the transgression of God’s spiritual law. Adam was a mortal—flesh and blood—human. If he had been perfect, he would not have sinned. He had the senses of sight, of hearing, tasting, smelling, and feeling. God had put those senses in him. God talked to him—preached a sermon to him—told him that the wages of sin would be death. If he obeyed God and resisted Satan, if he partook of the tree of life, symbolizing the Holy Spirit of God, and fulfilled God’s law, then he could have had the gift of eternal life.

But Adam rejected that. Adam sinned. He never received the precious gift of eternal life. He was driven out of the garden of Eden

lest he received it, and so this first death passed upon all men.

Here’s where this first death came from; but the penalty of sin—eternal death—did not come because of Adam’s sin. That penalty is passed upon all men because that all have sinned—because we have sinned, not merely because of Adam’s sin.

#### **We Bring the Penalty on Ourselves**

No, it says in plain language that the death penalty for sin has passed upon all men because that all have sinned. The death penalty is passed upon you; it is passed upon everyone of us because we have sinned—because we have lived the wrong way and have not turned to God. The Scripture does not say that the penalty of Adam’s sin is eternal death for you and for me—but the penalty for your sin, of my sin, of our sins, is death!

But God so loved this world that he gave his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, that whosoever believes on him should not perish, but should have the gift of everlasting life (John 3:16).

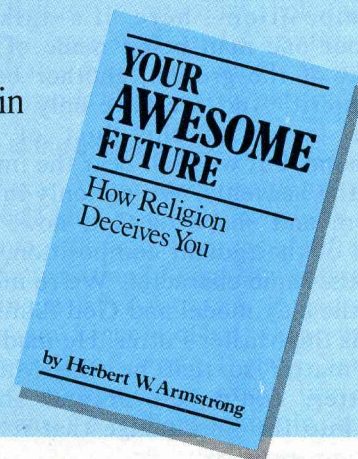
The way is to repent—to repent of sin—and acknowledge Jesus Christ as personal savior. Then the promise is, we shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And then, if we grow in grace and in knowledge—if we overcome, overcome the world, overcome ourselves and our own natures, if we endure until the end—then we shall be made immortal—we shall be born into the very family of God at last.

Oh, what a great wonderful and all-wise purpose God has in making man as he did. How we will praise him for it when finally we understand! □

# Your Awesome Future

## How Religion Deceives You

**N**o religion has revealed it—religion has, in fact, kept it from you! The most important dimension in knowledge concerns a stupendous human potential. But that message, brought to earth by Jesus Christ, was suppressed in the first century. Our booklet offers the truth. You may have a free copy by mailing the envelope or writing our office nearest you.





## MIDEAST WAR

(Continued from page 8)

"This generation will take up arms against Israel and the next one too until the Arab Nation emerges victorious."

### Joint Arab Force

Will Syria take on Israel single-handedly? "Yes, if necessary," Syrians answer.

Most Syrians, however, expect Syria's close allies to become directly involved should another major Mideast war erupt. Libya's strongman, Muammar Kadafi, has personally visited Damascus to discuss military cooperation between his country and Syria in the face of the "Israeli threat."

This writer was informed that a sizable contingent of Libyan troops has been in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley alongside Syrians since the summer of 1982. A lesser number of Iranians—400 or so—are also reportedly in the Bekaa.

Algeria and South Yemen are also frequently mentioned as allies on whom Damascus can count in the event of full-scale Mideast war.

"Only through a joint Arab military force can Israel's backbone be broken and its arrogance smashed," declared one Syrian newspaper editorial. Syrians are confident that a united Arab strike would be devastating to Israel.

Alone or with allies, Syria could undeniably inflict casualties in numbers greater than ever before. Few military experts doubt that Syria could strike a damaging blow with the advanced hardware now being supplied by the Soviet Union.

But many analysts also believe Israel would still win, despite any heavy damage inflicted by the Syrians. But the cost of victory could be intolerably high for either party.

When do Syrians think this "inevitable" war will come?

"We do not want a premature war," said one university student. "But Israel's military provocations may leave us no choice. We will fight when we must. I believe it will be soon."

"1984 will be the year," predicted another student. "I have contacts who know. The Israelis are going to *bleed*."

The potential for war is indeed here. Tensions could build, then erupt into carnage, plunging the region into tragedy and bringing the risk of superpower confrontation! Bible prophecies do predict a growing crisis, exploding into a major international conflict. But they do not reveal a specific year.

### Why Increasing Instability?

From the standpoint of the present time and the present world, the tangled Arab-Israeli situation is increasingly an *unsolvable* problem. The gulf between the two sides on *basic issues* remains wide and deep. No significant compromises are in sight.

As often explained in the pages of *The Plain Truth*, Bible prophecy foretells continuing instability and

upheaval throughout the region—ultimately culminating in a *great global crisis* centering on Jerusalem.

For an overview of the events that lie just ahead for the Middle East, write for your free copy of *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last*. Also, request *World Peace—How It Will Come* for a look at how the seemingly unsolvable Mideast problem *will* ultimately be solved.

Coming articles in *The Plain Truth* will also alert you to important trends and developments in the ongoing Arab-Israeli dispute.

Meanwhile, keep your eyes on Syria. The prophecies of the Bible are moving toward fulfillment in this generation. Soon-coming events will *stun* an unsuspecting world! □



BRACK—BLACK STAR

Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, 55, enjoys widespread popularity inside his country.

## Passion for Pleasure

(Continued from page 10)

through God's Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).

Because humans have not sought their Creator, "I have taken away My peace from this people," God says (Jer. 16:5).

Thankfully, with God it is possible to bring oneself to a whole new attitude toward life. Only by living honestly with fellowman and humbly before God (Mic. 6:8) can you attain contentment and take comfort in knowing absolutely that God has the supernatural power to grant you safety and guarantee you peace of mind in an age where genocide is all too possible.

Jesus Christ has promised to save mankind from extinction and set aright values and morals. At that time escape won't be necessary. That great master plan is outlined in Revelation, the book so often considered enigmatic. But our attractively printed booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last* unmasks this plan and is yours for the asking.

No longer do you have to live with a bleak future, wondering whether you will survive nuclear devastation, keep your job or keep from suffering. You won't grope futilely at entertainment, pleasures, alcohol, drugs or a host of other secular activities, hoping that they, of themselves, will provide lasting relief or happiness.

Make no mistake: Peace of mind can only come from contact with God's Spirit, living the "give" way of life portrayed by Jesus Christ, who suffered the penalty of our sins in our stead. "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (Rom. 8:6).

David knew this source of everything good in this life and for all eternity: "Great peace [and fulfillment] have those who love Your law" (Ps. 119:165). Write for a free reprint of the article "This Is the Life!—Real Abundant Living" for more on how to find that fulfillment.

Living God's way brings understanding of the true purpose for life and a means of attaining the ultimate satisfaction: eternal life. □

**T**HE TWO decades of anarchy known as the “Great Interregnum” (1254-1273) leave Germany in political ruins. It is the “terrible time without an emperor”—or as the Germans word it, *die kaiserlose, schreckliche Zeit*.

A new period of German history begins when the German princes assemble at Frankfurt in the early autumn of 1273 and elect a Swiss count as German king. He is Rudolf of Habsburg.

