YOUTH SHOULD PROTEST—
but HOW?
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I am writing a new book titled *Mystery of the Ages*. It will appear serially for the next several months in *The Plain Truth*.

Why have I written this book? Why is it so important now? In this Personal I would like to explain.

I have lived a long, active, interest-packed life covering all of the 20th century to the present and the last eight and a half years of the 19th century.

I have lived through the horse and buggy age, the automobile and industrial age, the air age, the nuclear age and now into the space age. I have seen America live through the agrarian age when farmers walked behind their horse-drawn plows singing happily, and into the urban age when Midwest American farmers are groaning and fighting for more government subsidies to prevent the extinction of farm life.

I have seen this twentieth century develop into a state of awesome advancement and achievement industrially and technologically. At the same time I have seen alarming escalation of appalling evils, crime and violence and the crucible of nuclear war develop to threaten the very extinction of the human race within the present living generation. These conditions and facts are indeed mysteries that have remained unsolved and now need to be explained.

I have traveled over the four quarters of this globe we call earth. I have rubbed shoulders with the rich and the poor and those in between. I have visited with captains of industry, emperors, kings, presidents and prime ministers. I have seen this world firsthand at close range as have only the very few.

And through this long and pulsating eventful life I have asked myself many questions that were deep mysteries to me, and remain unanswered and unexplained mysteries to the world as a whole.

At age 5, my father said I was going to be a Philadelphia lawyer when I grew up, because I was always asking so many questions about so many things. I wanted to understand. I craved understanding. King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, desired wisdom, and God gave him wisdom above all others. After so many years I realize now that the same God has given me the understanding of life’s deepest mysteries that remain an enigma in most minds.

How did all this happen? I was reared in a Protestant church until the age of 18, but I never heard these plaguing questions explained in church. If the Bible reveals the answers, why so many denominations of Christianity and so much disagreement as to what the Bible says?

But who can understand the Bible? I certainly never had understood it. And even if one does, can you believe the Bible? Does it speak with any authority? That question puzzled me. How I came to understand began in the year of 1926.

In that summer I asked myself: “Who am I? What am I? Why am I?” I tried to reason out the answer, but I couldn’t. It was a mystery. Then, that very autumn I was confronted with a mind-boggling challenge on a biblical question and the theory of evolution. This resulted in opening my mind to amazing vistas and depths of knowledge and understanding.

It all started with the question of Sunday observance and the origin of man.

I knew that the Bible was the world’s number one selling book. Yet to me it had been an enigma. I could never understand it. I said, “The Bible says, ‘Thou shalt observe Sunday.’” I was asked how did I know? Had I read that in the Bible?

I answered that I knew because all the churches observe Sunday and I supposed the source of their teaching was the Bible.

But my marriage was at stake on the question. I was
forced into an in-depth study and research into the Bible and also into the theory of evolution, at that time rapidly gaining universal acceptance in the field of higher education.

My in-depth study into the works of Darwin, Huxley, Haeckel, et al led me to question the authority of the Bible and even the existence of God. I was determined to find absolute proof of the existence of God and of the authority of the Bible, or to reject both. Most people, I realized, accept or reject a belief in either on careless assumption due to whatever they have heard, been taught, or assumed without proof. I wanted to understand. And I wanted to be sure on positive proof, not on careless assumption or wishful thinking.

After many months of virtually night and day study, the answers were revealed to me with proof that was positive and absolute.

I found the Bible to be a coded book, with answers to the paramount mysteries confronting all humanity. The revelation of these mysteries was lost, even to the Church of God, although the revelation of them has been preserved in the writings of the Bible. Why, then, has the world not clearly understood? Because the Bible was a coded book, not intended to be understood until our day in this latter half of the 20th century. I learned, in this night and day study, why it is the most misunderstood book, even though it is the world's best-seller.

Vistas of knowledge and understanding were opened to my astonished eyes and mind that have remained the chief mysteries of life to most people. But it is recorded in that book that in these very days in which our generation lives, the great mystery would be cleared. And indeed it was to my astonished mind.

I learned that the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle—thousands of pieces that need putting together—and the pieces will fit together in only one way. Then the picture becomes crystal clear to the one willing to believe what God our Creator says.

This present book merely puts the many pieces of the great puzzle together so they can be clearly understood.

As you read and reread this book, compare constantly with your own Bible. See these truths with your own eyes in your own Bible. And open your mind to God's leading you into his TRUTH as you do. It will make a lot of sense as nothing ever did before.

Time may prove this to be the most important book written in almost 1,900 years.

Not because of literary excellence or flowery language of scholarship that it has purposely avoided, but because of its plainness of speech in clarifying the most important knowledge ever revealed from the supreme source of understanding of that which has mystified all humans since man first appeared on earth.

This world's humanity has been blinded to who, what and why man is—how man appeared on earth. Man has been mystified by his inability to solve his problems, or find answers to the perplexing questions of mankind and the world he inhabits.

All these mysteries were long ago revealed by the one supreme authority of all knowledge, but in a coded message not allowed to be revealed and uncoded until our time.

The Church was infiltrated during the first century with another gospel; many false teachings and false churches under the name of "traditional Christianity" arose. As God reveals in Revelation 12:9, the whole world has been deceived. These basic truths have been kept a mystery. Even sincere and well-meaning men among the clergy have received their teaching from other men as handed down traditionally in these churches. They have assumed these false teachings to be the true teachings of the Bible, instead of putting the various scriptures, like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, together in clarity and in truth. Even the world of a professed traditional Christianity has been deceived.

It is hoped that this book, written since God's time for it has come, will open many eyes to the truth of these long hidden mysteries.

**PREFACE**

**D**id you ever ask yourself: "Who am I? What am I? Why am I?"

The world about you is a mystery. You yourself are a mystery. You have never seen your brain, the seat of your intellect and all that you are.

Your life is engulfed in mysteries. When you reflect, your very existence is a mystery. Did you simply happen by unintelligent resident earthly forces without meaning or purpose, or were you intelligently designed and created by an all-powerful God of supreme mind for a purpose that also has been hidden in mystery? In fact, the persistent tradition throughout human history about the Creator God has been such a mystery that higher education in the Western World has sought to erase the mystery by giving virtually unanimous acceptance to the theory of evolution. The evolutionary theory has been invented by human minds in an effort to explain the presence of a creation without the existence of a divine Creator.

And if the all-powerful God was your Maker, and exists as the divine Creator of all that is, then the mystery about God emerges, in order of time sequence, as the first and paramount mystery of all.

Who and what is God? That is a mystery not understood by any religion, not explained by science, untaught by higher education. God reveals himself in his Word, the Holy Bible, yet almost none has understood it. The Bible, as the writer Bruce Barton said, is "the book that nobody knows." The Bible itself is the basic mystery that reveals all other mysteries.

If the truth about God is mystery number one revealed in the Bible, assuredly the truth about angels and evil spirits is second in order. Is there, after all, a devil? Did God create a devil? If there are holy angels, what is their purpose and function? The Bible clearly states that this world is actually ruled by unseen principalities of evil spirits. Do evil spirits affect and influence humans and even governments today? Do evil spirits affect even your own life? This question seems enveloped in total mystery. **(Continued on page 41)**
The "last hope" of mankind, it has been called. But after four decades the United Nations, like the world it represents, totters on the brink of oblivion.

by Gene H. Hogberg

It was in San Francisco, June 26, 1945—a truly historic place and time—that the signing of the Charter of the United Nations occurred.

Most of the victorious powers of World War II had gathered in the California city to draft a program for the postwar world.

The Charter was the fruit of the labors of representatives of more than four dozen nations.

Later that year, on October 24, 1945, the United Nations officially was born with 51 member states.

Aim: Prevent Major War
The first article of the Charter outlines the aim those representatives had in mind in establishing the United Nations—"to maintain international peace and security."

This hope is more eloquently expressed in the foreword to the Charter. In it the signatory nations pledged "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetimes has brought sorrow to mankind." The signers further pledged that "armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest."

Article 2 contains other basic principles such as the sovereign equality of its members (assuring one vote for each member country—now grown to 159), regardless of size; that disputes are to be settled by peaceful means; and that members undertake not to use force or the threat of force in contravention of the purposes of the United Nations.

To prevent meddling within the affairs of each state, however, Article 2 stipulates that the United Nations shall not intervene in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any member nation.

Since those idealistic days 40 years ago more than 100 armed conflicts have plagued the world, though thankfully none of them have been nuclear—yet. Hardly a month has gone by without fighting on some battlefield.

The world has witnessed the often pathetic plight of undermanned U.N. peace forces. In southern Lebanon, they are completely outmaneuvered by combatants who almost pretend that U.N. soldiers aren't even in the vicinity.

Other wars, such as the bloody Iran-Iraq war, rage on with no influence exerted by the United Nations whatsoever.

United Nations peacekeeping capacity, even if it were realistically effective, is further rendered impotent by the ever-present threat of big power veto in the U.N.'s Security Council, the organization's only decision-making body. Since many
of the world's conflicts arise out of the global East-West struggle for power, threatened vetoes by either the Soviet Union or the United States assure nonaction on the most serious challenges to world peace.

Making Matters Worse

Not only has the United Nations been locked into its own self-paralysis, many secondary conflicts, assert U.N. critics, are actually made worse. This is because the General Assembly, which deliberates world issues and recommends action by the Security Council, quickly evolved, after its founding, into a forum for nations to argue in much the same way as political parties assault each other within a national parliament.

Said retired U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, the General Assembly does indeed operate much like a parliament or congress. There are parties, only here they are called the Western powers, the Afro-Asian-Third World bloc, and nonaligned states (many of whom are part of the second or Soviet "party" as well).

Moscow, Mrs. Kirkpatrick further asserted, has learned how to play the U.N. political game well, far better than Washington. The Soviet Union works hard at swinging other nations over to its viewpoint. In turn, it supports the newer nations of Africa and Asia regarding their particular concerns, thus building a sizable Soviet-Third World coalition on many key issues.

Because of the politics practiced in the United Nations, not only are major issues left virtually unattended, many regional disputes are often elevated to world crisis level.

As a result, said Mrs. Kirkpatrick, "what goes on in the U.N. actually exacerbates conflicts... All kinds of countries that don't have any direct interest in a conflict get involved in it. As a result, you might say all conflict is globalized."

The U.N. General Assembly, even some of its hard-pressed supporters in the Western World admit, has become skewed in its perceptions of what are and what are not true world problems.

While wars rage in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf, and famine threatens to take the lives of millions in the Horn of Africa, the United Nations continues to focus primarily on events in the Middle East and southern Africa. These two areas are interlinked. South Africa is repeatedly denounced for its racial policies, and the General Assembly, 10 years ago, declared that Zionism, the political movement that brought Jewish people back to their ancient homeland, is "a form of racism."

This focus is further enhanced by the presence at nearly all meetings of the United Nations of two unofficial political groups that do not represent nations at all—the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and the South-West Africa People's Organization.

The latter, known as SWAPO, is a Marxist body fighting for control of South-West Africa/Namibia. SWAPO has been designated by the United Nations as the "sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people."

Last summer, the author visited the new and huge U.N. complex in Vienna, Austria. After being shown one of the general plenary halls, I asked the guide who used the chairs at each side of the presiding officer's tables at the front of the hall. They were for the nonvoting representatives of the PLO and SWAPO, came the reply.

The PLO once even took part in a U.N. conference on civil aviation and airplane hijacking!

In 1980 a resolution was adopted by 118 votes to 10 in the General Assembly (with 15 abstentions). Before we proceed, remember that Article 2 of the U.N. Charter proclaims that "all Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means" and that "all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state."

Nevertheless, the overwhelmingly approved resolution reaffirmed "the legitimacy of the struggle of the oppressed people of South Africa and their liberation movement by all available means, including armed struggle for the seizure of power by the people...."

Little wonder that a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations once called it "a very dangerous place."

UNESCO Crisis

Because of the deteriorating climate it should come as no surprise that a crisis is building inside the intricate web of international organizations constructed since the end of World War II. Not only is the United Nations affected directly,
notice of withdrawal, effective the end of 1985. And in a rather sudden announcement, issued December 28, 1984, the prosperous Southeast Asian island-nation of Singapore said it too would withdraw at the end of 1985, citing the escalating cost of membership.

Several other Western nations have announced they are seriously reviewing their membership status. Twenty-four nations have demanded reforms inside UNESCO. Their leverage should be considerable since eight of these nations pay a large proportion—72 percent—of the agency’s annual $375 million budget.

UNESCO is the largest of 15 U.N.-specialized agencies. It began in 1946 with 28 nations (and a US$7 million budget) to share the Western industrial states’ ideas and know-how with the developing nations. Reducing world illiteracy was a major objective. Another task was the preservation of endangered cultural landmarks.

Over the years, however, UNESCO, like the United Nations itself, has changed, especially as it has added new members. It numbers 161 (two more than the United Nations itself) and has become, say critics, more involved in the same political controversies as the United Nations itself, rather than in education and culture.

U.S. to Leave U.N.?

What is often overlooked in examining the United Nations today, especially by critical Americans, is that they unwittingly reject what were, at the inception of the U.N., the lofty ideals of its major founder, the United States.

For instance, after World War II, the United States leaned heavily on its Western world friends such as the British, the Dutch, the French and the Portuguese to give up their empires. The hope—long since dashed—was that the liberated colonies would join their former overlords in the common bonds of world cooperation. It hasn’t entirely worked out that way.


“The United Nations and UNESCO, these world organizations of nations—one vote for each nation, universal self-determination, with every political entity, however minuscule, set up as a proper state having its place in these world councils—represent
the success of American policy in the 1940s and 1950s.

"But now America doesn't like it. Majority votes in the General Assembly and UNESCO are hostile. Washington now wants to be rid of these infuriating organs of world opinion. World opinion has been expressing not the lofty idealism of liberated mankind as imagined by Americans but the tawdry reality of international life."

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the UNESCO affair is that by leaving the Paris-based agency, the United States could be laying a philosophical foundation for one day leaving the United Nations itself. Such a move, if it were to take place, would mean that the United Nations, headquartered in New York City, would have to leave the United States.

American journalist George F. Will is in the forefront of U.S. journalists urging consideration of such a move. Shortly after the United States announced its intention, in late 1983, to leave UNESCO, he wrote:

"Leaving UNESCO . . . would help Americans get used to the idea of leaving the United Nations. . . . In 1985, the United Nations will be 40 years old, its nature fully formed and well-known."

The United States did threaten to leave in 1982 after Israel was condemned in a U.N. resolution as a "nonpeace-loving state" after its military incursion into Lebanon. (Article 4 of the U.N. Charter states that the organization is only open to "peace-loving states").

In the article "The Broken Promise of the United Nations," published in the October 1983 Reader's Digest, author Ralph Kinney Bennett wrote, "Only a U.S. threat to take its moneybag and leave the U.N. prevented such 'peace-loving' states as the Soviet Union, Libya and Cuba from throwing Israel out."

That was when Charles Lichenstein, then America's assistant U.N. ambassador, said that if the United Nations decided to leave New York City, he and many other Americans would be down at dockside waving good-bye.

Should the United States pull out of the United Nations and the U.N. headquarters be forced to leave New York City, many observers believe its likely new home would be Vienna. A gigantic complex known officially as the Vienna International Center houses the United Nations' second European operation (after Geneva).

The facilities used by the United Nations (known as U.N. City) were built jointly by the Austrian government and the city government of Vienna to attract U.N. business. A few, generally second-level, U.N. agencies and U.N.-specialized operations are there now. The United Nations pays a symbolic one-schilling-a-year rent.

If the United Nations were forced to relocate to Europe, the Vienna facilities would probably be selected over the older Geneva operation (consisting of the pre-World War II League of Nations buildings). The Soviet Union would undoubtedly prefer Vienna, which is not only a neutral East-West "bridge," but is geographically close to the Soviet bloc.

Should the move to Vienna take place, it would indicate a shift in power and influence away from the United States. The United States has housed the headquarters of the United Nations since its own ascendency to first superpower status in 1945.

Should the United States tell the United Nations to pack up, the majority of Americans might cheer—not realizing it would at the same time graphically reflect their own nation's relative decline.

As Hans J. Morgenthau wrote in his classic text Politics Among Nations, "The shift from one favorite meeting place to another symbolizes a shift in the preponderance of power."

This highly probable shift would also enhance the prestige of Europe and play no small role in any future realignment of the nations of Eastern and Western Europe.

