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OUR COVER

Concentration by both photographer and athlete highlight the moment of total expenditure of energy by pole-vaulter Dan Ripley. Coach Ripley’s pursuit of excellence made him a five-time world record holder.

Photographer, on his back on the pit, used hand-held camera and small flash unit to capture the early afternoon sky over Mount San Antonio College, Walnut, California.

PHOTO BY HAL FINCH-PT

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RIGHT NOW the world has its mind focused on the Olympic Games. Suppose we take an overview of Olympic history, down to its present nationalism, as seen from higher up—from the vantage point of the Almighty Creator—and understand what God thinks of this spectacular pageant, and of sports in general.

Let's view the whole thing from the higher-up "camera-setting."

Bear in mind, first, that the government of God had once been administered earthwide. The first human, Adam, had the opportunity to accept for himself, and to administer, that divine government worldwide. But he rebelled and rejected the principle of outflowing love, turning, instead, to the principle of "get" instead of the outgoing "give" principle.

Few know Adam accepted the philosophic way of Satan—self-centeredness, exemplified by vanity, lust and greed, jealousy and envy, competition, rebellion and destruction.

Few know that God then barred mankind, until Christ, from his Holy Spirit—which is the attitude of God-centeredness, of "give," serve, cooperate, share. This world has been based ever since on the "get" or competitive philosophy.

Few know that in barring humanity from God's Spirit, the Creator of all said, in effect, "Go form your own governments, develop your own way of life, based on your competitive principle."

So nations are competitive. Society is competitive. Sports are competitive.

As God Almighty looks down upon this world, he sees the governments of man and society's sports following the self-centered competitive principle. See this Olympic situation as God sees it!

All Sports Not Wrong

Competition, not cooperation, is the attitude with which Satan inoculates human minds. But that does not mean all sports are wrong or to be banned.

The law of God is the way of righteousness. Sin is the transgression of the law. The law of God is given us in the broadest principle and also magnified into the Ten Commandments, and even into many further specific points that are magnifications of the principles of the Ten Commandments. God expects us to apply these principles of his law to specific actions.

The basic law is love, outflowing toward God above all else, and secondarily, "Thou shalt love thy
neighbor as thyself."

To harm the other fellow and to gain by so doing for self is a kind of competition that is wrong. Hostility toward the other is sin. To get the best of another in a deal for one's own benefit is wrong. At golf the one who wins is not the one who gets the most by taking it away from the other. In golf the player does not prevent the other from doing his or her best. The architect who designs and lays out the plans for building a golf course is not breaking God's law when he designs sand traps, small lakes or pools or leaves certain trees to help the player to increase his skill. These hazards hurt no one, but are an incentive and help to develop skill.

Two men or women—or several—in a race are not harming the other runners if they run according to the rules.

So, golf is not a wrong competition—nor is any race at any distance, or hurdle race, or long jump, high jump, pole vault or other field competition in a track-and-field meet. At Ambassador College, with campuses in Pasadena, California, and Big Sandy, Texas, we have not included the hammer throw because it might endanger others—but not because it is unfair competition.

Now take basketball. Guarding on defense is, if within the rules, the same in principle as the sand trap, clump of trees or pond on a golf course. The rules make it a foul if a defensive player prevents a shot by actual bodily contact or holding. If basketball is played according to the rules—in a right attitude—it can be a very invigorating, enjoyable game, not violating God's law. All depends on the attitude of the players.

In interschool or intercollegiate competition, or the pro game, the attitude too often is bad. When it is—when there is a spirit of hostility toward the other side—then it does break God's law. Therefore, at Ambassador College intercollegiate competition is prohibited. But intramural games between our own classes occur.

Boxing at Ambassador College is definitely banned. God did not design and create the human brain and head to be pummeled and knocked senseless by an antagonist.

Wherever a game in sports involves antagonists—in hostile attitude to harm the other and/or to "get" from the other—to get the best of the other—then a harmful, satanic and evil attitude enters in, and the sport is evil, not good.

Sometimes there is a fine line between what is within and what is outside God's law.

Football (American football) is a violent body-contact sport. It too often is played in an attitude of hostility and is dangerous and fraught with physical injury. Therefore it is not played, but we do play American flag football at Ambassador.

Soccer does not embody the same evils. Baseball, softball, volleyball, while competitive, do not necessarily involve hostility, harm to others or trying to prevent the opponent from doing his best. When played in God's attitude toward others these are acceptable and not prohibited.

This is sufficient to illustrate the application of the principle of God's law to sports. That sport participated in with an attitude of hostility toward the opponent is evil. That which harms mentally or physically an opponent is evil.

Satan is the author of competition based on hostility, harm to the opponent, getting by taking from an opponent—to his harm or loss.

God's way is love toward neighbor equal to love of self.

Competition in business that takes from or harms the competitor is evil competition. Competition that helps the opponent by stimulating him to do his best or to do better, but does not harm—rather benefits—the opponent, is healthy competition. So competition can be evil, or good, depending primarily on the attitude in which it is participated.

The very name Satan means "adversary." Satan is an evil adversary, who desires to harm—who has a spirit of hostility. If it has God's spirit of "give"—help, encourage, cooperate, stimulate for good, based on an attitude of love—it is right, not wrong.
THE OLYMPIC GAMES-
Mirror of Mankind

by Gene H. Hogberg

As world’s finest athletes gather for the Twenty-third Olympiad, politics and international rivalry again threaten to overshadow the colorful spectacle.

"E"very four years the world watches the supreme effort of sportsmen striving for their Olympic triumph."

So writes Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), in the foreword to the book The Olympic Games, 1984.

"Healthy competition and fellowship," continued the IOC’s chief executive, "are needed more than ever today in strengthening the desire for peace and lessening the effect of political conflict."

Olympic ideals, however, often contrast with the grim reality of the world. Again, in 1984, as in previous Olympiads, the Olympic ideal and its motto Citius, Altius, Fortius—Swifter, Higher, Stronger—are marred by the powerful forces of nationalism.

On May 8 United States Olympic officials were stunned at the announcement that Soviet athletes would not participate in the Games of the Twenty-third Olympiad. The official TASS agency said Soviet athletes could not be safeguarded against expected political demonstrations.

"Capitalist" Olympics

This year’s Summer Olympiad is in Los Angeles, California, also the site of the only other Summer Games held in the United States (in 1932). About 10,000 athletes and 2,000 coaches from 150 nations had originally been expected to attend.

The Los Angeles Games have been popularly referred to as the "Capitalist Olympics," partly out of contrast to the 1980 Games in Moscow, the first summer event ever in the Communist world, but mostly because of the number of corporate patrons who have paid sizable sums to be classified as "official sponsors" of the events.

Officials of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee contend that there are sound economic reasons for organizing the Games in this manner. Because of the corporate sponsorship, together with television rights—sold for an incredible US$225 million—the LAOOC expects that the expenses of staging the Games will be fully covered. (The Soviet pullout, however, jeopardizes television contracts.)

Unlike in Montreal, Canada, site of the 1976 Games, where escalating costs saddled the citizens with a huge financial burden afterward, the residents of Los Angeles and Southern California are not expected to be impacted with increased taxes.

Another key to limiting the costs of the 1984 Olympics is the policy of the LAOOC to use existing facilities as much as possible. Except for a swimming pool and a velodrome (a stadium for bicycle racing), no major structures have been constructed. Instead of a new "Olympic Village," existing university dormitories will house the athletic teams.

The television coverage will be an Olympian task in itself. No expense is being spared in developing a new range of specially designed cameras on vehicles. As one TV critic told The Wall Street Journal: "The Los Angeles games will be the most leviathan deployment of hardware, rolling and airborne stock, engineering, production, on-air and managerial manpower for any self-contained event short of a shooting war in the 40-year history of television."

An ABC official added, with only slight exaggeration: "There’ll be so many helicopters in the sky during the Olympics, Los Angeles will be like Vietnam."

Political Problems

The organizers of the Los Angeles Games have hit on what they expect will be a winning formula to finance the Olympics. But no one has yet come up with the formula to defuse the divisive forces of nationalism and the desire to win at all costs that together have hung like a black cloud over the past several Olympiads.

The IOC, the chief ruling body of the Games, has continuously found itself in the middle of political disputes and intrusions, especially since the Winter and Summer Games in Germany in 1936.

At that time the IOC ran head-
long into the plans of Nazi Führer Adolf Hitler to turn the Games in Garmisch-Partenkirchen and Berlin into showcases of Aryan supremacy.

The Berlin Games, in particular, scored a major propaganda victory for Adolf Hitler. Despite the Führer's much-publicized embarrassment over the sterling performance of the black American athlete Jesse Owens, Germany still walked away with the largest overall number of medals. The prestige of the Third Reich soared at home and abroad. Joseph Goebbels, Adolf Hitler's Minister of Propaganda and Enlightenment, claimed that the 1936 Olympics were worth 20 divisions to Nazi Germany!

Cold War and Post-Colonial Problems

The Olympic Games were postponed for the duration of World War II. They resumed in London in 1948 and in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952.

The Helsinki Games were considered by many to be the happiest since the modern Games were resumed in 1896 in Athens, Greece. They appeared to come closest to the original Olympic ideals. However, the seeds of future division and dissension—in the form of the burgeoning East-West rivalry—were sown at these contests.

The Soviet Union, unexpectedly entering the Games for the first time, was permitted to set up a separate Olympic Village for its athletes, along with those from Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and Czechoslovakia.

"This broached the Olympic spirit," writes Peter Wilson in the book The Olympic Games, 1984. "It is hard to understand how the International Olympic Committee, which had strained at so many gnats, allowed itself to swallow this particular camel. Probably they were anxious to accommodate the lost sheep which had returned."

With the inclusion of the Communist East bloc, there developed, more than ever, an emphasis on the medals won not by individuals, but by national teams.

At one stage in Helsinki, it looked as though the U.S.S.R. was going to win in the unofficial point-scoring system. In fact, so sure of victory were the Russians that they had a large scoreboard constructed showing the relative positions of the various competing countries. Toward the end, however, the United States came with a rush, winning no fewer than five gold medals in the boxing competition. As soon as the Russian officials saw they were going to be overhauled, they began to dismantle the scoreboard, but not before an American journalist spotted the demolition in process and headlined an article, "Russians Caught With Points Down."

The Soviets were determined not to be upstaged again, however, and in subsequent Olympiads sent formidable teams.

Melbourne—New Problems

The Games in Melbourne, Australia, in 1956 were conducted under the shroud of the crisis in Hungary and the summer war in the Middle East.

The Netherlands, followed by Spain, pulled out in protest over the Hungarian situation. Egypt withdrew after demanding that nations "guilty of cowardly aggression against Egypt" (meaning Israel, Britain and France) should be expelled from the Games. Lebanon followed Egypt.

The People's Republic of China also withdrew because the Republic of China (Taiwan) had been allowed to compete. The intra-Chinese rivalry was to continue in subsequent Games, to come to a head in Montreal in 1976.

Avery Brundage, president of the IOC, meanwhile insisted: "We are dead [set] against any country using the Games for political purposes, whether right or wrong. The Olympics are competitions between individuals and not nations."

Reality, however, was just the opposite. The way was being prepared for further political disruptions.

Pressures, Then Disaster

The breakup of the colonial empires in the late 1950s and the subsequent emergence of new nations in Africa and elsewhere had their impact upon the conduct of the Olympics as well.

Specifically, pressure began to be brought upon the Republic of South Africa, which had through 1960 fielded all-white teams. Consequently, South Africa was not invited to send a team in 1964.

A threat by 40 countries to withdraw from the Games in Mexico City in 1968 influenced the IOC to again withdraw an invitation to South Africa. Finally, succumbing to the pressure, the IOC expelled South Africa in 1970.

International disputes continued to plague the Olympics, threatening the very existence of the Games in 1972 in Munich.

Even though white-ruled Rhodesia (today Zimbabwe) complied with all IOC requests—namely, it should compete under the British flag and anthem rather than its own—a big row over its participation erupted right on the eve of the Games. Two weeks before the Games were to start, 20 countries vowed to withdraw if the Rhodesian team was allowed to compete.

Then the most terrible event in the history of the Olympic Games occurred on September 5, 1972, the 11th day of the Munich spectacle. Eight Arab commandos of the "Black September" organization entered the Olympic Village in Munich and commandeered the Israeli team's residence. After 20 hours of high drama ending in a police shoot-out, 11 Israeli athletes and five commandos lay dead.

1976—More Troubles

The 1976 Montreal Games were marred by more bitter political disputes. The first one involved the unsettled issue over which China would be the official China.

The People's Republic of China—which had walked out of the IOC in 1958 over the issue of Taiwan's representation—brought pressure to bear on the Canadian government to exclude Taiwanese athletes from competition.

Canada, enjoying a profitable commercial agreement with Beijing, bowed to the pressure and informed Taiwan that its athletes would not be allowed to compete under the name "Republic of Chi-
na.” Moreover, the Taiwanese would not be permitted to fly their national flag nor to play their national anthem at the Games.

A heated controversy erupted. The United States threatened to pull its team out in protest. A compromise proposal was quickly drawn up: Taiwan would be allowed to fly its flag and use its anthem, but it could not call itself China. Though Taiwanese athletes were already in Montreal, their government refused the terms and brought them home.

No sooner had the Taiwan case been resolved when 20 African nations, plus Guyana and Iraq, announced that they would boycott the Montreal Games if New Zealand took part. Why? Because a New Zealand rugby team had toured South Africa earlier that year.

Olympic officials were dumbfounded. Rugby had not been an Olympic sport since 1924 and consequently the IOC had no jurisdiction over it. Besides, many rugby players, other than New Zealanders, were regularly playing games in South Africa.

The IOC executive board unanimously rejected the ultimatum. The very day before the Games were to begin, the 22 dissenting countries withdrew their 441 athletes. The crowds in Montreal’s new Olympic Stadium were denied the pleasure of seeing some of the finest runners in the world.

1980—the Big Boycott

The Soviet Union spent an incredible sum of money in preparing for the Moscow Summer Games of 1980. Had the Soviet organizers known what was to follow, they could have saved some money. Because Soviet troops had entered Afghanistan in December 1979, the United States and 61 other nations boycotted the Moscow Games, the largest such action in Olympic history. Sixteen other teams paraded under the Olympic flag rather than their own as a gesture of protest to their Soviet hosts.

In his speech concluding the ill-fated Games, retiring IOC President Lord Killanin made the following appeal: “I implore the

observers in Sarajevo, however, were quick to notice the visible lack of fraternity. Tight security kept athletes from the various countries from mixing freely.

And now the Olympic spectacle moves on to Los Angeles. All year controversies have been building up. Real trouble usually erupts on the very eve of the opening ceremonies, maximizing the amount of disruption.

Soviet authorities, even before their decision, had voiced concern. Annoying to the Soviet delegation was the avowed attempt by one group to encourage athletes from Communist countries to defect to the West. Said the group’s leader: “We want 50 [defectors] from the Eastern bloc, but we’ll be satisfied with five to ten.” The Soviets will certainly weigh such threats.

South Africa is once again at the center of controversy on two counts. First, there exists the possibility of a last-minute mass boycott by African nations. In a case reminiscent of the 1976 Montreal disruption, the Games may be disturbed over the scheduled tour of another rugby team to South Africa, this time from England.

Then there is the case of Zola Budd. She is a remarkably gifted 17-year-old barefooted runner, at 84 pounds a sinewy wisp of a girl. She is the world’s fastest woman at the 5,000 meters. Her record doesn’t count, however, because times of South African athletes, whether they be black or white, are not recognized internationally.

Because her paternal grandfather was British, Zola has been able to

obtain a British passport and is scheduled to run on the British team. Anti-South African groups are upset at this development and are demanding that young Zola publicly denounce the country of her birth as a price for being able to run in Los Angeles.

In perhaps the most unusual development, representatives from the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) have been pushing for permission to field a team. It is unlikely that the IOC will accede, citing the requirement of “territorial extent” for representation.

On it goes, controversy after controversy.

**Nationalism and “Artificial” Athletes**

Nationalism and the drive for the accumulation of team medals have all but overwhelmed the basic intent of the modern Olympics as expressed by its founder, the Frenchman Baron de Coubertin, who said in 1908: “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part. . . . The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.”

Combating the divisive spirit of nationalism has almost been given up as a lost cause. Says Lord Killanin, IOC president from 1972 to 1980:

“I am opposed to nationalism and I would be happier if national anthems were not used at the Games, but I realize that my view is not that of the majority. There is no doubt that some of the larger powers wish to retain the present medal ceremony and many of the newer nations, although it may be some years before their anthem is played or national flag raised, eagerly await their day” (The Olympic Games, 1984, page 20).

Looking back on the progress of the Games, Lord Killanin also believes “it may have been a mistake” to introduce team games (such as team handball, volleyball and basketball) since these emphasize national rather than individual accomplishments.

The insatiable “quest for the gold” has gravely impacted individual efforts as well, whether done in the service of a country or not.

Olympic officials decry the alarming spread in the use of anabolic steroids, by which muscle bulk can be increased rapidly and to an unnatural degree. The IOC promises strict computerized detection measures in Los Angeles.

The problem of drugs affects countries in both the East and West. American hurdles champion Edwin Moses said in 1983 that at least 50 percent of America’s Olympic athletes take illegal drugs. “As a track-and-field athlete who doesn’t use drugs,” remarked Moses, “I now consider myself to be in the minority.”

