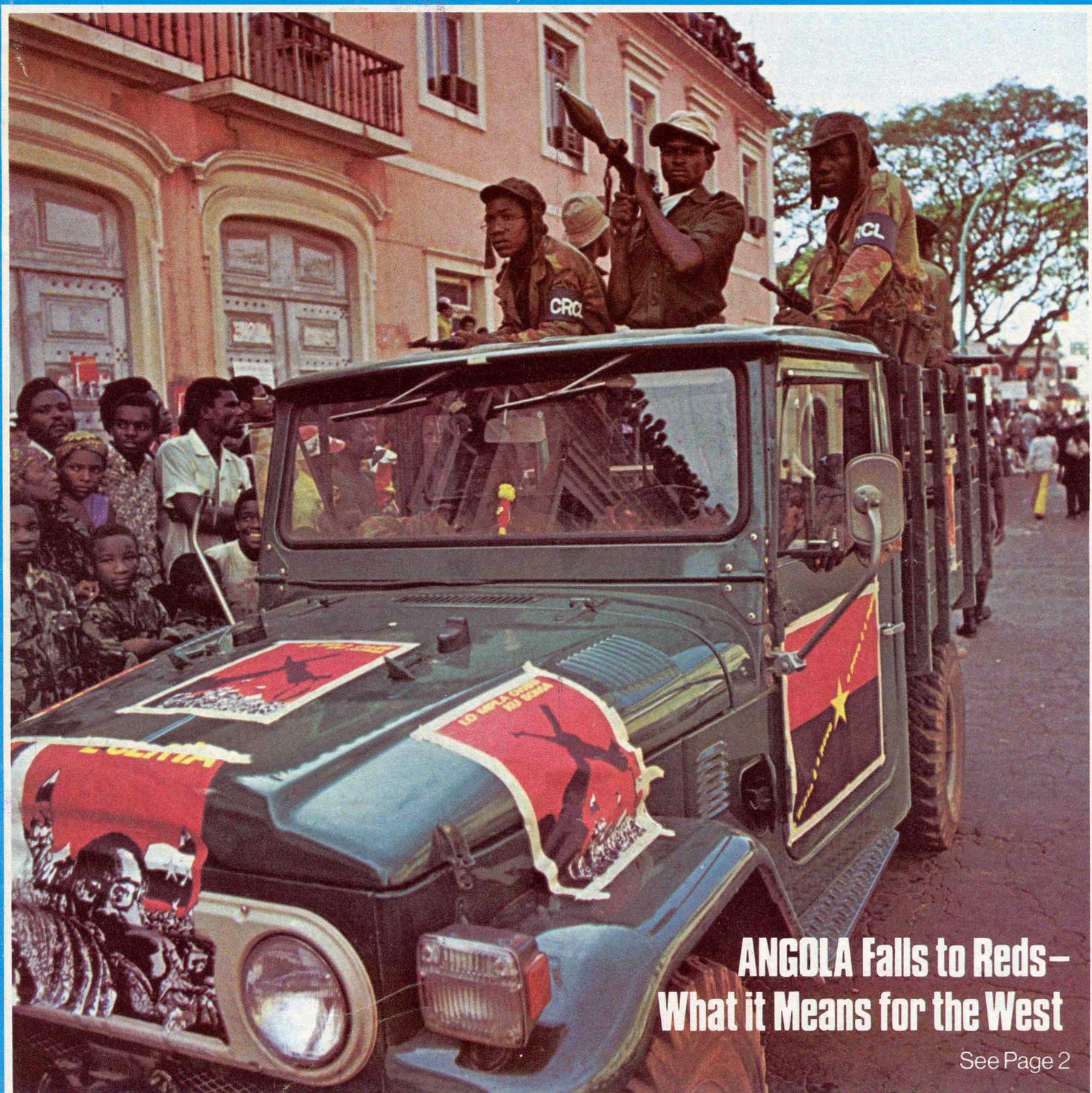


the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**ANGOLA Falls to Reds—
What it Means for the West**