U.N. Found Wanting

Regardless of where the United Nations maintains its headquarters, one thing is certain as it arrives at its 40th birthday. In the Bible, the number 40 connotes a time of observation, trial and testing.

Forty years after its founding, the dis-United Nations, with its many conflicts, divisions and acrimony, has been tried and found wanting.

The original framers of the U.N. Charter had a noble aspiration: to organize a mechanism for international discussion and cooperation on problems of global significance. The reality of world politics has made a mockery of this lofty idealism. In a world of sovereign, diverse nations, the United Nations as an organization is limited in what it can do. It can only do what its sovereign members, employing age-old techniques of power politics, will, at present, allow it to do.

The United Nations is not a world government, as some supreme idealists had dared to hope—not even the embryo of one. Only when nations, in a spirit of mutual understanding, abandon selfish aims and petty quarrels and learn to cooperate for the good of all, will a truly effective world government be possible. And more than that is needed.

The late Hans Morgenthau, quoted earlier, remarked that international peace will be achieved "only when nations have surrendered to a higher authority the means of destruction which modern technology has put in their hands—when they have given up their sovereignty."

Inscribed on a marble wall at the U.N. headquarters in New York City is a portion of the ancient prophecy of Isaiah 2:4, symbolizing the ultimate goal of the United Nations.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The first portion of this prophecy—not quoted on the marble wall—provides the answer to how worldwide peace and prosperity will ultimately be achieved: "And he [God] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people. . . ."

The world will soon see the realization of its centuries-old dream of permanent peace—not through puny efforts of man, but through divine intervention and the implementation on earth of the supreme government of God.
THE MIRACLES OF JESUS
Fact or Myth?

by John Ross Schroeder

For many, miracles are a barrier to believing the Bible. Did Jesus’ miracles really happen?

Nearly 40 miracles are recorded in detail in the gospel accounts in the Bible. Beyond these, many more are reported in summary form.

Later, the apostles are recorded doing even greater works than Jesus did. The book of Acts records many healing miracles in early church history.

Yet to many in the 20th century, these miracles are the chief difficulty in accepting the validity of the New Testament.

 Isn’t it time we examined the historical evidence?

The Word of the Apostles

Jesus did not write an autobiography. He left the writing of his life to his apostles and their chief associates. Four separate accounts have been preserved through the centuries. The four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—form a major part of the New Testament. In one of them we read: “Because you have seen Me, you have believed” (John 20:29, Revised Authorized Version throughout).

Earlier Jesus had prayed: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word” (John 17:20).

Today we rely on the validity of the apostolic word, for the original apostles are dead.

Their first-century writings report many miraculous happenings. There is no way to decouple the miracles of Jesus from the gospel accounts—and still retain a sensible story. There is no way to justify calling one part of the record fact and another part myth.

Miracles are part of the gospel. They are woven into the warp and woof of all four gospel accounts. Writes British scholar F.F. Bruce: “No matter how far we may press our researches into the roots of the gospel story, no matter how we classify the gospel material, we never arrive at a non-supernatural Jesus” (The New Testament Documents—Are They Reliable? page 33, emphasis mine).

The chief miracle of the New Testament is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul sums up the evidence in I Corinthians 15: “Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you... For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins... and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day... and that He was seen by Cephas [Simon Peter], then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at one, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep [have died]... Then last of all He was seen by me also” (verses 1-8, excerpts).

The apostle Paul was converted in the calendar year A.D. 35-36, at which time he received special revealed knowledge of the resurrection. About 20 years after, he presents the evidence to the Corinthian church in summary form. He reports that 500 brethren saw the resurrected Jesus at once. He explains that most were still alive at the time of his writing. The gap between the oral and the written evidence is all part of one generation.

Though then only a small boy, I remember the main events of World War II very well. Movietone newsreels kept one informed. There were POW camps in my hometown. A story that World War II either never occurred—or that the essential known facts were false—would be immediately refuted by those of my generation. The same would be true of the witnesses of the holocaust in Europe under the Nazis.

The Second World War ended 40 years ago. But the gap between the resurrection of Jesus in A.D. 31 and Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is not even 25 years. If you had
been privileged to see the resurrected Jesus, you would not forget it this side of the grave. You would remember in great detail.

I remember the exact moment an associate informed me of the death of U.S. President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. I remember exactly where I was, exactly what I was doing, who was there, what was said—all the tiny details of that shocking few moments in time. Yet other happenings of that very same day have passed into the deepest recesses of the mind—not to be recalled again.

Jesus was no stunt man. He never performed miracles as a circus act. He never did a miracle just for the miracle's sake.

Impression is the first rule of memory. We remember earthshaking events very well indeed.

**Stereotyped Oral Evidence**

First-century oral evidence was much more reliable than it generally is today. Moderns commit few things to memory because of the wide availability of many reference works.

But communities then, including the early church, committed events to memory and they did it in easy-to-remember stereotyped form. New Testament scholar, F. F. Bruce: "In the days of the apostles there was a largely stereotyped preaching of the deeds and words of Jesus, originally in Aramaic but soon in Greek as well; and this preaching of oral tradition lies behind our synoptic gospels [Matthew, Mark and Luke] and their documentary sources” (The New Testament Documents, page 32).

You will notice that the gospel accounts are written in a very simple, but effective literary style. There are no frills. They do not sound flowery. The three synoptic gospels are very similar when you line up their parallel passages in three columns. Substance, style and language are strikingly similar. This facilitated easy remembrance when in oral form.

The four gospels are all first-century documents. Recent New Testament scholarship is moving the proposed composition dates closer to the time of the crucifixion. John A.T. Robinson’s book *Redating the New Testament* is a prime example of this trend. Although the late bishop was an acknowledged liberal scholar, he was astonished at the lack of hard evidence for late dating of many New Testament books. He wrote: "It is sobering too to discover how little basis there is for many of the dates confidently assigned by modern experts to the New Testament documents" (page 341).

Speaking of the early church, Bishop Robinson positively adds: "But the really creative period of the primitive church, its 'Elizabethan era' from the point of literary output, was undoubtedly the 50s [A.D.]" (page 353). Most of the eyewitnesses were still alive. If Jesus’ miracles were not true, the chorus of objection would have invalidated the documents.

Besides that, the written documents we now possess came partially from previously written material rather than exclusive oral evidence (see Luke 1:1-4). Writes F.F. Bruce: "The evidence indicates that written sources of our synoptic gospels are not later than c. A.D. 60; some of them may even be traced back to notes taken of our Lord's teaching while his words were actually being uttered" (New Testament Documents, page 45). It follows that it is also possible that eyewitnesses may have recorded his miracles at a very early date.

**The Miracles Themselves**

The New Testament affirms that Jesus was the Christ (Messiah or Anointed One). He came to proclaim the coming kingdom of God—a new age to come on this earth. He preached about the wonderful world tomorrow. His whole life was given in service to human-kind.

Given exactly who he was and why he came—the miracles he did appear natural and reasonable. They were "powers of the age to come" (Heb. 6:5). They were all in character. Every one was done to help human beings achieve their true purpose in life.

Jesus did no odd miracles. He fed people. He healed people. He stifled life-threatening storms. He even provided an excellent vintage wine for a negligent wedding host. None of these deeds ever hurt anyone. Contrariwise they all helped mostly distraught human beings.

Whether or not you believe a miracle largely depends on the confidence you have in the doer. Once you really grasp who Jesus Christ was and is—and why he came to this earth—your troubles in believing his miracles will be behind you.

(Continued on page 38)
The Love That Conquers

FEAR AND DEPRESSION

by Donald D. Schroeder

Here is the love, the faith, the power that will conquer every anxiety and fear you may have!

This is good news! There is a right and happy solution to human fears, to anxieties and mental depression!

Yet, why do so many depend upon temporary or false solutions to their problems?

The right way of dealing with problems and fears is not denying they exist. It is not drowning them in alcohol or drugs. It is not assuaging conscience or feelings of guilt with human-invented personal philosophies.

Nor is the solution to fears, worries and problems, as some religious people emphasize, just “accepting Christ” without facing the causes of depression and anxieties.

The cause of fear and depression is the breaking of God’s spiritual laws. The solution is to teach humans how to obey God’s spiritual laws, how to develop spiritual-mindedness, the attitudes and power of God, which is the love of God that conquers fear and worry. That love shows humans how to change, bear, escape and conquer problems, fears and worries in this life (I Cor. 10:13).

Jesus Christ promised, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). He meant that truth—the truth taught in God’s Word, the Bible—would open up to human understanding the real cause of human problems. He meant truth would set you free from the consequences of wrong knowledge and ways of thinking. He meant truth would set you free from hopelessness and depression, free from sin.

What, then, is the priceless truth—the good news that will set one free?

The True Gospel!

Jesus came with a message about government—God’s government. It is a message about how that government and the laws upon which that government is based will be set up on earth. It is a message about how humans may qualify for rule in that government. It is a message about a way of life!

The laws of God’s government are the laws of true love—the way of giving instead of getting. They generate the love that conquers fear and depression, the love that would, if obeyed, eliminate every evil afflicting mankind today.

God’s love is revealed, in broad principles, in the Ten Commandments. Fear and mental depression are caused by breaking God’s immutable spiritual—and, often, physical—laws!

Fear and depression are caused by wrong values, desires and attitudes. They are caused by wrong ways of thinking and living—the “get” way. The only true solution is to quit breaking God’s spiritual and physical laws and start living God’s way in all our thoughts and actions.

“There is no fear in [godly] love; but perfect love casteth out fear... He that feareth is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).

Many wonder why they don’t have that love, even if they want it. Here is why: This love is a product of growing out of wrong ways of living and thinking. Not even someone called from sinful ways develops perfect love all at once. It takes time. But as we grow in God’s love, fear and hopelessness diminish.

But there is an even more critical reason why many don’t have perfect love. The reason is that God’s love is a spiritual love—ruled by spiritual law (Rom. 7:14). It can only be fully fulfilled by spiritual, not human, love. You weren’t born with that love. It must be given to you and developed by supernatural power.

There is something missing in the natural mind of man. Man was born incomplete. He was made to need a vital missing element. What is missing is the Spirit of God. It empowers the human mind to understand and obey God’s spiritual laws. The natu-
The natural human mind is attuned only to physical causes and relationships, to things it can see or feel with the five senses. From this incomplete knowledge humans speculate about the causes of their or others’ problems. Many blame their problems and fears on others, not on their own weaknesses or wrong habits of living or thinking, which, in turn, are caused by a wrong spirit or attitude of mind.

The Bible reveals the source of that wrong spirit and attitude. Though some may not believe it, every human mind has been influenced by Satan’s evil attitudes. Scripture reveals Satan as “the prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2-3). His influence permeates the earth. The results of his bombardment of evil moods upon the minds of human beings, moods that fuse into human nature, are listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

Notice these damaging actions and attitudes: fornication, adultery, idolatry, hatred, lust, sorcery, strife, wrath, envying, murders, drunkenness, uncontrolled living and thinking. From these attitudes and ways of living spring fear and depression.

This state of the human mind, called in Scripture the carnal or natural mind, is antagonistic to God’s laws and ways (Rom. 8:7). It refuses to yield to and obey God in all things. It reasons around what God says to do in areas it doesn’t want to change. Even true Christians have to work to root out these attitudes from their minds.

What, in contrast, are the fruits of God’s Spirit? Scripture again clearly explains: love, joy, peace (including peace of mind), patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, humility (Gal. 5:22-23).

Some totally unconverted persons have, through proper child-rearing, developed some attitudes that are in harmony with some of God’s laws, whether they recognize God’s laws or not. They reap the automatic blessings in their lives as a result (see Romans 2:14).

Love That Conquers Fear
The Bible reveals how mankind ought daily to be living in every sphere of life. “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God,” said Jesus (Matt. 4:4). Jesus was quoting from Deuteronomy, chapter 8, verse 3.

Jesus quoted Leviticus (chapter 19, verse 18, Revised Authorized Version) when he said, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

You can’t love someone unless you know how. God’s written words, in Old Testament and New, teach right marital, child rearing and human relationships. God’s Word also gives examples of wrong human relationships, examples of how not to live. Scriptures also teach basic health, financial and agricultural laws for human prosperity and success.

Most important of all, the Scriptures reveal God’s awesome purpose for human life—that of developing holy, righteous character. The gospel of the kingdom of God that Jesus preached (Mark 1:14) is the good news about how that character is developed.

The way we achieve that purpose is by having God’s Spirit or love in our minds. God’s Spirit operates only in accordance with God’s laws. It leads to a constructive, positive and upbuilding state of mind. A human with this mind respects, not degrades, his physical, mental and spiritual potential. He also respects the potential of all other human beings, whether or not they yet understand God’s purposes and laws.

God’s love has a two-fold thrust. Love first means loving and trusting God. This is summarized in the first four commandments: It means having no other persons or things, as gods, in place of the true God. It means not serving false gods and ideologies. It means not defaming God’s name in word or by the way we live. It means respecting the things that are holy to God.

The second thrust of God’s law of love is love toward other humans, your neighbors. This is summarized in the last six commandments. It is honoring parents, doing no murder (that includes hatred, which is the spirit of murder), no adultery, no stealing, no lying (or slander or false witness), no coveting things of others. Jesus explained this two-fold thrust of God’s law of love in Matthew 22:37-40.

True love, explained the apostle Paul, works no ill to one’s neighbor. Of course not, because God’s love “is the fulfilling of the law” (Rom. 13:10).

God’s love is not the way of hate, competition, lust, envy, jealousy, covetousness, selfishness or getting to exalt the self over others or to put others down. These ways are Satan’s ways and attitudes, subtly placed in human minds by a clever devil. They produce the bitter fruits of strife, animosity, fear, guilt, walls of separation and loss of hope.

Obedience to God’s laws of love produces the opposite results. Humans with this love have feelings of neither superiority nor inferiority toward others. We obey God’s law of love and we no longer try to get the best of others and put them down. We no longer hate or fear those who set themselves up as our enemies or those that don’t agree with our values or the way we live. We understand why they think and do what they do. They have been influenced, though they don’t know it, by wrong attitudes or moods from Satan’s workings upon their minds, or by wrong cul-
tural values, or wrong experiences derived from this devil-led world.

We recognize we couldn't see God's ways either except for God's mercy to us. And we realize if we had others' circumstances or experiences, our attitudes and problems could be similar or worse. Instead we have hope for all who sin in ignorance. We understand all humanity will eventually be corrected in God's own time and plan. Until then, we are instructed to do good to all men, not evil.

But true love commands us to go beyond this. We are to pray for those who hate or abuse us. We understand we can't argue anyone into conversion. That calling can only come from God (John 6:44). We pray that God will work with an antagonist's mind according to his will and wisdom because we can't always fully understand how to do that ourselves in the most effective or best way.

We also pray we won't set up stumbling blocks about God's way by wrong actions, attitudes or words on our part. These instructions in living are taught in Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:17-21 and Galatians 6:10.

When we understand God's love, we realize we also are imperfect. We, too, have wrong ideas, feelings, attitudes and habits to overcome. We don't exalt ourselves as great persons. We realize any true good or ability in us has come from God.

But we know God's love is also powerful toward us. Though we fall short in many areas of life—yes, even succumb to fear and depression on occasion—we have God and his mighty spiritual resources—faith, hope and love—to help us overcome.

Why don't more experience that mighty power and help?

The answer is sin, the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4). Sin cuts us off from understanding God and utilizing his help. Sin against God and fellowman hinders our prayers from being heard, unless and until we repent (Isa. 59:1-2).

Incredible Relationship

Most humans have been blinded to the incredible relationship totally yielded persons have with God.

That awesome relationship is a loving father-son or father-daughter relationship. "Wherefore come out from among them [sinful ways] . . . and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:17-18; see also I John 3:1).

God can be a person's literal, spiritual father. This begettal and sonship comes after God's calling, our true repentance and baptism. "No man can come to me, except the Father . . . draw him . . . " said Jesus (John 6:44).

These called and yielded persons are then in a covenant relationship, which is also a family relationship with God. They are potential members of the God family!

God's part of the covenant is to be helper, provider, corrector and deliverer. That is what his name means—the Almighty, the All-Bountiful! The One who leads and guides! The One who delivers from evil!

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus," amplified the apostle Paul (Phil. 4:19). God supplies true needs, not wrong wants or desires—things we shouldn't have or should wait for.