The ban on steroids has led to the search for less traceable substances. One such substance is a human growth hormone, a potent “strength juice” derived from the pituitary glands of cadavers and priced at US$500 for a three-week supply.

With many events now open to female athletes, the IOC and various international sports federations have been compelled to introduce femininity tests to make certain that no men or so-called superfemales (those having an extra “X” chromosome) unfairly compete against normal females. Many women athletes understandably have recoiled against having to have a “certificate of femininity” in order to participate.

Lord Killanin is blunt about the drug abuse prevalent in international competition. “If scientists are going to create ‘artificial’ athletes,” he says, “to compete in the Olympic Games or any international sport, then the sooner the international competitions are ended the better. Sport is about the attainment of the complete man or woman, physically and mentally, by natural, and not artificial, means” (The Olympic Games, 1984, page 22).

**Part of This World**

One observer, viewing the problems of staging this year’s events in Los Angeles, remarked: “I thought the Olympic Games were supposed to be a break from the problems of the world. They’re not.”

Neither should they be expected to be. The Olympic Games unfortunately reflect not the ideal of universal friendship and fraternity but rather the stark reality—in microcosm—of the rivalries and hatreds among the nations of the world.

Since the world is divided into competing nationalisms, ideologies and religions—divided, in fact, against itself—we should not expect that the greatest athletic festival the world has to offer should be any different.

Not all competition is wrong, as editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong explains in his “Personal.” However, this world and all of its institutions, including its athletics, have absorbed the form of competition espoused by Satan the devil, the invisible ruler of this world—competition based upon selfishness, on hostility and, if need be, harm to one’s opponent, in order to get ahead at another’s expense.

As a result, the international system of this world is riven with such evil results as “hatred, contentions, jealousies . . . selfish ambitions, sensibilities . . .” (Gal. 5:20, Revised Authorized Version).

Olympics founder Baron de Coubertin, a very wise man, realized that the future of the Olympic Games could go in either of two directions. He believed that “athleticism can occasion the most noble passions or the most vile. . . . It can be chivalrous or corrupt, vile, bestial. One can use it to consolidate peace or prepare for war.”

It is the evil fruits of selfishness, hostility and strife that, in the Olympics, have tarnished the often spectacular accomplishments of athletic endeavor.

Will there be Olympic Games, or athletic competitions similar to them, in the coming world tomorrow? The Bible does not specifically answer this question. However, the Bible says in regard to sport that bodily exercise “is profitable” (1 Tim. 4:8)—although “godliness”—righteous behavior—is much more so.

So there is reason to believe that in the world tomorrow, after all the nations of this world have become subject to the kingdom of God—which will eliminate distrust and rivalry on the international level—there may be athletic spectaculars to far surpass anything this world has had to offer.
Olympic Terrorism Threat Looms

Never before have law enforcement officials been so alarmed about the potential for terrorist attacks within U.S. borders.

As the 1984 Summer Olympics approach, the American people and visitors stand at risk from terrorist groups. The XXIII Olympiad is seen as a prime opportunity for terrorists to “avenge” themselves on the United States and on “enemies” participating in the Games.

Why this modern-day scourge of terrorism? Why must authorities concern themselves with the threat of terrorism at an event designed to celebrate athletic excellence?

This magazine, for 50 years, has provided understanding of our turbulent age that is found in no other publication. The Plain Truth speaks authoritatively on the causes and the ultimate solutions—including when and how terrorism will be eradicated.

The scourge of terrorism was predicted centuries ago in the pages of the Bible. The apostle Paul foretold that “in the last days perilous times shall come” (II Tim. 3:1). The meaning of this prophecy goes far beyond mere incidental crime. Bible prophecies picture an end-time world filled with lawlessness, suppression and hate, an era of planned indiscriminate violence—a strife-filled, self-centered, self-justifying age—an Age of Terror!

We are living in those very days! More and more people are going to be touched by the terrible effects of terrorism in these final two decades of this century. (See “Terrorism: The Worst Is Yet to Come,” May 1984 Plain Truth.)

But Bible prophecy also foretells that terrorism will be stopped. How it will be ended is revealed in our free publications Are These the Last Days? and The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like.

Now see what terrorism experts are predicting could happen this summer!

Shift to U.S. Soil

Authorities fear that terrorists might try this summer to duplicate the Olympic massacre of 1972, when Palestinian gunmen invaded the Olympic village in Munich, West Germany, and killed 11 Israeli athletes.

“Since the Munich incident in 1972,” observes terrorism expert Brian Jenkins of the Rand Corporation, “there has been a fourfold increase in international terrorist activity.”

In 1983, terrorist attacks worldwide reached a record high. It was the bloodiest year on record. Yet terrorism within U.S. borders has remained relatively low—“only” 31 terrorist incidents in 1983—compared to the tidal wave of terrorism that has swept over the Middle East, Western Europe and Latin America. Terrorism against the United States has to date focused largely on U.S. citizens and property abroad.

Now experts are predicting the focus might begin shifting to U.S. soil, possibly beginning with a major assault against the Olympics. Further, authorities fear that terrorist groups will feel compelled to commit acts of even greater violence in order to stay in the headlines in 1984. What better way, they suggest, than to steal the headlines from the Olympic athletes as the eyes of the world focus on Los Angeles?

Security Nightmare

The coming Summer Olympics present a security nightmare. The scope and complexity of the threat facing Los Angeles is formidable.

The Games will center on the L.A. Coliseum, where events will attract tens of thousands of visitors each day. It will be relatively easy for terrorists to blend in with the thousands of foreign visitors who will be attending. Seven million spectators are expected to stream into Los Angeles for the Games.

Compounding this problem is that many events will be scattered over a variety of sites throughout Southern California—each one a potential target for terrorist activity.

And most worrisome of all to security planners: President Ronald Reagan plans to attend the Games.

Federal, state and local authorities are gearing up to combat the threat, at a cost of tens of millions of dollars. The Games will be protected by the largest police presence in the history of the city—an army of nearly 20,000 officers and private security guards! The FBI will have more than 700 agents stationed in Los Angeles during the Games. And its new 50-member Hostage Rescue Team will be waiting in the wings, ready to go into action in the event of a terrorist situation.

A variety of additional precautionary measures will be introduced to counter terrorist elements. Among them, the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) will shut down its research nuclear reactor during the Games. And its new 50-member Hostage Rescue Team will be waiting in the wings, ready to go into action in the event of a terrorist situation.

But the truth, of course, is that there are no proven and infallible human measures to absolutely protect against a terrorist situation. Terrorists, knowing when and where they will strike, always have the advantage. Barring advance knowledge, it is virtually impossible to guard against a determined terrorist.

A time is soon coming when violence—and its ultimate instigator (Rev. 20:2-3)—will be restrained. Until then, terrorism will pose a continuing problem to the international community.

—Keith W. Stump

Hooded terrorist peers over balcony in Munich, 1972.

July/August 1984
SINGLES
Who
Can't Find Mates
by Ronald D. Kelly

It's a growing problem. Men and women who have hopes and dreams for a happy marriage, but can't find a compatible mate. What is the answer?

For more than 50 years, the Plain Truth magazine has stood for the highest moral standards. We write frequently about marriage with special emphasis on how to have a quality relationship.

We have written so often about good marriages that we have caused a response that requires us to address quite a different aspect of the marriage problem. What about those who simply cannot find a suitable mate?

In the January 1984 Plain Truth I wrote an article entitled "Love, Marriage and Sex." The accent was on how important it is to get them in the right order.

Most of the letters commenting on that article were appreciative and in agreement. But not all. There were two categories who responded somewhat negatively.

One represented the unfortunate modern trend to promiscuity.

A large segment of society has been doing what pleases the human senses without regarding God's instructions. Our modern Western world satiates itself on food and drink and plunges into a morass of sexual promiscuity. Few heed the signs of this moral crisis.

Much of the Western world has set aside moral values in favor of situation ethics. Many see no harm in premarital or extramarital sex—especially when done by "consenting adults." Singles who don't choose to marry often live together as an experiment in compatibility. Homosexuality, too, has become an accepted standard for a minority.

When we write on the sacredness of marriage and the holy purpose for which God created mankind male and female, we are sometimes asked: "Why, you don't mean to imply if one chooses not to marry that a person must deny sexual relationships?"

That is not only what we mean to imply—but boldly proclaim!

When the apostle Paul described a world cut off from God's Holy Spirit, he showed what the results would be: "Sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like" (Gal. 5:19-21, New International Version throughout).

That is an apt description of a jaded society in the late 20th century.

And what did Paul say would be the result of this life-style? "I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God" (verse 21).

I'm sure no one gets any special pleasure out of telling the world its life-style is leading to destruction. It certainly won't get any votes in a popularity contest.

But then this is not a popularity contest we are in. It's a life-and-death struggle. Those who persist in living contrary to God's laws will pay the ultimate penalty for their actions.

So this magazine will continue to speak out for God's truth. After all, that is the name of the magazine—The Plain Truth.

Fortunately, as indicated by our mail, most of our readers are not in that first category.

But What About the Others?

The second category of letters I received could perhaps be best illustrated by this letter that reflects the thoughts of several single ladies who wrote me.

"Dear Mr. Kelly,

"I read with interest your article: 'Love, Marriage and Sex.' I especially appreciate your articles on marriage. But you have created a dilemma. The Plain Truth pictures marriage so beautifully. That's the kind of marriage I want.

"But where can I find a man who will love me and respect me and obey God's laws?

"It seems most of the men I have dated are more interested in sex than marriage. Or they are not interested in women at all.

The Plain Truth
“I have tried to keep myself pure waiting for the right man. It has not been easy. And I certainly haven’t found the right man. I can’t seem to find one who wants to live by God’s standards and who can fall in love with me and me with him.

“Am I destined to live out the rest of my life lonely and single? Or should I compromise my values? I especially want to have a child. I have even come to the point I would consider having a child out of wedlock. I know this is sin, but what can I do?

“Please help.”

I’m sure there are a number of young men (and maybe not so young) who are also having a hard time finding the right woman to marry.

Of the nearly 20 million people worldwide who read The Plain Truth every month, I’m sure there are hundreds of thousands of singles. Many have not been married. Others have been unhappily married and have divorced—some probably more than once. Most singles hope for a good and happy marriage someday.

Meanwhile they wait.

Perhaps the first order of business is to address being single.

On Being Single

Remaining single is no sin. Any number of biblical personalities did not marry. Or if they were married, became a widow or widower, and did not remarry. For many this is a matter of choice.

There has been, unfortunately, a social stigma with being single. This can sometimes lead to undue pressures to marry the wrong person. The predicament then created is even worse than being single. That is assuredly not the answer.

The apostle Paul did not marry because his service in God’s work was so strenuous and dangerous he simply did not feel he could ask a woman to share a life of perilous travel and frequent persecution. Yet he indicated he had the same appreciation of marriage as any of the other ministers in his day (1 Cor. 9:5).

For the same reason his traveling companions Luke, Timothy, Titus, Silas and others apparently did not marry—at least in their younger years.

Yet Peter, James, Philip and other ministers of God were married.

Paul has been accused of being a misogynist and misogamist—two fancy words that mean a hater of women and a hater of marriage. Paul was neither.

Many have misunderstood Paul’s statement in I Corinthians 7:1: “Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man not to marry.”

The times were rough. There was persecution upon many Christians. In the pagan society of Corinth, it was difficult to live a Christian life. Paul’s advice not to marry was temporary. Notice what he said in verse 26: “Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for you to remain as you are.”

Some were married and wondered if the difficult times meant they should separate. A few who had unconverted mates even wondered if they should divorce. Others who were not married questioned whether they could or should get married. They did have natural sexual desires and knew they would be tempted to sin if they did not marry.

Paul instructed those who were married not to separate. And those who were single? He understood the problem. He said, “If you do marry, you have not sinned” (verse 28). But he advised if they could wait till the persecution subsided, they would be better off. In no case was he permanently opposed to marriage.

At this time most of our readers are not undergoing severe persecution. It is perfectly normal to plan and pursue marriage if you are otherwise free to do so and if you desire.

But How to Find a Mate?

What if you are among those thousands of singles who really do want to obey God’s laws, but have not found a compatible mate to share the remainder of your natural life with?

It is not always an easy task to find both physical and spiritual compatibility. Yet both are important ingredients to a happy and successful marriage.

The best answer to this problem anyone has ever found is to recognize one fact: The one person you can prepare for marriage is YOU!

While you wait for the right person there are a number of things you can do. First, pray fervently about it. There is a God in heaven who knows your every need. He wants you to express those needs to him in prayer. If you trust in faith, in the course of time, when God knows it is right, he will direct you in finding the right person.

If you are a well-adjusted, outgoing and happy single, the chances are you will make someone a wonderful life partner. If you have developed the ability to converse, and have a warm concerned desire to serve and help, when you marry, you have a much better chance for adjustment—provided it is with the proper person.

On the other hand, frustrated and selfish individuals who marry out of desperation do not make suitable mates.

Take Advantage of the Single Years

To diversify your skills and develop a greater capacity for a happy marriage, get the best possible education for your interests and abilities. Take the time to pursue further education or obtain special job training. Take advantage of the single years. The chances are, with a mate and, later, children, it will be hard to find time for such pursuits.

Another broadening experience is travel. If as a single person you can afford an international trip (or for that matter travel within your home country) you will find this can add to your perspective of life. It will help you better understand the world you live in and give you a greater sense of confidence.

The most logical way a person in the Western world becomes acquainted with a member of the opposite sex is through dating.

And this is often where the rub comes. How do you become acquainted with others well enough to go out with them? And what if their moral values and standards are not as yours?

To younger singles, dating is often less of a problem than to old-

(Continued on page 36)
MORE THAN A MONARCH

by John Halford and Leon Sexton

In a world where leaders often falter, Thailand's King and Queen show there is another way to reign.

WHAT is the mark of greatness that should distinguish world leaders today?

Most heads of state are well-educated, hard-working men and women who desire to use their positions of authority to improve the lives of their people. They face pointed criticism and ridicule from the media, knowing that a small mistake, a slip of the tongue, or a well-intentioned but misguided policy will be seized upon as evidence of corruption and incompetence. For some, the price of failure is exile, imprisonment or the assassin's bullet.

Is it any wonder that even in the democracies, leaders have resorted to media tricks and use of public funds to influence voters and secure reelection? Perhaps they know of no other way.

Reigning with a Difference

There is another way. A head of state can decide to lead by example. Eschewing politics and petty rivalries, a leader can magnify that position as the leader of the people by becoming the humble servant of them all. In the course of history, few have had the courage to try this way. Among the exceptions, in this generation, are King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit of Thailand.

We have written articles before about this dedicated Royal couple (see International Desk—"The Other Land of the Free," July-August 1983). This—and we make no apology for it—is another one.

For nearly four decades King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit have set the world an outstanding example.

It should therefore not surprise us that a few disillusioned world leaders resort to oppression and brutality in order to preserve their precarious positions of power. And they have shown that a nation can be encouraged and the lives of its people improved when the head of state follows the path of kindness, patience and generosity.
ty—the way of giving and sharing.

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit travel thousands of miles each year learning about the needs of the people and seeking solutions to their problems. The work of the King and Queen has taken them to every part of their kingdom. No province is too small or village too remote to receive a Royal visit.

We were privileged, while visiting Thailand recently with editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong, to be able to spend several days observing the King and Queen working among their people.

In a short article, we cannot describe all the events of those crowded days. But two incidents will show the style of leadership of Thailand's King and Queen—a style that marks them as leaders with a difference.

Building the Nation

At a village high in the forest-clad mountains of Chiang Mai Province the King had come to inspect the site of a new irrigation project.

This was not just a ceremonial visit. His Majesty, a trained engineer, is personally concerned with all aspects of the development of rural Thailand.

Thailand is making good progress. But the King knows that progress must be cautious if the countryside is not to be damaged.

Thailand's upland forest reserves have already been depleted by greedy log poachers and by the indiscriminate slash-and-burn agriculture used by opium-producing Hilltribes. Such shortsighted exploitation has caused irreparable damage to Thailand's watershed areas. The whole nation would suffer serious consequences if it were allowed to continue.

The Hilltribes have traditionally grown the opium poppy, and especially in recent years as a cash crop. From their limited perspective, they have not understood the damage this has inflicted on the country.

The challenge is to convince them of the benefits of abandoning highly destructive opium poppy cultivation in favor of cereals, fruits, vegetables and other cash crops. They could be forced to comply, of course, but that is not King Bhumibol's way. He knows that to help the people he must win their trust, and trust can never be gained by threats. That is why he tries to visit each new site in person.

The site of this proposed reservoir could only be reached by a narrow track through the open forest.

The King set a fast pace, as he led the party of officials. It was an informal situation, and yet all held the King in great respect. In return, he respects his country—every square foot of it. Gently he rebuked a photographer who had been too enthusiastic in crashing through the underbrush at the side of the trail to get a better vantage point. Nature must be looked after if it is to serve us, the King reminded him.

After several minutes of brisk walking we reached a point overlooking a proposed dam site. The King had significant questions to pose as he keenly observed the area with reference to a carefully marked large-scale map. The King is rarely seen without a map on his visits to rural areas.

Few heads of state know their nation as well as King Bhumibol knows Thailand. During his long reign he has visited every part of his realm, and each visit is preceded by hours of careful map study. He knows that the location of even a small dam is of great importance. Where should it go so that it will do the most good for the people and yet not harm the environment?