Three weeks later—on October 24, 1273—Rudolf is crowned at the city of Aachen, Charlemagne’s old capital. Late the following year he is recognized by Pope Gregory X.

Rudolf is the first Habsburg to hold the office of Holy Roman Emperor, though French influence in Rome prevents him from being officially crowned as such by the Pope.

Rudolf rebuilds Germany from the ruins left by the Great Interregnum. He suppresses the lawless robber knights at home and restores German prestige abroad. He also consolidates and adds to Habsburg ancestral lands, laying a solid foundation for future Habsburg greatness.

The major development in this regard comes in 1278, when Rudolf drives the non-German Ottocar, king of Bohemia, from Austria. This victory establishes the Habsburg dynasty as the territorial rulers of Austria, which emerges as one of the most powerful of the German states. It will become the territorial nucleus of future Habsburg power.

#### The “Golden Bull”

Rudolf I of Habsburg dies in July 1291. The German Imperial Electors—German princes who take

# THE HISTORY OF EUROPE & THE CHURCH

## PART SIX

# THE HABSBURG EMPIRE

by Keith W. Stump

*Editor’s Note: We continue our series of articles examining the centuries-long relationship between Europe and the Church. Our first five installments covered the story to the accession of Rudolf of Habsburg in 1273. Part Six surveys the events of the next three centuries, to the death of Emperor Charles V in 1558.*

part in choosing the Emperor—are concerned over the rapid rise of the Habsburgs. They therefore refuse to recognize the claims of Rudolf’s son, and instead recognize Adolf of Nassau as king of Germany.

A century and a half will pass before the next Habsburg sits on the imperial throne.

Meanwhile, in 1355, Charles IV of Luxembourg (now the German king and king of Bohemia) receives the crown of the Holy Roman

Empire in Rome. In an effort to check growing political disorder, he issues the following year an imperial edict known as the “Golden Bull.”

This document spells out a precise procedure for the election and coronation of a German king. Seven German nobles—including the duke of Saxony, the margrave of Brandenburg and the archbishop of Trier—will henceforth determine who is to be king of the Germans. Election is to be by majority vote.

The Golden Bull becomes the constitution of the Holy Roman Empire, and will remain its fundamental law for 4½ centuries, until 1806.

#### Papal Decline

Noticeably absent in the Golden Bull is a role for the Papacy. Papal confirmation is no longer a necessity in the election process.

Things have deteriorated rapidly since the pontificate of Innocent III, when the Church seemed unassailable in its prestige and power.






Some years before the Golden Bull, Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) had sensed a rising national consciousness and development

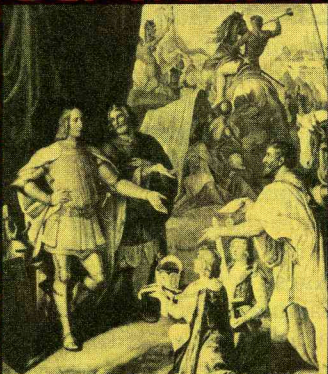
of a new type of secular authority in Western Europe. He realized this could be dangerous to the Church and attempted to reassert Papal power over the new forces of nationalism.

His bull *Clericis Laicos* (1296) forbade kings, under penalty of excommunication, to tax the clergy without Rome’s consent. In another bull, *Unam Sanctum* (1302), Boniface asserted that to obtain salvation, every man must be subject to Rome. In the same document, he declared the supremacy of the Pope over all kings:

“Both swords, the spiritual and the material, are in the power of the Church; the one to be wielded for the Church, the other by the Church; the one by the hand of the priest, the other by the hand of kings

# EUROPE IN 1556

-  Holy Roman Empire boundary
-  Lands inherited by Philip II
-  Lands inherited by Ferdinand I
-  Ottoman Empire
-  German and other semi-independent states



1273: The German princes choose Rudolf of Habsburg (top) as King. Recognized by the Pope, he is the first Habsburg Holy Roman Emperor.

1493-1519: Emperor Maximilian I of Habsburg (above) forms a series of alliances that strengthen the Empire in face of an Ottoman threat.



1520: Charles V of Habsburg is crowned German King, and in 1530 is crowned Emperor by Pope Clement. Charles, greatest of Habsburg Emperors, rules over a vast global empire. His fight to unify it religiously and politically fails, and he abdicates in 1556, dividing his realm between his son, Philip II, and his brother, Ferdinand I.



1517: Martin Luther (above, top) in the popular spirit of the Renaissance openly criticizes corrupt practices in the Church. 1521: Pope Leo X (above) excommunicates Luther, which only speeds the Protestant Reformation, resulting in vast reduction of authority of both Pope and Emperor.



1556: On the abdication of Charles V, his brother, Ferdinand I (top), receives the office of Emperor and Habsburg lands in central Europe. Charles' son, Philip II, receives rule of Spain, the Netherlands and parts of Italy.

and knights, but at the will and sufferance of the priest. One sword, moreover, ought to be under the other, and the temporal authority to be subjected to the spiritual.”

But this vigorous assertion of Papal power and rights comes too late. By the end of Boniface’s reign, the Papacy is no longer able to withstand the growing independence in the secular realm.

*Unam Sanctum* receives violent opposition from many quarters, most notably from Philip the Fair of France. In a letter to Boniface, the French king dares to refer to the pontiff as “Your Supreme Foolishness.”

The Papacy is on a downward slide. With each passing year, it becomes clearer to all that the days when the Papacy could *command* are gone. Now it can only influence and *advise*.

### “Babylonian Captivity”

Because of the unsettling political conditions in Rome, Pope Clement V (1305-1314) takes up residence at the city of Avignon, a Papal possession in France, in 1305. There he is subject to powerful French influence.

For just more than 70 years—from 1305 to 1377—the Popes remain at Avignon. The Papacy becomes a tool of the French court. This period will be called the “Babylonian Captivity” of the Church—an allusion to the 70-year exile of the Jews to Babylon in the sixth century B.C.

The loss to Papal prestige is enormous. Leadership in Europe has clearly passed from the Pope to secular rulers.

The German princes believe that Rome is the only rightful capital for the Church. Finally, in 1377, Pope Gregory XI (1370-1378) returns to Rome from Avignon, ending the “Babylonian Captivity.” He dies the next year.

### Rival Popes

Urban VI, an Italian, is elected as Pope by popular demand in 1378. But French cardinals hold that the election of Urban is invalid because of outside pressure on the voters. A Frenchman, Clement VII, is elected Pope and rules from French-dominated Avignon.

There are now *two Popes!* Each excommunicates the other as the “Antichrist.” The states of Europe support one or the other according to political considerations.

The Papacy is rent asunder. Each section of Christendom declares the other “lost.” Many are uncertain which claimant actually possesses Papal authority. For nearly four decades, Western Christendom is divided. History will refer to the situation as the “Western Schism” (or “Great Schism”).

Neither Pope will abdicate. Neither will arbitrate differences.

In 1409, cardinals from both camps meet at the Council of Pisa. They seek to end the schism by deposing both pontiffs and electing a third man, Alexander V. But the two “deposed” Popes refuse to resign.

Now there are *three* claimants to the Papal chair!