The converted human's part is to be obedient to all of God's ways, living by faith and strengthening that faith by asking God for physical and spiritual needs daily (Matt. 6:7-15).
A 27-year-old man was playing with the 5-year-old son of a friend. The boy was building a toy crane with some plastic blocks.

"Don't you need a steering wheel in the crane?" the young man asked the boy.

"No," the boy quickly replied, almost in a disdainful tone. "The crane will be run by a computer!"

Momentous changes in society are enough to leave even a person in his late 20s feeling perplexed and out-of-date. Advancements and occurrences that would have shocked people only a generation ago are taken for granted by preteen children today!

Effects of the Population Explosion

Population statistics show that the vast majority of people living now have no firsthand knowledge of critical events that shaped this society. They have no frame of reference, either experienced or learned, from which to understand world conditions—they have no vision!

And yet, "Where there is no vision," declares the ancient book of Proverbs, "the people perish" (Prov. 29:18).

Did you know, for example, that:
- 79 percent of humanity has never lived in a world without the threat of atomic warfare hanging overhead?
- 91 percent of people alive today were born after the 1929 U.S. stock-market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression?
- 34 percent of mankind cannot remember the last Arab-Israeli war or U.S. military involvement in Vietnam?
- Nearly four fifths of people today have never known the world before computers?
- Some 74 percent cannot remember living without television?

the insightful questions that a greater overview would engender: Why should matters be this way? Why is it assumed that this is the only way to live? What are the causes of today's world conditions?

Understanding Causes

To eliminate a problem—an effect—you must deal with the cause. A major flaw of modern thinking is that, too often, perfectly well-intentioned people, looking for solutions to problems, deal with symptoms rather than origins of the difficulties.

Yet most people alive today cannot even begin to address the causes of this world's problems. They do not know how the world got in this shape! They are largely unaware of the great events that fundamentally transformed the way the world functions—events whose implications need to be understood to be able to effect intelligent, positive changes.

Dealing with the massive crises facing the world today requires tremendous vision—a world overview—an understanding of what has gone before and how it has affected outcomes—a view, as it were, from higher up!

The problem is that no human being has that perspective. Wise King Solomon of ancient Israel said of humans, "There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come by those who will come after" (Eccl. 1:11, Revised Authorized Version).

Those who lack historical vision cannot deal effectively with the major problems facing man today. You can learn to deal effectively with the times in which you live and avoid most of the coming horrendous results of man's mistakes by reading The Plain Truth every issue.

And, fortunately for all people, One with "a view from higher up" is shortly going to intervene in this world's affairs—and with power to remove the causes of suffering, unhappiness and wars.

That great power, the eternal God himself, will then share with humans the kind of great vision that guides him in living perfectly!

What a change that will be in world affairs and in human lifestyles.

—Dan C. Taylor and Norman L. Shoaf
DEPRESSION
(Continued from page 11)

but we must ask in faith, believing
God's promise (Prov. 2:6; James
1:5).

God knows no one can eliminate
fear with unforgiven guilt hanging
over one's head. God promises to
forgive every sin, if we repent truly
and turn from sin (1 John 2:1-2).

Once we have done this, we must
go on, "... forgetting those things
[sins and mistakes] which are
behind, and reaching forth unto
those things [spiritual goals and
godly character] which are before"
(Phil. 3:13).

You may feel you made some big
mistakes in life. What's wrong with
admitting you're not perfect? No
one else is either! You can repent.
God will forgive you. Life is a
learning matter. Learn by your
mistakes. Don't let them destroy
you.

Right now maybe you or a loved
one is sick with a serious illness.
God can intervene and heal. But if
God doesn't choose at this moment
to intervene to restore full recov­
ery, is this life all there is? No,
thank God there is a resurrection
of hope for all who have been called
and faithful ("Precious in the sight
of the Lord is the death of his
saints"—Ps. 116 : 15).

But there is more good news.
There is also hope for those who
never had their minds opened to
understand God's ways. You don't
have to endlessly grieve over the
death of a young person cut off
early in life, or that of a loved one
who never had God's calling to
comprehend God's laws and ways.

If you really understand God's
great master plan, you know all will
be resurrected and given an oppor­
tunity to repent, overcome them­
Selves and enter God's kingdom.
Our free reprint "Is This the Only
Day of Salvation?" explains this
opportunity to repent, overcome them­
Selves and enter God's kingdom.

The apostle Peter taught Chris­
tians to cast "all your care upon
him [God]; for he careth for you"
(I Pet. 5:7).

The Bible reveals God is the God
of peace, the One who leads and
guides and heals his people. He is
the God of wisdom and under­
standing, the God of mercy and
forgiveness, the God who gives vic­
tory over death, who offers hope to
those who have never known hope.
"I [God] dwell... with him who is
of a... humble spirit... to revive
the heart of the contrite" (Isa.
57:15, RSV).

These are the spiritual resources
and power that the god of this
world—Satan (II Cor. 4:4)—has
blinded most of humanity from
understanding or believing. And
why? So they won't grasp the great
purpose of their lives. So they can't
experience the power of God to
change their lives according to
God's will. So they won't have real
hope and faith in this world of fail­
ing hopes and immense diffi­
culties.

We have our part to do. "Keep
thy heart with all diligence; for out
of it are the issues of life." "A
sound heart [or mind] is the life of
the flesh..." "He that hath no
rule over his own spirit is like a city
that is broken down, and without
walls" (Prov. 4:23, 14:30, 25:28).
We must build and strengthen
right character.

But the Bible gives us another
warning: "... try the spirits wheth­
er they are of God: because many
false prophets [influenced by spir­
its from Satan] are gone out into
the world" (I John 4:1).

How can you tell God's Spirit
and teaching from a false spirit or
teaching? God's Spirit leads one to
obey God's laws. It leads one to live
the kind of life Jesus Christ lived!

We start to conquer fear and
worry by turning from the thinking
and living that causes our fears and
worries. We then ask God for for­
giveness and mercy for our sins and
weaknesses, each asking him to
"put a new and right spirit within
me" (Ps. 51:10, RSV). We then
exercise that spirit, develop that
attitude—which is the right way
we should be thinking and living—
even in the face of difficulties or
wrong attitudes of others.

We build confidence and faith in
God by drawing close to God in
daily prayer and study of God's
Word. "Draw near to God and he
will draw near to you..." admon­
ishe James 4:8 (RSV). We must
act on what we know God wants us
to do, having faith that God will
work out what we need in our
lives.

This growth process is summed
up in II Peter 1:5-7. And God
inspired the apostle Paul to write to
remind true Christians, "For God
hath not given us the spirit of fear;
but of power, and of love, and of a
sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7).

 Ahead for You—Growing Faith?

We are nearing the end of this age
of human misrule. Satan knows the
end of his 6,000 years of sway and
deception is close at hand. Great
difficulties and trials are prophes­
yed to try all humans that dwell on
the earth.

God has chosen to allow this suf­
ferring to show rebellious mankind
the horrendous end results of
breaking his laws. But the good
news is, God reveals a way for the
world ultimately to escape these
afflictions and fears.

Before humanity would destroy
itself from the earth, Jesus Christ
will return to restore God's govern­
ment on earth and usher in world
peace. A shattered earth and
broken humanity will need healing
of body, mind and spirit.

God will then fulfill the proph­
ecy: "The Lord builds up Jerusa­
lem... He heals the broken­
hearted, and binds up their
wounds" (P's. 147:2-3, RSV).

Christ, then, as he does now, will
offer to yielded humans the ultim­
ate solution for fear and depres­
sion: "And ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free"
(John 8:32), and "... men ought
always to pray, and not to faint"
(Luke 18:1).
What's the solution for youths who live on the street?

“Hey, let’s pop that old broad, cop the bread and blow some smoke. Yeah man, let’s do it!”

Did you understand what you just read? Or should we interpret it for you? “Let’s rob the old lady, take her money and buy some marijuana.”

Tragically, dialogue like this and the criminal aftermath occur thousands of times each day in teeming urban areas, especially in the United States. Even more tragic is that most of these crimes are committed by “children” from 8 to 18. No wonder Isaiah prophesied what he did about our day: “Children are their oppressors” (Isa. 3:12, Revised Authorized Version throughout).

Misguided children are turning our inner cities into war zones of crime and gang violence. But this installment is not about child crime, it’s about how to rear crimeless children—children who will not become statistics in prisons or morgues. Straight children can be reared in a crooked environment!

The Challenge

It’s not easy trying to point children in the right direction when everything around them pulls them in the wrong direction. Yet that’s the way it is in too many neighborhoods in the inner cities.

The average child in the inner city lives with his mother who is probably unskilled and unemployed. His father has long since left the family. There are often three or four brothers and sisters who share the three-room government-subsidized apartment commonly known as “the projects.”

He or she grows up in the graffiti-garnished, broken-glass-littered streets. In too many cases, one could say that the inner-city child is reared in the streets and by the streets—and the streets are cold-blooded ruthless teachers.

The streets teach children to survive by being cunning, devious and violent. The street “faculty members,” in the United States for example, are characters who carry names like Apple Jack, Baldy Locks, Superfly and Fast Eddie. These infamous role models are themselves graduates of the streets with graduate work in the “big house” (prison). Many have master’s degrees in the gruesome fields of dope pushing, pimping, robbery and murder. They are there eager and ready to pass on their seamy skills.

These “professors of the streets” hang out on every corner dazzling their aspiring young pupils with the trappings of “success”: fine rags (flashy clothes), a bad ride (luxury car) and a head fix (high on some form of drug). This is what the inner-city child is conditioned to believe is “making it”—real success in life.

Since repetition is a good teaching technique, this street life-style is reinforced minute by minute and song by song by the sounds that blast from the “box” (large portable radio). This mechanized repetitious teacher of the streets hypnotizes and programs the mind with the lifestyle and values of his or her human street teachers. The constant reinforced curriculum is inescapable: easy sex, easy money, easy high, and being a “player” (ghetto Romeo).

Yet, despite all these negative factors, it is possible to rear straight children! Whereas the details we have just described are more typical of American cities, the circumstances and the solutions are universally relevant.

Thousands of parents in the inner cities are successfully meeting the challenge. They are rearing children who, in spite of their environment, are responsible, respectful and successful young people. They are proving that just because you live in the ghetto, the ghetto doesn’t have to live in you. Here is what you can do to rear your children above the shaky shambles of the streets and set their feet on solid ground.

Responsible Parents: Good Children

Parents, let’s face it. If you want your children to turn out right, you must be right. You must be what you want your children to become. Children are great imitators. As little tots they dress up in our clothes and play Momma and Daddy, “acting” like us. As they grow older it becomes more than just playacting—they live out the role of their parent or parents.

If you cheat the bill collector and lie to the government, why should you be surprised when your child...
robs somebody? If you use profanity, why should you be shocked when you hear your child using filthy language with the children in the neighborhood? If you are having an illicit affair, how can you say anything when your daughter comes home pregnant, or your son has impregnated somebody else’s daughter?

It doesn’t have to be that way with you and your children. Maybe your parents did not know any better, but by virtue of this article you now do! With God’s help, you can break the cycle—history does not have to repeat itself. Your children can be better than the generation before them. But you can’t just talk that talk to your children—you must walk the talk before them. You must live a better way if your children are to see a brighter day.

Your child’s life? The time-consuming soap operas on television? The time you spend with friends? The extra time you spend doing your own thing? No! Nothing is more important—for a child’s life is a terrible thing to waste!

Children are our future and we have the responsibility to commit our lives to make them and their future better.

Perhaps you do not realize the awesome importance God places on your rearing his children. That’s right, they are his! God has loaned them to you to develop for him. King David wrote: “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is His reward” (Ps. 127:3).

What will God’s heritage be in your children? Will it be a ruined life in prison, death at the end of a needle, or college and a productive successful life? Your child’s life is in your hands, and God holds you accountable. Make a commitment—give your all to win the battle for your child’s life.

Exposure Equals Influence

Who has the greatest influence over your child? The answer lies in whoever has the greatest amount of exposure with your child. If it’s the negative elements in the streets, then your child will be influenced to go the way of the streets. If it’s your positive example in the home, then he will be influenced to go the way of you and your home.

You must sacrifice doing “your thing” to do the things necessary to positively influence your children. Make exposure time with your child or children a top priority. Let nothing and no one rob you of these precious moments. Let your children be exposed to you as a person. Let them feel and see all that you are and all that you stand for.

Our children learn best through association with parents. Our values are passed on to our children every second we are exposed to them. This is why God said: “You shall teach them [God’s values] to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up” (Deut. 11:19).

Some single parents by themselves may find it difficult to provide enough positive parental exposure for their children. If this is your situation, turn to respectable members of your extended family for help. Grandfathers and grandmothers, uncles and aunts can provide support in the rearing of your children. Single mothers, especially, need the firm hand and masculine influence of a man in guiding teenagers.

The young evangelist Timothy was probably reared by his widowed mother. Yet through the positive exposure and influence of his extended family, in his case a grandmother, Timothy became a profitable young man (II Tim. 1:5). If the whole family works together, children can be reared successfully.

Guide your child in the selection of his or her friends. Do not just tell your child whom to associate with. Teach him how to select associates. Help him analyze the behavior of others and the end result of that behavior. Help him understand that “he who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed” (Prov. 13:20).

There is another “friend” more subtle and more negative than some of the other teenagers that hang out in the streets. If you allow your
child to be exposed to this “buddy,” his influence will negate everything good you’ve been trying to teach your child. Your child is probably already spending most of his waking hours listening to this destructive friend. Who is this character? The music beat that blast 24 hours a day out of the “box” (large hand-carried radios known on the streets in the U.S. as “ghetto blasters”).

Many inner-city children are addicted to this music. The addiction is often stronger than heroin and potentially just as destructive. The constant exposure to this music reinforces the negative lifestyle of the streets. It influences children into believing illicit sex is fine, getting high is cool, and life in general is one big party.

Jesse Jackson, the leader of a black U.S. coalition group PUSH, out of concern for the progress of inner-city youths, once stated: “Music is important to the formation of children’s attitudes because it’s such a big part of their culture.” Jesse Jackson’s comment applies to all races and to all types of music—definitely to that kind of music that has negative effects. Expose your child to the best in all types of music. Help him or her to evaluate music based on its effect and the values that the music projects. Check out what your child is listening to. Remember, exposure to bad moods in music will influence your child to be bad and exposure to good moods in music influences your child to be good.

Expose your child to positive role models. Everyone in the community is not a dope pusher or mugger. Lift his or her head high to see the positive examples of those who have really made it. Point out the ones who lived in the ghetto but did not let the ghetto live in them. Praise the ones who walked through the streets, but who did not stay in the streets.

Respect for Authority
Why do teenagers disrupt classrooms and terrorize whole schools? Why do they rob and then beat to death old people? One of the major reasons is a lack of respect for authority.

Respect for authority is the most fundamentally important principle a parent can teach a child. Without respect for authority a child cannot learn from God, parents or anybody else. He will become a rogue.

Parents, start early teaching your children to respect you. Deep down inside, children want to respect authority, but they need to know who is in charge—who has the authority. Their way of seeking that authority is by challenging you—testing you to see if you really mean what you say. And when they seek, when they test, let them know in loving firmness that you are indeed in charge!

Teach them that your “yes” means “yes” and your “no” means “no” with unwavering consistency. Train them to speak respectfully to you. Whatever happened to “Yes, sir” and “No, ma’am”? That might sound old-fashioned to some, but it’s like a breath of fresh air hearing those words flowing from the mouth of a young person. These words reflect an attitude of honor and respect for authority.

The word of God is the foundation of all knowledge. By teaching your children about God and his principles of living, you will be giving your children the best education possible.

First help your children to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer. Encourage them to talk to God about their problems, their hopes and their dreams. They will soon discover that they have a friend that “sticks closer than a brother” (Prov. 18:24).

Your children need God with...
them as they face the many difficult challenges of life in this crooked society. There are threats from addicts, gangs, molesters and muggers. There are temptations from peers, pushers and prostitutes to go the wrong way. But if your child has God as a friend, all these things can be overcome.

Then teach him the living principles contained in the Bible. Make the word of God relevant to life and the daily situations a child faces. If the Bible says to do something, explain the why and the how of it, and the blessings that come from doing it.

Then show him the other side of the coin: the consequences that come from disobedience. Let him see in the wrecked lives around him what disobedience produces. This will help him consider more deeply the end results of his own actions.