All Sides of the Question

After discussing the project with government officials, the King next conferred with local leaders, asking them for their evaluation of the new project. He listened to them patiently, carefully noting any reluctance or hesitation. The local leaders were simple tribesmen, but His Majesty's manner quickly put them at ease.

This was not a public relations exercise. The King genuinely wanted to know how they felt. He talked to them quietly, sincerely, more like their elder brother than one with great authority.

As he gradually won the confidence of the tribal leaders, they began to tell him their reservations about the irrigation project.

Will the new dam and reservoir flood their lands? they asked. Who will compensate them for Qu...
this? And how will they live until the new fields are brought into production? How will they get their produce to market? Who will buy it?

The King made a careful note of their questions. Encouraged, they opened up even more. After careful consideration of their reservations, His Majesty asked if there was perhaps an alternative site for the dam—one that would not take up their land. There was—but it was not as good from the engineering standpoint, since the resulting reservoir would hold less water. But the King agreed to consider this alternative.

After inspecting both sites he advised the local officials to go slowly. It was better first to demonstrate on a small scale the benefits of irrigation and crop substitution. Once the tribesmen were convinced, they themselves would ask for a bigger dam and more water. It would take time and patience, but in the long run it would win the people over to a more settled way of life.

Those who work with the King have learned to trust his judgment in these matters.

After talking further with King Bhumibol the tribesmen agreed to stop the future growing of opium poppies and to plant substitute crops with the irrigation waters provided by the new dam.

Servants of All

Come with us now to the provincial center of Phayao where the King and Queen were to spend a day visiting with the local people.

Does any other nation have an occasion quite like this? There cannot be many other places on earth where the bond of love and respect between rulers and subjects is so plain to see.

Under a makeshift shelter shielding them from the bright sun, a few thousand people were sitting quietly on the ground. They had been waiting since early morning.

A detachment of the Royal Guards was on duty to provide coordination and security. They looked alert and competent, but at the same time, they were helpful and friendly. Theirs is a pleasant task compared to the paranoid suspicion body guards usually show. This King does not walk in fear among his people.

About 1 p.m. the blue and orange royal helicopter swooped in over the trees and set down on a makeshift landing area. As the dust settled and the rotors slowed to a stop, King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit stepped out to be greeted formally by local officials.

Accompanying the King and Queen was their daughter, Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who shares her parents' devotion to duty and passion for hard work.

The Royal Family greeted the local officials, and then quickly moved in among the people. Soon the Queen was sitting on a straw mat and talking earnestly with a peasant family. A secretary and ladies-in-waiting kneeled nearby, rapidly taking notes on the conversation. Like her husband, the Queen concerns herself with the needs of Thailand's rural poor, and the Royal Family have devoted their lives to helping wherever and whenever they can.

Members of the royal staff had already spent several hours talking with the people. Those with special needs had been taken to a position where they could be sure to talk personally with the King, Queen or Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The palace staff summarized each individual's or family's needs on sheets of paper that were pinned on their clothing.

To save embarrassment some of the more intimate and confidential details were written in English, which the Royal Family understand perfectly, but the local people cannot.

A widow was brought to the
While being received by Their Majesties, above, editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong presents a gift to Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn. The Princess, above right photo, shares her parents' commitment to serving all Thai people. Far left, children from remote parts of Thailand benefit from the royal development projects. Areas previously unsuitable for cultivation, left, have been brought to full production, while natural beauty is retained. Royal agricultural projects help rural Hilltribe families grow a variety of crops, including corn (right), in place of the poppy.

Queen. She was dressed in tattered clothes, and looked so sad and downcast. Her Majesty talked to her in a friendly way, while scanning the details pinned to her old coat. The widow and her children were always hungry since her husband died. Her oldest child was retarded. But the widow had no skills and could only earn 20 baht (about a dollar) a day. She needed medical aid for the children, clothes for herself and a proper home. Was there anything Her Majesty could do to help?

Close by, another family was pleading their case quietly to the Princess. They also were landless. The man was a widower. He had six children, and some of them were sick. He was desperate with worry. But as he poured out his story to Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, his eyes filled with hope.

The Queen and Princess always listen carefully, then ask pointed questions. Would the family members be willing to learn a trade so that they can support themselves? It is better to solve the problems permanently rather than offer short-term solutions.

Thailand's rural people are potentially very talented, but often the traditional handicrafts that come from their areas show insufficient care in workmanship.

The Queen has established the SUPPORT Foundation for the purpose of promoting and preserving rural handicrafts. Several workshops have been established at royal expense where the poor can be taught to produce quality work. Basket making, silk weaving, wood carving and other traditional handicrafts are taught alongside more modern vocational skills, such as dressmaking and the repairing of agricultural machinery.

One of the SUPPORT workshops is on the grounds of the Phuping Palace overlooking Chiang Mai. The workshop is personally supervised by the King and Queen's youngest daughter, Princess Chulabhorn. (Her Royal Highness gave us a personal tour, even though she was ill and acting against her doctor's orders.)

At these workshops, even the most destitute and handicapped Thais have an opportunity to learn to support themselves.

When these training opportunities were offered to the widow and the widower from Phayao, they gratefully accepted.

The Queen moved on to talk to a young mother with a bright little boy, who had been born without arms or legs. Her Majesty's eyes glistened with compassion as she sat down in front of the tragic infant. The mother needed practical help more than sympathy. Once again, training opportunities were offered, nearer to a city where the little fellow could be given specialized training.

Meanwhile King Bhumibol had been talking to two sisters, reputed to be 108 and 101 years old. The elderly ladies had waited one and a half lifetimes to meet their King! He greeted them warmly and respectfully, and asked after their health. They
were tired, they said. And one of them had a cough.

King Bhumibol summoned his personal physician, who took a stethoscope and gave the elderly lady a checkup. Yes, there was a bit of a chest problem. The physician quickly wrote out a prescription for free medicine and vitamins. A soldier took the prescription over to the team of volunteer doctors and ladies-in-waiting volunteering as nurses who always accompany the King and Queen on their visits.

The King spent several more minutes talking to the elderly sisters before moving on.

In this manner the Royal Family made their unhurried progress through the ranks of patiently waiting people. Each genuine need was carefully listened to, and constructive help offered.

The village people were happy. They sensed that the Royal Family's concern for them was genuine. The simple gifts that the people had brought—a few pieces of fruit perhaps, some vegetables—even a puppy—had been accepted graciously.

Every effort is made to make a royal visit a positive and uplifting experience for everyone. No one, it seemed, was overlooked or brushed aside.

By late afternoon the royal visit was a long way behind schedule. “It's usually this way,” a palace official explained, “because nobody must ever feel left out.”

The helicopters eventually left long after dark, a few hours behind schedule.

Tomorrow it would be the same again, and the next day, and the next. It is exhausting work, for Thailand is an extensive country and there is so much that needs to be done.

A Stable Throne

This is why the Thai Monarchy remains a stable institution in today's turbulent world. They reign with gentleness and gain cooperation with kindness. They genuinely love their people—and the people love them.

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit have shown for nearly 40 years—during which, nations around Thailand have known strife and civil wars in which leaders have been deposed, exiled or assassinated—that there is another way to lead a country. It is to their credit that their nation has remained a comparative haven of serenity.

Thailand is not perfect by any means. But it is a much better place for having a Royal Family who know that heads of state must first be humble servants.

Their example is contagious. All who work with King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit seem to share their spirit of sacrifice and phenomenal devotion to duty. “It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve with such a King,” a senior lady-in-waiting told us.

One day all the world's people will be ruled by selfless leaders. But not until this terrible age is over in which all nations—even Thailand—live under the shadow of nuclear extinction.

Soon, the great Creator and Sustainer of all life will intervene to prevent humans from utterly destroying themselves. Then will dawn a wonderful age when all people—great and small—will learn to live in harmony, peace and prosperity.

The day is coming when no human leader will have to live in fear, clinging to power with force and cruelty. They will learn that the way of greatness is to encourage a people and to build a nation by gentleness, kindness, generosity and patience.

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit have accepted their responsibility and have set an example by choosing this way.
WHERE
Is the
True Church?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Jesus Christ said, “I will build my church.” He did not say “churches.” Somewhere that original true Church exists today. But where? Which? What is the Church? Why is it? Here is the eye-opening plain truth!

What about this whole church question—as it concerns YOU? Where is the original true Church that Jesus Christ founded—the one the living Jesus Christ still heads today? That is the question that haunted me, back in 1926 and early 1927.

I had been reared, like many of our readers, in one of the respected and older Protestant denominations. From infancy I was taken to Sunday school and church. I was told that I was “saved” because I had a “birthright membership” in the church. I didn’t know much about what my church believed—but I don’t remember worrying about that.

But by age 18 I lost interest, and seldom attended after that. On leaving school I entered the advertising profession. I was ambitious, I craved STATUS. So I worked hard, studied continually to improve my abilities, drove myself relentlessly toward that goal of STATUS!

Then, after nationwide occurrences beyond my control had twice taken businesses I had started, I was angered into an intensive study of the Bible for the first time in my life. So far as the Bible was concerned, I had always said, “I just can’t understand the Bible.”

Strange—I had always craved understanding, but about other things. The Bible seemed to me a dry, dull, dead book that nobody could understand. I assumed that the churches had received all their beliefs, teachings and customs from the Bible—but then, I just had no interest in religion.

But finally, early fall of 1926, I was challenged! I was doubly challenged! My wife had taken up with “religious fanaticism”—that is, it seemed fanaticism to me! She claimed she found it in the Bible—but I knew well that was impossible, because it was a belief and practice utterly contrary to the churches.

“All these churches can’t be wrong,” I said. “They get their teaching from the Bible, and this fanaticism of yours is contrary to what they teach.”

“Well, maybe they teach contrary to the Bible, then,” my wife insisted, “because I got this out of the Bible!”

Argument was no use. She said if I’d show her where the Bible taught differently, she’d give it up, but not otherwise.

At the same time a sister-in-law challenged me in regard to the theory of evolution. I had never happened to study evolution in school or college. She said I was just plain ignorant if I didn’t believe in evolution! This stung my pride! Me ignorant? What an insult!

“All right,” I answered, “I’ll study into the evolutionary theory thoroughly, and if you’re wrong, as I know you are, I’ll prove it to you, and make you eat those words!”

Proving God Exists

I had always believed in GOD—though I knew little about him, and just was not concerned about “reli-
gion.” Of course, I had never researched the question deeply and thoroughly, to prove whether God exists, or whether evolution is true. Few ever have. I just took God for granted, and supposed evolution was a false theory. Nearly all who believe either in God or evolution have assumed their belief without proof!

But that was no longer good enough for me! Now I had to know!

It became an almost night-and-day study of the Bible, and of in-depth research in books on evolution, geology, paleontology, biology, physics. I delved into the writings of Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley, Vogt, Chamberlin. I did research into radioactivity. That proved there had been no past eternity of matter, but creation! I studied the creation account in Genesis. It was a six months’ intensive research, which often involved studying until 1 or 2 a.m. But in the end I proved the existence of God and the infallible inspiration of the Bible; I disproved the evolutionary theory and did make the sister-in-law “eat those words!”

But in the argument with my wife, I lost! She was right. I was wrong. It was by far the bitterest pill to swallow that had ever confronted me.

You see, it meant not only confessing I was wrong. That is hard enough for the carnal mind. But I now learned how wrong I was, not only what I had believed through assumption, but what I had done and what I was. I had thought I was pretty good! Human nature always thinks that. I learned human nature is just plain bad and evil.

I thought immediately: If I accept Bible teaching, and begin to live by it—if I give in to accept Christ, become converted, live a Christian life, what will all my former business associates and friends say?

In my mind, it meant giving them all up—for good!

It meant conversion! And that is something I don’t believe happens really, and fully, without an inner struggle. It certainly didn’t in my case. It meant giving up! It meant giving up everything my heart had been set on—my life goal. It meant forsaking my way of life—a total about-face! Actually it meant giving up my idol, though I didn’t see it that way, then. It meant unconditional surrender to God. It meant giving up my life, actually, and giving it to God!

In the end, I did it!

But now I faced a new challenge! In this intensive study, I had found that “all these churches” can be wrong! I found that, so far as I knew of what the church I was reared in believed, it taught what was diametrically contrary to the Bible.

Where Is the True Church?

Now the question came, Where is the true Church—the one Jesus Christ founded—the one he heads today—the one that carries out his mission—the one he said he would never leave or forsake?

I had been shockingly disillusioned! It had been virtually a traumatic six months.

When I read Romans 6:23, I stared at that verse in my Bible in shocked, incredulous disbelief! It said, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. I had always believed the wages we earn for sin was just the opposite of death. I had been taught that what we get paid for sin was eternal life—in hell fire! This verse says eternal life is something we can only receive as a gift from God.

But no! Surely no! We already have eternal life—so I supposed—we are immortal souls! I learned that many theologians interpret that verse—that is, they put a different meaning into it. They change the meaning of the words to make them conform to their belief instead of letting God’s Word change their belief to conform with God’s truth. They manufacture a new definition of the word death. They define death to mean “separation from God.” I looked at this verse again. On the one hand, for sin, we get death. On the other hand, the opposite of that penalty is eternal life. Now, it certainly was clear, if eternal life is the very opposite of death, then death cannot mean eternal life!

I was shocked to find that in many—if not most—teachings of Jesus Christ and the New Testament, the churches now teach the very opposite, and follow opposite customs and practices! I was confused! My head was swimming!

But there it was, in plain language. I read that souls can die! “The soul that sinneth, it shall die!” (Ezek. 18:4, 20). It was important enough to be stated twice. Then my startled eyes read, in Revelation 16:3: “And every living soul died in the sea.” That said souls can die. Then I saw where Jesus said souls can be destroyed!

“. . . But rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [Gehenna]” (Matt. 10:28).

It began to look like the churches were wrong, after all! But did not Jesus Christ found his Church? He surely did, and I found where he said the gates of the grave would never prevail against it—it could not be destroyed! I found where Jesus Christ said he would never leave nor forsake it—he would always be “in the midst” of it. I found where he was the living head of it! Jesus Christ was resurrected from the grave. He is still alive!

So where was the Church he was guiding, directing and using? I was perplexed. But I kept searching. I continued studying. I found this discovery of new—to me—truth the most fascinating and interesting pursuit of my life. It was like finding new gold nuggets—new riches—only these were spiritual riches.

But I was not to learn for some time where, and which, is the one true Church Christ founded. I learned that Jesus called his disciples, who were to become the foundation of the Church, to come out of the world and “be ye separate” (II Cor. 6:17-18). Also Jesus said to God his Father that he did not even pray for the world (John 17:9). In Matthew 24:1-3 he was talking about the end of the world. I found the world spoken of in the Bible as “this evil world.”

In due time I came to realize that even though the world, especially in this 20th century, has made awesome progress and advancement, yet
it is shot through and through with APPALLING EVILS. And the evils are multiplying. WHY this paradox of good and evil?

I was not to learn the purpose of the Church—the reason why Jesus started it—until I learned the truth about the very foundation of the world itself.

Who, What IS God?

I had to learn, first, not only proof that God exists, but who, and what, God is. Many of the churches of traditional Christianity believe God is a trinity—God in three persons. The religion of Judaism believes God is one person. Some believe God is mere "principle"—or a better something within each human.

But I found God reveals himself in the Bible. In John 1:1-5, we read of the "Word." Verse 14 says the Word was made flesh and became Jesus Christ. The Word was with God, and the Word also was God. How can that be? It was as if there was John, and John was with Smith, and John also was Smith. John might be Smith’s son, and Smith is the family name.

I learned that in Genesis 1:1, it is revealed that God created the heavens and the earth. But Moses wrote that verse, and the English word “God” is translated from the Hebrew Elohim as Moses wrote it. Elohim is a PLURAL word—more than one person. In verse 26 of that chapter, Elohim said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” The word God, then, is the family name of the God family. And although cattle were made after the cattle kind (verse 25), man was made after the God kind.

In the New Testament we learn that God’s Spirit in us witnesses with our spirit that we are the begotten sons of God. Jesus is the Son of God, and the Church is to be married to him (Matt. 25:1-13; Rev. 19:7). So God is actually a family, into which, through Christ, we may be born. Romans 8:29 states that Jesus was the first to be born of many brethren. He was born very God “by the resurrection from the dead!” (Rom. 1:4).

Since the first man, Adam, was of the God kind, could he possibly have been made God?

What Man IS

God is composed of Spirit—he IS Spirit (John 4:24). But he made man of the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7). God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man (dust) became a soul—the dust of the ground became a soul. The man had only a temporary existence, kept alive by the breath of air, and circulation of blood—and continually refueled by food and water out of the ground.

But God is revealed as Immortal—having self-containing and inherent life.

Yet we see God offered Adam immortal life, through the “tree of life” in the garden of Eden.

But God did not purpose to give this inherent immortal life to the man unless and until the man received the very holy, righteous, spiritual and perfect character of God. And this the man had to choose for himself—else it would not be righteous character. The other special symbolic tree was that of “the knowledge of good and evil.” God commanded Adam not to eat of that tree, lest he die. That was therefore a tree of death. But the tree of LIFE also was a tree of knowledge—that is, of spiritual knowledge as imparted from God.

When Adam chose the tree of death, he took to himself the knowledge of good and evil.