This intolerable situation is finally rectified in 1417. The Council of Constance deposes the three rival Popes and unanimously elects Pope Martin V. The Great Schism is ended, but the Papacy has suffered irreparable loss of prestige.

### The Habsburgs Return

By the 15th century, Germany is a jumble of virtually independent duchies, archduchies, margravates, counties and free cities—collectively known as “the Germanies.” There is no real “Germany” in a unified national sense. The German king *reigns*, but does little *ruling*. Otto the Great had started Germany on the way to becoming a strong, unified state, but it did not work out as he had planned.

During the decades of trial for Western Europe and the Church, an influential family has been working quietly behind the scenes. It has added to its ancestral land holdings and consolidated its power base. It is now ready to make its influence felt.

That family is the House of Habsburg.

Having been held by members of the House of Luxembourg from 1347 to 1437, the German imperial crown now comes again into the possession of the Habsburgs. In 1438, the Habsburg Albert II of

Austria is made king of Germany. He is recognized as Holy Roman Emperor, but is not crowned.

Henceforth, the imperial title will be hereditary in the Habsburg family. The House of Habsburg is on its way to becoming the most potent political force in Europe.

In 1440, Frederick III, a cousin of the now-deceased Albert II, is named German king. A dozen years later he is crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by the Pope. He will be the last Emperor to be crowned in that city. The deteriorating position of Rome in European affairs is thus further highlighted.

Frederick III has a mysterious royal monogram: the vowels of the alphabet (A.E.I.O.U.). Its meaning? They are the first letters of the words *Austriae est imperare orbi universo*—“All the world is subject to Austria.” The House of Austria—the Habsburg dynasty—has indeed set high goals!

### Dynastic Marriages

Maximilian I of Habsburg, son of Frederick III, becomes Emperor in 1493. He envisions himself as a new Constantine. His mission is to save Christendom from the scourge of the Turks.

In 1453, the Ottoman Turks, under Mohammed the Conqueror, had captured Byzantium (Constantinople), ending the Eastern Roman Empire. After centuries of decline, the last vestige of the Roman Empire in the East is gone. Many historians will later regard 1453 as the ending date for the Middle Ages.

By a calculated policy of dynastic marriages, the Habsburgs strengthen and enlarge their power. The marriage of Maximilian to Mary of Burgundy, heiress of the Netherlands, adds the Dutch kingdom to the Habsburg domains.

A son of this marriage, Philip, later marries Joanna, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain. Juan, the only son of Ferdinand and Isabella, marries Maximilian’s daughter Margaret, linking Castile and Aragon in Spain with Austria.

### Global Empire

It is now the year 1500. A son is

born to Joanna and Philip. They name him Charles. To history, he will be Charles V—greatest of Habsburg emperors.

Charles is elected king of Germany in 1519, following the death of his grandfather Maximilian. He is crowned at Aachen in October 1520. At the same time he assumes the title of Roman Emperor-elect. But he is not immediately crowned Holy Roman Emperor. That event will not come for another decade.

In the person of Charles the Spanish dominions are united with the Habsburg possessions in the Netherlands, Austria and elsewhere in Europe. Never had any monarch so many possessions!

Charles has more than 60 royal and princely titles, including king of Germany, archduke of Austria, duke of Burgundy, king of Castile and Aragon, king of Hungary—to name just a few.

Spain is, in itself, an empire—a *global* empire, with colonial territories even in the New World. The Empire of Charles V stretches from Vienna to Peru!

Charles declares, "In my realm, the sun never sets." And it is so!

The Habsburgs' holdings constitute the world's first truly great modern empire. Many observers begin to believe that the growth of sovereign nation states might be halted, and a *universal Christian empire* achieved in Europe!

But other forces are already at work that will ultimately thwart this Habsburg dream.

### New Spirit

The spirit of the Middle Ages has been one of faith and devotion to institutions. The *individual* has not been considered very important in the vast scheme of things.

But now a change is in the wind.

A movement had begun in 14th-century Italy known to history as the *Renaissance* ("rebirth"). It is a great reawakening of interest in the literature and philosophy of ancient Greece and Rome. It is marked by a flowering of the arts, a turning toward an appreciation of worldly things and a lively interest in secular affairs.

Man is now growing conscious of

his own importance. The *present* world, rather than the "next world," is becoming the chief concern.

The Renaissance brings a new spirit—a "pagan" spirit, as some contemporary critics describe it. It is a questioning and critical spirit, a spirit of skepticism.

Not surprisingly, this new spirit spawns a revolt against time-honored institutions, including the Church. The Church's ideals no longer command the same respect among the population at large.

The personal lives of the Popes of this period don't help the situation. Renaissance Popes such as Alexander VI (1492-1503)—formerly Rodrigo Borgia of the noted Borgia family—lead corrupt lives, neglecting affairs of the Church in pursuit of personal pleasures.

The critical spirit of the Renaissance spreads from Italy northward to the German universities. There, discontent with ecclesiastical corruption and immorality grows rapidly. And there, early in the 16th century, religious dissidents finally find a champion.

### Ninety-five Theses

In 1511, a German monk and educator named Martin Luther makes a pilgrimage to Rome. He is appalled at the corruption and vice he finds so openly practiced there. He has often heard the popular proverb, "If there is a hell, Rome is built over it." Now he believes it.

After his return to Germany, Luther is further disturbed by the practice of *selling* Papal indulgences, or pardons for sin. The profitable selling of indulgences has become big business in many parts of Europe.

On October 31, 1517, Luther nails a document to the door of the court church at Wittenberg, Germany. On it are his "Ninety-five Theses" in criticism of selling Papal indulgences.

The documents are forwarded to Rome. In June 1520, Pope Leo X issues a Papal bull criticizing Luther's teachings.

On December 10, 1520, Luther publicly burns the Papal bull. An ecclesiastical revolution to be known as the Protestant Reforma-

tion is now in full swing! It will spread like wildfire over Germany and beyond.

Luther is excommunicated in January 1521. Soon afterward, he is summoned by Emperor Charles V, a devout Catholic, to appear for a hearing before the Diet (assembly) of Worms, a German city on the Rhine.

But it is already too late to arrest the movement. The assembly settles nothing. Luther refuses to recant—and Charles declares war on the protestors.

### Religious Unity Destroyed

German Protestantism gains rapid headway. Many German states sever themselves from the Roman Catholic Church. In 1531, the Lutheran princes within Charles' Empire establish a defensive alliance known as the Schmalkaldic League. A threatened invasion by the Turks prevents Charles from taking immediate action against these "heretic" Lutherans.

By 1540, all North Germany is Lutheran.

Luther has demolished the old order. The religious unity of Europe is destroyed! Nations begin to go their separate ways.

The Reformation destroys the meaning of the office of Holy Roman Emperor. The Emperor now becomes the head of one party, the Catholics. Though the outward form of the Holy Roman Empire will continue for some centuries, it is never the same again.

The political as well as the spiritual muscle of the Papacy is eroded. To counteract the Protestant Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church organizes the "Counter-Reformation." The Council of Trent (1545-63) decrees a thorough reform of the Church and clarifies Catholic doctrine. These efforts eliminate many of the abuses that had triggered the Protestant Reformation, and revitalize the Church in many parts of Europe.