As he lives by the revealed principles of God, he will enjoy the happiness and success in life that will lift him above his peers.

Also, we have a monthly magazine entitled Youth, specially written for teenagers. This magazine makes the laws and principles of God understandable and livable. It helps youths solve problems God's way. And it's free of charge.

Get Him "High"

Getting high on drugs is a popular pastime among many teenagers today. To some it's an escape—it's a way to feel good about yourself when everything around you seems bad and hopeless.

You want to get your child "high," to give him a high that will give him a true way of worth—a high that will really make him feel good about himself and his future—a high that will last?

We are talking about the high that comes from accomplishment. Young people have drive and energy—they want to accomplish. But that drive and energy must be channeled in the right direction.

Encourage your child to think about what he wants to be when he grows up. He may change his mind several times while he is growing, but the important thing is that he has a goal to aim toward.

Help him set and achieve intermediate goals as well—things that he can accomplish now. If your child is busy accomplishing, he will be less likely to get into trouble.

Help him discover his abilities and talents by allowing him to try different things he expresses an interest in. Whether it's art, music, study or sports, give him the opportunity. He will stick with the things he does well in and, with a little bit of encouragement and praise from you, he will excel. The more he accomplishes, the higher he will get and the better he will feel. And the better he feels, the better he will live. And though we use for convenience the masculine pronoun, we mean to apply these principles equally to every girl.

Yes, you can rear your children to be outstanding among young people. If you begin utilizing the principles outlined in this article, your children will be beacons to the rest of the community. They will give the neighborhood a foretaste of how children and old people will live together in happiness and peace in the streets of tomorrow's cities.

Look at this beautiful picture of children and old people living and playing together in tomorrow's inner cities: "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets'" (Zech. 8:4-5).

So start now rearing your children the right way—and remember, only you can rear straight children in a crooked environment.

The final installment explains the truth about day-care centers.

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**THE MIDDLE EAST IN PROPHECY**

BIBLE prophecy reveals the final crisis of this age will be sparked by a superpower's intervention in the Middle East. Our free booklet makes plain which superpower will set off this crisis! For your copy, mail the request envelope in this issue or write to our address nearest you.

**FREE Booklet Offer!**
RECENTLY I got a letter from a reader who disagreed with something I had written about modern music in *The Plain Truth*.

He wrote: “I would like to take exception to your implicit condemnation of the sociological phenomenon referred to as ‘punk rock.’ You equated it with... child abuse... and the decline of marriage stability, gang violence, drug abuse, and suicide.”.

It is true that’s what I said—and that’s what I meant. I did indeed see today’s outrageous music styles as yet another
symptom of the decay of Western morality.

The writer went on, "In fact, the punk movement is a protest [emphasis mine] about the decline of Western values rather than another symptom.

He had my attention.

His letter went on to challenge me and the magazine for not understanding what the punk rock movement is all about. And that made me think, for after all, this is a magazine of understanding.

So I listened to punk and watched video rock (late at night, when my teenage daughters were in bed, and braving my wife's incredulous looks). Nothing I saw convinced me that I had misjudged these music styles. The outlandish music arrangements, the extraordinary hair and clothing styles, the obscenity, the preoccupation with the macabre and the bizarre, the anger and rebellion that seemed to consume the musicians, along with the degenerate lifestyles—sorry, there was no way in which I could agree that punk rock was merely a protest about rather than a symptom of the decline of Western values.

"Band-Aid"

But then last December some of the leading British pop stars got together and made a record. The entire profits of this record were donated to Ethiopian famine relief. They donated their time free, and under the general heading Band-Aid recorded a song, "Do They Know It's Christmas?" This record, as you probably know, topped the charts in several countries and raised millions of pounds for starving Africans. In January this year, leading American stars made a similar gesture, with a recording "We Are the World." It also has become a spectacular success in raising funds for Africa.

These have been kind and generous gestures, and all of us who ache to help ease the agony of Africa should appreciate what these young musicians have done. And even though you may not like their music, it makes you like them a whole lot more. Now I think I understand more of what the reader was telling me, when he explained that punk rock is a protest.

When young people dye their hair green, pink, and orange, stick safety pins through their ears and dress in rags, they realize that they are making themselves offensive to more conventional folk. They do it on purpose. There's nothing particularly new about that. Every generation has its nonconforming youth. There were the flappers of the '20s, the beatniks of the '60s, and the hippies of the '70s. They went out on purpose. There's nothing particularly new about that. Every generation has its nonconforming youth. There were the flappers of the '20s, the beatniks of the '60s, and the hippies of the '70s. They went out of their way to be different while their parents worried and their grandparents rolled their eyes to heaven and asked what the world was coming to. But many of them grow out of it. And inevitably, some of what was "unacceptable" finds its way into our permanent culture.

For example, when I was a college student, more than 20 years ago, I wrote a research paper for a course of music appreciation. I made the point that in 20 years time (that is, now), the music of the then-beyond-the-pale Beatles would be considered an important influence in serious music, to be taken quite seriously by "proper" musicians. "Nonsense," said the instructor, and gave me a terrible grade.

But I was right.

As time goes on of some of the outrageous becomes accepted even as the protesters mellow. The hippies of yesterday have, generally speaking, settled down into responsible jobs. The students who closed the campuses in the '60s still somehow learned enough to earn their living today. Most of the bobby-soxers and teenyboppers who screamed after the rock and roll stars 25 years ago have become mothers, and now have their own teenage children to worry about. There comes a time when the idealism of youth gives way to reality. And so, today's rebels eventually will cut their hair (or let it grow out again, as the case may be), put on more ordinary clothes, and get on with the job of making a living.

And that, in certain ways, will be a shame.

Why One Should Protest

A teenager today is right to be indignant. As Pope John Paul II said, "They didn't ask to be born into a dangerous world." They didn't cause it, but they will inherit it.

Why shouldn't a teenager in today's world feel like offending conventional values? Where, he might ask, have conventional values got us? Why shouldn't he or she be frustrated at a world that can send men to the moon and make other stunning technological advancements, and yet cannot solve the problem of keeping African children from dying of starvation?

Why shouldn't a young person in America's Midwest, or Europe's Common Market, be baffled and indignant on realizing that some farmers are being paid not to grow...
grain, and that while the Western world is awash in surplus food, African babies are starving? How dare we spend unthinkable sums a week on weapons, when 300,000 Asian children go blind each year for the want of three cents' worth each of Vitamin A?

A 16-year-old today has never known a world in which man has not walked on the moon. He has his own calculator, transistor tape player and is not awed by the computer. He takes those wonders for granted. But if we can do that, why are people still living in poverty?

Why should a teenager feel that he or she has to embrace the traditional, accepted values of a world like this? What's so great about "the Protestant work ethic" when governments admit that they can offer so little prospect of constructive employment now, in the future, or, as is the case of some countries, possibly ever?

Perhaps older people do not give the young enough credit for perception. Many teenagers are not just "rebels without a cause" or going through a difficult stage. They are deeply disturbed by the crazy, mixed-up world that they soon must inherit.

My teenage daughter was recently looking through a copy of a news-magazine. She was reading an article describing the phenomenal success of a doll that comes complete with adoption papers. Parents were literally fighting each other in the stores to get hold of one of these at a cost of around $30, for they had become an instant status symbol.

On the same page was an advertisement asking for help to support underprivileged children in Third World countries. They were asking for donations of around US$14 a month. My daughter was furious. "Thirty dollars for a stupid doll, and they have to beg people to give $14 for a real baby... that's... that's..." Words failed her!

Why, then, should we expect young people to embrace the values of a world where half the population live in squalor, misery and poverty, and where everybody—rich and poor—lives under the threat of nuclear extinction?

When a group of young musicians see children dying in Ethiopia and are provoked to use their talents to do something about it, it is a good sign. This is not a world that should be taken as it comes. It needs something to be done about it. It is a situation that cries out for protest.

But by protesting, surely you should not make matters worse!

Why Protests Fail

Young people today must consider this. They aren't the first to protest.

Following the success of the British pop stars, leading U.S. singers have raised millions for Africa with their recording "We Are the World."

The world is full of sad, disillusioned and frustrated middle-aged ex-revolutionaries, whose idealism has given way to bitterness. Once they too were angry. They could no longer tolerate the way things were. They joined a movement—and sometimes even succeeded in overthrowing the established order. Once in power they had their chance to solve the problems.

But they couldn't.

As they grew older, the young firebrands discovered that they did not have the answers either. Now they often resort to force and repression to stay in power, for a new generation is waiting in the wings—angry and impatient—eager for their chance. They have learned what revolutionaries always must learn—all they had to offer was just another way of messing things up.

To make a protest that counts, you need first to understand the real nature of the problem, and second, you should be able to offer a solution. Otherwise you are just adding to the sum total of misery and frustration in an already confused world.

Ask yourself, Do you really understand what is wrong with the world today? Why aren't problems being solved?

Do you know?

Protesters think they know. Revolutionaries believe that problems would be solved if only this government was toppled, or that person was removed from office, or such and such a law was passed so that this or that group could be given their "rights."

It isn't as simple as that. The problems of this world go deeper. You must understand what has gone wrong—and why. Only the person who understands this can begin to take steps that will succeed in making things better.

Real Root of World Problems

In the opening pages of the Bible is a story of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. You probably know the story—of how God forbade the first man and woman from eating the fruit of a certain tree in the garden. But, in the guise of a serpent, Satan persuaded them to disobey. Most people now dismiss this as myth. By doing so, they miss the real significance. When Adam and Eve decided to listen to Satan, rather than God, they laid the foundation for the world we know. They, in a sense, decided to protest against the rules God had outlined to them. They played right into the hands of the archenemy of the human race—Satan.

There is a fascination with Satan today. It comes out in many of the themes and settings of the video music tapes. Older people may be (Continued on page 27)
SRI LANKA
A Time of Testing!

Recent news reports about Sri Lanka have not all been good. We sent a team to this island nation to get the big picture for our readers. Here is their report.

Colombo

Our firsthand investigation of Sri Lanka has been eye-opening.

Among the lands of South Asia the island nation of Sri Lanka is certainly fortunate. Its palm-fringed beaches are washed by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. In the interior, there are fertile farmlands, lush forests and cool green mountains where some of the best tea in the world is grown.

The population of just more than 16 million hardly overcrowds the land. And the people—72 percent Sinhalese and 20 percent Tamils—are generally healthy and literate. Sri Lanka has been able to avoid the worst of the hunger and hopeless poverty that neighboring nations in this part of the world have to face.

Sri Lanka is considered a success among the world's developing nations because nature has been kind to the land. But the nation's success and prosperity have not come about merely by good fortune and lucky breaks. The Sri Lankans have worked hard and in recent years have made some bold decisions concerning the direction of their development.

For nearly a decade Sri Lanka has been the scene of a number of enlightened programs designed to benefit her people. These have been largely unnoticed and unreported in a world press that has focused primarily on communal and ethnic differences. Yet the implementation of these programs has shown courage and foresight on the part of Sri Lanka's present leaders.

Now, as the Sri Lankans stand poised to reap the benefit of their labors, they face some difficult challenges. How the people respond to the needs of one another will decide whether this island republic can continue to develop toward peace and prosperity.

Mahaweli Development Project

In late 1977 then Prime Minister Junius Jayewardene launched one of the most ambitious irrigation and hydroelectric schemes in modern history. It was to become known as the Accelerated Mahaweli River Development Program—"accelerated" because its object was to telescope a massive engineering project originally envisioned as a 40-year development program into one of less than 10 years.

The goal was to harness the massive Mahaweli River to generate hydroelectric power and irrigate more than one million acres of a dry zone so that it could be made available to landless families. Hundreds of new villages were to be established in the irrigation area.

Historical records show that vast irrigation works once brought water to the fertile dry zone that covers much of the southeast of the country. Reservoirs (called "tanks") with interconnecting canals formed the foundation of a prosperous civilization that lasted nearly a thousand years.

But after A.D. 1200, the central monarchy fragmented into separate kingdoms, leaving the island prey to a succession of foreign invasions. The canals fell into disuse and the tanks dwindled into mosquito-ridden swamps.

The population was forced into less fertile areas to eke out an existence as subsistence-level farmers. Areas that had once supported thousands could now support only dozens per square mile.

The ancient tanks can still be seen scattered over the dry zone to this day. Some of the tanks were restored in the last century by the British, but most have remained empty to this day.

In a farsighted and ambitious program to uplift its people, the government of Sri Lanka has set out to reconstruct and improve upon the irrigation system that was the agricultural base of the country's former greatness.

The distinguishing factor in this program is a genuine desire on the part of her leaders to increase the

Large photos, from top: Settlers and wives lay turf along the banks of newly constructed canal. Victoria Dam, one of the key elements in the Mahaweli Master Plan. Rice is transplanted into paddy fields where crop will grow to maturity.

July/August 1985
quality of life for the people of Sri Lanka. Central to the program is the principle of self-help along with the active participation of those at the very grass roots of society.

The costly project has been a bold undertaking for a small country. But with the help of technical aid, loans and direct grants from friendly nations, the vast project is well on the way to completion.

Nearly 70,000 families experienced in agriculture have already been resettled in the Mahaweli Development area. They have reclaimed long-dormant farmlands from centuries of encroachment by the jungle. With simple hand tools they cleared the old canals and dug new ones to bring water to their farms.

These new settlers are beginning to know prosperity for the first time in their lives. They now have land, a home, an income and the future looks brighter.

Many have moved beyond basic rice culture into growing other crops: chilies, maize or corn, peppers, peanuts and cotton. Some are forming companies to service the growing export market to nearby India and the Middle East.

Largely because of the Mahaweli project, Sri Lanka is becoming an important food exporting nation. As news of their newfound prosperity spreads, new settlers venture into the irrigated areas eager to share the rewards of hard work and enterprise.

Eventually 250,000 families, about 11 percent of Sri Lanka's population, will be settled onto land opened up by the Mahaweli Development Program.

**Village Reawakening**

A second ambitious program to eradicate poverty in the villages was launched by Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa. Nearly 80 percent of the population live in rural areas. Villages were rundown, and the houses old and inadequate. Many Sri Lankan farmers were abandoning their farms and migrating to the cities in search of work. The result was congested slums, growing urban unemployment and increasing crime and disease.

The Village Reawakening Program was launched to stop the drift to the cities. (Other nations should take note!) Like the Mahaweli Program, it is a self-help program, encouraging the people to rely on themselves and utilize local resources rather than depend on government handouts.

The Village Reawakening Program provides rural villagers with an opportunity to upgrade their environment to the same standard as the urban areas and the incentive to own their own homes. The scheme was launched in 1978. To date 150,000 new homes have been built and 270 villages have been newly established or reconstructed. Sri Lanka has thus become one of the first developing nations to reverse the trend toward urban migration.

The Village Reawakening Program is more than just a housing project. The organizers recognize that if all they do is to move people into new houses, no real progress would be made. The aim is to develop the whole man—materially, socially and morally. The housing scheme provides an umbrella under which this can take place.

A vital ingredient to the success of the program is the participation of the rural villagers themselves. The state provides building materials, technical expertise and, if necessary, the land. The villager is required to construct the house himself with the help of fellow villagers. The government then recovers the cost from the owner in small interest-free installments over a period of years.

Wherever possible, building materials such as bricks and cement blocks are locally manufactured, thus reinforcing the concept of self-help and generating employment.

**Education—Key to the Future**

The Village Reawakening Program seeks to educate the village folk to improve all aspects of their lives. The most valuable resource, after the people themselves, is their land. But in many villages the land has not been utilized properly, and in some not at all.

Experts are made available to teach villagers how to manage a small farm. Rice and other cash
Success Story: Gam Udawa

It was April 1, 1978. Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa had arranged for a group of government officials from various ministries to meet with him in the small village of Badalgama in Sri Lanka's northwestern province. The assembled guests sat under a tamarind tree in the center of the village. They began a discussion with him.

The Prime Minister asked them to look around at the living conditions of the people of Badalgama village. The people were living in crumbling houses with no toilet facilities or sanitation. There was no clean water supply. The villagers were the very poorest of the poor in Sri Lanka, living in abject poverty. They were rodiyas—outcasts from society.

According to tradition the rodiyas had once been a high and respected caste in ancient Sri Lankan society. But centuries ago members of the caste supposedly offended the king of that time. By royal decree, in a punishment considered worse than death, the rodiyas were sentenced to be shunned and isolated by organized society. They were forbidden to practice a trade or engage in any form of agriculture and were henceforth condemned to beg for their living.