Let me explain at this point that other scriptures reveal that God created man with a human spirit in the man. Job 32:8 says “there is a spirit in man,” and verse 18 says this spirit in man constrains him—suggests, sparks, impels. I Corinthians 2:11 says one could not possess human knowledge save by the spirit of man that is in him. Man is wholly matter—not spirit. The soul is matter from the ground, but there is a spirit in that soul, howbeit only human spirit. This spirit imparts the power of intellect to the human brain.

Let me explain at this point that the recent science of brain research has shown that human brain is very similar to animal brain. But animal brain is governed by instinct and cannot think, reason, plan or devise as man can. Animal brain cannot know good from evil—cannot have appreciation of music, art and literature. The human spirit adds the psyche to human brain.

WHY, then, did God place the human spirit within humans, and not in animals? The answer is a profound TRUTH! The human spirit within man is the only real value of a human life—for it is the means by which a human may be united with God. On repentance and belief those called by God may be begotten of God, to be born as children of God—very God—part of the God family. God’s Holy Spirit may thus unite with the human spirit. Thus, as in Romans 8:16, God’s Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God—now begotten of God and to be born at the resurrection as spirit beings.

As God was later to reveal in this intensive open-minded study of his Word, the human family, started by Adam, was potentially the God family through which God purposed to reproduce himself. And human reproduction is the very type of God’s divine reproduction. But this has been revealed knowledge too profound for a sinning and Satan-deceived rationality to comprehend—except to those God has called and who have been begotten by him through his Holy Spirit. This tremendous truth leads to understanding of WHY the Church, and WHICH IS the one true Church of God!

Now back to the garden of Eden and foundation of this world.

The Foundation of This World

The first human, the man Adam, was led by his wife Eve to disobey God, and reject the tree of life. The tree of life would have united him with God. But upon his choice, God closed off the tree of life from Adam and his family—until God would send Jesus, the second Adam, to make possible the reconciliation of humankind with God. Actually the purpose of God’s Church is to reconcile man—unite man—with God.

Eve had believed Satan. He said she would not die—she was an immortal soul. She believed that, and her children have believed that lie ever since. Adam followed her.
The handwriting is on the wall for today's civilization.

Many top leaders, newscasters, and scientists have seen the handwriting. But only one has fully understood it—and the good news that lies ahead for all mankind.

They Have Seen It

Before he died, Winston Churchill warned: "Unless some effective world supergovernment can be brought quickly into action, the proposals for peace and human progress are dark and doubtful."

Sir Winston saw the handwriting on the wall.

So did John F. Kennedy. In a speech before the United Nations, U.S. President John F. Kennedy declared: "Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind... Today, every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when this planet may no longer be habitable.... Together we shall save our planet—or together we shall perish in its flames."

Environmental scientist Barry Commoner warned: "We run the risk of destroying this planet as a suitable place for human habitation."

France's President Giscard D'Estaing warned his nation while in office: "The world is unhappy because it does not know where it is going and because it guesses that if it did know, it would discover that it was heading for catastrophe."

These all have seen the handwriting on the wall for today's civilization. No wonder many ask, If there is a real God in heaven, and if that God is concerned about humanity, then is not this the time when he should and indeed must intervene in the affairs of his creatures here below to save us all from world annihilation?

Men on the highest levels of our society and culture acknowledge today's problems. But they do not grasp the solution—the good news that an entire new civilization is coming that will establish world peace and bring prosperity!

Few seem to realize that today's crises were directly prophesied in the pages of the Bible, and that the future is laid bare in advance by Jesus Christ himself for all to read, to understand and to find therein the only way of escape!

It is little realized in this day of religious confusion, that the Jesus of your Bible was the greatest newscaster of future events who ever lived! Jesus was asked: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of... the end of the world?"—the end of this civilization, not the end of the earth (Matt. 24:3).

Jesus announced several major events that would lead up to and climax in the end of this civilization and the establishment of an entire new civilization on this earth.

First, he said to beware of false prophets who would come preaching in his name and deceive the many—not just the few (verse 5).

Then he described the impact of wars leading to world wars (verse 7). After this, he warned, terrible famines and pestilences—disease epidemics—and earthquakes in un-
expected places would afflict the earth (verse 7).

Next, he foretold a time of terrible religious persecution (verses 9-13).

Jesus announced 1,900 years in advance that these coming events would be the most awesome and dangerous in all human history and would result in human annihilation unless Almighty God intervened!

“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened” (verses 21-22).

Here Jesus clearly describes the time when all human life—this very civilization—would be blasted off this planet unless God intervened for the sake of his “elect”!

**This Is Tomorrow’s News**

Jesus Christ was more than 1,900 years ahead of time as a newscaster. For he said that unless the real God—the God most people do not acknowledge and certainly do not know—intervened in human affairs, the threat of annihilation would become a stark reality!

British scientist Sir Robert Watson-Watt, the developer of radar, once said: “I am not optimistic the human race will survive.” He pointed out there are now three ways in which the world’s population could be wiped out in a few hours. The first is the hydrogen bomb, which with nuclear fallout could destroy humanity. The second method is through biological substances. It would take only a half pound of the most deadly to kill the animal and human population of the world.

And the third method of destroying man is through nerve gases.

The good news Jesus brought is that none of these three means will be permitted to end all human life. God will intervene in world affairs to end man’s destructive capacity!

Around the world, the handwriting is also clearly on the wall in a veritable population explosion. The result is already visible in Africa—the stark reality of hunger and starvation closing in on millions of human beings every single year!

No human organization can solve this problem. There are too many economic, political and religious conflicts that stand in the way. Here, too, Jesus foresaw the only possible solution—divine intervention and total reeducation in family planning and agribusiness.

**Why Man’s “Last Hope for Peace” Failed!**

Even while the guns were still firing and men were dying on the battlefields, the United Nations Conference assembled in San Francisco in the spring of 1945 to found an international political entity to preserve peace. Men and women of many races and colors were there from 54 nations—representing the majority of human beings living on the earth.

As the conference opened, General Jan Smuts of South Africa declared: “If San Francisco fails, then I see nothing but stark disaster before mankind.”

“It is no exaggeration to say,” said Britain’s Anthony Eden, “that the work on which we are making a start here may be the world’s last chance.”

Remember?

Yes, those were the words we were hearing and reading back in 1945 from the acknowledged leaders of modern human civilization!

But go back even further. Even the League of Nations—formed after World War I—was formed for the same basic purpose. It, too, was called “man’s last hope for peace”!

As all the world knew even before World War II began, the League of Nations miserably failed! So too, the U.N. is failing to solve the problems pressing in on the Middle East today.

Why? Because all human attempts thus far have sought to build on the foundation of this world’s civilizations, which is based primarily on selfishness, greed and competition.

What we call human nature is basically hateful, resentful, competitive and selfish. No wonder people “are swift to shed blood: destruction and misery are in their ways: and the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom. 3:15-18). Not until this nature is changed will we have peace!

Newscasters talk about peace, but they do not know the way to this kind of permanent peace. Jesus scooped all this world’s newscasters by getting his message into print more than 1,900 years ahead of time. That message of coming world peace is called the gospel—an old English word meaning “good news.”

Jesus’ message is good news. It announces the only way to end the present crises—the reestablishment of the government of God on earth over all nations.

Imagine what a changed world this will be when the God who created the earth and life upon it also rules it in justice and mercy. The good news is that a whole new civilization is coming to bring peace at last.
Whatever Happened to GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP?

by Graemme J. Marshall

IT was the men's singles tennis final. The armchair sportsman adjusted his TV set and sat back comfortably to watch his favorite sport—played by the current champions.

TV cameras panned around the huge crowd.

The day was hot, tension hung in the air and the contestants were nervous. Play began and the shots were dazzling. The match was even. As it hung in the balance, tempers flared—and then came a disputed line call.

It was all that was needed to set off a torrent of abuse at line judges, the umpire and spectators. Then came the throwing down of a racket, the hitting of balls in the net and vocal exchanges with spectators. It was an all-too-common "sporting" scene and not confined only to tennis.

The TV viewer's own anger now erupted at the hold-up in play. "Get on with the game," he shouted at the TV set. "Don't take that from him, Ump. Send him off the court! Ban him from the game."

But it fell on deaf ears. The TV set couldn't transmit his feelings.

Disrespect for Rules and Opponents

Good sportsmanship seems old-fashioned, a thing of the past. Anger and argument have invaded even the usually placid gentlemanly sports. Like golf. Notice the thrown-down golf clubs, kicked up turf, and clubs thrown at golf bags.

Cricket sees scuffles and jostling among batsmen and fielders. Defeated players walk off the playing arena and refuse to acknowledge the umpire. Wild melees involving every player on the field are commonplace. And now even the gentlemanly circles of ocean sailing have caught the modern plague of bad sportsmanship. Witness the claims and counterclaims of foul play and unfair tactics surrounding last year's America's Cup challenge off Rhode Island.

Then think also of the efforts of mostly volunteer labor. The players win prizes. The volunteers work for nothing or little. Yet they, as well as umpires, submit to uncalled-for abuse for doing their job.

Newspaper and magazine writers describe many sports in terms of the battlefield: "Crushed, blitzed, demoralized, flattened, devastated." Games are described variously as combinations of "brawls and brilliance" "mayhem and magic."

Have you ever wondered why so many athletes look like ex-boxers? The cauliflower ears, broken noses and facial scars all attest to the reality that violence in sports has become part of the game. The number of crippled players at hospital casualty centers after various games demonstrates how injurious many sports have become.

What has happened to society that many sports can no longer be
played in a fair and good spirit? Even the Olympic Games seem entangled with politics, and Olympic hopefuls with illegal sporting practices.

To Win at Any Cost

Winning, it would seem, is all that matters. Money going mainly to the winner is too strong an element to allow much time or thought to being fair. Yet, to win is often the difference of only one stroke, one point, one second or one goal.

Coaches know only too well that all the world loves a winner and that no one seems interested in who comes second. They know the all-but-impossible task of psyching up a team that knows it has no chance of making the finals.

With this pressure on professional sports it's little wonder that children and teenagers emulate adults the same way. The tragic eruption of violence plagues underage sporting events. We have a generation that mimics the brats of tennis, the muggers of British football, the belligerent of cricket—yes, and even mimic the drug-takers that are coming to light in many sports today.

Oh yes, some few individuals do take a stand against obnoxious players. And some efforts are also made by sporting bodies to promote decent play. Credit should be given them.

Administrators and officials and the majority of athletes are concerned about violence in sports. They express a loss at how to go about cleaning up the mayhem. But journalists report that increasing numbers of spectators want to see blood, to see violence happen, to see a fiery crash at motor sports.

And so, in the confusion, the motivation to win at any cost is too strong for most sports to change today.

So what can you do to help promote good sportsmanship? Whether participant or spectator, refuse to give in to temper, anger and the human desire to punch or hit back at another. Develop greater skills, if you are a player, to keep out of danger. Win by talent and ability—not by unfair tactics. As a sporting man or woman, be known for your fair play and self-control. Be a good sport! Don't buy the concept that winning is everything!

True, winning is important in life. It is a goal to strive for. Do try your best. But only winning is not what's most important. Equally important is to be able to hold your head up in defeat.

Why be sour faced and crestfallen at losing when often such loss was only by a few points and the game could have gone either way? Someone must win—and no one is at his or her best all the time. Don't be overcome by whimsical defeat. It is after all, just a game.

It is unlikely for the present that we can expect trends other than more obnoxious behavior, more disrespect for authorities and more violence. Watch for the unthinkable to happen—actual fisticuffs on the tennis court and golf tee! Until the heart changes, practice won't.

To change the heart takes a change of spirit and character. It takes character to keep a tight rein on your emotions when you are provoked. It takes character to lift up your head when an opponent rubs it in about a thrashing and when the newspapers criticize your team.

It's How You Play the Game

But character will become the new trend that one day will permeate all sports. And that same character built in sports will hold you in good stead for the game of life.

Did you know that one biblical writer, the apostle Paul, wrote of character in a sporting analogy? He observed the techniques of athletic training. He explained that character is keeping control of your emotions and temper. He described how he kept himself in check:

“Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not as one who beats the air (like a shadowboxer or a contestant who misses the chin of an opponent). But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection . . . ” (I Cor. 9:24-27, Revised Authorized Version). Paul strove to be a disciplined person who could take defeat as gracefully as receiving the glory for winning.

Enjoy sport, but play it fair. It will do more for your character and produce a happier attitude. Finally, there is a lot of truth in the old-fashioned saying: “It isn't whether you win or lose, but how you play the game.”

If you can't play sports fairly and in a good spirit, what will be your approach to playing the more important game of life?
In Pursuit of Excellence

A cross section of young men and women training in Southern California in fulfillment of the Olympic motto "Swifter, Higher, Stronger." Clockwise from above: Physical education instructor Machele Hopper, a middle-distance runner, trains for the 1500-meter event. James Butts, 33, a 1976 silver medalist, was first U.S. athlete to receive Olympic medal in triple jump. Dan Ripley, pole vaulting enthusiast since age 12, practicing at Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut, California. Rowers Cindy Swope and Robin Reardon in a calisthenic program under direction of coach Harry Sneider, on the Ambassador College campus, Pasadena. Mark Gorski, from California, seeded second in the world in cycling sprint, conditions in weight room. Swope and Reardon, right center, isolate particular muscle groups.
YES!
Words Can Hurt

by Robert C. Taylor

Here's the most damaging thing you can do to another person.

A YOUNGSTER comes running in through the front door after a productive day at school.

"Mom, look what I made at school," he chirps cheerfully. In his hand he clutches a curious piece of crayon art only a parent could fully appreciate.

Mom, who had only shortly returned from a bout with the supermarket crowds, shelves another package.

"Mom, look what I made for you!" Little Jimmy tugs on his mother's hem in a feeble attempt to gain her attention.

"Can't you see I'm busy?" she blurts impatiently. "Go show it to your brother!"

Jimmy slowly walks away. Deflated and discouraged by his mother's anger and lack of interest, he questions his own abilities. His confidence has been shattered.

The Plight of Adults, Too

All too often children have their confidence carelessly shattered through the indifference or harshness of parents, or by the cruel chiding of peers. But this plight is not confined to children. Anyone can be the victim.

A wife, feeling frazzled and frustrated because of a lack of appreciation, questions her own abilities and competence. "Why try?" she ponders.

Feelings of personal worth and value are so fragile, yet so often overlooked. In a society that is preoccupied with self-love, the emotional needs of others are frequently ignored. Perhaps you have been stifled and stunted by the belittling remarks and actions of others, or have done the same to others!

Confidence, once it has been broken, is one of the most difficult qualities to reconstruct. Many adults live with negative self-images that were acquired during childhood. The resulting self-doubt and lack of confidence impairs success throughout life.

Confidence is characterized by an appreciation of the value and worth of a human being. Severe lack of this quality can produce depression and despondency. Suicide is a by-product of amplified self-doubt. Understanding of personal worth, whether in a child or in an adult, promotes achievement and success.

Numerous experiments have been conducted to illustrate the
importance of confidence. In one such experiment, several students were randomly proclaimed, during the first day of class, to be the academic sprinters.

The instructor, in actuality, did not yet know who the bright students were. He merely praised a select few for the genius he "intuitively" knew each possessed. The same students actually became the higher achievers. Their boosted confidence, nurtured by the high expectations of the instructor, made the difference.

It Begins in the Home

The greatest damage to confidence is often inflicted in the home.

Confidence can be impaired in a variety of ways: by lack of praise and encouragement, through personal shortcomings, inadequacies or failures, or by the negative implications of others.

Parents can help by monitoring the level of confidence their children show about themselves. A child's comments such as "I'm stupid," "I can't do anything right," or "Nobody likes me" may be signs of a damaged respect for oneself.

How do you recognize a child who possesses a healthy sense of personal value? Such a child is not easily intimidated or frightened. He relates well to adults and those his age. Generally, he is cheerful, energetic and eager to try new things.

Physical appearance can be the greatest threat to confidence for many. In a society that wrongly places lofty value in comeliness, the child with the slightest imperfections can become emotionally handicapped.

If a child appears constantly to need an unusual amount of praise and encouragement, he or she may be probing for something to lift the feelings of inadequacy.

Many parents give little or no thought to the importance of building confidence in their children. And an abysmal self-image left unremedied has serious effects. An attitude of "I can't succeed, so why try" quickly becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Praise Essential

One of the greatest tools for building another's self-respect is praise. But it is first necessary to distinguish praise from flattery. Praise is earned or deserved. Flattery is given regardless of merit—it is a tool of those who believe the end justifies the means.

Praise serves best when it has a focus. "You've been helpful today" is all right. But, "You did a fine job mowing the lawn" is much better. An encouraging word of praise engenders more of the kind of activity that prompted it. This is true with all age groups. Approval and recognition from others is one of the greatest motivators known to man.

This is not to say that people should laud others incessantly, but that encouragement and sincere compliments have a very positive effect. Praise promotes a positive attitude and improvement. People, young and old, tend to live up to the expectations of others. Praise creates the desire to "keep up the good work" or to accomplish more.

The necessity of praise, however, does not do away with the need for timely correction. Children, in particular, must learn at an early age which kinds of conduct and thoughts are undesirable. But correction and praise are opposite sides of the same coin. A child that receives adequate encouragement will be more receptive to correction when it is given.

When it comes to confidence, modern conclusions reinforce biblical wisdom established long ago: "Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad" (Prov. 12:25, Revised Authorized Version).
A Welfare Plan With a Heart!

by Clayton Steep

There is a better way! Why has no nation yet followed it?