But the Church has plummeted far from the zenith of its power, when Papal authority was felt and feared in every country in Europe. "The wars of religion and the col-

lapse of church unity marked the end of theology as the decisive force in Western civilization," a West German political figure, Franz Josef Strauss, will observe centuries later.

#### Four Monarchs

In the meantime, a rather complicated situation has developed in the political arena.

Geopolitical events in the early 16th century revolve around four powerful monarchs: Emperor Charles V, Francis I of France, Henry VIII of England, and Suleiman of Turkey.

In the same year Charles is crowned at Aachen (1520), a new Turkish sultan had ascended the throne in Constantinople—Suleiman, known to Turkish history as "the Magnificent." The Ottoman Turks control the eastern Mediterranean and are viewed as a menace to Christian Europe.

But the main foe of the Habsburgs is France. France has emerged as a major continental power and an aggressive antagonist of the German empire. Habsburg power all but surrounds France. In response, Francis I allies himself with the Islamic Turks and German Protestants, despite the fact that he is a French Catholic king.

In England, Henry VIII seeks to maintain the balance of power to prevent the domination of Europe by either the Habsburgs or France. He shifts his support from side to side as circumstances require, equalizing the power of the continental rivals.

#### Holy Roman Emperor

In 1525, a defensive alliance is created to check growing Habsburg power. It is the Holy League of Cognac, made up of France, the Papal States, Rome and Venice. England supports the new league.

Early in 1527, mutinous troops of Charles V march against the Pope. They enter the defenseless city of Rome and plunder it. This is the infamous *sacco di Roma*—the Sack of Rome. The Pope, Clement VII, surrenders.

The Pope is ready for a compromise. He makes peace with Charles, and meets with him in Bologna in February 1530. There,

Pope Clement crowns Charles Holy Roman Emperor. This is the last time that a Holy Roman Emperor will be crowned by a Pope.

Charles believes the Emperor must be supreme if there is to be real peace. But the imperial title is not what it used to be. The Empire has more shadow than substance.

Charles' globe-girdling Empire is united only in the sense that it has a common personal ruler. The nation-state is on the rise, and the Empire is torn religiously. Charles is opposed by princes whose own power is stronger when the Emperor is weak.

The very extent of Charles' vast realm is in itself a drawback. There are too many problems in too many places. The political situation is dire.

In 1546, open civil war erupts between the Schmalkaldic League and Catholic forces led by Charles. The imperial armies score a victory over the League at Mühlberg in April 1547.

But a new war breaks out in 1551. It wears on for four years.

In September 1555, the Peace of Augsburg ends the hostilities. This compromise officially sanctions the Lutheran faith in the Empire. Now, the two opposing Christian religious communities can lawfully live together within the Holy Roman Empire side by side. The princes of the territories of the Empire can choose between Lutheranism or Catholicism, each prince's choice being made obligatory for his subjects.

Charles' dream of restoring religious unity throughout his dominions has been thwarted. And by further entrenching the power of the princes, the Augsburg settlement reinforces the decentralization of the Germanies.

#### Historical Inspiration for Today

Disappointed in his ambitions and ill of health, Charles V abdicates and retires to a monastery in August 1556. He turns over the rule of Spain, the Netherlands and Italian holdings to his son Philip II. To his brother Ferdinand goes the imperial office and Habsburg lands in central Europe.

After 35 years' rule, Charles—the last universal Emperor of the

West—steps aside. Historians will consider him to have been the greatest monarch to bear the imperial crown since Charlemagne. He dies September 21, 1558.

Charles V was the last Emperor to actively attempt to realize the medieval ideal of a unified Empire embracing the entire Christian world. Inspired by the concept of a spiritually and politically united Christian realm, he had fought vigorously for a united Church.

More than four centuries after the death of Charles, a 20th-century descendant—Otto von Habsburg—will write a biography of his illustrious ancestor. Dr. Habsburg will observe that "he [Charles V] was attempting not to conquer or to dominate, but to establish the nations in a free community of equal partners. His ultimate aim was to create an alliance of peoples who, while retaining their own individual characteristics and laws, would be linked together by a united Church and a common desire to defend the west."

Dr. Habsburg will also note: "The ideas coming to the surface in this, the second half of the twentieth century, are surprisingly allied to those problems and concepts which preoccupied Charles. . . . Together with ecumenicity [the movement promoting Christian unity], European unity has become the major issue of our time. . . . The notion of a united Europe is taking hold again. People are once again beginning to appreciate that religion and politics are indeed interdependent. . . ."

In assessing the role of Charles V, Dr. Habsburg will observe:

"Thus Charles V, once regarded as the last fighter in a rearguard action, is suddenly seen to have been a forerunner. . . . Our generation will find its historical inspiration in the concepts last embodied in the person, mind and political views of Charles V. . . ."

"Inasmuch as he represents an eternal ideal, the Emperor [Charles V], after more than five centuries, is still living among us—not only as our European ancestor, but as a guide towards the centuries to come."

(Continued in March issue: "France Struggles for Supremacy.") □







# Is a New Dark Age Coming?

by Michael A. Snyder

As we turn the calendar to 1984, are we closing in on the Orwellian nightmare?

**C**URRENT events are taking a serious turn for the worse.

Have you considered *why* almost no world leaders understand the causes of today's problems—and their solutions?

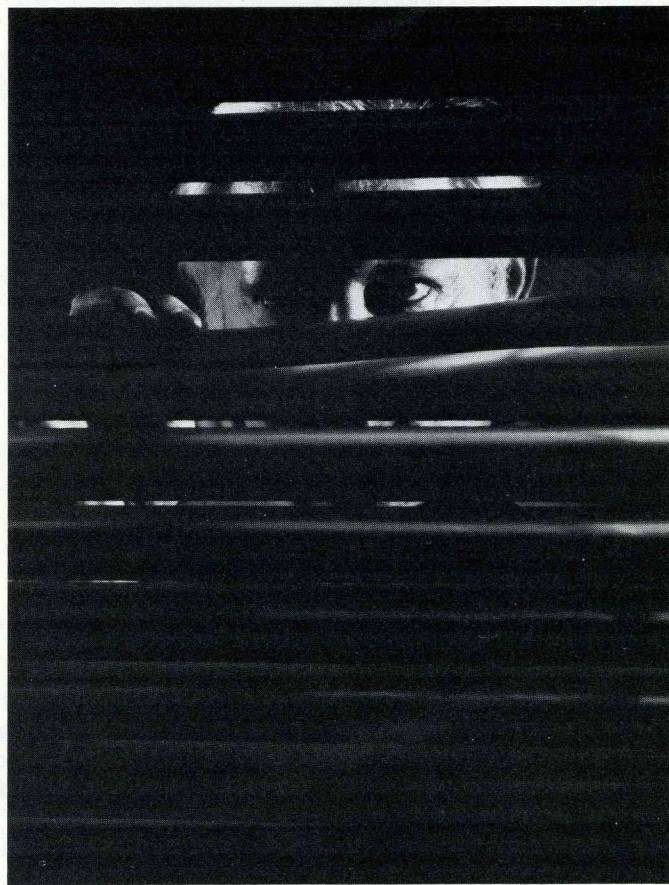
Throughout the dark days of World War II a man today known as George Orwell committed to paper what he believed would be the final "achievement" of humanity.