Through generation after generation in the highly organized society of Sri Lanka each rodiya was considered to be loathsome and detestable, despised by all but his or her own kind, and not even permitted to draw water from the wells of the common people.

In recent times, the stigma has lessened to a degree. But the rodiya of today is typically a landless beggar, living in a separated village with little self-respect, and no chance of ever lifting himself out of hopeless poverty.

The Prime Minister called for change. They must reawaken the lives of the forgotten outcasts of their society by providing them with decent housing and the opportunity to lift themselves out of centuries of poverty.

All agreed. A government-sponsored self-help program was begun. Badalgama was rebuilt and provided with a workshop, community center, school and general store. The young were taught to read and write while the older generation was taught to grow rice. Initially the people resisted the change, preferring to beg. But their attitude changed when they began to experience the initial benefits of the program.

They renamed their village Udagama meaning "the reawakened village." Today 27 clean new houses stand where there were formerly only mud huts. Instead of discussing their begging prospects for tomorrow, villagers now talk about their savings accounts and the ripening rice harvest on small plots of land they are purchasing with long-term interest-free loans from the government.

Children from other villages now play and attend school with the youngsters of Udagama. Their parents come to worship at the shrine erected in the center of the village.

So successful was the program to reawaken the lives of the people of Udagama that the lessons learned there have become the principles upon which a nationwide program has been launched. The name of the program is "Gam Udawa"—the Village Reawakening.
crops are cultivated on unused government-owned land close to the villages. Volunteers also show how advanced techniques can be introduced to enhance existing cottage industries using local raw materials.

Many of Sri Lanka’s rural villagers suffer poor health that is directly traceable to unsanitary living conditions. Large numbers have no toilet facilities and use the nearby jungle with little knowledge or regard for the resulting health problems. Volunteers teach villagers how to construct a proper toilet with a septic tank. Wells are sunk to provide each home with clean, fresh water.

So successful has the program been that in June of last year the Prime Minister launched a new program to build an additional one million homes following the principles of self-help and participation by the people. The success of these two programs demonstrates once again that the best way to build a nation is through education and encouragement, rather than intimidation and force.

But the news from Sri Lanka is not all good. In recent months, the calm of this beautiful land has been shattered. Tensions between rival elements of the Tamil and Sinhalese populations have erupted in tension and civil strife.

For centuries the Sinhalese and Tamils have coexisted side by side reasonably peacefully. However, a group claiming to represent the Tamil minority has stepped up a political campaign of terrorism to attract world attention to its claim for a separate Tamil state in northern Sri Lanka. In July 1983, following a terrorist attack in which 13 government soldiers lost their lives, crowds of Sinhalese lost control of their tempers and vented their wrath and frustration on those Tamils living among them. Although official figures are lower, some estimate that more than 1,000 people lost their lives. Property damage reached US$150 million! During the following five months, revenue from tourism fell by 80 percent.

The breakdown of relations between the Sinhalese and Tamil populations is a matter of great concern to the government as continuing violence further erodes trust between the two groups.

**Moral Upliftment**

Both President Jayewardene and Prime Minister Premadasa are also concerned about the increasing decay of moral values among the people of Sri Lanka. Addiction to materialism, a result of the impact of Western media, is spreading to the countryside, undermining the moral and cultural values that have formed the foundation of the home and family. That is why a major—and perhaps the most important—goal of Sri Lanka’s human development programs is that of moral upliftment.

Speaking of the goals of their human development programs, Prime Minister Premadasa explains: “We have attempted to reintroduce to these villages some of our long-cherished spiritual and moral values. Also, the time-tested cultural traditions are being resuscitated to combat the degeneration of society through purely materialistic pursuits.”

Sri Lanka’s leaders are frank in admitting that the real problems they face are not the physical problems of providing housing, income and sanitation, but problems that are more intangible—teaching people with opposing views to resolve their difficulties and learn to live together in self-control and peace.

Opening up new lands does not automatically usher in a new era of cooperation and tolerance. Damming a major river is easy compared to the problems of stemming the tide of anger, rivalry and frustration that flows so easily from the human heart.

Unless and until man has learned how to control himself, his remarkable progress in shaping his environment will always be in danger of being thwarted. Everywhere one finds signs of progress and reason for hope in this world today, it seems that there must also lurk fear and contention, threatening to undo what has been accomplished. This is the paradox that frustrates even the best intentioned and most visionary of today’s world leaders. May the Creator God help them to find the way out.

Only he can.

The PLAIN TRUTH
PROTEST
(Continued from page 21)
appalled—but the young tend to find Satan entertaining and even a symbol of protest. How terribly deceived they are. You need to know more about Satan.

Satan does exist, and he is far from being a figure of fun and entertainment. He was once one of the most powerful angels that God had created. When his own visions of grandeur were thwarted, he became the mortal (or rather the immortal) enemy of God and everything that God is doing. Satan thus became the deadly opponent of all mankind. Jesus told us that Satan has no other purpose for dealing with us except to “steal, and to kill, and to destroy” (John 10:10). He wants to see the end of all human life—including yours. Because people today have no idea what human life is for, why they exist, and what God’s purpose is in creating man, they tend to disregard Satan’s influence. If they did understand, Satan’s evil and cruel deceptions would become all too evident.

God’s intention was (and is) that man should have life forever. The time spent on earth is meant to be a training and qualifying period—so that men and women can learn how to enjoy life. God will not inflict an eternity of misery and confusion on those he loves. Before we are given real life, we must learn how to live it.

From the day Satan met Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, he began to influence them to live the wrong way. He encouraged them to decide for themselves what is right and wrong. He helped them lay the foundations of a world based on vanity, jealousy, envy and greed and selfishness. That is the world we have today. People want to be happy, and most people want to be good, but how many want to do what God says is good?

Satan has never swerved from his purpose. His goal is to see mankind destroyed from a deep reservoir of hate. He is bombarding the world today with wrong ideas, seizing every opportunity to erode values, destroy standards, and sow confusion, frustration and misery. He will do anything and everything to keep mankind from finding the only way that would produce the results that we all so desperately crave.

That is why your world can’t solve its problems. It began to go wrong from the beginning, when the first man and woman were in effect kidnapped by a powerful and terrible enemy.

So, if you want to make things better, aim your protest at the real cause of the problem.

You Can Protest Effectively
How?
You don’t have to work for the overthrow of Satan. That has already been accomplished. Jesus Christ has already qualified to replace Satan. When God is ready, he will send Jesus Christ to banish Satan from the earth and take over the rulership of the nations himself. Jesus Christ will guide all people into a thousand years of peace and prosperity.

Through the ages, Christ has called a people to prepare to help him with that task. They are people whose eyes have been opened to understanding the truth. They have been able to see this world for what it is, recognize the true nature of the problem and begin to do something about it.

Jesus Christ has not called them to rebel against society or to overthrow governments. He will resolve the problem at the right time, and in the right way. He has called them to educate and prepare themselves to help in the world of tomorrow. That very preparation is a protest, for the most effective protest that a person can make today is to begin to live now according to the laws of God that are for our own good. That is not as easy as it sounds.

It will make you truly different. It is not a case of distorting the way you dress or adopting some novel hairstyle. (And forget those pictures of Christ—he didn’t look like that.) The change must be made inside. Alter your mind—not with drugs—but with a new way of thinking. People who will take the trouble to find out what are the real laws of God and obey them—they are the real nonconformists. Those who have determined to repudiate the life-styles inflicted on the world by its captor—those are the ones who are launching the most effective protest ever, striking at the very roots of the real problem.

Into the Hands of the Enemy
It is tragic that many young people today, so discontented with the way things are, are cheating themselves of a chance to really help. First, in their protests, they are only adding to the confusion, and aiding and abetting the very system that is causing the problem. Second, they are destroying their potential to help put things right.

The attitude of protest is the same as it ever was, but the means of protest have changed. Satan has seen to it that today’s young people have access to a formidable arsenal of self-destruction—mind-destroying drugs, intellect-destroying entertainment and a choice of liberal, permissive and often perverted lifestyles.

The effects cannot be easily reversed. Many of today’s young protesters are inflicting problems on themselves that they will not just grow out of. Listen—you might be successful in shocking your elders, and even giving yourself a temporary high. But if you are destroying your potential for the future, you are thwarting yourself. It is indeed a foolish protester who cuts off his own chance to put things right.

Make Your Protest Count
There is a lot of good that can be done even today. “Band-Aid” showed that. But the world’s problems are too big for a “Band-Aid”—the earth needs 1,000 years of intensive care—and only God can give us that.

I haven’t told you the whole story. There’s not space in one article. But if you’ve stayed with me this far, perhaps you’ll want to learn more. This magazine does claim to have insight into what has really gone wrong, and how you as an individual can begin to start to prepare to put it right. You’ll have to make up your own mind, of course.

You are right not to be content just to sit back and let this awful world happen. But make sure that your protest is a part of the solution, rather than yet another symptom of the problem.
The Other Bomb

NAGASAKI, Japan

The other atomic bomb—the one that ended the war in Asia and the last so far to be used in anger—exploded over the city of Nagasaki at 11:02 a.m. on the morning of August 9, 1945, just a few yards from where I am writing these words.

The story of the second bomb is not as well known as the first atomic attack on Hiroshima. This is what happened.

In August of 1945 the Second World War was nearly over. Mussolini's Italy had been knocked out two years before. Nazi Germany collapsed and surrendered in early May. Of the three Axis powers only the Japanese Empire remained, and its days were numbered. But some in Japan were urging the nation to battle on—to the last man if necessary.

In 1945 research in nuclear physics was in its infancy, but even before the war it had been realized that the energy released in splitting the atom could produce a weapon of devastating power. Scientists in America, Britain, Russia, Germany and Japan were racing to be the first to make the bomb. Scientists in America won (if "won" is the word to use), and by 1945 the new president, Harry Truman, was notified that an awesome new weapon was ready. He made the decision that it should be used to bring an end to the war in the Pacific. He reasoned that even though this new weapon would wreak awful destruction, even more Japanese and American lives would be lost in a conventional invasion of the Japanese mainland.

"A Rain of Ruin"

The first atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima on August 6. The city was destroyed and 100,000 people perished. The day after, President Truman warned the Japanese leaders that America had a weapon that "harnessed the basic power of the universe." If they did not now accept the Allied terms of surrender, they could expect "a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen on this earth."

Three days later a second bomb was flown to the Air Force base on the island of Tinian. This was a plutonium bomb, more sophisticated than the uranium device that had been dropped on Hiroshima. It was potentially more destructive and, what was more ominous, other bombs of this type were moving along the production line. Some had speculated that as many as 50 bombs would be needed to finish the war. Thus, with the advent of the plutonium bomb, America was in a position to launch a sustained nuclear attack on Japan.

The plutonium bomb was loaded into the bomb bay of a specially modified B-29 bomber nicknamed "Bock's Car," early in the morning of August 9. The crew assembled under the command of Major Charles Sweeney while the chaplain offered a brief prayer for success. Then Bock's Car lumbered into the air with its lethal cargo and headed for Japan.

But things began to go wrong. Even before takeoff it was found that because of a faulty pump several hundred gallons of the B-29's fuel load could not be used, greatly reducing the flying time. Then, nearing Japan, one of the two observation planes accompanying Bock's Car failed to meet the rendezvous over the island of Yokushima. Major Sweeney waited for about half an hour, then, aware of his reduced fuel capacity, proceeded to the primary target.

This was the industrial town of Kokura, on the northeast coast of the island of Kyushu. Kokura had many factories manufacturing weapons and military
equipment. But Kokura that morning was obscured by smoke and haze.

Since his orders were to make a visual drop, Major Sweeney made three bombing runs, looking for a break in the murk. But Kokura remained hidden, and thus was spared the agony of becoming the world’s second city to suffer atomic attack.

With fuel now critically low, the bomber headed for the secondary target—Nagasaki. It was ironic that Nagasaki should have been selected as an alternate. It was a historic seaport, and during the years of Japan’s self-imposed isolation in the 17th and 18th centuries, it was the only gateway through which Western technology was able to be introduced to Japan. Nagasaki had also become Japan’s chief center of Christianity. In 1945 its population numbered 200,000. Until this morning it had escaped major bombing, in spite of the important harbor and shipbuilding industry.

Bock’s Car arrived in the skies over the city just before 11 o’clock. Like Kokura, Nagasaki was overcast that day. With fuel running low, Major Sweeney knew that he had time for only one bombing run. The instructions had been to drop the bomb over the city center, but this target remained totally obscured. Then at the last minute a hole in the clouds opened up about 1½ miles to the northwest, over the heavily industrialized Urakami Valley. The bomb was released and Bock’s Car headed for home.

Seconds later, a large part of Nagasaki ceased to exist. Eighty thousand people were killed or badly injured, and 47 percent of the city was destroyed. Later investigation showed that this second bomb was potentially even more destructive than the uranium bomb that pulverized Hiroshima. Only the hilly topography of Nagasaki and the fact that the bomb was dropped away from the center saved the city from greater destruction.

Japan now knew that America had indeed produced the doomsday weapon. To make matters worse, the Soviet Union, once the fighting in Europe was over, brought its forces east and declared war on Japan.

Although some in the Japanese War Cabinet wanted to fight on, realists realized that their position was hopeless. Admiral Mitsumasa Yonai summed it up: “Our total effort is not enough. We have reached the end of our resources, both physical and spiritual. It is out of the question to continue.” Five days later, Japan accepted the Allied terms of surrender and the war was over.

The scientists who investigated the ruins thought that it might be as much as 75 years before people could live safely again in Nagasaki. But today, just 40 years later, Nagasaki is a thriving city of 450,000 and once again a busy port and industrial center.

The area that was directly under the atomic blast has been established as a peace park. At precisely 11:02 every morning soft chimes ring out, but you have to be close to hear them. They are nearly drowned out by the roar of the noise of the city.

Just up the hill from the Peace Park is a museum with relics of the blast and photographs of the destruction. It is an impressive, if predictable display: shadows etched into wood and tiles, photographs of horribly burned human beings, congealed bottles, half melted coins, and clocks and watches stopped at the moment of detonation. But then, there really is not much left to show after a nuclear attack.

Particularly ironic are the remnants of the Roman Catholic cathedral. It had been the largest and most ornate Christian building in Japan. It was close to the center of the explosion, and was almost totally destroyed. When the roof collapsed, it buried 10 Japanese Christians and a priest who had been hearing their confessions.

However, there is a notable lack of self-pity in Nagasaki. The message that comes across is not, “Look what they did to us,” but rather, “Look what we, the human race, can do to ourselves. We must never do this to anyone, anywhere ever again.”

After the war the Japanese, like the Germans, came surging back. Within a decade they were once again an economic power. It is hard to believe that this highly developed, energetic, friendly and immensely powerful nation that floods the world with electronic marvels was laid waste and its industry smashed just a generation and a half ago.

This comeback is a testimony to the resilience and resolution of the Japanese people. Since the war, they have played a significant role in developing the
new technology that has doubled and redoubled mankind's fund of knowledge many times over.

Perhaps we should not be surprised. The power of the human mind, like the power of the atom, once unleashed is unstoppable. Once knowledge begins to increase, it sets off a chain reaction. And so, almost daily, we push the frontiers out to new limits, which then prove to be springboards for further research. Our probing minds have taken us to the edges of the universe and deep inside the atom to tamper with the very fabric of matter itself.

The Greatest Paradox

But one great area remains outside human control—the nature of man himself. In spite of the spectacular scientific achievements, no progress has been made in this area. We still quarrel, fight and threaten one another as if Hiroshima and Nagasaki never happened. Nobody wants it this way. All nations want to build for prosperity and security. But none seem to know the way to stop the cycle of confrontation and destruction.

Nagasaki stands today as a monument to this paradox of human nature. We stagger from the ruins of a frightful war and build bigger and better than before. But do we ever build a peace that doesn't end in more ruins? Advances, whether the arrow or the atom, always seem to lead to more efficient ways to hurt others.

Nagasaki can never forget what happened 40 years ago. Some cities in Europe want to forget the war. They resent the tourists who come to view the landmarks. "Why can't they just forget it—do we always have to be remembered as the site of a battle or a concentration camp?" seems to be the attitude.