What nation does not have to wrestle with the monumental challenges of adequately providing for its needy?

Yet today's welfare programs, as a whole, have not adequately solved the immense problems they were designed to solve.

Despite the best intentions, bureaucratic inefficiency exists. Politics prevail. Standards are not always applied fairly. Then there is the problem of weeding out the cheaters. Sometimes insufficient funds plague the system.

And, what is perhaps most tragic of all, large numbers of the poor to whom aid is given tend to stay poor.

It's a vicious cycle.

Is there any way out?

Where is such a plan? Why hasn't it been adopted?

The Plain Truth magazine has pointed out for 50 years where such a plan is revealed. It is, in fact, revealed knowledge that governments need to know and could not otherwise discover for themselves. It answers the problems of all mankind. It is found in that book we call the Holy Bible. This revealed knowledge would solve the problems of caring for the poor, the unemployed, the disadvantaged. The plan is there, given in detail.

Almighty God once revealed his economic and social plan to a whole nation—ancient Israel. But most of the people didn't listen. The Creator God promised the Israelites that if they would follow his plan, there would come a time when there would be "no poor among you; for the Lord will greatly bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance—only if you carefully obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe with care all these commandments which I command you today" (Deut. 15:4-5, Revised Authorized Version throughout).

Great national prosperity would result, "for the Lord your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow" (verse 6).

No need to borrow? That's right, because they would be a have nation. The God to whom all wealth belongs would see to it. This is one of the great differences between God's plan for taking care of the needy and all humanly devised social welfare programs: God's plan alone involves his specific care to ensure the plan will work.

Still, God knew in advance that ancient Israel as a whole would not keep his laws. Therefore his servant Moses predicted, as related in verse 11: "the poor will never cease from the land."

Whose Responsibility?

It is not primarily a responsibility of big government to care for the needy, the unemployed, the elderly. It is rather an individual responsibility. Moses and Jesus taught forcibly that it is the individual's duty to help the needy (Matt. 25:34-46).

Look around you. Have today's humanly devised programs, many of which are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, really solved the problems of poverty? Well intended they may be. The best man can do. But see, now, God's way of handling the situation:

"And if one of your brethren [of your nation living in your area] becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you..." This describes many individuals in today's economically troubled times.

What does God say to do in such cases? Direct the poor person to the nearest government agency where he or she might qualify for a...
barely sufficient handout? Where too often assistance is cut off the moment one begins to improve one’s financial situation! No. “...then you shall help him” (Lev. 25:35)—you as an individual.

It is the primary responsibility of the community—including the nuclear or the extended family of the poor and needy—to help their own. In addition, there must be a willingness to help those in need who have migrated to one’s area in search of better opportunities—the “stranger or sojourner” (same verse).

God is a generous and giving God. His laws express the way of giving as opposed to the way of selfishness, which is the way of this world. Nobody loses “friends” or even contact with relatives more quickly in today’s society than those who become poor. “Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend,” Proverbs 19:4 points out. Verse 7 adds, “All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.”

The last thing the poor need is to be abandoned, left to languish in squalor and hopelessness. “ ‘You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land,’ ” God commands (Deut. 15:11). They need a helping hand to get back on their feet, or to get on their feet for the first time, to become self-sufficient members of the community. This help may include personal instruction so that the mistakes made in the past that brought on the poverty can be avoided in the future.

“Blessed is he who considers the poor,” the Bible emphasizes; “the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble” (Ps. 41:1). God is the Champion of the truly poor and needy. He also promises to liberally bless any who help the underprivileged. He has bound himself to repay what is given: “He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given” (Prov. 19:17).

Unfortunately, in today’s society, the people’s responsibilities have already been preempted by human government. In addition, people who can be of help are often suspicious and hesitant about helping those who appear to be needy. There are indeed those who are poor because of simple laziness. There are those who could work, who could better themselves, but who prefer to live off handouts.

Instances of welfare cheaters and social parasites have turned people away from caring for the truly deserving. But the vast majority are willing to work and better themselves if only opportunities and an added helping hand were available.

God’s program does not tolerate laziness and dishonesty. “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat,” the Bible declares (II Thess. 3:10). All the more reason to shift the responsibility for caring for the needy from huge impersonal government agencies, which have no way of assuring that only the deserving are being aided, to individuals who know the situations of their neighbors and who are able to keep up personal contact with them.

A Plan with a Heart

The Israelites of old as a whole failed to properly and consistently implement God’s revealed economic program. There is no record in all history of any other nation doing differently either. But God’s plan will be enforced and much sooner than the nations think. It will form the basis of the economic and social structure of the world tomorrow, whether the nations like it or not.

Here’s how God’s plan works in detail. A vital point to understand is brought out in Leviticus 25. Human families were meant to maintain an attachment to the land. Severing that tie has been a serious mistake. There’s far more than a sentimental connection between humans and the earth. We are made out of the earth’s dust. It was to belong to us until death, at which time it would become the lifelong inheritance of someone else in the family.

Because individual possession of a tax-free inheritance is fundamental to God’s economic system, it is obvious why no nation would allow God’s program to be put into effect. But if life were lived according to God’s way, each family would have a piece of tax-free land to live on or to fall back on in an emergency. This title to land would be a family’s minimum ultimate worth.

A landowner could make improvements upon the land and buildings associated with it and so raise its value, and thus his own worth and living standard. He would have every incentive to do so, for he would not be taxed on the value of the property. (He would be expected to pay God 10 percent, called a tithe, of any profit made, if engaged in a business.)

A person under God’s system could never sell his land permanently (Lev. 25:23), but he could lease his land for a limited period of time. In the modern vernacular we would refer to this as a lease arrangement. Every 50 years a Jubilee year was to be proclaimed nationally (verses 8-17). An inheritance could be “sold”—leased out—only until the Jubilee year. That year it would once again revert to its rightful owner. (City property, however, could be sold permanently for major development—see Leviticus 25:29-31.)

A person who leased out his land could get it back before the Jubilee, however, if he so desired. He could repossess it anytime he wanted it by canceling the lease and refunding a fair prorated amount to the person to whom he had leased it. Thus a person could not be permanently deprived at the very least of a tax-free house and home.

This is the way agricultural lands will be treated in the world tomorrow, for in order that “everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree”—a picture of the peaceful conditions of the age to come—it will be necessary that everyone have his own piece of land either in a town or village or in the countryside. (See Micah 4:4.)

What a different world that will be! Of the masses crowded together in today’s sprawling cities, few people outrightly own real estate. Many are renters and have little to fall back upon in hard times.

Those who are making mortgage
payments are only a little better off. They have some equity. But in hard times they can lose their land through foreclosure. Even those who own land free and clear can still lose it if they are ever unable to find the cash to pay the property taxes on it.

More Help

The biblical plan given to ancient Israel contains numerous additional guidelines for dealing with personal economic situations.

If a person leased out his land, then needed to buy it back but did not have the money to do so, he could appeal to his relatives for help in repurchasing it (Lev. 25:25).

Any money that is loaned to those in need, as opposed to that which is loaned for investment purposes, was to be interest free (Lev. 25:36-37).

God's program specified a seven-year statute of limitations on all short-term debts incurred by those within the jurisdiction of God's laws (Deut. 15:1-2).

Think what that would mean in today's world when consumers, encouraged to go into debt and to buy on credit, are often led into financial disaster. Few lenders would be willing to extend credit to seduced buyers for luxuries and nonnecessities, if they thought they would not get their money back before the seventh year of release! Society would quickly adopt as basic a cash-as-you-go policy.

If a person, for one reason or another, fell on really hard times, or if he did not feel capable of managing his own affairs, he would not, under God's plan, face living on short-term debts incurred by those who observe it today can testify how liberally God renders his blessings in return.

Under God's system the whole attitude toward sharing the wealth of the earth is far different from the greed expressed in the world today. The corners of the harvested fields are to be left unreaped and hard-to-reach ripened fruit is to be left ungathered, so that any near neighbors who are needy might find something to eat (Lev. 19:9-10; Deut. 24:19-21).

There is to be no oppressing one another (Lev. 25:14). "You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. . . . You shall not defraud your neighbor, nor rob him" (Lev. 19:11, 13).

What a world! Everyone seeking to help one another, looking out for each other's interests—that's what God wants to see. Love and concern expressed person to person, neighbor to neighbor, friend to friend. That's the attitude that shall prevail when Jesus Christ reestablishes the government of God over the earth.

You might say at this point, if you are one of the poor or the needy struggling to get by on meager sustenance, That's all well and good, but what do I do under today's system?

First, it should be pointed out that it is not wrong, living as we do in today's system of things, to accept whatever aid is needed and available from government agencies. Since the world is not living God's way, we can be glad that many of the needy at least have that option in certain countries.

In addition, realize that you do not have to be defeated by poverty or want! Seek to better your contact and relationship with God. Put God's ways into practice in your life. Pay God his tithe. If you are willing to work hard at whatever God provides, the One to whom all wealth belongs will intervene to take care of your needs. He will "supply all you need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

That is both a challenge and a promise. Why don't you take him up on it?

True Church?

(Continued from page 17)

in choosing self-knowledge of good and evil, rather than God-revealed knowledge—following the human spirit, rather than receiving and being led by God's divine Spirit.

Stated another way, they were kidnapped by Satan, and followed the way of life, knowledge and understanding of the kidnapper rather than their potential Father, whom they disbelieved.

But—God's purpose shall stand! God will yet ransom back his kidnapped potential family.

But since the human family in Adam had chosen the way of sin, and since sin brought upon them suffering, anguish, unhappiness and death, God shut off the tree of life lest they gain eternal life in pain, sorrow, misery and suffering. But the eternal life of happiness and fulfillment that God wants us to have would, through Christ, be yet made possible for all who later would make the right choice, through the Second Adam.

So, it was then decreed, at the very foundation of this present
human world and civilization (Rev. 13:8), that Christ, the "Lamb of God," should come and be sacrificed to redeem the lost. At the same foundation of this world that started from Adam, it was decreed that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). But how could a man be judged after he had died?

That is described in 1 Corinthians 15:22-24: "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all [the same all] be made alive"—by a resurrection. This is described in Revelation 20:11-12 as the Great White Throne Judgment. The "book of life" is opened in that judgment. Those judged guilty, as will be, shall learn that Christ the second Adam had come and paid their death penalty in their stead. And if they then repent, the tree of life will be open to them. They may yet be begotten and then born as sons of God, converted into the God family.

However, in the meantime all have died and remain dead until the resurrections.

The Second Adam

In God's due time, some 4,000 years after Adam's sin and the foundation of this world, God sent his Son, Jesus, born of the human Mary, and sired by God. He came as the second Adam. Unlike the first Adam, he chose the tree of life.

Jesus was born through the Holy Spirit of God. He was filled, without measure, by God's Spirit. He had the close relationship with God that the first Adam rejected. He was begotten and humanly born of God. He said: "I have kept my Father's commandments" (John 15:10), whereas the first Adam rejected them and chose instead his own human good, as well as evil. Jesus thus chose the tree of life.

Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). This is the first place in all the Bible the word church is used. If we are to answer the question of the title of this article, Where is the true Church? we must pause here to ask, What IS a church? Just what did Jesus build? Why should there be a church? Is the Church divided into many denominations and sects? Or is there only the ONE original true Church that Jesus built?

Why the Church?

The New Testament of the Bible originally was written in the Greek language. The English word church is translated from the original Greek word ekklesia. It means "called-out ones"—from ek (out), and klesia (called). The Greek word means "calling out," to meet together, especially as a religious congregation. It does not mean a building with sharply sloping roof, with a steeple atop pointing to heaven, with a cross on its facade.

Symbolically the Church is referred to as the household (or family) of God (Eph. 2:19-21), and a building that grows into the holy temple to which Christ shall come at his return to earth as King of kings, ruling all nations.

But why the Church? Why call its members out from those of this world? That is answered by another question. What's wrong with this world? It was founded on a faulty foundation. It is shot through and through with evils, causing suffering, anguish, frustration and death.

In traditional Christianity there seems to be the concept that God created Adam a perfect immortal spiritual being—that Satan came along and wrecked this perfect spiritual mechanism—and that Christianity is God's attempt to repair the damage, and make man as good as Adam was before Satan wrecked him. That is totally false and contrary to biblical revelation.

It has been shown that God created man mortal, with only a temporary animal existence, kept alive by the breath of air, the circulation of blood and continually refueled by food and water from the ground. Man rejected the tree of life, which was freely offered him. Man never obtained immortal self-containing life. Instead man embarked on the way of life that results in pain, suffering, discontent, unhappiness, anguish and death. A civilization of organized society was built on that foundation. I compare this civilization to the structure of a building, built of faulty materials, on a rotten and crumbling foundation.

God is NOT trying to repair this decaying and rotting superstructure we call civilization. God is NOT trying to repair this crumbling foundation. We are to answer the question of the title of this article, Where is the true Church? we must pause here to ask, What IS a church? Just what did Jesus build? Why should there be a church? Is the Church divided into many denominations and sects? Or is there only the ONE original true Church that Jesus built?
not having brought the penalty of death on himself, Jesus would pay the penalty of human sin—death—in man's stead.

So, thereupon, God also decreed at the very foundation of the earth that, as in Adam all humans would die—because all humans have sinned—so in Christ, the same all might be made alive by a resurrection from the dead, after their penalty had been paid for them by Jesus Christ.

So humanity's only hope is through the resurrection from the dead and due to the fact Jesus paid their death penalty in their stead.

But—and this is important!—God could not reopen the tree of life to humans in general until after Jesus had come and paid the death penalty for humans—all of whom have sinned.

God did not send Jesus to pay this penalty for some 4,000 years—now nearly 2,000 years ago. Meanwhile, multiple millions of people had lived and died. So the plan of God (God's master plan) for fulfilling his purpose of reproducing himself through humans, had to begin with Jesus, the second Adam. God had allowed this world to be founded by the first Adam. He started the very foundation of God's world through Christ, the second Adam. He started it by the one man—Jesus. Jesus said he would build his Church. The Church is the embryonic beginning of God's new civilization.

Just as God established his government on earth through the cherub whom we call Lucifer, whom God set on the throne of the earth, so God's new civilization will be the government of God reestablished on earth through Christ and the Church. So God started the new civilization—or government—through Jesus, with the 12 apostles Jesus selected, called and chose out of the generation then living, in the first century A.D.

But the Church had to start small and grow. It started with the 12 apostles and the 120 baptized the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, the day the Church was founded.

Jesus said: "I will build my church" (Matt. 16:18). In Ephesians 2:21, the Church is called a building—actually the spiritual temple of God. It had a foundation (verse 20). Its foundation is Jesus Christ, along with the apostles and prophets (Eph. 2:19-22).

Now consider this teaching of Jesus: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matt. 7:24-27). Jesus was referring to the Church, built upon the foundation of Christ ("and that Rock was Christ"—I Cor. 10:4); also to this world built upon the "sand" of Satan the devil and Satan's ways of vanity, self-centeredness, lust, competition and strife—the way Adam chose—the way on which this world was founded. Jesus was going back to the foundations of the world, and of the Church. He likened them to buildings.

The building that is the world and its society and civilization—its systems, customs, governments and ways—is a superstructure, as mentioned before, shot through and through with faulty materials and workmanship. And God is going to let that building (the world built on man's concepts of good and evil) fall—and great is going to be the fall thereof!

God says, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Ps. 127:1).

Satan, not God, built this house. Jesus did not come to repair the improperly constructed building that is this world. He is not trying to save the superstructure built on the foundation of Satan.

Instead, Jesus said: "Come out from among them [of this world], and be ye separate" (II Cor. 6:17-18).

Coming—A New Civilization!

Jesus chose his 12 apostles to be part, with him, of the foundation of an entirely new building—a new world altogether.

What was Jesus' gospel? What did he teach? Not about himself and himself only—but about the kingdom of God—which is the born family of God, which will rule all nations with the government of God, at Christ's return and Satan's removal.

The process of human birth is the precise type of being spiritually born of God. Each human might be called, by analogy, an ovum. To be born of God, the divine sperm—which is the Holy Spirit of God, from his very person—must enter into us, impregnate us. We are then begotten—a divine embryo. We are begotten within our spiritual mother—the Church of God. The Church is "Jerusalem ... above ... which is the mother of us all" (Gal. 4:26). Then we are fed spiritually through the mother, the Church, on the spiritual food of the Word of God. But we are only begotten—not born until we "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18). It is all clearly explained in our free booklet Just What Do You Mean ... Born Again?

Jesus explained to the Pharisee Nicodemus (John 3:3-6) that to enter the kingdom of God we must be born again. Born of God. And what is God? God is a divine family. But, as Creator of the universe, God also is ruler over his creation. God rules with government. All government is based on a foundational law. A law is a code of rules of conduct—regulating the relationships between individuals or groups. God's law is God's way of life, and that way is love. It is flowing love toward and in relation to others. For the conduct of human life, it is love toward God, and love toward man. That is the basis for the spiritual character of God.

What was Jesus' gospel? The word gospel means "good news." Jesus' gospel was the good news of the coming kingdom of God—and that kingdom is the God family ruling over the earth and the universe. The free booklet What is the True Gospel? makes this misunderstood subject plain. Write for your copy today.
The Untold Story
by K. Neil Earle

What was the key to Allied victory in World War II? More importantly, why are things now going so badly for the British and American peoples?