## A Book That Shook the World

His book bore the title of the new calendar year: *1984*. Orwell (his real name was Eric Blair) caught the fancy of many readers with his best-selling *1984*, which has since become the standard definition for extreme mental and physical oppression.

Orwell was born in the Third World. He was reared in poverty. Despite his humble beginnings, he worked hard and was beginning to be widely recognized for his literary greatness when he prematurely died.

Was Orwell's *1984* warning of a new terrible dark age genuine



PT PHOTO

human insight into the final stages of this world's civilization? Let us see, as we review his work.

George Orwell's novel is centered in England, where in that isle by 1984 is headquartered an extreme socialistic philosophy that dominates the United States, Latin America and what was once the British Empire. Orwell vividly paints the scene of a world-ruling

empire that enslaves humanity rather than frees it.

As it turned out, it was not in England that this philosophy literally took root. But let us follow the story thread of the novel anyway. In this setting Orwell placed his character Winston Smith. Smith is a balding, middle-aged INGSOC party member (INGSOC is short for English Socialism). Throughout the pages of the novel Winston Smith weakly plots a pathetic, ineffectual rebellion against "Big Brother"—the symbolic leader of the oppressive society.

Winston Smith fails abysmally in his rebellion.

The novel closes with Winston's complete capitulation to INGSOC philosophy. "Anything could be true," he finally

thinks in his broken mind. "The so-called laws of nature were nonsense," Winston mutters. "Whatever happens in all minds, truly happens."

## A Solemn Warning?

*1984* is not pleasant reading. It has shaken the faith of many in humanity's ability to survive and preserve good over evil. Numerous literary

critics believe Orwell meant the novel as a warning.

Psychoanalyst Erich Fromm writes: "The mood it expresses is that of near despair about the future of man, and the warning is that unless the course of history changes, men all over the world will lose their most human qualities, will become soulless automata, and will not even be aware of it."

In his novel Orwell sums up his own thoughts through his character Winston Smith: "He had still, he reflected, not learned the ultimate secret. He understood *how*. He did not understand *why*."

In this fictional world, true knowledge of the past is completely lost. Nobody really knows where humans came from, where they're going or what kind of government will produce the good that humans long for.

Would anyone dare believe that such a loss of understanding could actually happen in the real world?

It has!

The amazing fact is that it *did* happen—vital knowledge of humanity's true origins, of humanity's awesome purpose and of the one government that will bring us peace, was suppressed and nearly irretrievably lost.

And it happened *centuries* before George Orwell ever walked the face of the earth!

#### **An Astounding Fact!**

Although George Orwell was known to hate cruelty and injustice, he held out little hope for humanity. He could not understand why things had become so bad in this century.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a literary giant profoundly familiar with the ravages of both disinformation and war, *does* significantly understand. He declared the reason before British royalty: "The concepts of good and evil have been ridiculed for several centuries; banished from common use, they have been replaced by political or class

considerations of short-lived value. It has become embarrassing to appeal to eternal concepts, embarrassing to state that evil makes its home in the individual human heart before it enters a political system."

The principal cause of 20th century evils? "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened," Mr. Solzhenitsyn said.

Yes, humanity, pathetically deceived about the true causes of evil, wonders why the nuclear sword of Damocles hovers malevolently overhead, why poverty and crime seem unconquerable, why thousands each year die needlessly in

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**It has become embarrassing to appeal to eternal concepts, embarrassing to state that evil makes its home in the individual human heart before it enters a political system. . . . Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened.**

*Alexander Solzhenitsyn*

”

war, why divorce rates spiral upward, why thousands starve daily. Orwell was among those who wondered.

In intellectual vanity, humanity as a whole refuses to consider that we have brought evils on ourselves by turning our backs on our Creator and his laws! All of this could have been avoided had humanity not rejected and suppressed the now-neglected and nearly forgotten revealed knowledge of God.

Orwell would have been astounded if he had known how suppressed and how profound is the answer to Winston Smith's problems! This suppressed knowledge centers on government—the gov-

ernment of God that we announce in the pages of *The Plain Truth*.

Do you know what it would be like if this world were ruled by the government and laws of God instead of modern variations on Orwell's INGSOC? Humanity has *never* been able to discover a government that rules perfectly over all men and women even though philosophers and statesmen have penned millions of words about perfect government.

Few are courageous enough to admit that they never found it. Orwell's character Winston Smith never found it.

But an authoritative announcement concerning the only true, perfect government *did* come. And, believe it or not, that same good news was virtually *snuffed out* almost as soon as it began to become known!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came nearly 2,000 years ago to deliver that message of perfect government. It was called the "good news," or gospel (which is simply an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning "good message"). Jesus Christ himself declared his purpose on earth: "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God . . . for I was sent for this purpose" (Luke 4:43, RSV).

And deliver it he did!

What was that pure, unadulterated gospel message that was successfully suppressed for nearly 1,900 years after Christ's resurrection?

The vast majority of humanity do not realize that in addition to being the announcer of this all-important yet rarely heard message of the government of God, Jesus Christ is also its soon-coming head! This was authoritatively prophesied in Isaiah 9:6-7: "Unto us a Son is given; and *the government* [of God] will be upon His shoulder. . . . Of the increase of *His government and peace* there will be no end . . . to order it and

establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, *even forever*" (RAV).

Few want to believe or are aware that Christ is soon returning as the literal "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16; Matt. 24:30)! And even fewer realize—including the author and most readers of 1984—the degree to which this message was nearly completely suppressed!

#### The Unknown Suppression

The apostle Paul warned that there were those "*who suppress the truth*" (Rom. 1:18, RAV).

Within half a century of Christ's First Coming, the powerful announcement of the kingdom of God—the only answer to Winston Smith's nightmarish dilemma—was severely diluted into a confusing mixture of religious mish-mash.

Several theories about the nature and purpose of life were extant at the time Paul wrote. Some thinkers participated in a kind of theological and philosophical smorgasbord. That is, they took a little of one belief and mixed it with a little of another belief until they had a homogenized conglomeration that bore little resemblance to the original gospel message!

That's why Paul thundered to the Galatian congregation, a church he personally raised up: "I marvel that you are turning away *so soon* . . . to a *different gospel*, which is *not* another [authoritative message]. . . ."

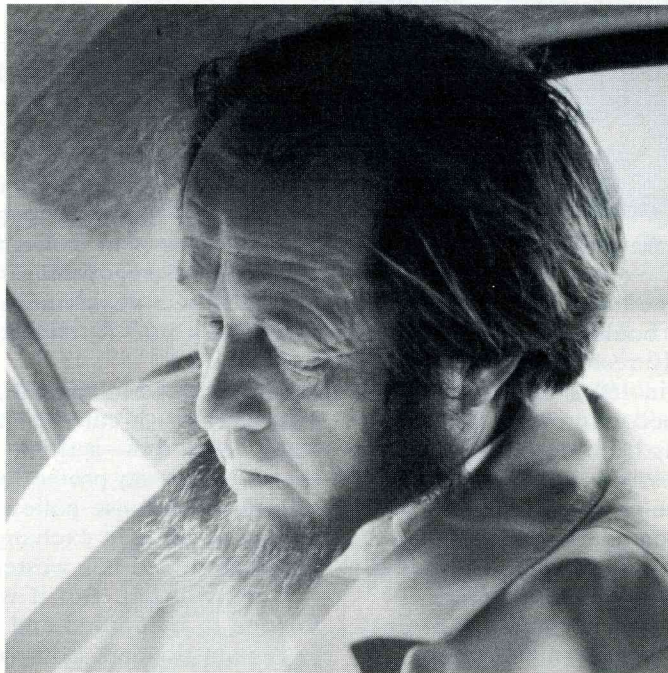
Paul knew the reason: "There are some who . . . want to pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7, RAV). Shortly after Paul's death, the knowledge of God's *real* purpose for humanity was nearly smothered to death—and the world entered a spiritual dark age for nearly 19 full centuries. This dark age—as you can see from the centuries of anguish that have ensued—cast humanity in painful bonds as tragic as those that Orwell conceived.