Not so Nagasaki. The city has devoted itself to the cause of everlasting peace. This is a constantly recurring theme. It is not that the city wears martyrdom on its sleeve. Nagasaki doesn't ask you to feel sorry for it, and it is not a morbid place. There is plenty to see and do after you have been to the Peace Park and the Atomic Museum.

For instance, the Sofukuji Temple, the old "Spectacle" Bridge, a beautiful national park, and even "Madame Butterfly's home." On a clear day it is worth taking the cable car to the top of Mount Inasa for a spectacular view of the city, spread over a range of hills, like San Francisco.

But never far away are the reminders—an inscription on a building, a few lines in a letter to tourists from the Mayor, a pack of picture postcards showing acres of ruins—Nagasaki has a quiet way of never letting its visitors forget that it has known hell. And if there is anything, anything at all that can be done to prevent others from suffering like this, Nagasaki wants to do it. A sign in the Atomic Museum poignantly asks the world to make sure that Nagasaki will be the last city to suffer the horror of nuclear war.

The Lesson of Nagasaki

The photographs of the charred bodies, the scenes of utter destruction wrought by a mere firecracker of a bomb compared to those today—surely they teach a lesson. Compare them to the sparkling new city outside—isn't that an incentive for us to come to our senses—to build a world that will last?

Apparently not. Two bombs were enough to end the war. But the production line kept rolling. Soon the U.S.S.R. had a bomb, then Britain, France, China and India—and who knows who else. The bombs got bigger—now the world has enough for 50,000 Nagasakis. Or is it 50 hundred thousand? Or is it 50 million? What does it matter—one more is too many.

Forty years ago, Bock's Car circled three times over the city of Kokura before flying on to Nagasaki. Kokura had a narrow escape that cloudy morning, but the threat never really left.

Now it hangs over every man, woman and child on the face of the earth. We are destined to use this terrible weapon again. When the precarious peace among the nuclear powers is shattered, another "rain of ruin" will lay waste the earth's great cities. And this time, according to the word of God as spoken by Jesus Christ, "unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]" (Matt. 24:22, Revised Authorized Version).

God will have to intervene and cut short this future crisis in which there can be no winners.

The human race, like the Japanese at the end of the war, will have to admit that they have come to the end of their physical and spiritual resources. Only then when we have rendered the earth potentially uninhabitable, will we turn to our Creator for help.

At one end of the Peace Park in Nagasaki there is a beautiful fountain, dedicated to the thousands who died from burns in the holocaust. The cool waters dance and sparkle in the sunlight, and a clear blue sky is reflected in the pool. How different to the morning when the sky was hidden by a dreadful mushroom-shaped cloud while scorched victims cried out for water to ease the agony of their wounds.

Water is, indeed, a fitting symbol of healing and peace.

In the Hebrew Bible at the end of the book of the prophet Ezekiel (chapter 47), there is another description of healing waters. Ezekiel, like the other prophets, saw in vision the time of war and devastation that will mark the end of this age. But then Ezekiel saw a stream cascading down from the temple mount in Jerusalem. This stream becomes a great river whose waters spread, and everything they touch is healed (verse 9). These waters, with their strong symbolic meaning, will indeed flow out in the day when God extends his healing hand to the world. Then at last, the world will be safe, and the survivors, guided and led by the Spirit of God, will rebuild with confidence. Nagasaki shows how much can be accomplished in 40 years during a precarious superpower standoff. Think what can be done when the creativity and potential of all nations flourish in a world that plans only for peace. —John Halford
THE WORLD TOMORROW

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

TELEVISION LOG

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

U.S.

ALABAMA
WBRC, Birmingham — 42, 10:30 am, Sun
WTVY, Dothan — 4, 7:00 am, Sun
WOWL, Florence — 15, 10:30 am, Sun
WHNT, Huntsville — 19, 7:30 am, Sun
WPML, Mobile — 15, 8:00 pm, Sun
WCOV, Montgomery — 20, 9:30 am, Sun

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WDVM, Washington — 9, 7:00 am, Sun
WJLA, Washington — 7, 11:00 am, Sun

FLORIDA
WBBH, Ft. Myers — 20, 9:30 am, Sun
WTVX, Ft. Pierce — 34, 7:00 am, Sun
WCJB, Gainesville — 20, 9:00 am, Sun
WTLV, Jacksonville — 12, 9:30 am, Sun
WCCX, Miami — 6, 9:30 am, Sat
WTVJ, Miami — 4, 8:00 am, Sun
WCPX, Orlando — 6, 7:00 am, Sat
WESH, Orlando — 2, 9:00 am, Sun
WHJC, Panama City — 7, 7:30 am, Sun
WEAR, Pensacola — 3, 11:30 am
WJXT, Sarasota — 40, 7:00 am, Sun
WCTV, Tallahassee — 6, 12:00 noon, Sun
WFLA, Tampa — 8, 11:30 am, Sun
WPBC, W. Palm Beach — 12, 9:30 am, Sun

GEORGIA
WTSG, Albany — 31, 8:00 am, Sun
WGNX, Atlanta — 46, 7:00 am, Sat
WXIA, Atlanta — 31, 7:30 am, Sun
WTVN, Atlanta — 17, 6:30 am, Sun
WRD, Augusta — 12, 10:30 am, Sun
WRBL, Columbus — 3, 8:30 am, Sun
WTVN, Columbus — 9, 9:00 am, Sun
WGXA, Macon — 24, 11:30 am
WTGC, Savannah — 11, 10:30 am, Sun
WVGA, Valdosta — 44, 10:30 am, Sun

HAWAII
KHNL, Honolulu — 13, 9:30 am, Sun

IDAHO
KBCL, Boise — 2, 9:00 am, Sun
KPVK, Pocatello — 2, 9:00 am, Sun

ILLINOIS
WCIU, Chicago — 31, 10:30 pm, Sat
WGN, Chicago — 9, 7:30 am, Sat
WAND, Decatur — 17, 7:00 am, Sun
WQAD, Moline — 8, 8:00 am, Sun
WMBD, Peoria — 12, 9:00 am, Sun
KQHA, Quincy — 7, 8:30 am, Sun
WTVQ, Rockford — 17, 8:00 am, Sun

INDIANA
WTVV, Evansville — 7, 7:30 am, Sun
WXKG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 am, Sun
WRTV, Indianapolis — 6, 7:30 am, Sun
WTIN, Indianapolis — 13, 9:30 am, Sun
WLFI, Lafayette — 18, 7:30 am, Sun
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10:00 am, Sun
WTWO, Terre Haute — 2, 10:30 am, Sun

IOWA
WOL, Des Moines — 5, 10:00 am, Sun
KIIT, Mason City — 3, 10:00 am, Sun
KTVI, Ottumwa — 3, 10:00 am, Sun
KCAU, Sioux City — 9, 8:00 am, Sun
WKLW, Waterloo — 7, 10:00 am, Sun

KANSAS
KUPK, Garden City — 13, 10:00 am, Sun
KLOE, Goodland — 10, 10:00 am, Sun
KAYS, Hays — 7, 10:00 am, Sun
KCTV, Kansas City — 5, 10:30 am, Sun
KSNT, Topeka — 27, 10:30 am, Sun
KAKE, Wichita — 10, 10:00 am, Sun

KENTUCKY
WBKO, Bowling Green — 13, 10:30 am, Sun
WXLX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 am, Sun
WAVE, Louisville — 3, 9:30 am, Sun
WDRB, Louisville — 41, 10:00 pm, Sun
WPSP, Paducah — 6, 10:00 am, Sun

LOUISIANA
KLAX, Alexandria — 31, 9:30 am, Sun
WAFR, Baton Rouge — 9, 11:30 pm, Sat
KFLY, Lafayette — 10, 9:30 am, Sun
WDSU, New Orleans — 6, 10:00 am, Sun
WCCN, New Orleans — 26, 7:30 am, Sat
WWVE, New Orleans — 8, 9:00 am, Sun
WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7:00 am, Sun
KTBV, Shreveport — 3, 8:30 am, Sun

MAINE
WVII, Bangor — 7, 9:00 am, Sun
WMTW, Portland Spring — 8, 9:00 am, Sun
WAGM, Presque Isle — 8, 9:00 am, Sun

MARYLAND
WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 10:30 am, Sun
WHAG, Hagerstown — 25, 7:30 am, Sat
WMDB, Salisbury — 47, 11:00 am, Sun

MASSACHUSETTS
WNEV, Boston — 7, 7:30 am, Sun
WBKB, Boston — 38, 8:00 am, Sun
WLNE, New Bedford — 6, 7:30 am, Sun
WGBG, Springfield — 40, 9:00 am, Sun

MICHIGAN
WUHQ, Battle Creek — 41, 11:30 am, Sun
WTOH, Cheboygan — 4, 10:00 am, Sun
WXON, Detroit — 8, 10:00 am, Sat
WJMN, Escanaba — 8, 8:30 am, Sun
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8:00 am, Sun
WZZM, Grand Rapids — 13, 12:00 noon, Sun
WIXL, Lansing — 10, 10:30 am, Sun
WLBC, Marquette — 6, 11:30 am, Sun
WITB, Southfield — 2, 9:00 am, Sun
WPBN, Traverse City — 7, 10:00 am, Sun

MINNESOTA
KCMT, Alexandria — 7, 9:30 am, Sun
KDLD, Duluth — 3, 10:00 am, Sun
KEYC, Mankato — 12, 8:30 am, Sun
KMPM, Minneapolis (cable) — 41, 5:30 pm, Sat and Sun
WTCN, Minneapolis — 11, 8:30 am, Sun
KNMN, Walker — 12, 9:30 am, Sun

MISSISSIPPI
WLOX, Biloxi — 13, 8:30 am, Sun
WCHS, Columbus — 4, 10:30 am, Sun
WABG, Greenwood — 6, 8:00 am, Sun

JULY/AUGUST 1985
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**Missouri**

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| RHODE ISLAND

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<td>WYFF, Greenville</td>
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<td>KDLX, Sioux Falls</td>
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<td>KAMR, Amarillo</td>
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<td>KBVO, Austin</td>
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<td>KCBI, Prince Albert</td>
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**Texas**

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Australia is not the quiet continent many believe. It plays a vital role in today's world. Here is a fresh look at this unique land and its future.

In many ways our modern world takes on quite a different appearance viewed from this land down under.

To many Westerners, Australia is part of the great East Asian world—so far removed from Europe or the Americas.

But ethnically and culturally Australia is distinctly Western. Its early modern colonization was almost totally British. And its place in the political sphere is squarely in the Western corner.

Perhaps the initial impression of Australia to the first-time visitor is just how far it is from almost everywhere. Yet by way of jet aircraft it is only hours from major world capitals.

The second impression is just how up-to-date and prosperous this island-continent is.

Few cities in the world boast a more majestic skyline than Sydney. The Sydney Harbour bridge, the skyscraper office buildings, the opera house and the miles of coves lined with lovely homes and apartments create a city view of breathtaking beauty.

But this modern image is incongruous with the stereotyped perception of Australia. In the minds of many, Australia is a land of sheep stations, kangaroos and koala bears. One thinks of miles of beautiful beaches covered with sun-tanned Aussies riding surfboards and more miles of barren, parched interior deserts.

I was invited to Australia for a guest lecture tour of this fascinating land. My wife and I visited Sydney, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and the Gold Coast. We regard this experience as one of the most profitable and memorable of our travel opportunities. I would like to share our observations with Plain Truth readers.

While it is true there are vast stretches of beaches, and there are indeed miles of desert terrain in the outback, and Australia is certainly a vital region for sheep and wool production, one should not view Australia and its people from the cartoon-like caricatures.

Once a remote and rather isolated continent, Australia has become a key partner to Western alliances, culture and economies. Even Australians have had to step back and take a new world view in the past half century.

Because of its faraway location, there has been a tendency to think somehow Australia would remain apart from major world conflicts. If the superpowers, it was thought, were someday to plunge the world into nuclear war, those wars would be fought in the Americas, on the European continent or, at the closest, far to the north in Asia.

A popular movie of the 1950s, On The Beach, depicted the world destroyed by nuclear holocaust. Australia remained the one area untouched by the bombs, but had to await the resultant radioactive fallout. This movie philosophy carried over in the real-life world.

Thus, many Australians tended to take a less serious approach to the possibilities of nuclear war because of their geography. Some thought they might escape such a world confrontation.

That concept has been erased in recent times by a better knowledge of all-out nuclear war and the speculation of a “nuclear winter.” Now Australians actively campaign for nuclear disarmament and curtailment of all nuclear energies.

How It Started

The change from a remote land down under to important regional power in a relatively short period of time is a fascinating story.

When the American colonies declared their independence from
Britain in 1776, Australia was a vast, largely unknown land. The history of Europe was already centuries old. Australia's aboriginal inhabitants were few in number and scattered over expansive territories.

Colonial Europeans had practically ignored this nation to be. It was simply too far away to be of great importance. Spanish explorers sailed the strait between Australia and New Guinea as early as 1606. Had their sailors landed at what was to become Sydney Harbour, the continent could have been claimed for Spain.

In that same century Dutch sailors charted a portion of Australian coastline, but found nothing they deemed worthy of claiming. Even the French sighted Australia in the 1760s and had the chance to claim the continent—but didn't.

Or what if the Malays or other Asian peoples had fully realized what lay to their south? The history and culture of the land would have been quite different.

The land of Australia remained a sleeping giant waiting to be awakened. Then in 1770, British explorer Captain James Cook discovered the well-watered and fertile eastern seaboard and claimed it for the British Crown. How different this land might have been had Australia already been the territory of another European power or had Captain Cook simply sailed on, taking no note of the promise the land held.

British interest at that time was at home and on the American colonies where unrest reached a crescendo. It was not till 1787 that the first fleet of colonial ships made the 12,000-mile journey from England to Sydney. It was a rather inauspicious beginning. Eleven ships with about 1,000 settlers made the treacherous voyage. For many it was a one-way ticket—convicts were being sent to relieve the increasing burdens on British jails.

One thing the new Australian settlers needed to be was hardy and tough. To carve out the nation was not going to be easy.

Perhaps that's where the Australian temperament and stereotypical image was born. A rugged people pioneering a rugged land. It took courage and determination. But it resulted in a strong and prosperous society important to today's economy.

The Developing Years

From this fledgling beginning in the 1780s a modern Australia was born. Many more one-way tickets were given to English, Scottish and Irish who were sent to this faraway colony. Soon native-born Australians were growing to maturity to begin their part in the pioneering process.

By 1800 the Industrial Revolution was in full swing. Britain led the way and textiles formed the backbone of a changing economy. Wool was an essential item in the new world order. In Australia grazing land for sheep rapidly became the center of national development. The frontiers, initially limited to coastal regions, expanded into the interior.

The struggle to settle Australia was different from many other nations. There were no wars with outside nations to bloody her soil. No revolution to establish an independent nation—Australia remains loyal to the British Crown and was always important to Empire and Commonwealth. It was not till the Second World War that Australians fully realized they could be subjected to the throes of warfare.

As the nation pressed its way into world prominence, natural resources played an important role. Coal provided fuel for increasing industrialization. Then, in the mid-1800s, the discovery of gold brought prospectors by the droves. The population of Australia grew and diversified. When the goldfields played out,
ANZUS: A Preview of Things to Come?

The 34-year-old ANZUS alliance is still intact. Yet the source of its endurance—the mutual trust among its partners (Australia, New Zealand and the United States)—is being brought into doubt.

Much has changed since the treaty was signed September 1, 1951. The fears of an earlier generation and the unity that comes from being comrades in arms have diminished.

At the heart of the disagreement has been a growing concern in the two nations down under that not enough has been done to remove the threat of nuclear war. At the same time, news about a possible nuclear winter after a nuclear attack affecting nations even in the Southern Hemisphere has catapulted those fears into government policy.

The crisis in ANZUS began when New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange followed through on an election pledge by banning ships capable of carrying nuclear arms from making port calls in his country.

In January of this year, the prime minister refused port call privileges to the USS Buchanan. It should be noted that nowhere in the text of the ANZUS treaty are specific contributions such as access to ports mentioned.

The U.S. response was guarded. Washington obviously wanted to avoid a "David versus Goliath" type confrontation with New Zealand.

Yet no sooner had this incident jarred U.S. officials than another blow occurred. In an abrupt about-face, the United States has become one of the world's most popular. Only the issue of nuclear arms has become restive about the ongoing arms issue and the governments of Belgium and the Netherlands are having difficulty winning support for stationing U.S. nuclear missiles on their soil.