June 6, 1944—just a brief 40 years ago this summer—was one of the decisive dates in history! On that day General Dwight D. Eisenhower from headquarters in southern England sent more than 250,000 Canadian, American and British soldiers across the treacherous Channel to commence a "Crusade in Europe."

It was the greatest combined assault in history: more than 3,300 assault ships and landing craft—supported by 11,400 aircraft, six battleships, 21 cruisers, countless destroyers, artificial harbors, down to grappling hooks and innumerable silk scarves with maps showing enemy positions.

The stakes? Colossal. A bungled Allied invasion of the French coast would mean a chance for Hitler to withdraw troops from the West to meet the Russian onslaught; time, too, for the Nazis to perfect new superweapons like the V-1 and V-2 missiles that were to terrorize London that same summer.

The world has become familiar with the official story of D-day, June 6, 1944, the "Longest Day."

Yet the behind-the-scenes story is even more remarkable, and offers convincing evidence of the part a great unseen Hand has always played in history, and especially in the history of the Anglo-American people.

Forty years later, it is time for that story to be retold—the plain truth about D-day. It is also time to ask a more pertinent question: Why is it that this guiding Hand seems missing from the English-speaking world today?

Weather the Key

D-day was originally scheduled for June 5, not June 6. Let General Eisenhower, the Supreme Allied Commander, tell the story in his own words:

"The final conference for determining the feasibility of attacking on June 5, was scheduled for 4:00 a.m. on June 4... Some of the attacking contingents had already been ordered to sea... On the morning of June 4 the report we received was discouraging. Low..."
clouds, high winds, and formidable wave action were predicted to make landing a most hazardous affair. The meteorologists said that air support would be impossible, naval gunfire would be inefficient, and even the handling of small boats would be rendered difficult.

“At three-thirty the next morning our little tent was shaking and shuddering under a wind of almost hurricane proportions. It seemed impossible that in such conditions there was any reason for even discussing the situation. Bad conditions predicted the day before for the coast of France were actually prevailing there and if we had persisted in the attempt to land on June 5 a major disaster would almost surely have resulted. This [the Meteorologic Staff] told us to inspire more confidence in their next astonishing declaration, which was that by the following morning [June 6] a period of relatively good weather, herebefore completely unexpected, would ensue, lasting probably thirty-six hours. The long-term prediction was not good but this short period of calm weather would intervene between the storm we were then experiencing and the beginning of the next spell of bad weather.

“I quickly announced the decision to go ahead with the attack on June 6” (Crusade in Europe, Da Capo edition, pages 249-250).

In spite of the best efforts of man, the D-day battle—like so many in history—lay at the mercy of the weather. Humbling, but true!

Modern Miracles

An April 7, 1947, Daily Telegraph article titled “The Miracle of D-Day,” by Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Morgan, former head of the Anglo-American planning staff, confirms the weather factor:

“As the old adage had it, ‘Man proposes but God disposes.’ There comes a point in so many of our affairs at which we hope so often for a miracle.

“And miracles happen still. How many of them have we not seen enacted before our eyes in these past few years... There was Dunkirk and its flat, calm sea. Who planned that? During those fateful hours I was riding up to battle, south of the Somme... our main army was hemmed in on those northern beaches. There were many others who, like us, saw no way out barring a miracle. There came a miracle.

“Then, two years later, a U-boat caught sight of the tail ship of one convoy [carrying troops from America and Britain to invade North Africa]. The German observer, apparently, thought what he saw merely worthy of routine report.

“Then, but a day before Gen. Patton was due to land on the Casablanca beaches, open to the full Atlantic swell, just as it seemed inevitable that his whole affair must be called off, the wind changed from on-shore to off-shore and let the small craft in.

“The history of our other theatres of war will inevitably tell of many similar happenings, but I doubt if any will be such as to compare with the miracle of D-Day in 1944... There had already been one short delay, caused by bad weather, which meant that any further postponement must have been of weeks to await the right conjunction of light and tide... There was something more than ordinary, surely, in that decision to attack and in that spirit of success that permeated the ranks.”

This wartime editorial from The Times of London of September 11, 1944, is even more revealing:

“It seemed that those normally placid and sunlit days when May and June mingle were this summer malignantly possessed... And yet all the time, had we but known it, the clouds so much dreaded were big with opportunities Supreme Headquarters were quick to grasp.

“The German commanders were advised by their meteorographical service that there could be no invasion in the period including June 6 because of continuous stormy weather. That is why D-Day forces landing during a brief break in the windiest month in Normandy for at least 20 years found so many German troops without officers, and why other enemy coastal units were having exercises at the time of the landing.”

This was the miracle of D-day!

Even General Erwin Rommel, the brilliant Desert Fox, was not at his post. He was visiting his wife for her birthday—June 6. Rommel was confident the treacherous weather made an invasion impossible.

The odds were 50 to 1 against moon, tide and winds being right after the stormy weather that was raging.

The Great Gales

The Times commented again on October 27, 1944: “It has perhaps never been fully appreciated how near the invasion forces came to a disaster comparable with the fate of the Spanish Armada.” June 18 was the next time for the right tides. Yet on June 19, a gale rose with increasing force for the next 24 hours and died away 1½ days later. Only one of 23 tons of pier equipment survived that fateful episode. It was the worst Channel storm in 80 years!

What if the invasion had come on Sunday, June 19? It is a chilling thought.

General Eisenhower seemed to sense the hand of Providence in these dramatic events. Speaking in his hometown of Abilene, Kansas, on June 4, 1952, he was reported in Time magazine to say:

“This day eight years ago, I
made the most agonizing decision of my life. If there were nothing else in my life to prove the existence of an almighty and merciful God, the events of the next twenty-four hours did it. . . . The greatest break in a terrible outlay of weather occurred the next day and allowed that great invasion to proceed, with losses far below those we had anticipated."

This was almost the same message Britain's wartime leader, the lionhearted Churchill, had delivered on October 31, 1942:

"I sometimes have a feeling of interference. I want to stress that. I have a feeling sometimes that some Guiding Hand has interfered. I have a feeling that we have a Guardian because we have a great Cause, and we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that Cause faithfully."

Commander Anthony Kummins, in a BBC broadcast titled "The Greatest Armada in History" saw the same intervention at the Allied invasion of Sicily, July 10, 1943:

"It suddenly started to blow, a real blow, force 6, half a gale. This meant that the surf would be terrific, and it would be almost impossible for our landing-craft to force their way through. In spite of all the elaborate precautions: here we were, at the mercy of the elements.

"But there was no turning back now, and as the darkness closed down and the ships ploughed on, I couldn't help thinking of some of the miracles of weather which had already favoured us in this war: Dunkirk; North Africa. Perhaps three times was too much to expect. Perhaps . . . and then it happened. With barely an hour and a half to go before zero hour the wind suddenly dropped and the swell went down quicker than I have ever seen before. It was so sudden it was almost unbelievable, miraculous, and as people stared into the darkness many a silent prayer of thanks was offered up."

In Sicily, as in Normandy, the enemy garrisons were lulled into a false sense of security by the foul weather that suddenly cleared! How providential for the Allies!

But D-day—the opening of the Second Front—was pivotal to World War II. It hastened the Nazi defeat before Hitler's scientists could perfect the hydrogen bomb.

After the triumphant Allied sweep through France in 1944, the enemy garrisons were lulled into a false sense of security by the foul weather that suddenly cleared! How providential for the Allies!

Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery felt compelled to say: "Such an historic march of events can seldom have taken place in such a short space of time. . . . Let us say to each other, 'This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.' "

Stirring events these! Yet tough, realistic military men were never bashful about bringing God into the picture. And with good reason.

National Consecration

Weather is no minor factor in warfare. The tragedy of Arnhem and the Battle of the Bulge the fall and winter following D-day were grim reminders of the folly of relying solely on human calculations and material strength. The massacre of the Second Canadian Division at Dieppe in August 1942, was a tragic lesson in how amphibious operations can backfire disastrously.

Persistent fog in April 1941 helped two of Germany's battle cruisers, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau, to escape through the Denmark straits to devour 115,000 tons of Allied shipping. The Bismarck almost eluded her British adversaries in the fog that same year.

World War II saw one of the most dramatic weather interventions in history, the harsh Russian winter of 1941 that pummeled Hitler's legions outside the very gates of Moscow!

How differently might history have turned out without the perennial overruling factor of the weather (Job 38:22-23).

With millions of lives at hazard during those crucial summer days of June 1944, it is interesting to study the attitude and temperament of the Anglo-American peoples on the eve of D-day and afterward:

"[In the United States] there was a somber, religious mood. . . . For one entire week the most boisterous, noisy, rambunctious people in the West went about with a restraint, a soberly responsible sense of purpose, that was not only striking, but without parallel in living memory. As an emotionally unifying, satisfying experience it was unique. It was the unity not of grief, but of accomplishment and hope" (Geoffry Perrett, Days of
President Franklin Roosevelt's simple but eloquent prayer for American forces broadcast to the nation on the evening of D-day still resonates with emotion:

"Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavour, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity.

"They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. The enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces, but we shall return again and again.

"They fight not for the lust of conquest. They fight to end conquest. Help us, Almighty God, to rededicate ourselves to renewed faith in Thee, in this hour of great sacrifice.

"Many people have urged that I call the Nation into a single day of special prayer. But because the road is long and the desire is great, I ask that our people devote themselves in a continuance of prayer."

Across the Atlantic, King George VI called the British Empire to prayer as well:

"That we may be worthily matched with this new summons of destiny, I desire solemnly to call my people to prayer and dedication. We are not unmindful of our own shortcomings, past and present. We shall ask not that God may do our will, but that we may be called to do the will of God; and we dare to believe that God has used our nation and empire as an instrument for fulfilling His high purpose."

Here, certainly, is a little-known part of the untold story of D-day. And it was not just the national leaders who felt the need for prayer. Forty-eight hours before invasion, at Portdown Parish Church, General Dempsey, Commander of the British and Canadian forces on D-day, sat for one hour with 400 officers and men through "one of the most moving experiences of my life."

Sir Francis Drake’s famous prayer before the battle of Cádiz was recited: "O Lord God, when Thou givest to Thy servants to endeavour any great matter, grant us also to know that it is not the beginning, but the continuing of the same, until it be thoroughly finished, which yieldeth the true glory; through Him that for the finishing of Thy work laid down His life, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ."

In such a spirit, did the great crusade in Europe begin, shocking as this may seem to a skeptical generation.

Ancient Parallels

The parallels between the spiritual preparations and godly consecration of the English-speaking world on the eve of D-day and the customs of the ancient 10 tribes of the House of Israel are striking indeed.

Here was the prerequisite for warfare in ancient Israel:

"When you set out to make war upon your enemies, and see . . . an army larger than yourselves, you must not be afraid of them, for the Eternal your God... is on your side. When you open the campaign, a priest must approach and address the army thus: 'Listen, Israel, you are opening a campaign to-day against your enemies; never lose heart, fear not, tremble not, be not afraid of them, for the Eternal your God goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies and to give you the victory'" (Deut. 20:1-4, Moffatt trans.).

Another encouragement in II Chronicles 6:24, 35 seemed strangely fulfilled at D-day as well:

"Or if Your people Israel are defeated before an enemy because they have sinned against You, and return and confess Your name, and pray and make supplication before You... then hear from heaven their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause" (Revised Authorized Version throughout, except where otherwise noted).

Consider this interesting sidelight from Winston Churchill’s memoirs of World War I, The World Crisis. This incident occurred just after Mr. Churchill had taken charge of the Royal Navy:

"That night when I went to bed, I saw a large Bible lying on a table in my bedroom. I thought of the peril of Britain, peace-loving, unthinking, little prepared... I thought of mighty Germany... wave after wave of valiant manhood... of the sudden and successful wars by which her power had been set up. I opened the Book at random, and in the 9th Chapter of Deuteronomy I read—

"'Hear, O Israel: Thou art to... possess nations greater and mightier than thyself... a people great and tall of whom thou hast heard say, who can stand before the children of Anak!

"'Understand therefore this day, that the Lord thy God is he which goes over before thee; as a consuming fire... Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thy heart... but for the wickedness of these nations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may perform the word which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.'

"It seemed a message full of reassurance" (Mentor edition, pages 58-59).

This was the same Churchill who at the victorious conclusion of World War II, as Prime Minister, led the entire British House of Commons to “give humble and reverent thanks to Almighty God for our deliverance.”

A Blind Servant Nation

Longtime readers of this magazine know that the American and British peoples are, in large part, direct lineal descendants of the so-called lost 10 tribes of the ancient House of Israel. This surprising truth is explained in our free booklet The United States and Britain in Prophecy.

No wonder some of the prophecies relating to the descendants of the ancient House of Israel so uncannily fit D-day and other key events in British and American history:

"... Fear not [O Israel].... When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..." (Isa. 43:1-2). Allied amphibious assaults had God’s protection on many occasions, as the generals and admirals testified.

The U-boat, the blitzkrieg, the V-2 rocket—all the fruits of the Nazis’ scientific genius could not prevent the Allied victory in World War II (Mic. 5:9).
How strikingly was Deuteronomy 28:7 fulfilled for the Americans and British in 1945: "The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways."

Yet some will ask: What about disasters like the Canadian defeat at Dieppe? Why the bloodshed and casualties? Longsuffering Britons have said: "How could a merciful God permit the Blitz of London?"

Some who read about this marvelous knowledge of the identity of the English-speaking world cannot reconcile God's occasional intervention with the defeats, fiascoes and setbacks of the World Wars.

These questions deserve an answer.

And the truth is simply this: partial obedience brings only partial blessings (I Kings 18:21; Hos. 7:16). Absolute divine protection in war is only promised to nations that serve God totally (Ex. 14:14). How many nations are bold enough to claim that promise by obedience?

God intervenes at crucial moments to punish excessively sinful nations (Gen. 15:16) and also to protect his servant peoples from extinction (Isa. 1:9; Gen. 49:24). This was his pattern anciently and we must understand that God's basic approach never changes (Mal. 3:6).

The modern descendants of the so-called lost 10 tribes of the ancient House of Israel are indeed chosen to be God's servant people. But they have been unwilling to wholeheartedly serve God (Isa. 43:1-22). God describes them as "blind," blind to any sense of national purpose, their national origins and their imminent chastisement (Isa. 42:19).

President Harry Truman remarked in Washington on April 3, 1951:

"I do not think that anyone can study the history of this nation without becoming convinced that Divine Providence has played a great part in it. I have the feeling that God has created us and brought us to our present position of power and strength for some great purpose. It is not given to us to know fully what that purpose is."

Yes, even the spiritually blind were once aware—or at least their great leaders acknowledged—that God Almighty gave them critical help to win World War II. But none, it seemed, really knew why.

God reveals in Isaiah 48:9 that he intervenes for nations not because of any inherent righteousness or superiority but for his "name's sake." Woe is pronounced if national sins rise to the proportion they have reached today!

Understand now why God has virtually abandoned the American and British people in recent decades (Jer. 14:7).

God had a purpose in preserving the U.S.A. and Britain in World War II. They became the bastion of his great end-time work, a work that, from its American base, has girdled the globe. That work was the prophesied end-time proclamation of the true gospel of Jesus Christ (Matt. 24:14; 28:19-20).

You are now reading that true gospel message of the kingdom of God in the Plain Truth magazine.

In the 1930s and '40s God's time had come to lay the foundation for Jesus Christ's last warning witness to reach the nations in power (Mark 1:15; Mal. 4:5).

Only North America had the financial capacity, the full religious freedom, the communications media and the ready access to Scripture to make this final warning and the announcement of the restoration of the government of God to this earth possible. So God helped the Allies win World War II.

And that is the final, transcending aspect to the untold story of D-day.

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Mankind today stands at the brink of a nuclear war that could erase all life from earth! Why do leaders lack the know-how to solve world troubles? What is the missing dimension in human knowledge? It all started with two trees. The first humans could have chosen the tree of life, which would have provided happiness and eternal life. But they took the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and that decision has led to the multiple crises that even now threaten our existence. Our booklet Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils explains the cause of world problems and how they will be solved. For your free copy write to our office nearest you.
er singles. While in college or working with others in a younger age group, dating is a normal routine of single life. But when one is no longer so young and a majority of those with whom you work or who live in your neighborhood are married, it narrows the field of availability.

The place not to go is a singles bar. And don’t place an ad in the paper. The chances of a very unpleasant experience are simply too great to risk.

**How to Put It in God’s Hands**

Because God is the author of male and female, the most important part of preparing for marriage is to seek his guidance.

One of the most beautiful stories in the Bible perhaps will serve better than any other to illustrate how God can intervene for those who have prepared themselves.

It is the story of Ruth—told in the book by that same name. It’s quite a story.

Because of drought, a Hebrew family moved to the land of Moab. After a time, the head of the family died, leaving a widow and two unmarried sons. The two young men married Moabite women, but ironically after about 10 years both the young men died.

Now there were three widows living together. They heard conditions had much improved in Judea, so Naomi, the mother-in-law, decided to return to her homeland. The two younger widows had to choose where to live. One decided to stay among her own people—the other to remain with Naomi and live in Judea.

One of the best-known passages of scripture in the Bible is the statement of Ruth as she made that momentous decision. She said to her mother-in-law: “Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried” (Ruth 1:16-17).

When they arrived in Judea they were so poor, Ruth had to glean the fields after the harvest just to have enough food to eat.