Thank God that this age of spiritual oppression—the nearly 1,900 years of suppressed truth—will end forever! Your eyes even at this moment are witness to this fact.

#### Oppression Will End

Jesus knew that his message of government would be suppressed. But he also determined that the time would come when his original unadulterated message would be *thundered* across this globe.

The exciting aspect of this foreknowledge is that this prophesied event barely precedes the actual reestablishment of God's kingdom upon earth. Jesus himself thus



ANDANSON—SYGMA

declared: "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end [Greek: *aion*—this "age" of man, not this physical globe] will come" (Matt. 24:14, RAV).

However, the full knowledge of God will not blanket the earth until Christ returns and the government of God is fully restored. At that time "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9, RSV).

#### What's to Come

What kind of world will God's government produce? Catch this

glimpse of that wonderful future! "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. . . . Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs" (Isa. 35:1, 5-7, NIV).

This government will be headed by none other than Jesus Christ himself. There won't be the ugly, mind-sapping 1984-like disinformation that this world spews forth daily. It simply won't be allowed! No more will people attempt to suppress the truth of God: "And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall *all* know me, from the least of them to the greatest . . ." (Jer. 31:34, RSV).

But before the long ongoing period of spiritual deception fully ends, humanity will taste to the full what Orwell feared. Orwell, as one writer put it, was convinced "that modern man [is] inadequate to cope with the demands of his history."

Indeed, the Orwellian **INGSOC** will appear in form. The Bible prophesies a terrible time soon to come (Matt. 24:21)—a short dark age of religious and political persecution. God, however, will *not* allow it to last long—humanity will not lapse again into centuries of deception and oppression.

This prophesied period of pain and persecution soon to come will be cut short in a series of events that will convince humanity of the folly of rejecting God. Humanity will learn, as Orwell faintly glimpsed, that man is indeed unable to "cope with the demands of his history."

You need to understand the  
(Continued on page 43)

## INTERNATIONAL DESK

(Continued from page 27)

athletes are world-beaters—winning more gold medals in the 1976 Olympics than the U.S.A.!

The GDR is sensitive to the rather dowdy face it presents to visitors. East Berlin is at last being restored to its prewar grandeur. When the city was divided, most of the historical buildings left standing were in the Eastern sector. Until recently, they were bombed-out ruins. Now the churches, cathedrals and



Faces of East Germany—accepting the present, anticipating the future

museums around the central boulevard—*Unter den Linden*—are being completely restored in time for the city's 700th anniversary in 1987. In some ways the East German capital is becoming a more impressive city than what has been described as the gaudy American suburb across the wall.

What incredible people the Germans are! Surveying the pulverized remains of the Third Reich, some commentators prophesied that it would be at least 100 years before the German nation could recover some semblance of normalcy. Yet, just a generation or so later, the two Germanies have come charging back, each to become the superstar and showcase of its respective world.

### The Reluctant Rivals

How do the two Germanies regard each other? They've had to maintain a discreet distance. The West Germans worked hard to regain the trust of the world after the war. The East Germans did not have to concern themselves with that. They had to accept that their existence depended on their continuing as loyal allies of the Soviet Union.

But times are changing, and the Europe of today is a different place to the Europe of 30 or 20 or even five years ago. A new generation is growing up in both Germanies. They do not have (nor should they have) any feelings of guilt over a war that was fought essentially by their grandfathers. Most Germans alive today have not known anything but a divided nation. The average man or woman is not

preoccupied with reunification, although polls have shown that most West Germans would like it. Realistically they do not expect it anytime soon. It is a matter to be left to the politicians (who are becoming increasingly bold in talking about it). No polls have been taken in the East, but there is every reason to believe sentiments would be much the same.

For now, the Germans seem to be able to live with the fact that they are a divided people. East and West Germans recognize each other and exchange correct—and increasingly cordial—diplomatic relations. The East German economy receives much help from the Federal Republic directly through loans, and less directly through preferential trade arrangements. There is the occasional flare-up along the tense border—but overall the two nations coexist as rather reluctant rivals.

### The Future

It was the Germans who pioneered the development of guided missiles during the Second World War. Their conquerors, helped by captured German scientists, refined the art. The crude V-1s and V-2s launched from Peenemünde 40 years ago were the ancestors of the American Pershing 2 missiles that NATO allies plan to locate on German soil—unless arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union forestall their deployment. These missiles could strike deep into Russian territory with pinpoint accuracy.

The Soviet Union realizes that such missiles pose a far greater threat than the armies of Hitler or the Kaiser ever did—a threat against which a land barrier offers no protection. Russia will have to rethink its defense policy. What would Russia be willing to offer in exchange for a guarantee of neutrality from her western neighbors?

Time will tell. But it would not make sense for Europe to be unified and neutralized—and Germany to remain divided. Some degree of unification will take place. The two Germanies with their common language, common history and common culture would quickly work out the details. It would not be such a one-sided deal as we might at first think. That "other Germany" must not be underrated. Combined, East and West Germany would be a power to be reckoned with. As the nucleus of a united Europe—a third world power—they would be its most powerful component.

Could such a dramatic change in the balance of power happen? Analysts and politicians on both sides of the Iron Curtain are speculating that it could.

Jesus Christ didn't have to speculate. He knew Europe's future. So that we, too, could know and be prepared, he revealed it through the prophecies of the Bible. Few people realize that these prophecies tell in advance the events now taking shape in the heart of Europe that will soon rock this world to its foundations.

—John Halford

## Love, Marriage & Sex

(Continued from page 17)

human reproductive system to function in the confines of love and marriage. Husbands and wives produce, through sexual contact, miniature reproductions of themselves—new life.

One of life's truly great experiences is the birth of a child. But this, again, was designed by God to be part of the marriage union—never to be experienced outside of marriage.

But there is even a greater and far-reaching purpose for human sexuality. Sex can be the embodiment of all three of the Greek words for love—*eros*, *philia* and *agape*.

Sex has been designed by God to

be the guiding force in preserving and perpetuating love between a husband and wife.

The modern argument that pre-marital sexual experimentation can lead to greater joys in marital sex is one of the greatest lies ever perpetrated by Satan the devil.

Such experimentation before marriage or in extramarital affairs can only destroy the purity of what God designed.

The honeymoon is not meant to be a time for experienced sexual professionals to practice. The honeymoon should be that joyful, timid, beautiful, shy, exciting period of time when two people who have begun to love one another begin their new life together—and should be their first joyful expression of sexual intimacy.