It is certain that the nuclear issue will not just go away as some wish it would. The threat of nuclear annihilation is very real and demands our attention.

Peace will come one day to this beleaguered planet. But it will not come about by "Peacekeeper" missiles or peace demonstrations. On the contrary, man's peacemaking efforts will prove utterly fruitless, says Bible prophecy (Ezek. 13:1-16).

Instead, we will have peace only when it is imposed upon the whole human family. It will be a peace maintained not by military alliances, nuclear weapons or throngs of demonstrators, but by the might of the living God (Rev. 19:11-16; Isa. 32).

Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange

Australia's Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced during his state visit to Washington in February that Australia had decided not to participate with the United States on MX "Peacekeeper" missile tests. U.S. officials tried to minimize their embarrassment by saying Australian participation was not necessary to conduct the tests.

In light of the disarray in the alliance, one cannot help but recall a warning given by Benjamin Franklin at the signing of the U.S. Declaration of Independence in 1776. Noting the danger he and his fellow signatories faced, Franklin told his companions, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

In spite of the buildup of a potent Soviet Pacific naval force operating out of Vietnam, not to mention strife in New Guinea and New Caledonia, the members of ANZUS are likely to continue to drift apart.

For their part, both New Zealand and Australia have

The United States is already making plans to use the potential U.S. Commonwealth territory of the Northern Marianas as an alternative to bases in the Philippines, should it lose its foothold in that country. Other South Pacific nations such as Fiji and Tonga seem to be willing to fill in the gap left by New Zealand by offering port facilities to the United States.

What concerns the United States is that some NATO partners may follow New Zealand's lead. For example, Britain's Labour Party leader, Neil Kinnock, and nearly 100 other Labour Members of Parliament have given their support to the New Zealand prime minister in a Commons motion, intimating they'd introduce a similar ban.

Other NATO countries are becoming restive about the nuclear arms issue as well. The governments of Belgium and the Netherlands are having difficulty winning support for stationing U.S. nuclear missiles on their soil.

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thousands settled into day-to-day life and the personality of the nation began to emerge.

Other resources soon were discovered and developed. Vital industrial and strategic minerals, oil, new agricultural products and opals soon became commodities exported throughout the world.

During these developmental years, Australian government was established by creating five separate states—all this in a territory about the size of the continental United States. But the vast interior deserts of Australia prohibited the same population growth the United States would experience.

In the latter part of the 19th century native-born Australians began to outnumber immigrants. Yet, even though the more than 15,000,000 people who inhabit Australia today live mostly in coastal cities, the rugged individualism of strong men and women who carved out a nation still exists.

Unlike the United States where a great diversity of peoples can be identified by differing geographical regions, the Australian does not appear to be Eastern, Western or Southern. In America one could not mistake the Boston accent, the deep Southern drawl or the Midwestern twang. In Britain, one can easily spot, among others, the London Cockney cab driver, the Scottish brogue or the Irish lilt.

But there seems to be one Australian. Whether from Sydney or Perth, Hobart or Darwin, this hardy brand of Westerner seems to somehow fit in his national community.

Somehow most of the rest of the world holds this type of individualism in regard.

Yet...

The Penalties of Modernism

The majestic sights of Australia such as the harbor at Sydney, the backdrop of Mount Wellington at Hobart, the wine region of Southern Australia, the majestic coastline of Victoria, the charm and cleanliness of Perth and the underwater wonders of the Great Barrier Reef lead one to hope that the difficulties and sins of the world might somehow have passed by this land down under.

But such is not the case. The roadways are clogged with rush hour traffic at the end of the workday. The roar of jet engines concerns residents near busy airports. Smog colors the air in industrialized sections. The crime rate is about the same as any major Western country.

Shoppers scurry through gleaming department stores. The national economy rises and falls, producing periods of unemployment for too many thousands. There are evidences of corruption and scandal in government.

Australia’s problems are so much like the rest of the Western world that the London Daily Mail titled a special feature on Australia “The Continent of Crime—It’s turned the land of milk and honey into a jungle society.”

The once touted pioneering image of masculine toughness is giving way to a new image. Sydney is thought to have the largest homosexual population of any Pacific city except San Francisco.

The dreaded and incurable disease AIDS has arrived in Australia, threatening the health and lives of hundreds.

And then there is the escalating drug problem. National election campaigns were in full swing while I was in Australia. I heard Prime Minister Bob Hawke break down in tears on television as he discussed the discovery that his married daughter and her husband were both heroin addicts. My wife and I couldn’t help but cry with him.

Daily Mail reporter Brian James quoted leading Australian church figure Ted Noffs talking about one particular group of teenagers:
"Look at them. Ever see such beautiful kids? One in three of them will be dead from drugs before they are 30. I have buried 169 of them myself." Mr. Noffs fights tirelessly against drug usage among Australian youths.

There seems to be no major area of the world untouched by drugs, scandal, violence and crime. Not even this beautiful land down under.

**Destiny and the Future**

Many do not realize the hand of God also is in the modern world. Prophecies from thousands of years ago foretold today's major events—some directly affecting Australia—destined to take place in the coming years.

When the apostle Paul spoke to the high court of Athens, he said that God "... made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live" (Acts 17:26, New International Version throughout).

It was no accident of history that Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch or French explorers passed Australia by. The eternal God planned it for a particular people.

That promise of specific inheritance was made more than 1,600 years before the birth of Jesus, when the aging patriarch Jacob called his two grandsons in to bless them. Jacob's son, Joseph, had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. To Manasseh, Jacob said, "He too will become a people, and he too will become great" (Gen. 48:19). And to Ephraim, "Nevertheless, his younger brother will be greater than he, and his descendants will become a group of nations."

Have you read our book *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*? In it you will read the fascinating story of the origins of the United States of America and the British Commonwealth of nations, including Australia. Write to our nearest office for a free copy if you haven't already read it.

But understanding the historical roots of Australia is not enough. We also need to know what lies ahead. What does the Bible say about our times and the nations that descended from the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?

Has the Bible ignored the peoples of Europe, North America and Australia, yet given detailed prophecies about Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and the Jewish state of Israel?

By no means.

Understanding the present whereabouts of all the tribes of Israel in modern times is essential to understanding Bible prophecy. And with an understanding of Bible prophecy comes a responsibility. God sent his prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Micah and many others to the ancient people of Israel. Most of the people didn't believe them when they foretold a coming captivity. Neither did they change their evil ways.

But the prophets thundered their message. And just as they prophesied, the captivity came. First, the northern tribes of Israel were taken by the Assyrians. Then the Jews were conquered by the Babylonians.

God preserved the writing of those prophets—not just for history, but for our time today!

Of the time yet ahead of us, Jeremiah said, "How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it" (Jer. 30:7).

Unless there is a complete change of life-style and heart among the peoples of North America, Britain and Australia there will come devastation.

The good news is God will intervene to save us from our folly—but not until the survivors are willing to turn from their folly. That apparently is not going to take place until the dreaded nuclear holocaust threatens human extinction.

God has given the descendants of the ancient biblical patriarchs of the most beautiful and productive land on earth. Australia is among the most blessed. It's well worth a special visit to experience the rugged coastlines, beautiful beaches, friendly people and its energetic cities.

The view from down under is magnificent. Its short history is inspiring. Its place in the world is important. But its future must be evaluated in light of the serious times that lie ahead.

**MIRACLES**

(Continued from page 8)

Why shouldn't the God who begat and worked through Jesus have the power to transcend natural laws? He created them.

**Why Jesus Performed Miracles**

Jesus was no stunt man. He never performed miracles as a circus act. He never did a miracle just for the miracle's sake. He knew the mind of many a "miracle watcher" (read John 2:23-25).

There was a good purpose behind every single recorded miracle. Matthew, Mark and John reveal the staggering scope of Christ's miracles. Matthew sums up Jesus' Galilean ministry thus: "Now Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases ... and He healed them" (Matt. 4:23-24).

Writing of a more specific occasion, Mark reports: "Now at evening ... they brought to Him all who were sick. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases ... " (Mark 1:32-34, excerpts).

Matthew mentions still other specific incidents. ... And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all" (Matt. 12:15): "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" (Matt. 14:14).

Decades later, John takes final cognizance of the scope and purpose of Jesus' miraculous works. "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

Why not take the apostle John at his word?
This magazine, in more than 50 years of publishing, is politically unaffiliated. Why?

The Plain Truth is not politically affiliated. It is not "left wing." It is not "right wing." It is not—as some few have assumed—a "tool of Western imperialism."

It is time you understood where The Plain Truth is "coming from." Please do not assume you know until you have read this article!

Plain Speaking

One reader wrote in a letter to the editor: "Your pro-British bias is inexcusable!"

The reply came in response to this magazine’s use of the name "Londonderry" instead of "Derry" when referring to that strife-torn city of Northern Ireland. "Early in the 17th century," the reader continued, "Derry was renamed Londonderry by the British, with whom you obviously side."

Other readers have taken us to task for using (or not using!) "Israel" instead of "Palestine"; "West Bank" instead of "Judea and Samaria"; "Persian Gulf" instead of "Arabian Gulf"—and vice versa; "South-West Africa/Namibia" instead of "Namibia." The examples are numerous.

Why do we choose the geographic and historical terms that appear within our pages?

Most of our readers understand that a mass-circulation magazine such as The Plain Truth must use the terms that are most widely recognizable. Virtually all readers are familiar, for example, with the term "West Bank," which designates the disputed territory just to the west of the Jordan River. Significantly fewer, however, realize that "Judea and Samaria" is often used by the Israelis to designate the same region. In preferring the more recognizable term, we are simply taking the side of clarity, not taking a political stand.

The Plain Truth has to use terms that are understood by the general readership. This magazine is not taking a political stand every time it uses a geographical or historical term. Those few readers who assume we are making veiled political statements each time we employ a geographic term with potential political connotations are misinterpreting the entire purpose and approach of The Plain Truth.

The goal of The Plain Truth is to make its message plain! We do not obscure or conceal our message. We plainly announce what we have to say. Our readers never have to guess.

The subtitle of this magazine is "a magazine of understanding." It is by the most widely used, clearly understood terms that we can best get across our message to the widest possible audience.

When articles are assumed to be biased, it is all too often because the reader projects deep-rooted sensitivities onto articles. It is easy to read into articles what was never remotely intended.

The Plain Truth speaks out clearly and plainly. If a viewpoint or position is meant to be taken, our readers will be left in no doubt. Never will they have to deduce or surmise our meaning based on the supposed "connotations" of our terminology.

Unique Perspective

But beyond these questions of words and terms lies a much larger issue.

Where is this magazine "coming from" anyway?

For the record, there is not—nor has there ever been—a political party or national government or some unknown private funding
This magazine endeavors to show how Almighty God, as he looks down upon his world, sees the governments and societies of man. We look at the source of the world’s problems and their solutions from the vantage point of the Creator God’s higher-up “camera angle.”

The Plain Truth has a world view that includes God, who has long been ignored by all too many people. It provides that missing element—that overlooked dimension—in the various areas of human involvement. It goes far beyond the physical, circumstantial or obvious. It provides an understanding of the theological roots and spiritual answers lacking elsewhere. It probes into the heart and core—the spiritual side—of each and every issue, and presents scripturally based solutions! And it shows the significance of current events from Bible prophecy.

This accounts for The Plain Truth’s unique perspective. We look at the world in terms of what the Bible has to say about it. The large, mass-circulation magazines and newspapers of this world are simply unaware of the great purpose being worked out here below. They do not appear to understand spiritual principles and the revealed forecasts of Bible prophecy, which give meaning and perspective to the hectic, fast-paced and complex times in which we live.

The Plain Truth does! Without this understanding, world conditions have little purposeful meaning. Longtime readers of this magazine can attest to the effectiveness of The Plain Truth as a guide to understanding the seemingly complex panorama of world events.

A Message About Government
Now consider a further point: The Plain Truth is nonpolitical. Yet the heart and core of its message—the message Jesus Christ brought—pertains to government!

Few realize that the gospel (“good news”) of Jesus Christ was—and is—a message about government! Jesus Christ was intensely interested in government. He announced the restoration of God’s government. His message was about a government that will one day—soon now—rule the world!

Jesus’ gospel was not simply a message about himself, as many today believe. It was a gospel of good government. It was the “political platform,” if you please, for his coming kingdom—a government destined to rule over the whole earth and over all nations.

It is that same gospel this magazine is commissioned to proclaim (Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10; 16:15). This is good news that no other magazine is announcing—or can announce.

Look at this world’s governments. No government in all history has ever achieved lasting peace and prosperity in its own territory. All man-made governments have, at some point, failed either from within or from without!

This world’s leaders, cut off from God, have not perceived the way that leads to peace. They may have done what is right in their own eyes, yet in so doing have not brought to their countries the solutions to evils that beset mankind. Nearly 6,000 years of human history have demonstrated that “the way of peace they know not” (Isa. 59:8).

The reason?
This is not a world or civilization of God’s making. This is Satan’s world! Satan is the invisible “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). He has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). He is the author of its philosophies and its imperfect systems of government—too often based on competition and strife, greed and vanity, exploitation and aggression.

At their heart, the misled governments of this world are irreparably flawed!

For this reason, it is not the Christian duty to strive to make this world—Satan’s world—a better world. It is impossible to mold evil into good.

Jesus did not enter into this world’s politics, nor did his disciples. He did not try to reform or overthrow Caesar’s government. He did not try to make this a better world. Rather, he preached about a radically different world to come—and called his followers out of participation in this world’s imperfect, humanly devised politics! He said, “My kingdom is not of this world” (John 18:36).

Christians are called to be separate from this world and its political, religious and social affiliations (II Cor. 6:17), and to live instead by every word of God (Luke 4:4).

Ambassadors for Christ
Understand this: Jesus’ disciples—true Christians—live physically in this present evil world, but they are not of it (John 17:14-16). They are, in a sense, spiritually foreigners. The true Christian’s citizenship is in God’s kingdom and is temporarily reserved in heaven for him until
God’s kingdom is established on earth (Phil. 3:20; 1 Pet. 1:4).

A Christian is, in effect, an ambassador for Christ and his coming kingdom (II Cor. 5:20). He lives on earth as a representative of that kingdom, obeying human governmental authority and, where there is a conflict with the higher laws of God, submitting to the penalties of man’s law (Acts 5:29), but taking no part in its politics.

This magazine is a product of the publishing arm of a globe-girdling, God-ordained work of witness and warning to this world. It represents the coming kingdom of God, soon to be enforced on this earth. In that capacity, it must remain—and does remain—strictly nonpolitical.

Thus, The Plain Truth is government affiliated, but not with any human government of this world. It represents and announces the coming of a new age, a new civilization and a new government, when all peoples will learn the way that brings peace and prosperity.

The Plain Truth and those who produce it are concerned for all peoples, everywhere. Our mission, as ambassadors of Christ—as advance emissaries of his kingdom—is to put this world into perspective and proclaim to all nations the good news of soon-coming global peace and prosperity. The petty personal and political squabbles and issues of the present day are largely irrelevant to the great message of hope this magazine announces!

That is where The Plain Truth is “coming from”!

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

Certainly third in order is the mystery of your own life—of humanity as a whole. What and why is humanity? Is man an immortal soul? Do the dead know what the living are doing? Is man a flesh and blood being with an immortal soul within? Is there meaning and purpose to human life? Did we evolve through unintelligent material forces without meaning or purpose? Why are humans beset with seemingly unsolvable problems?

Fourth in line of the not-understood mysteries is the civilization that has developed in man’s world. How did it develop? Why do we find a world of awesome advancement and progress, yet paradoxically with appalling and mounting evils? Why cannot the minds that develop spacecraft, computers and marvels of science, technology and industry solve the problems that demonstrate human helplessness?

Next, in the development of human society on earth, is the mystery of the Jew and the ancient nation of Israel. Why did God raise up one special nation of Israel? Why are they God’s “chosen people”? Are they God’s favorites? Does God discriminate against other nations? Is God a respecter of persons? What is Israel’s purpose in the divine order of things?

Come now to the mystery of the church. Why should there be the institution of the church in the world? Is there some purpose for it, not understood even by the religion of traditional Christianity?

Finally, why the mystery of the kingdom of God? Jesus’ gospel message was “the kingdom of God.” Is the kingdom of God something within each person? Is it something that may be set up in men’s hearts? Is it the institution of the church? Or is it something else altogether? Why this mystery of the very gospel of Jesus Christ?