The owner of the field where Ruth was gleaning was a wealthy single man. Ruth must have been attractive, because even working in the hot sun with dirt on her face, she caught the eye of Boaz.

He checked to find who she was. Upon hearing the story of her love for her mother-in-law and her willingness to leave her own people, to continue to worship the true God and to seek a new life in Judea, Boaz was much impressed. He must have wondered, “Could this be the woman I have been waiting for?”

As it turns out, she was.

But the story doesn’t end there. It was not simply a matter of a man and woman finding each other. God had brought them together. Ruth and Boaz became the great grandparents of David the future king of Israel. And from David descended Mary, the mother of Jesus.

While your and my needs today may not be as important to history and the plan of God as was the marriage of Ruth and Boaz, we still can depend on God to provide our needs. The apostle Paul said, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

There is one thing I can tell those of you who are single and who do faithfully and patiently wait for the great Creator God to direct you toward the proper marriage. When you are happily married to the right person, it will soon make any or all of those single years seem like ancient history.

There is a marvelous mechanism God must have built in us. After a few months of a happy marriage, we begin to forget what it was like to be single. After a few years we almost totally forget the previous frustrations of the single years.

And frankly it doesn’t matter if one is 22, 32, 42 or 52 when first married. Believe me, a few happy years with the proper mate are far better than any number of miserable years with the wrong one.

The same thing happens after children are born into a family. When you have a child, or more than one, you will have a hard time remembering what it was like around the house before the children came.

**So What for You?**

If you choose not to marry, you have not sinned. There should be no shame in being single.

But if you have a sincere desire to marry and have a family, patiently wait for the right person. Spend the intervening time preparing yourself to be the best possible husband or wife.

It’s never really too late. A man I know turned 63 last year. He had not married. He was shy and had spent his life working hard.

More than 50 years ago he had a crush on a girl in his grade school. But being shy, he didn’t develop the romance. She later married and had a family.

About 10 years ago he found she was now alone and had been caring for her elderly mother.

Still being shy, it took a while to work up the courage to tell her he had that crush on her years ago.

But he finally did and they began to date. They were married last summer.

When asked about his feelings on marriage, he said it’s a “whole lot better” than he thought it would be. He not only got the girl of his dreams, he became the instant father of three and the grandfather of twin 4-year-olds.

But he did have a very long wait.

Most of you who are single probably won’t have to wait that long. If you really do hope for a happy marriage, make your desires known to God.

Then do all you can to prepare yourself. Make every effort to meet people you share common interests with and who have values you can respect. There is no way you can lose if you confidently and faithfully trust in God for your needs—including your need for the person you marry.
"THE WORLD TOMORROW"

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

**TELEVISION LOG**

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

### U.S.

**ALABAMA**
- WRBC, Birmingham — 6, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
- WOWL, Florence — 15, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- WHNT, Huntsville — 19, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- WCVG, Montgomery — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

**ARKANSAS**
- KTVE, El Dorado — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- KTVP, Fayetteville — 29, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- KHBS, Ft. Smith — 40, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- KAIT, Jonesboro — 8, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- KATV, Little Rock — 7, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

**COLORADO**
- KBAK, Bakersfield — 29, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- KIEM, Eureka — 3, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- KTVU, Oakland — 2, 8:00 a.m., Sat.
- KSBW, Salinas — 8, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- KTVN, Twin Falls — 20, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- KXNO, Omaha — 9, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
- WDCV, Washington — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

**FLORIDA**
- WBBH, Ft. Myers — 6, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- WFTV, Winter Park — 7, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WFTV, Winter Park — 7, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WFLD, Orlando — 9, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- WGN, Chicago — 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
- WMAF, Jacksonville — 7, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

**HAWAII**
- KIKU, Honolulu — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- KFVI, Pocatello — 6, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

**IDAHO**
- WBLN, Bloomington — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- WICD, Champaign — 15, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
- WICU, Chicago — 26, 10:30 p.m., Sat.
- WGN, Chicago — 9, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
- WSIL, Harrisburg — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WQAD, Moline — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
- KIAQ, Quincy — 5, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WTVO, Rockford — 17, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- WICS, Springfield — 20, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

**ILLINOIS**
- WOFS, Des Moines — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- KMPX, Missoula City — 3, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

**INDIANA**
- WTVW, Evansville — 7, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- WKG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 a.m., Sat.
- WTBS, Indianapolis — 13, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
- WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- WTVO, Terre Haute — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

**KANSAS**
- KUPK, Garden City — 13, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- KCTV, Kansas City — 5, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- KSNT, Topeka — 27, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- KAKE, Wichita — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

**KENTUCKY**
- WBKO, Bowling Green — 5, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- WLXK, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WAVE, Louisville — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

**LOUISIANA**
- WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 11:30 p.m., Sat.
- KTAC, Lafayette — 5, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
- WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7:00 a.m., Sun.

**MAINE**
- WVEI, Bangor — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

**MARYLAND**
- WJZ, Baltimore — 45, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- WHAG, Hagerstown — 25, 7:30 a.m., Sat.

**MASSACHUSETTS**
- WSBK, Boston — 38, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- WGBZ, Springfield — 40, 9:00 a.m., Sun.

**MICHIGAN**
- WUHO, Battle Creek — 41, 11:30 a.m.
- WTMJ, Cheboygan — 4, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
- WMJN, Escanaba — 8, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- WJRT, Flint — 12, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WZZM, Grand Rapids — 13, 12:00 noon, Sun.
- WJLA, Lansing — 47, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- WJBK, Southfield — 2, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
- WPBN, Traverse City — 7, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

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

**MISSISSIPPI**
- WLOX, Biloxi — 13, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
- WLLT, Jackson — 3, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

**MISSOURI**
- KCRC, Jefferson City — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
- KODE, Joplin — 12, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- KPB, Poplar Bluff — 15, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- KOLR, Springfield — 10, 12:00 noon, Sun.
- KPLR, St. Louis — 11, 10:30 p.m., Sun.

**NEBRASKA**
- KCNA, Lincoln — 8, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
- KTCP, Hayes Center — 42, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- KFCH, Kearney — 13, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- KBGT, Lincoln — 8, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
- KMTC, Omaha — 3, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- KDHU, Scottsbluff — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
- KSTF, Scottsbluff — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- KSNB, Superior — 4, 8:00 a.m., Sun.

**NEVADA**
- KLAS, Las Vegas — 8, 6:30 a.m., Sun.; 5:30 a.m., Sat.
- KOLO, Reno — 8, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**
- WMUR, Manchester — 9, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

**NEW MEXICO**
- KGSW, Albuquerque — 13, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

**NEW YORK**
- WNYT, Albany — 13, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- WBNG, Binghamton — 12, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
- WGRZ, Buffalo — 2, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
- WNYE, Elmira — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WNEW, New York — 5, 7:00 a.m., Sat.
- WOR, New York — 9, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
- WOR, Rochester — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
- WXTA, Syracuse — 9, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- WUTR, Utica — 20, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
- WNYW, Watertown — 7, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

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

**NORTH DAKOTA**
- WDAZ, Devils Lake — 8, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- WDAY, Fargo — 6, 10:00 a.m., Sun.

**OHIO**
- WAKR, Akron — 23, 11:30 p.m., Sun.
- WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:00 a.m., Sun.
- WUAH, Cleveland — 43, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- WBNJ, Columbus — 10, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- WDTN, Dayton — 2, 7:00 a.m., Sun.
- WDTQ, Toledo — 24, 9:00 a.m., Sun.
- WWTV, Youngstown — 33, 11:00 a.m., Sun.

**OKLAHOMA**
- KTEN, Ada — 10, 10:00 a.m., Sun.
- KOAH, Oklahoma City — 25, 8:00 a.m., Sun.
- KOKI, Tulsa — 23, 11:00 p.m., Sun.
- KTUL, Tulsa — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

**OREGON**
- KCBY, Coos Bay — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
- KVAL, Eugene — 13, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
Is It True Some Are “BORN THAT WAY”?

by Donald D. Schroeder

How do human sexual emotions develop? Why do certain youths develop into homosexuals or transvestites? In this article you will read knowledge even sex researchers may not have understood!

Many of us may be in for a surprise—or a shock!

It does not automatically happen that a young man and woman become sexually attracted to each other. Nor does it automatically happen that they want to deeply love, cherish, marry and protect one another.

These emotions or desires are not all inherited or innate in the human constitution.

Not Inborn

Heterosexuality—sexual desire toward a member of the opposite sex—is not altogether inborn. Nor is homosexuality—sexual desire toward a member of one’s own sex. Nor, for that matter, are other damaging sexual feelings or fears about sex.

Human beings are not born with an inherited sexual orientation or sexual instinct that drives them irrevocably in a certain direction.

There is a reason why many homosexuals assume they were “born that way”; why they assume their sexual attractions and emotions are as natural to them as the color of their eyes.

Genetics and hormones play a part in developing human sexuality, but not in the way many think. And individual responses to cultural, parental and personal experiences play a very big part in molding human sexual feelings. But, in addition, there is critical knowledge beyond biology and cultural studies that is missing in modern education about human sexual and emotional development.

Missing Knowledge

Scientific sex research is late on the scene. It began just after the middle of the 19th century. Sex researchers have indeed gained certain knowledge and understanding about genetics, hormones and environment and their combined effect on shaping human sexuality.

Yet, “the impetus behind the homosexual urge contained in the male bond remains unexplained,” writes psychologist C.A. Tripp in summarizing such research in his book The Homosexual Matrix, page 53. But the missing impetus is explained in the pages of your Bible!

Humanity through the ages has rejected essential knowledge from the Creator. Researchers, rejecting revealed knowledge, are looking for answers to damaging human problems—sexual and otherwise—only by their own limited physical tools of discovery and reasoning. They look for answers in the physical makeup of the human body or brain when the major problem is a spiritual matter—a problem in the spiritual attitude, motivation and desires of individuals.

Researchers have developed theories to explain individual human sexual feelings, problems and motivations without understanding the true nature of human nature. We must understand this first. Then we can rightly use the added demonstrable discoveries of human sexual research.

Why has humanity been plagued with so many damaging sexual problems? Why sexual fears and phobias? Why so many unhappy intimate marital relationships? Why so many damaging feelings among human beings and between the sexes?

The Bible reveals the origin of these problems in events before the first man and woman were created!

First Perverted Being

Scripture reveals the existence of a great spirit being, an archangel, who rebelled against the laws and government—the way—of his Creator (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-19).

His name, in Latin, is Lucifer and means “lightbringer.” He was created to be the bringer of God’s truth to the earth, inhabited first by angels, later man. Instead, this great archangel swayed one third of God’s angels to follow his self-seek-
ing, self-willed “get” way (Rev. 12:4). His angels became demons.

These spirit beings rejected God’s way of love—the “give” way. The “give” or love way is the way of diligent respect and concern for the position and welfare of others, as well as concern for oneself. God’s laws define what love is.

Lucifer’s rebellion caused his name to be changed to Satan, meaning “the adversary.” Satan reasoned the “get” way was what he wanted. It is the attitude of being your own authority of right and wrong. It is the way of lust, doing whatever seems pleasing and exciting to you—experimenting with things instead of wanting to go God’s way. Happiness, Satan reasoned, is getting all you can for yourself. He became a competitor with God.

Then God planned to create, through free moral agency, God’s own character in human beings and bring them into the God family. The account of this marvelous purpose for humans begins in Genesis 1:3:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,” said the Creator (Gen. 1:26). Think of it! God is reproducing himself! Human existence is merely a physical, chemical existence. This earth is the training and testing ground for the production of godly character. (This is explained more thoroughly in our free booklet Why Were You Born?)

Satan resented human sexuality and the great purpose God had in creating it. Satan was sexless (Mark 12:25). He could not reproduce, but he could sway human minds with his attitudes and nature.

Sex Good to Sex Evil

When God recreated a habitable earth after Satan’s rebellion and put humans on it, we read, “male and female created he them” (Gen. 1:27). The Creator called all of his creation, including sex in humans, “good” (verse 31).

God didn’t leave this first human couple ignorant of their sexuality or its proper use. Though they were unclothed they were unashamed (Gen. 2:25).

God became the first great sex educator! He instructed: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24).

Marriage between a properly prepared male and female is the God-ordained sexual orientation and context of sexual relations. God knows the emotional needs of human beings. He said it was “not good that the man should be alone” (Gen. 2:18). Understand this point. It is critical! God knew that the human male needs to give and receive appreciation, affection and love from another human to be happy and fulfilled, to fill an emptiness in life. That is why God created woman.

But God designed the human female also to need to receive appreciation and give it, to share in affection and love for other humans and to be fulfilled. That is why God created the family—a God-plane relationship. To establish a family there is the need for sexual attraction. That is why God created sex—made humanity male and female.

God ordained marital love and sex as the proper use of the sex drive. Sex in the marriage bond is for more than human reproduction. It is intended to unite a couple in love and respect in a way shared with no other, and to build stable families.

In his first sex instruction, God taught that marriage is for persons mature and self-disciplined enough to leave parents and successfully establish a separate home. Parents are to teach appreciation of God’s ways to their children by their example. That takes understanding of God’s laws and maturity of mind. Youths need mature parents to teach and guide them in their highly impressionable young years to understand the way to true success and happiness. That includes diligently teaching right sexual identification for males and females and wholesome sex education based on God’s laws revealed in the Bible.

But in his plan to allow humans the opportunity to build character by free moral choice, God had to allow Satan to have contact with the first human couple. He had to see which way they would choose to go.

Very quickly, Satan injected into the first woman’s mind the false idea that God had lied to them. Eve was deceived into stealing from God, and Adam, dropping his God-ordained leadership role, weakly followed his wife.

The first human couple rebelled against their Maker and took something that was not theirs. They had decided to experiment with knowledge, to take upon themselves the prerogative of determining what is good and what is evil. This was all symbolized by the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

Suddenly their minds had an added and different attitude. They were embarrassed to discover they were naked. They hid from God. When God asked why they hid, Adam replied, “I was afraid, because I was naked” (Gen. 3:10). The Hebrew root for the word naked used here implies bareness in a bad or negative way.

God answered, “Who told thee that thou wast naked?” (verse 11).

Who? Only Satan had talked to them. But he had conveyed to them the idea that they ought to be ashamed about the way God had created them, about their sexuality and sex differences. Satan is the originator of the idea that sex is intrinsically evil, dirty and shameful.

This is how wrong sexual attitudes and feelings among humans first began!

Ever since, Satan has worked in human cultures to pervert human attitudes, emotions and relationships. He implants in human minds selfish moods and attitudes so that human beings think these moods or feelings are only inborn human feelings. Some human minds, during early childhood, have allowed and accepted wrong moods or feelings of attraction to the same sex. This process starts so early in some that many homosexuals and lesbians think these are totally inborn human feelings.

Devil-deceived Cultures

Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden and from contact with God’s Spirit. Ever since, humanity, as a whole, has been cut off from God’s Spirit, which would have guided them in the right ways of living and to life itself.
**The Real World of Sexuality**

Many unfortunate human sexual and emotional feelings exist—some too obscene to describe (Eph. 5:12). All these warn us of the great varieties of sexual/emotional conditioning that can happen to improperly controlled minds and lives.

The majority of males in most cultures are heterosexually oriented. But even heterosexuals allow their minds and sexual feelings to be diverted by wrong desires. Some heterosexuals develop a degree of homosexual interest (a degree of bisexuality). Heterosexual males with effeminate (female) mannerisms also exist.

Feminine heterosexual females again are the majority. But there are also masculine-mannered females. The latter, however, may still be heterosexual and maternal in interests.

There are many masculine-appearing (even super-masculine) male homosexuals and, at the other extreme, effeminate (or "swish" type) male homosexuals. There are all degrees in between. The effeminate type are usually only a small proportion of male homosexuals but, because they are more noticeable, are often erroneously stereotyped to represent the whole.

Female homosexuals (lesbians) are often typically feminine in outward appearance and manner. Others are very mannish ("butch" or "dyke"). There are all degrees between these appearances and mannerisms. In modern cultures, not all homosexuals are readily discernible from heterosexuals by outward appearances.

There are as many variances in appearances, shape, personality, temperament, preferences in attractions and professions among homosexuals as among heterosexuals. The vast majority of homosexuals of both sexes clearly identify themselves with their gender, but prefer their own sex sexually.

**Other Unfortunate Conditioning**

Transvestites are persons who cross-dress on various occasions. Research indicates most of these persons are males with homosexual inclinations, although some have homosexual interests.

The majority of transvestite males identify themselves as males but have learned to get an erotic or emotional kick out of wearing items of clothing of the opposite sex, or in passing as a member of the opposite sex. Some can function sexually only after doing so.

This distorted emotional condition can often be traced back to early repeated cross-dressing by parents, siblings or by the person himself at some time. Such dressing began to produce exciting emotional or sexual responses that were repeated and cultivated.

God commanded the law of Deuteronomy 22:5 to prevent such distorted emotions: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

The law of Deuteronomy 22:5 also is intended to discourage another human distortion: transsexuality.

Transsexuals (they may be male or female) feel they have the mind and emotions of the opposite sex and are trapped in the wrong physical body. Often such feelings have been traced back to early childhood upbringing that deprecated or ignored the child's true sex or caused them to experience or value only the feelings and emotions of the opposite sex.

Effeminate mannerisms in males may be due to rearing in a nearly or nearly exclusive female environment. Maybe a male wasn't allowed or encouraged to identify with a male and male outlook and thinking. The person picked up certain female ways of acting or feeling about things.