See Page 2

the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

Vol. XLI No. 4

Circulation: 3,082,800

April-May 1976

ARTICLES

The West's Gravest Crisis	2
Race War in Southern Africa?	3
Lands Locked in Moscow's Grip	5
A Tale of Two Cities (Picture Story)	6
The Incredible Human Potential: Human Nature — and How a Whole World Is Deceived About Its Origins	11
A Case Against Pornography	15
Lent, Ashes, Easter, Rabbits and Eggs — What's It All About?	19

FEATURES

Personal from the Editor	1
In Brief	23
Garner Ted Armstrong Speaks Out!	28
TV Log	29



ABOUT OUR COVER

Victorious Soviet- and Cuban-backed troops move into Angolan city as townspeople look on. A crisis of leadership in the Western nations is leading to communist successes around the world.

Jason Lauri — Pledge

**Without
Subscription
Price**

The Plain Truth has no subscription or newsstand price. It is supported through contributions from our readers and those who have chosen, voluntarily, to become co-workers with us in this worldwide work. *The Plain Truth* is nonprofit, accepts no commercial advertising, and has nothing to sell. Contributions are gratefully welcomed and are tax-deductible in the U.S. Those who can are encouraged to add their financial support in the spirit of helping to make *The Plain Truth* available, without price, to others. Contributions should be sent to *The Plain Truth*, Pasadena, CA, 91123 or to one of our offices nearest you (addresses listed on back cover).

Editor-in-Chief: HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Editor: GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

Managing Editor: Arthur A. Ferdig

News Editor: Gene H. Hogberg

Features Editor: Dexter H. Faulkner

Art Director: Allen Merager

Publishing Coordinator: Roger G. Lippross

Copy Editors: Jim E. Lea, Peter Moore

Senior Editors: Herman L. Hoeh, Raymond F. McNair, Roderick C. Meredith

Senior Writers: Jeff Calkins, Robert Ginskey, Brian Knowles, Donald D. Schroeder, Keith Stump

Contributors: Ron Beideck, D. Paul Graunke, Ron Horswell, Adli Muhtadi, Gordon Muir, Carole Ritter, George Ritter, John R. Schroeder

Bureaus: Bonn: Wolfgang Thomsen; Brussels: Ray Kosanke; London: Peter Butler, David Price; Sydney: Don Abraham; Washington: Henry Sturcke

News Research Staff: Donnajean Clausen, Werner Jebens, Tom Rogers, Marc Stahl

Graphics: Monte Wolverton, Manager; Greg Smith, Layout; John Dunn, Garry Haggerty, Ron Lepeska, Gary Richardson, Gene Tikasingh

Photography: David Conn, Alfred Hennig, Phil Stevens, Warren Watson

Photo Files: Al Leiter

Offices: Auckland, New Zealand: Robert Morton; Bonn, West Germany: Frank Schnee; St. Albans, England: Frank Brown; Burleigh Heads, Australia: Dennis Luker; Jerusalem: Chris Patton; Johannesburg, South Africa: Robert Fahey; Manila, Philippines: Colin Adair; Utrecht, The Netherlands: Roy McCarthy; Vancouver, B.C., Canada: Ron Kelly

General Counsel: Stanley R. Rader

Assistant to the Editor: Robert L. Kuhn

Business Manager: Raymond L. Wright

Circulation Managers: United States: Ben Chapman; International Editions: Leslie McCullough

The Plain Truth is published monthly (except combined April-May issue) by Ambassador College, Pasadena, California 91123. Copyright 1976 Ambassador College. All rights reserved. Second Class Postage paid at Pasadena, CA, and at additional mailing offices. PRINTED IN U.S.A.

The PLAIN TRUTH April-May 1976

The handwriting is on the wall, but unbelievable prosperity and world peace is closer than you think! To be forewarned is to be forearmed — and this will affect every one of us!

It's time we take notice. The trend is now unmistakable. You need to understand *what it means!*

Suddenly the United States no longer enjoys the highest per capita income of any nation. Sweden has now risen above us.