Sexual experience should be learned together—*after* the marriage ceremony. Why should anyone go out and learn it all in advance with a whole army of other people? Why create the possibility for sexual comparisons and vivid memories of unpleasant experiences?

The honeymoon should be the beginning of a new life together when a totally inexperienced couple *begin* to learn from experience through the human sexual relationship. In each other's arms, they will then spend the rest of their lives growing in *philia*, *eros* and most of all *agape* love.

One of life's greatest accomplishments is getting love, marriage and sex in the right order with the right person at the right time. □

## Dark Age

(Continued from page 41)

principles that this coming government rests on. You need to understand why this world can't find them for itself, and suffers the terrible pain of unhappiness, poverty and war as a consequence.

This article only touches the tip of the profound, yet simple truths revealed in your Bible. Unlike many in this world, you *can*, if

you are willing, understand *both* the *how* and the *why* that often seems so elusive.

If you're truly interested in the purpose of human life and why humanity is in such incredible confusion, we invite you to write for two free publications.

We have available, free of charge to you, the full-length book *The Incredible Human Potential*. Also available for the asking is the book *The Wonderful*

*World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. It is also free of charge.

These books, written by Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong, provide the revealed truth that humanity desperately needs. You can know how *you* can avoid the brief Orwellian dark age that humanity is destined to bring upon itself, given its present trend.

God help you to understand! □

## EUROPE

(Continued from page 4)

Austria had been occupied by the Soviets and their World War II Western allies, much as Germany was.

The example of a neutral Austria thus provides a model of what Moscow might desire all of Europe to be—neutralized, and free of American influence and, above all, weaponry.

Note this as well: In such a new alignment, Austria—with its prestigious capital of Vienna—would provide, as the Pope reportedly told Cardinal Koenig, a logical “bridge between East and West.”

Furthermore, down the road, Vienna just might become the headquarters city of the United Nations. Already, its huge new “U.N. City,” just across the Danube River from the center of Vien-

na, is vying with Geneva for the role of the U.N.'s European headquarters.

Statements by high U.S. officials that the United States might be happy to see the U.N. depart New York City, coupled with Senate cutbacks in appropriations for the world body, strengthen the likelihood of a U.N. relocation in the future.

### New—Yet Old—Europe

What is transpiring on both sides of the Iron Curtain today are the first steps in the refashioning of Western, Central and part of Eastern Europe into a new, yet ancient, alignment—what one expert calls “Classic Europe.”

Religion, given added strength by East-West church unity, will provide this combine its primary unifying element.

In the second chapter of the

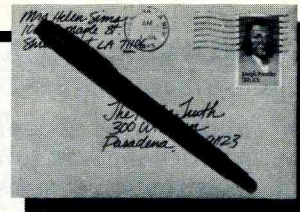
book of Daniel, this “Classic Europe” and its predecessors are pictured as a giant human figure, having feet “part of iron and part of clay” (Dan. 2:33). The figure's toes—obviously 10—correspond to the 10 national units also described in Revelation 17.

The original Roman Empire was broken into two “legs”—the Eastern Empire in Byzantium (Constantinople, today Istanbul) and the Empire in the West in Rome.

Thus it is very possible that this end-time system will be composed of two distinct yet cooperative parts: the first “leg” comprising nations of Western Europe, the second incorporating nations freed from Soviet dominance in Central and Eastern Europe.

*The Plain Truth* will continue to keep its readers abreast of critically important events and trends shaping up in Europe. □

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## Parents/Teachers

I am a teacher of remedial reading and math.

I truly enjoyed your article: "What Teachers Wish Parents Knew" and I am seeking permission from you to give a few copies of this article to parents who seem overwhelmed by the task of parenting.

**Susan Groves**  
**Sequim Middle School**  
**Sequim, Washington**

• *Permission given.*

I just read your article entitled "What Teachers Wish Parents Knew About School." There are some things that I wish they knew about my child. I wish they knew that he cries every day because he can't keep up with the other kids. I wish they knew that yelling at him will not help him to keep up. I wish they knew that his classmates' attitude toward him is patterned after the teachers'. I wish they knew that he's not daydreaming, but worrying that they may ask him to do something he's not capable of doing. I wish they knew that he did not choose to be "slow" or "learning disabled." I wish they knew that "streamlining" is not the answer to his problems. I wish they knew how hard he tries to learn. Most of all, I wish they cared!

**Mrs. J.T. Few**  
**Greenville, Mississippi**

## 1983 Weather as it Was

Crops that survived the heat in the U.S. Midwest have been hit with mold. According to one farmer, this disease is as deadly to cattle as starvation. In Kentucky the tobacco crop has been hit with blue mold. In Tennessee, we have the largest worm infestation in the last forty years. Farmers are spraying

their crops by airplane at a feverish rate. The worm infestation is so great in the counties around Nashville that many farmers have given up all hope of saving their crops. It is this combination of unprecedented heat, plant disease, and insect infestation that is turning a would-be disaster into a foreseeable reality.

**Tommy M. Garrard**  
**Savannah, Tennessee**

## AIDS

Concerning your article "AIDS—Is There a Cure?" in your issue of September 1983 by Donald D. Schroeder.

While it is most welcome that more information on this terrible disease "AIDS" is being published, I am surprised that a magazine like *The Plain Truth* shows so little comprehension with regard to homosexuality.

How can people start a "wholesome, faithful, marital and sexual relationship" as Mr. Schroeder puts it in the article, *if they are born homosexuals*? For as much as they try to lead a normal married life, it is bound to fail because nature cannot be deceived on the long run.

And neither is there any treatment to convert a homo into a heterosexual which means that many of them have to live in constant fear of being discovered and jeopardized in all aspects.

According to my experience there is a large number of homosexuals who would give anything to be able to enjoy a normal marital and sexual relationship which due to their being born different they are denied.

**Erika Mueller**  
**Barcelona, Spain**

• *The startling fact is, homosexuals are not born that way. Many have failed to*

*comprehend the social and spiritual causes that damage human sexual emotions, and which may lead to homosexuality. An article from a past Plain Truth issue entitled "Is It True Some Are Born That Way?" explains these little understood causes and is available free of charge. Deeply ingrained harmful sexual emotions are indeed difficult to change. But with true repentance and God's help they can be changed.*

Your article on "AIDS" in the September 1983 issue was very informative.

Sodom and Gomorrah are said to have been prosperous cities before they met their tragic end. Does one know how many inhabitants dwelled in these cities then?

**Daniel S. Gaceru**  
**University of Nairobi,**  
**Kenya**

• *Archaeology does not provide an answer.*

## Smoking

In reference to "Smoking—It's More Than Just a Habit," I am puzzled that no mention is made of the fact that the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture pays out millions of dollars to keep tobacco farmers producing the admitted "serious health menace" to stabilize the well being of the industry. Was this an oversight?

**R.R. Smissairt**  
**Skokie, Illinois**

• *It was not an oversight. In this article we focused on the growing government view that smoking for many is a form of drug addiction—to nicotine if not other tobacco substances. We wholeheartedly agree that the paradox of governmental views and policies posed by our letter writer deserves emphasis and reflection.*

## General Comments

I am a regular reader of *The Plain Truth*. It is so hard to believe that such a significant magazine is being posted to me monthly without any charge or obligation. I know it is the work of God, but in this time of economic crisis, it is really hard to believe.