Effeminate mannerisms may also be a way of portraying nonaggressiveness or reveal that the male does not want to be treated or threatened as an ordinary male may be. Many of these males still have heterosexual interests.

Mankind was given 6,000 years to develop societies under Satan's sway and experience the results. The terrible results are recorded in the Bible, and, frequently, secular history. Genesis, the introductory book of the Bible, alone records the experiences of previous generations—though we like to think of many of them as new.

Through the ages God has called a few people to walk in his ways. God gave his laws and inspired the Bible (II Tim. 3:16) for a special
nation—the family of Israel—so mankind would not be totally without knowledge of the way they should live. So they could, if they wanted to understand, find the cause of human problems.

Most humans have rejected such knowledge. They have failed to heed the instruction of revealed knowledge from their Creator. Many educated don’t believe there are fallen spirit beings influencing and deceiving all humanity (Rev. 12:9); they don’t believe that Satan is the unseen ruler and god of this world (II Cor. 4:4).

But the apostle Paul revealed, contrary to the enlightened education of this world, how Satan injects his wrong attitudes, desires and emotions into unwary minds: “Wherein in time past ye [now converted Christians] walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”

With what results? “...[fulfilling] the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind” (Eph. 2:2-3). There are no inborn limits or controls to what the human mind can entertain but that which an individual learns or chooses to restrain.

Here are the damaging moods, desires and attitudes produced by Satan's “get” way in those who yield to them: “Now the works of the flesh are manifest... Adultery, fornication [sexual immorality], uncleanness [any physical, moral or sexual uncleanness], lasciviousness, idolatry... hatred... strife... envying, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like...” (Gal. 5:19-21).

Satan and his host inspire attitudes of rebellion, selfishness and lust in human beings. They can insinuate wrong thoughts and desires in minds that are vulnerable to them, even those of young children. But not everyone is equally vulnerable. How any one person responds to various thoughts or emotions depends upon his culture, upon his upbringing and experiences, upon his learning and internalized values, upon the strength of character. In short, the direction of an individual’s sexual feelings and values depends upon what thoughts and emotions are allowed in his mind and developed from infancy on.

**How Sexual Sin Enters**

Humans are born with sexual emotional capacity. If wrong and damaging emotional and sexual feelings take root in human minds, it is because humans allow and do not resist them. Perhaps they don’t realize they should. Perhaps they choose not to resist when they could. Perhaps certain temperamental or emotional weaknesses may make some more vulnerable to certain sexual temptations than others. Some wrong experiences leave deep impressions. Other mislead emotions, feelings and desires, repeated enough, become deeply learned and conditioned in the human mind.

“Habits are at first cobwebs, then cables,” goes an old Spanish proverb. Satan well understands this deep conditioning in human minds and emotions. He works to thwart God’s purpose through them.

Though many deny it, all humans have been deceived (Rev. 12:9). All become, in one way or another, the slaves of various deceptive sins, pleasures and feelings (John 8:34; Heb. 3:13). They can’t shake or escape them all on their own power.

It takes strong spiritual power from God, as well as high human motivation and effort, to break the damaging cables of wrong thinking and feeling and then learn the right thinking and emotions revealed in the law of God.

A person’s most important sex organ is his or her brain!

If a person is properly guided in youth by proper role models, example and teaching, he or she will come to respect and desire to adopt the correct sexual identity. Each will develop respect and love of the opposite sex and develop a right heterosexual desire. Each will also prepare to serve and love, in a right way, other human beings of all ages.

But sex education and emotional feelings are not primarily learned by formal instruction. Sex education and emotional feelings about sex automatically start from infancy with the way parents and other influential persons treat others of their own and the opposite sex, and how they treat children. Additional verbal or formal instruction merely reinforces learning.

Wrong sexual feelings develop not only out of a wrong culture but also out of ignorance. Many parents have failed to teach their children age-appropriate knowledge about sex.

Hush-hush about sex in homes has reaped a fearsome price. Many young people are not taught any right and wholesome attitudes about sex. They are taught no right standards of sexual conduct. They are not taught that certain sexual practices are wrong or damaging and why they are to be avoided. They may have had improper examples of what it means to be a loving, caring male or female. All this may distort a young person’s view of sex and right relationships with one’s own and the opposite sex.

The seedbeds of unfortunate emotional or sexual feelings may be laid in the earliest years of life. Many young persons do not understand their feelings and emotions because they lack proper association or communication with understanding or concerned parents who could help to evaluate their feelings. Without the proper parental example of love, concern and guidance, wrong or misguided affectional feelings toward others can begin to stir sexual feelings and start a wrong pattern of association in the mind.

Millions of individuals simply follow peer practices or any exciting erotic emotion or thought that crosses their minds. They seem “natural.” But what they may not realize is that wrong thoughts and feelings (adult-
terous, homosexual or otherwise immoral) can be learned not only from others, but from their own uncontrolled thoughts—and these thoughts are not always natural, but can be injected into their minds unknowingly by an evil spiritual source—by Satan or his demons.

Individuals may have allowed themselves to respond to such emotions or patterns so early in life that they become a “natural” part of the way they have always felt. They look back on their life and conclude they must have been “born that way.”

Misguided Choosing

Humans seek excitement—something to fill the void, emptiness or loneliness of their lives. What they need is a sense of worth to themselves and others. Whenever wrong sexual or emotional seeds are allowed and cultivated in an attempt to fulfill these needs, they will grow—in youth or even after one is married.

Scripture warns us, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal. 6:7).

To some, extramarital involvement or homosexual thoughts or acts (a person may not even realize what they are) seem a way to find affection, gain attention, recognition, security or money. Maybe they seem a way of proving sexual prowess or masculinity. Maybe they seem the only option available, given one’s lack of confidence or misled desires, feelings or fears about the opposite sex.

One wrong thought, uncontrolled or accepted, leads to still more. Maybe a person doesn’t know he should resist temptation. Maybe he doesn’t care. Minds that feed on wrong emotional or erotic thoughts in various fantasies (especially masturbation fantasies or in conjunction with specific kinds of pornography) will eventually have them ingrained as desires and emotions.

Too many cop out and totally blame others for their problems and emotions in life.

One’s society or culture may be partly to blame. Parents may or may not have set a right example in their relationships and teaching. Satan may have tempted. But individuals also repeatedly allow themselves to respond to wrong ways of living and thinking.

Godly Sexuality

God is very concerned about the cultural and family environments of human beings. Family and environment are where the foundations of human relationships and sexual feelings, values and ideas are established.

A variety of forces in the world is trying to change the concept of family life and the social learning environment so that any sexual experience becomes acceptable.

God’s laws and awesome purpose for human beings still stand. Sin—the breaking of God’s law (1 John 3:4)—damages, arrests, limits or prevents full human maturity and godly development. It restricts the proper development of values, outlook and goals in life.

Sin, and sexual sin in particular, distorts wholesome feelings to one’s own and the opposite sex. It subtly destroys health and minds. It works to destroy respect, appreciation and ability to successfully experience the God-ordained family unit. It undermines the proper example and teaching that adults should be giving to children and future generations.

Wrong sexuality opens the door to rapid degeneration and physical and spiritual disease of the human body, mind and spirit. The end results are greater and greater social evils.

Only if humans follow God’s revealed laws about right relationships to God and between the sexes can true happiness, fulfillment and social stability be achieved.

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

What is your destiny? Why are you here? Is human existence a freak accident in a meaningless universe, or does your life have a solid, identifiable purpose? The answer is incredibly positive: Humans were created—yes, created—to rule the universe on the very God-plane! Impossible? Our free booklet reveals the truth. You may have a copy by mailing the request card in this issue or by writing to our address nearest you. A list of our addresses is on the inside front cover.
Domestic Violence

I would like to comment on Ronald D. Kelly’s article “Domestic Violence, the Secret Sin.”

In the marriage ceremony I promised to “love her, provide for and protect her.” And I asked myself how could I have abused my wife like that. I’m in prison now. She’s remarried. I’m really happy for reading this wonderful article. I only hope more men will take their wedding vows more seriously like God intended for man to take them.

Please don’t abuse your wife or children!

G.L. Meeker
Lucasville, Ohio

I wish to say a few things about the subject of Domestic Violence.

Some men just cannot take those verbal insults from a woman. They have a “short fuse” so to speak. My advice to wives and husbands is, if you cannot say something nice don’t say anything until you cool off.

Terry Tittle
Pecos, Texas

Child Abuse

After reading “The Truth About Child Abuse” in your March 1984 edition I have come to my own conclusion that your magazine is a godsend. I have read many, many articles on the subject of child abuse but never have I read one so perfectly and exactly correct.

As a secretary in a State of Florida Department of Corrections, Felony Probation and Parole office I probably read and heard firsthand approximately 300 cases of child abuse in my first year of employment. This was a very sickening and disheartening experience for me. I think I’ve died a hundred deaths for those children who never understood.

This was one of the first jobs I ever held and when I think back on it now, I feel like I had an opportunity (if I can call it an opportunity) to be aware of what was happening to many children in and around my community. I had firsthand knowledge of things that many people never learn even in a lifetime! When I first started that job I was very depressed and confused at times because I couldn’t believe this was going on in my community! After my first year with Probation and Parole I grew much more hardened to this heartbreaking reality but I’ve never forgotten the pain I felt for those beautiful, wonderful little creatures of God.

First let me say that 90 percent of these people abusing children are children themselves (uneducated, poor, and very low morals). I feel positive about this. As we all know it is very hard to change a person once they become an adult.

I personally feel from my own experience that this crime is being committed by the young-bearing-the-young. In almost every case I can remember, the parents were young, inexperienced, immature children that either had to get married or were the product of a “forced” marriage.

I love all children very deeply because they are innocent until taught otherwise and they are like “clay” to be molded in whatever way you choose to form them. They are wonderful gifts from God and we are doing them a very big disservice when we turn our backs and don’t bring them into our lives and give them the happiness and pleasures of sheer living that they deserve.

Victoria Lucas
Fort Pierce, Florida

Pollution

As a victim of severe chemical sensitivity, I found your article on pollution both timely and relevant.

Thank you for promoting public awareness of the price of progress—devastating illness, environmental damage, pollution of food, air, water and land.

You are correct; further delay and it may be too late.

Muriel Hall
Port Carling, Ontario

New Subscribers

Please find enclosed your free subscription card which I obtained from the Sunday Times Supplement.

I have often read past issues of the Plain Truth that other inmates have had and find it both interesting and up-to-date in its features. I was delighted to notice the advertisement for subscription mentioned above. As you may realise, I have plenty of time for reading in an establishment such as the one I now find myself in. And this is one aspect of life inside prison that I find enjoyable.

So I would be very happy to receive your magazine and will enjoy months of worthwhile reading.

I look forward to the first copy arriving.

S. Calby
H.M. Prison
Maidstone, England

Will you be kind enough to add a friend of mine to your mailing list? He is a reader in our church and often refers to articles and quotes from your articles in his addresses. I cannot let him have my copies as I already pass them on to another friend of mine.

C.E. Herbert
Isle of Wight, England

It was by mere chance that I came across a few copies of the Plain Truth magazine which immediately arrested my attention. The articles deal with some of the burning issues that are puzzling mankind these days. Its attempt to persuade people to live according to God’s law is all the more laudable, especially when we take into account what is going on in this world today.

Being a Hindu, brought up in a very conservative family, I have had no opportunity of reading the Bible. I would like to subscribe regularly.

Tahen Dumputh
Poudre d’Or Village, Mauritius

Why Free?

I’m an old man and could never have learned what your books taught me without the “free” in front of them. I want to thank you and everyone who makes it possible for me to read them.

R. Michel
Victoria, British Columbia

I have been very impressed by the fact that although I
have received many of your publications, I have never received a request for payment of money. This is quite unusual to say the least.

Hopefully, this small donation will help you. I thank you so much.

Rae J. Stephens
Pink Mountain,
British Columbia

Having read your magazines with great interest during 1983 and having received a free copy of The United States and Britain in Prophecy, I feel very, very guilty for not giving God what is rightfully his. I have often tried to get out of my financial mess but could not do so without God’s help and am now even more guilty for having received help that I do not deserve. May my tithes bring joy to those in need as I am now a joyful tither.

R. Heuschen
Windmeul, R.S.A.

Appreciation

Just a letter to express my appreciation of your magazine. I am 16, and have been going through a very bad period where I felt that there was no hope, and was confused and upset about life itself. I didn’t see the point in living in a world where there is so much pain, misery, suffering and evil, where there is no true happiness only false happiness. I was angry that the world is divided between the rich and the poor. I wanted to know why there is so much hatred in people. You have given me hope and strength, made me understand about these things. You have shown me that there is hope and things will get better. You have given me a greater knowledge of life and I thank you with my heart for helping me through these black months.

D. Lyons
London, England

Seasonal School Activities

I just had to share with you a very positive experience I had recently because my two sons, ages 5 and 8, spent the first part of the school year without participating in the various seasonal activities.

From the first day my eldest set foot in the educational system, I began my homework. Whenever volunteers were required at the school I was there. Soon I became a familiar face. When my youngest entered kindergarten, the school coordinator approached me to be their volunteer artist. I accepted. With this incredible vast creation God has spread before us, I knew there were dozens and dozens of ideas to put up on that main bulletin board that did not have to center around worldly tradition. Well, the art work for the bulletin board was a hit! And nobody seemed to miss the spooky ghosts, carved-up pumpkins, decorated evergreen trees or the big fat man in his jolly reds.

When my oldest son announced to me that the class was going to make Santa Claus faces that week in art period, a quick trip the next day to the local fabric shop, coupled with some ingenuity, and presto--the emergence of a very handsome snowman which he assembled in school. The teacher was so pleased with his work, she asked if it could be used to decorate one of the blackboards.

A wonderful relationship is developing between myself and my son’s school, but most important of all, what a great opportunity all three of us have been given to share such a marvellous way of life--the way of give.

Gay O’Donnell
Calgary, Alberta

Time Is Running Out

In the recent number I read with much interest your article entitled “Time Is Running Out.” It was enlightening to read your views on the major issues causing anxiety throughout the world today.

K. Kapambwe
Ndola, Zambia

Newsstand

I had an interesting conversation the other week while filling up one of our Plain Truth newstands. I happened to run into a Distribution Supervisor and

Editor for the Calgary Herald. Our conversation went something like this:

“Does this outfit pay you to fill up these stands?”

“No sir, I am a member of the organization.”

“You mean you do this for free?”

“Yes sir. The magazine is free; in fact, we pay the stores to have our stands and we have a circulation of over six million worldwide.”

“How do you pay for this? You must have some fairly big advertisers in your magazine.”

“No sir, we have no advertising of any kind.”

“Amazing, absolutely amazing! How can you possibly put out such a high quality magazine with no price and no advertising? It’s just impossible.”

“No sir, we do it every month.”

Kenneth Kerr
Calgary, Alberta

Children Listen

I have a brother who works for the radio station CJVR in Melfort, Saskatchewan, and puts the broadcast on most evenings. During that time they usually get a few phone calls. One caller, who was quite angry, demanded the program be taken off the air immediately. When my brother asked him why, he replied, “Because my children are listening to it and now they are asking me questions about Santa Claus and the Christmas tree.”

Roy O. Shaw
Pine River, Manitoba

Correspondence Course

I take this opportunity to thank you for the interest you have shown in all that I have received a request for payment through your magazine. I have often heard about Santa Claus and the Christmas tree.

J. Zinta
Ndola, Zambia

I would like to thank you for making this most profitable (Ambassador College Bible Correspondence) course available to me. I can see now that I really needed it. I didn’t know that one can have such insight. I used to read the Bible but I didn’t know what to look for, what to appreciate in the Bible. With your help I have been able to do more than just reading.

F.G. Malinga
Ndola, Zambia

My sincere thanks for the first and second issues of The Plain Truth. It was a wonderful surprise to find that your magazine is a religious one, based on the Bible. I have wanted for quite some time to take a Bible study course, but didn’t quite know how to get started. I have no doubt that God put your magazine into my hands, enabling me to enroll in due course. Thanking you in anticipation.

Mrs. P.G. Pringle
Gonubie, East London, R.S.A.

Library Service

One of my responsibilities as a reference librarian at Ball State University is to assist library users to find information for term papers, dissertations and theses for advanced degrees, and other needs they might have.

I’ve appreciated having available copies of The Plain Truth to share with others. The articles, which emphasize applying the principles of the Christian faith to the host of complex problems of today’s world, offer help to people who are most confused and feel inadequate to cope with the demands of life.

Recently I learned that The Plain Truth is placed in Bracken Library by Dr. Frank J. Dolak, Director of the Bracken Library Music Listening Center and by his wife, Deborah A. Dolak, who works in the Library as a Technical Cataloging Assistant.

To you, for your leadership in providing this information for us, and to Dr. and Mrs. Dolak for their efforts, I say “thank you.”

William J. Nye
Ball State University
Muncie, Indiana
Your life depends on the answer to this question! God's true Church—wherever it is—holds "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 16:19), and without those keys there is no hope for anyone beyond this physical existence.

Where is the original true Church Jesus Christ founded? What is the purpose of the Church? And why do we have so many different denominations today? How does one become a member of God's Church?

Now, a startling new booklet offers the truth. You may request a free copy of Where Is the True Church? by writing to our office nearest you.