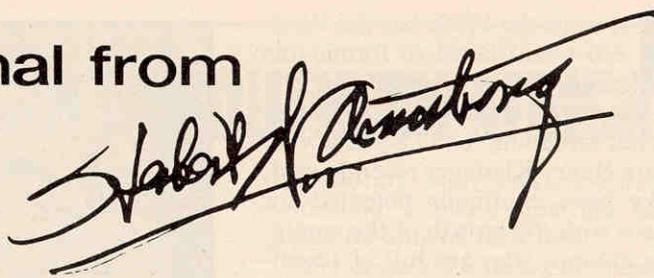
The United States' world's highest living standard *has started on the way down.* You need to understand **WHAT** is now actually happening, **WHY** it is happening, and **WHERE** it's going to take **YOU** and your family, your relatives, and your neighbors!

The buying power of the average American family dropped nearly three percent last year. And that was the second year in a row! Actually, the typical family's **REAL** income last year was even less than it was six years before — and that in spite of the fact that more wives are working now. Forty-three percent — or twenty million wives — are now working. More than that, some five percent of laborers are now holding down two jobs. Still, total **FAMILY INCOMES** are on the decrease.

What **CAUSED** American prosperity to rise so high above all other nations in the first place? And what has **CAUSED** this trend to decline?

I was involved in a personal experience that explains in part the rising of the average American income. In early January 1914, I was traveling eastward in upstate New York from Buffalo, as editorial representative of America's largest trade journal. At Utica I received a telegram from the magazine's home office to go immediately to Detroit to interview Henry Ford. A news bombshell had broken the same day. The Ford Motor Company had startled the nation — and the world — with the sensational announcement of a new \$5.00 per day wage scale. The union scale for automo-

Personal from



WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE U.S. STANDARD OF LIVING— AND WHY?

bile workers was then \$3.75 per ten-hour day. Ford had announced a \$5.00 per day wage for a nine-hour day.

The magazine editors wanted an on-the-spot story by their own editorial representative. I did see Henry Ford, but the real story came from John R. Lee, head of Ford's Sociological Department. He had originated the plan.

I have published the account of this incident before, but it is important that I repeat it here, because it explains a major factor in America's rise to the highest living standard in all human history.

"You are now paying the highest wage rate in the automobile industry, *right?*" I began.

"**WRONG!**" came back Mr. Lee, with emphasis. "We are now paying the *lowest* wage rate."

"But is not the union scale at other plants \$3.75 per 10-hour day, and are you not now paying \$5.00 per 9-hour day?"

"Oh yes, but we figure what we pay in terms of what we **GET**, and we **GET** twice as much work accomplished per 9-hour day as other factories get per 10-hour day. In other words, other factories pay \$7.50 to **GET** the same amount of production we get for \$5.00."

This left me a little bewildered.

"You see," Mr. Lee explained, "we have now gone on the assembly-line system of mass production. This automatically sets the pace for each man's work. The machinery now does much of the work formerly done by hand. We have a mass market which makes possible **MASS MACHINE PRODUCTION.** That's the reason we can sell the Model T Ford at such a low price. That **MASS PRODUCTION** by the assembly-line method lowers production cost. No other automobile company has a market large enough to go on this method of production."

But it was only a matter of a little time until all U.S. automobile makers were on machine mass production. American population was growing. Mass machine production greatly lowered labor costs in production. No other country at the time had a market large enough to warrant mass-machine production.

Perhaps this might have made America's capitalists far richer, but labor unionism was growing by leaps and bounds at that time. They went after and got their share of the benefits from this lower-cost machine production.

Result: In a few years America's laboring class produced a new and vast **MIDDLE-class** population.

(Continued on page 21)

Not since the 1930s has the Western world faced so formidable a threat to its survival!

Asked to summarize the present global situation, U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger recently said: "We have enormous potential for chaos with the growth of the emerging nations, who are full of resentments . . . the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the expansion of Soviet military strength — all of this has great danger."

Most of the advanced nations of the free world — many of which are critical of America as supreme leader of the West — are suffering from faltering and divided leadership, lack of purpose, and lack of will to act unitedly against onrushing crises.

Few statesmen or political analysts have as succinctly summarized the West's grave weakness, if not potentially fatal disease, as has James R. Schlesinger, former U.S. Secretary of Defense. In a recent article in *Fortune*, a leading business monthly, he said: "The gravest problem for the Western world is without question the *loss of vision, of moral stamina, of national purpose.*"

Warns Schlesinger further: "The West is clearly in disarray, and within a few years could actually be at bay."