**R. Thomas**  
**St. Andrew's**  
**Grenada, W.I.**

I've seen only parts of your program and your hard-nosed approach is a welcome shaking up to my Christian walk.

**Wendy Rivers**  
**Sudbury, Ontario**

## Correspondence Course

I would like to enroll in your Bible Correspondence Course. The more I read your magazines in offices, the more I realize how much I don't know about the Bible. It is so easy to be led astray when you are unaware of the truth. I just pray that by learning more about the Bible, my life will start to fall into a more tranquil, purposeful existence. Life can be so full of turmoil when the adversary has a foot in the door and I didn't realize all along that a little knowledge can change this. Thank you for your publications.

**P. Schaller**  
**Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**

## Changed Thinking

I want to thank you for the booklets I received from you. I enjoy reading them and share them with a friend here in the institution. My life and way of thinking has changed since I started listening to Mr. Armstrong on radio and television. I am learning a lot now, but feel sorry in a way because I am not learning this outside but in prison.

I would like to ask for some more booklets. I know I ask for a lot, but I think I've found the truth and don't want to miss anything.

**Gary Z.  
St. Vincent-de-Pont, Quebec**

#### **Time Running Out**

Your article "Time Is Running Out!" was very interesting. I agree with you on the part about weapons and little children. It's true that most kids play with toy guns, tanks and so on, but if we know that this is a bad influence then why do we buy these violent toys? I am 13 years old and I know a little about Satan and what he is doing to the world, but I would like very much if you could send me some articles like this one. I'm also interested in the booklet *The Plain Truth About Christmas*. I was wondering if you got many letters from kids my age? I would appreciate it if you would send a reply to me or print something in the next issue.

**Sonia Stevenson  
Levittown, Pennsylvania**

#### **Ukraine Famine**

Ukrainian community of Tucson, Arizona, wishes to express their appreciation for your article in *The Plain Truth*, October 1983, in which you so clearly stated the truth about the most tragic and inhuman man-made famine in the annals of history—the Ukraine famine in 1932 and 1933.

**Ukrainian American Society  
Alexander Bunka  
Public Relations Director**

#### **British Election**

Your article "Why Britain Wants Strong Leadership" showed a remarkable lack of understanding of the British electoral system. Mrs. Thatcher was returned to office with such a large majority because of the emergence of a new political party, the SDP, which split the Opposition vote and allowed the Conservatives to take seats on a minority vote. Your article did not mention this new political party, nor

did it mention that the Conservatives won their landslide with far fewer individuals' votes than in 1979.

I feel that your readers ought to be made aware of these facts. The British people have not suddenly lurched en masse to the "right;" the large majority for the Conservatives is simply an anomaly of the electoral system and is further proof of man's inability to devise a fair and just order of government.

**John S.P. Burgess  
United Kingdom**

#### **Pope's Visit to Poland**

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to congratulate you for the great job you are doing in spreading the word of God. I was particularly pleased with the October 1983 issue featuring an article on Pope John Paul II. This is of significance coming from a non-Catholic religious man like yourself. In the literature and articles written by non-Catholics, it is disturbing to find at times unpleasant commentaries from them toward the Catholics or Catholic clergy, including the Pope. I am a practicing Catholic and as far as I can remember at no time have I heard any priest saying or making comments against the Protestant faith. . . .

It is for this particular reason that I would like to express my thanks and admiration for this effort on your part. The article of Mr. Hogberg was very good in both dealing with the political and religious significance of the Pope's visit to Poland.

I have read many of the booklets published by The Worldwide Church of God and found them quite interesting with exception of the one on Revelation which took a radical view on the Pope.

I wish one more time to express my gratitude for the fresh approach that you have injected in Christian unity. God bless you.

**Carlos M. Chavez, M.D.,  
F.A.C.S.  
Brownsville, Texas**

#### **Learned Habits**

Congratulations on the article "A Much Overlooked Way to Assure Peace." Your analysis, that emotions are learned habits, capable of change through practice, is certainly substantiated by a great deal of well-designed psychological research.

**T.L. Brink, Ph.D.  
College of Notre Dame  
San Carlos, California**

#### **Mark of a Great Mind**

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the article in the October issue entitled, "The Mark of a Great Mind."

Our society has created an image of what a great mind is—an image composed generally of years of study, academic honors and impressive "intelligence quotient" scores. Young people who successfully attain this image win high praise, make their families and friends immensely proud, and usually receive attractive financial rewards from an economic system which thrives on their unique abilities. Understandably, by the time these young people step up to receive life's prizes, most are thoroughly convinced that all they are given is richly deserved—by virtue of their demonstrably "great" minds.

I speak on this issue from personal experience. What I, as a *summa cum laude* graduate, and all like me most urgently need, however, is for someone to point out that the image of intellectual greatness we have fulfilled simply isn't accurate. The key contribution of Mr. Schroeder's article for me then is two-fold: it lists nine attainments of the mind that are infinitely more important than learning or academic honors to one who wishes to be a successful *human*, and in its description of these attainments it reminds that on these most important "tests" I achieve at a rather unenviable level. So I thank Mr. Schroeder for his demonstration of wisdom—the most precious of all attainments of the mind—and I urge the readers to consider

the characteristics of a truly great mind when encouraging their children or choosing their objects of admiration.

**Jeffrey A. Lowery  
Cambridge, Massachusetts**

#### **"Personal" Photograph**

The new up-to-date picture of Mr. Armstrong appearing on the "Personal From" page is lovely. Makes one feel he is speaking directly to us, with much sympathetic understanding and concern.

**Marcella Briggs  
Des Plaines, Illinois**

#### **Suicide**

I am a 14-year-old going to Valley Forge Military Academy. Your magazine has helped guide me through some hard times, especially your article on suicide. Your magazine helped me to understand what people are thinking about suicide. It is a major concern, in the teenage population.

**Tony Maas  
Wayne, Pennsylvania**

#### **Australia**

I have read "Australia The Beautiful . . . Australia The Condemned!" in the July-August issue. David K. Noller wrote an incisive and poetic article.

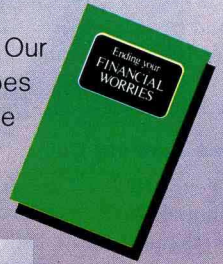
When I visited Australia in 1961, as a young chemical engineer, I met with the Archbishop of Australia of the Roman Catholic Church in Canberra, and I told him that I believe in the Second Coming of the Messiah.

Thus, as a result of my visit there, I was doubly interested to read Mr. Noller's article, and I was astounded and reassured by his concluding paragraph: "Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and he alone will save the Australian people and their kindred worldwide from total annihilation (Hos. 13:9). He will return to earth as King of kings and establish God's government over all nations. Only then will Australia truly recover. Out of the ruins Australia's full potential will at last be realized!"

**Arthur L. Thomas  
Greenwich, Connecticut**

# Caught in a Debt Trap?

Nearly everyone today is engaged in a struggle to make ends meet. Well, here's help. Our free booklet *Ending Your Financial Worries* explains the causes behind personal financial woes and shows you how to solve your money problems. For your copy, just mail the card inside this issue or write to our office nearest you.



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