These are the SEVEN GREAT MYSTERIES that concern the very lives of every human being on earth. The Plain Truth of all these mysteries is revealed in the Bible, but none of the churches or theologians seem to have comprehended them.

WHY? The Bible is the basic mystery of all.

If one begins reading the Bible continuously from beginning to end, one becomes bewildered. The Bible simply cannot be read like any other book. It is a mystery because it is a coded book. It is like a jigsaw puzzle, with perhaps hundreds of various pieces of different forms and shapes that can be fitted together in only one precise pattern. The truths of the Bible are revealed here a little, there a little, scattered from beginning to end, and revealed only through the Holy Spirit within those surrendered and yielded to God, willing to have confessed error and wrongdoing, and yielding to believe Christ, the Word of God. Jesus was the Word in Person. The Bible is the same Word in print.

No one can have the Holy Spirit, which alone can open the human mind to understanding of this Word of God, without a complete repentance and an implicit belief in Christ as well as believing what he says. Repentance can only follow admission of being wrong—of wrongdoing and wrong believing. The most difficult thing for any human seems to be to admit being wrong—to confess error of belief and conviction.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Bible is the book that nobody knows or understands?—or certainly almost nobody.

God deliberately coded his book so that it would not be understood until our modern time. In the 12th chapter of Daniel we read even that devout man of God could not understand that which was given to him to write as part of the Bible. He said he heard, but understood not. The revealing angel said, “Go thy way, Daniel. The words are closed and sealed until the time of the end.”

Today we have reached that time. God has opened to understanding his Word to those he has chosen, who have yielded and surrendered to him and to his blessed sacred Word. In the 12th chapter of Daniel, it says at this time of the end the “wise” would understand, “but none of the wicked shall understand.” Who, then, are the “wise” who may understand the Bible?

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Ps. 111:10) and “a good understanding have all they that do his commandments” (same verse). Yet traditional Christianity has generally denied God’s commandments—says they are done away, nailed to the cross. The clergy and theologians of organized “Christianity,” therefore, cannot and do not understand the Bible.

How, then, can we, in this book, understand and reveal to the reader these boggling mysteries? That question will be answered in the Introduction next month.
Understanding World Events and Trends

Acid Rain—The Burning Issue

Acid rain is causing heightened concern as eroded monuments, lifeless lakes and dying forests proliferate worldwide.

Industries fueled by coal, particularly smelters and power plants, are prime sources of chemical and nitrogen oxide. These pollutants, expelled into the atmosphere, can be carried for hundreds, perhaps thousands of miles by prevailing winds. The chemicals may then mix with other chemicals in the atmosphere to produce caustic or poisonous substances and be rained or simply settle onto the landscape below.

Reports of extensive forest damage have come from Poland, East Germany and the Soviet Union. West Germany estimates that 34 percent of its forests are in trouble from acid precipitation, while Czechoslovakia says that one tenth of its trees have already died.

More than 200 lakes in the Adirondack Mountains of New York are devoid of game fish. Authorities in Canada estimate that 4,600 of the lakes in eastern Canada are now uninhabitable for fish. Sweden cites 9,000 lakes with diminished fish populations. In all accounts, acid rain is blamed.

Forest-fire prevention has kept alkaline ash from neutralizing some acid-polluted soils. Some 40,000 Dutch guilders ($11,500*) each year to support his habit. The average drug addict spends about 170 guilders ($49) for the drug each day. Mild sentences and overcrowded jails minimize penalties for theft and drug crimes. Says detective Chief Superintendent Evert Jagerman: "We don't arrest users of heroin because there isn't enough capacity in the jails. People who steal get sent back on the street again.''

Amsterdam's Drug Dilemma

In spite of extensive efforts to curb drug traffic, Amsterdam's heroin trade and its accompanying crime wave continue to escalate. Amsterdam, with a population of about 750,000, has an estimated 10,000 drug addicts.

"The problem created by drug addicts is out of hand," says Mayor Ed van Thijn. According to the research department of Groningen University, a heavily addicted heroin user needs at least

Acid-rain in Czechoslovakian forest:
Extensive damage to nature is proliferating.

research suggests that increased ozone makes trees more vulnerable to acids.

Clean-up programs will be expensive and may yield only qualified results. Yet, countries hardest hit are convinced that something, even if costly and limited, must be done to save invaluable lakes and forests. Eighteen governments have resolved to cut their emissions of sulfur dioxide by 1993.

Many scientists fear that, even if acid-causing emissions were eliminated altogether, it would take decades to restore damaged lakes and forests to their original health and productivity.
heroin. Four district centers provide similar services.

Meanwhile, a sizable narcotics squad struggles to squelch a never-ending parade of drug dealers and smugglers.

Perhaps the most controversial attempt to reduce drug addiction is the construction of two heroin houseboats. The houseboats offer facilities for addicts to inject free heroin under the supervision of doctors.

Originators of the plan hope the dispensation of free heroin will reduce the incentive for crime. Critics of the project give it little hope for success. There is fear that free heroin will attract more addicts from outlying cities and from abroad.

To further complicate a desperate situation, cocaine traffic is threatening to become a menace worse than heroin. Last November, the narcotics squad intercepted a 30kg shipment of cocaine from South America.

Apparently the drug was destined for unknown laboratories in Holland for further processing. A catch this size suggests that South American cocaine traffickers hope to use Amsterdam as their European subsidiary.

UNESCO Troubles: Harbinger for U.N.?

Some experts are predicting the beginning of the end of the United Nations system.

On the last day of 1984, the United States dissolved its membership in UNESCO—the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Great Britain earlier began its own termination process, giving the mandatory one-year notice of withdrawal, effective the end of 1985. And in a rather sudden announcement, the prosperous Southeast Asian island-nation of Singapore said that it, too, would withdraw at the end of 1985, citing the escalating cost of annual membership.

Several other Western nations are reviewing their status with UNESCO. West Germany, for one, has announced it may withdraw unless the world body becomes "less ideological and more efficient."

UNESCO is the largest of 15 U.N.-related agencies. It started in 1946 with 28 nations, with the purpose of sharing the industrial states' ideas and know-how with developing nations. Reducing world illiteracy was a major objective. Another task was the preservation of endangered cultural landmarks.

Over the years, UNESCO, like the United Nations itself, has changed. It now numbers 161 (two more than the U.N. itself), and in the view of some observers has taken on a decidedly anti-Western tone.

It has initiated controversial measures such as the "New International Economic Order," and is promoting the "New World Information and Communication Order," under which journalists would be licensed by the governments of nations from which they wish to report. This, say critics, could lead to censorship of news reporting.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of the UNESCO affair is that, by leaving the Paris-based agency, the United States could be laying a philosophical foundation for one day leaving the United Nations itself. This would mean, of course, that the U.N., headquartered in New York City since 1945, would have to leave the United States.

According to one American journalist, "Leaving UNESCO is a warning that there are limits to U.S. tolerance. And leaving would help Americans get used to the idea of leaving the United Nations."

Should the United States pull out of the U.N. itself and the U.N. headquarters be forced to leave New York City, some observers believe

U.S. departure from UNESCO could foreshadow exit from United Nations, shift in world influence.

its likely new home would be Vienna, Austria. A gigantic complex of buildings, known officially as the Vienna International Center, houses the U.N.'s second European operation (after Geneva).

Should the move to Vienna ever take place, it would indicate a shift in world influence away from the United States. It would enhance the prestige of Europe and probably play no small role in any future ties between nations in Eastern and Western Europe.

Space: Brazil's Next Frontier

Brazil's 19-year-old space program took a giant leap forward with the successful launch of its Sonda IV rocket from the nation's equatorial space center, Barreira do Inferno.

The 15-minute, 380-mile, suborbital flight proved that the US$1.3 million rocket is well on its way to giving Brazil the ability to launch its own satellites by 1990.

Some observers worry that the Sonda IV could serve as a launch vehicle for military purposes. They point out that Brazil should have the technology to begin uranium enrichment processes by the time the rocket launcher is ready for service. But Jayme Boscov of the Space Activities Institute maintains that the Brazilian program is strictly civilian.
The Graying of Japan

One would hardly expect caring for the aged to be a problem in Japan, where respect for the elderly is proverbial. But a demographic trend burdening other Western nations is now looming for Japan, too.

That trend—the increase in the proportion of senior citizens in the society—has been operating in most Western nations since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, a result of falling birth rates and lengthening life expectancies. Japan, which entered the industrial race late, has for years enjoyed a relatively young, healthy population—an advantage in the world economy, because money not spent on social care can be saved and invested. But Japan’s grandparent population is expected to catch up quickly now, partly because, at 76, Japan’s life expectancy is the world’s second highest, after Iceland.

By the year 2025, fully 21 percent of the people in Japan will be more than 65—compared with 19 percent in the United Kingdom and 16 percent in the United States. One United Nations study indicates that by 2025 Japan’s 60-plus population will be the world’s fourth largest, compared to its eighth-place rank now.

Add to this the fact that fewer Japanese parents are living with their children than previously. Taking in one’s aged parents is less attractive in today’s crowded, urbanized Japan (with twice as many people per room as the United Kingdom) than it was in an earlier, more rural, open society. Too, the eldest son’s legal mandate to support his parents ended when the Allies changed inheritance laws.

The need to support grandmothers and grandfathers will certainly mean less income for the average Japanese to spend and save in the future. Japanese economists fear that increased reliance on government tax-supported pensions will further discourage working people to lay up for the future. And—maybe most serious of all—a heavy pension burden could make working people feel unfairly treated, diminishing their will to work.

Greater Plant Variety Needed

The stability of world agriculture may depend upon the availability and use of a greater variety of plants. Years ago, hundreds of plant species were cultivated as staple foods. That diversity declined dramatically when high-yield hybrids were introduced and it became common to devote large regions to farming single plant varieties.

Wheat, rice, potatoes, barley, and maize (corn) now account for about 60 percent of the produce supplied by the world’s 30 major food crops. Genetic diversity within specific crops has also declined. About 70 percent of America’s corn, for example, originates from only six inbred varieties.

The fewer varieties under cultivation, the more vulnerable those varieties are to insects, disease, drought and climate change. A narrow genetic base contributed to the severity of a 1970 U.S. corn-leaf blight that ruined about 15 percent of the corn crop.

The U.S. National Seed Storage Laboratory was set up in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 1957 to help preserve and rebuild U.S. seed supplies. By preserving the genetic diversity of important plants, it is hoped that their vulnerability to disease, insects, drought and temperature extremes can be reduced.

The storage laboratory now maintains nearly 100,000 varieties, many of which are original seed stocks. Each strain has its own distinct range of tolerance and resistance to common threats. These varieties are used to develop plant strengths.

Louis Bass, director of the seed laboratory, said, “One preserved plant introduction or germ-plasm line may save an agricultural industry.”
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"To Canada and Beyond"

The story “To Canada and Beyond” opened my eyes to what a great lady we have as Head of State in Queen Elizabeth II.

Gene Hogberg touched on topics we fail to even consider one year to another—his research was excellent and the story timely. Yes, our anointed head is the finest example of dedication as Queen, wife and mother. I’m now proud to send copies of this article to friends and workmates for their discovery of what we have as a fine example and Queen of Canada.

Peter Starkey
Burnaby, British Columbia

New Subscriber Comments

We shall be glad if you could issue us without obligation four copies of your magazine The Plain Truth in both English and French (two of each).

Our institution is attended by a bit more than a thousand students and is divided into two departments (boys, girls) and it will be really enriching for these students if they have access to these very interesting periodicals which we shall place on our library desks.

Mrs. M. Moctee (Librarian)
Keats College
Chemin Grenier, Mauritius

Correspondence Course

I am a student enrolled in the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. As a minister and reading the Bible since 1960, it is just wonderful I shall have already started to get a clearer understanding of my own Bible. Your Course is unique and interesting and well planned, precise and to the point. Your method of letting the students go to the original source book, the Bible, and answer the questions themselves is fabulously effective. I only wish all people could adhere to this wonderful Course, then, I have no doubt the world would be a wonderful place to live in.

Z.B. Mbewe
Ga-Rankuwa
Bophuthatswana

Turning Point for World’s Economy

I would like to commend you on the February-March 1985 Plain Truth. I was very glad to see and even surprised at your article “1985: Turning Point for World’s Economy?” The information on how banks create money is a refreshing truth to be seen on the pages of a widely circulated magazine. I only hope it opens the eyes of some of the many who are complacent in their credit world. I also hope it would inspire you to do some follow-up articles.

Eric Natalie Soderberg
Ferndale, Michigan

Did God Set Fire . . . ?

With great interest I have read your article “Did God Set Fire to York Cathedral?”

The other day one of the Swedish Church’s clergymen mentioned in a TV interview that disasters, catastrophes incl. concentration camps well might be the intention of God. Immediately all his fellow clergymen branded him as unworthy of his profession.

It is not only in Britain the church services are irrelevant to the present need of the people. Also in my country the State Church is living its own life, far away from the day-to-day problems people have in a society with fast changing valuations and habits.

Although I not always do agree with all views in your magazine I appreciate your facing the real problems people have.

R.O. Weingarten
Göteborg, Sweden

Being Positive

Owing to a caring attitude of a friend of mine who lives in Belgium, I have been receiving now for two months the Plain Truth magazine, on a subscription basis, from Borchamwood, England. You have also kindly sent me The United States and Britain in Prophecy. Furthermore, I have been encouraged to request your Bible Correspondence Course and the two booklets of your recent special recommendation, this time from your German office. I also speak German and take this opportunity to practice it.

In the January issue of The Plain Truth, I particularly liked the article of Jeff E. Zborne “Being Positive in a Negative World.” I also translated it verbally to friends, a married couple who were just going through one of the difficult moments of their marriage, and they have told me that I had helped them a good deal. It seemed to renew their resolve to persevere and hope for the best, counting on God’s love and helping hand.

I have much interest in the Worldwide Church of God and would like, if possible, to obtain from you some more literature telling the story of the Church and explaining its workings and principles.

Henryk Kubiak
Wegorzewo, Poland

Ethiopia

I had just boarded a 227 bus from Chislehurst to Beckenham on my way home from school, when I noticed a magazine on a seat with a picture of Ronald Reagan. I don’t usually pick up stray magazines but I was strangely drawn to this one. I felt compelled to read it so I sat just where and read. At first it seemed just like a usual secular magazine but on noticing the articles I began to realize the “plain truth” of the magazine and its conclusions. How pleased I was!

I was due to do an assembly in school about Ethiopia and the famine crisis they are at present experiencing and my research hadn’t revealed much useful material. I was pleased to extract information from your Ethiopia article. I thought I’d write and tell you.

Please send me Does God Exist? booklet as I may be speaking on this subject in our school Christian Union in March. Thank you.

D. Bailey
Beckenham, Kent

Seven Laws of Success

I’ve just received the booklets on the subject of Christmas, Seven Laws of Success, Ending Your Financial Worries, and The United States and Britain in Prophecy; and also The Plain Truth, which I missed last year.

I thought I already had learned all the laws of success, having read a lot of psychological books about it; but I realize that the most important law of all is seldom mentioned in success books.

Bonifacio A. Benitez
Dubai, U.A.E.

Singapore

Being quite familiar with Singapore, I was surprised that in the interesting article in the November, 1984, issue Graeme Marshall and John Halford say nothing about the plague of abortion in Singapore—some 58 abortions per day being done in that small country!

Paul Marx, O.S.B.
Human Life International
Washington, D.C.
IN THIS ISSUE:

THE UNITED NATIONS AT 40
The "last hope" of mankind, it has been called. But after four decades the U.N., like the world it represents, totters on the brink of oblivion.

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS—FACT OR MYTH?
For many, miracles are a barrier to believing the Bible. Did Jesus' miracles really happen? How can you know?

THE OTHER BOMB
The story of the second bomb—the one that exploded over Nagasaki—is not so well known as the first atomic attack on Hiroshima. This is what happened.

THE LOVE THAT CONQUERS FEAR AND DEPRESSION
Read about the love, the faith, the power that will conquer every anxiety and fear you now have!

CHILDREN OF THE INNER CITY
What's the solution for youths who live in the streets? Read the answer in this, the eighth in a series on the plain truth about child rearing.

THE VIEW FROM DOWN UNDER
Australia is not the quiet continent many believe. It plays a vital role in today's world. A fresh look at this unique land and its future in this issue.

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