The Soviet Challenge

The West's most dangerous challenge, at present, comes from the Soviet Union's burgeoning base of power and influence. Despite a host of internal weaknesses, the Soviets, with surprising skill and success, have taken advantage of the West's own weaknesses and jumped into power vacuums in widespread areas of the globe.

In recent months and years, the Soviets have had their share of foreign misadventures and setbacks. Still, through unflinching probing, they have garnered strategic success all around Africa, the Mideast, and Southeast Asia. The Western nations, meanwhile, have steadily lost influence.

Indeed, it seems that containment of communism, once fiercely believed in and fought for by Americans in the post-World War II era



"THE GRAVEST PROBLEM for the Western world is without question the loss of vision, of moral stamina, of national purpose."
— Former U.S. Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger

THE WEST'S GRAVEST CRISIS

Survival of the free world is seriously endangered by a plague of divided and faltering leadership in America and other Western countries.

by Donald D. Schroeder

up to Vietnam, is now a seriously eroded American policy.

Stung by recent Soviet advances, U.S. leaders "shoot" words of warning that no more communist nonsense — such as the flagrant Soviet-Cuban episode in Angola — will be permitted. But their warnings seem more and more hollow. They are not backed up by a meaningful American military commitment or other deterring action or even neces-

sarily support from the American public as a whole.

Instead, the world watches congressional and State Department feuds and rivalry turn American foreign policy into a virtual shambles.

In the United Nations, the U.S. finds itself almost alone on many touchy issues. In order not to antagonize the Third World bloc, in particular the oil powers, America's allies avoid taking coordinated trans-Atlantic stances and often abstain from voting on hot issues.

The Grim Reality

However tired her citizens may be of external world difficulties — especially in the light of the bitter Vietnam experience — America cannot shrink from her historic preeminent position in the world without setting off startling changes in the global political order.

The fact is America is still the only counterweight to Soviet power.

Washington must now deal with what could be very serious side effects of its decision not to counter the shrewd Soviet intrusion in Angola's civil war.

For the first time, the U.S. failed to respond to a Soviet military move outside the Soviet orbit. It was also the first time Congress had halted action to counter a Soviet thrust in the middle of a crisis. "If the pattern is not broken now," said a frustrated Henry Kissinger, "we will face harder choices and higher costs in the future."

But the American mood is clearly noninterventionist.

Following hard on the heels of the Angolan debacle, both the United States and Britain announced to white-controlled and West-aligned Rhodesian leaders they had better start negotiating "realistically" with black nationalists. The Rhodesian minority government was told that they could expect no major intervention on their behalf by the West if full-scale fighting broke out.

It was a message for South Africa too. Both nations may well be abandoned to a dark and bloody fate.

NATO Woes

Throughout Western Europe, top military commanders are disturbed

by the unabated military buildup of conventional and nuclear forces by the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact nations.

Added to NATO's woes is the high state of tension over Cyprus between Turkey and Greece along Europe's soft underbelly. And as usual, America is blamed for the unresolved Cyprus issue. As a result, many vital land and sea bases in these two feuding countries are now closed to American forces.

Another chink in the NATO armor is the rift between Iceland and NATO ally Britain over fishing rights in Icelandic-claimed waters. The two NATO "allies" have now broken off diplomatic relations.

The "cod war" jeopardizes the America-manned NATO base at Keflavik and other NATO stations in Iceland, which are vital for monitoring Soviet naval and air force movements in the North Atlantic.

Elsewhere in Western Europe, communist parties are threatening to take important, if not dominating, positions of leadership in Italy and France. Even though they strongly profess independence from Moscow's dictates, they still do not evoke emotions of trust.

Britain, with its communist-infiltrated labor-union leadership, frightfully unstable economy, and fickle government, has proven to be a major irritant to her continental Common Market partners.

Meanwhile, U.S. congressional leaders seem not at all chagrined at hampering vital U.S. intelligence operations through detailed public revelations of abuses or through leaks of intelligence activities themselves.

Allied Fears: Is U.S. Trustworthy?

It is no wonder that more and more influential Europeans are vocalizing fears about the stability of their post-World War II alliance with the United States.

"America's internal problems have robbed Washington of its capacity to lead," voiced one former British Foreign Office official.

Winston S. Churchill, grandson of Britain's famous World War II leader, lamented in a recent speech "the grotesque orgy of self-denigra-

(Continued on page 4)

RACE WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA?

Encouraged by their victory in Angola, Soviet- and Cuban-supported African nationalist guerrillas may seek to "complete the job" by launching an offensive aimed at overthrowing the last remaining white minority governments in southern Africa.

With the former Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique now independent and ruled by Marxist black nationalists, Rhodesia and South Africa have been stripped of geographical buffers and now face radical black nationalism head-on across their borders.

First Target – Rhodesia

The immediate threat is to Rhodesia (*Zimbabwe* to African nationalists) – a nation of 270,000 whites ruling over 6 million blacks.

As we go to press, Mozambique has closed its border with Rhodesia and has declared a "state of war," seizing all Rhodesian property and assets within Mozambique. Though seen primarily as a saber-rattling gesture, the action by Mozambique bodes ill for the possibility of a peaceful, negotiated resolution of differences.

Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith has been engaged for some months in negotiations with Joshua Nkomo, head of the moderate Rhodesian-based faction of the African National Council, attempting to work out some sort of power-sharing formula. Little progress, however, has been made, and the negotiations have recently been termed "near collapse."

If a peaceful transition to black majority rule cannot be achieved in Rhodesia, full-scale war is seen as inevitable, especially now that black nationalist guerrillas feel they can depend on Moscow for help. Gangs of Soviet-armed insurgents are already at work in the eastern highlands of Rhodesia, operating out of camps in Mozambique.

It is believed by most observers that the Rhodesian government forces, even though well trained and

adequately equipped, could not withstand a major guerrilla campaign for long on their own.

Yet despite the threat of eventual Soviet domination of the area, British and U.S. officials have made it clear that there will be no American or British military intervention to defend the minority Rhodesian regime if fighting breaks out. Both governments have instead been urging "realistic" negotiations to forestall the threat of violence.

Second Target – South Africa

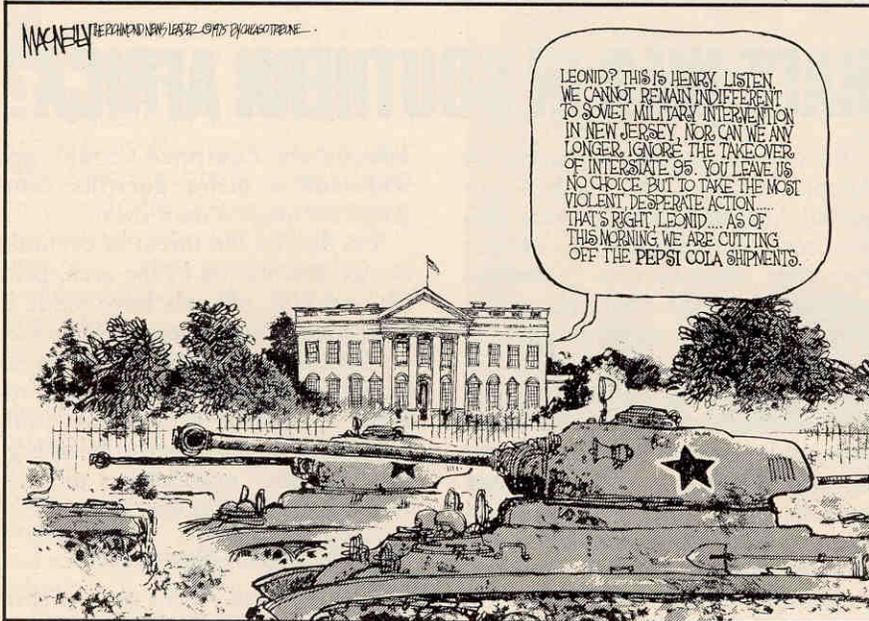
War in South Africa itself is seen as very unlikely. The black African confrontation with that nation would probably come in the South African-ruled territory of Namibia, or South-West Africa.

South Africa acquired Namibia – a former German colony – after World War I under a League of Nations mandate. The United Nations has subsequently called for an end to South African rule over the territory, declaring the continuing South African presence "illegal."

The militant South-West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) – a nationalist group recognized by the U.N. as "the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people" – is reportedly ready to "invite external intervention" to drive the South Africans out.

The once-heralded détente policy of South African Prime Minister John Vorster – designed to gain a measure of acceptance for South Africa in black African circles – now appears to be on the rocks in the wake of South Africa's intervention in Angola. With the victory of Marxist forces in Angola and the demonstrated Soviet support for African "liberation," Vorster's détente has lost much of its appeal to black Africans.

Surrounded by black Africans in overwhelming numbers, the white populaces of Rhodesia and South Africa may be in for a long and bloody struggle to retain their right in the African sun. □



tion, of party political mud-slinging,” going on in Washington while the interests of the Western alliance go by default.

In late January, Belgian Defense Minister Paul Vanden Boeynants openly called for a truly unified European defense system. Such was imperative, he said, because the continent could no longer put all its trust in the United States. “What would become of us if the U.S. nuclear umbrella were to disappear tomorrow?” he asked. “The farmer in Nevada does not care about far-away Europe.”

Korea's Fate, Japan's Future Intertwined

Korea is another hot spot where American purpose and willpower will undoubtedly be tested. North Korea's President Kim Il Sung has never flagged in his determination to get the Americans out of South Korea and unify the peninsula under the communist banner. His fifteen million people have been indoctrinated with fierce Korean nationalism and hatred of the U.S.

General George S. Brown, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, calls Korea “the most obvious location in this region for an outbreak of hostilities.”

How would America react under such a situation? Would it sit idly by and ignore a solemn commitment made to an ally?

Unlike the relationship with

South Vietnam, the U.S. has a defense treaty with South Korea, ratified by Congress. “If we abandon this treaty,” warns Dr. Kissinger, “it would have drastic consequences in Japan and all over Asia.”

One of the major reasons the U.S. remains in Korea is the important role it plays in the defense of Japan, America's chief Asian ally. Should

“The U.S. can't use its muscles; it can't use its power. It has just become a crippled giant.”

— *Shah of Iran*

the United States ever back out of South Korea, the Japanese government would certainly take it as a sign America is no longer willing to defend Japan.

“If the North Koreans take over all Korea,” said one Japanese editor, “it will be a whole new ball game in Japan.”

A dramatic but very possible scenario under such a retreat could very well be a revitalized Japanese military power rearmed with nuclear weapons — a frightening condition the U.S. has long striven to avoid.

Why Growing Western Troubles?

In the face of further weakening of Western, and particularly American, resolve and unity, diplomatic options available to free-world na-

tions are steadily narrowing. Soon, only the roads of neutrality, appeasement, or retreat may be left.

Why have America, Britain, and other Western-type democracies lost their national values, purpose, and influence?

Why the growing internal and external travail for the English-speaking advanced nations that have enjoyed the greatest freedoms and prosperity in the history of the world?

Why is the Soviet Union, despite great internal weaknesses, scoring one success after another on the world stage?

These conditions and the reasons for them were prophesied in the Bible!

The United States, Britain, and many other English-speaking and Western democracies are mentioned in the Bible. Ahead for many of these nations, according to many prophecies, are times of increasing and unparalleled troubles.

The Bible calls the period just ahead of us “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation” (Daniel 12:1). Jeremiah also prophesied this same crisis: “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the *time of Jacob's trouble*; but he shall be saved out of it” (Jer. 30:7).

But who is Jacob?

The understanding of the identity and future of Jacob is the most important key to understanding Bible prophecy and the meaning of today's world events. It tells why America, Britain, and other English-speaking nations are heading into mounting internal and external problems.

Bible prophecy also reveals how Western Europe — in self-defense — is going to eventually react to America's and Britain's slumping role in such a way as to startle the world. It reveals how developing nations are going to react to America's troubles. And it even details the fate of the Soviet monolith!

Nothing is more important in your life than to understand the meaning of today's world events. Write today for our free booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. It will open your eyes! □

Last spring, two Plain Truth editors visited the nations of Eastern Europe on a tour sponsored by the National Press Club of Washington, D.C. Here, in words and pictures, is part one of their story.

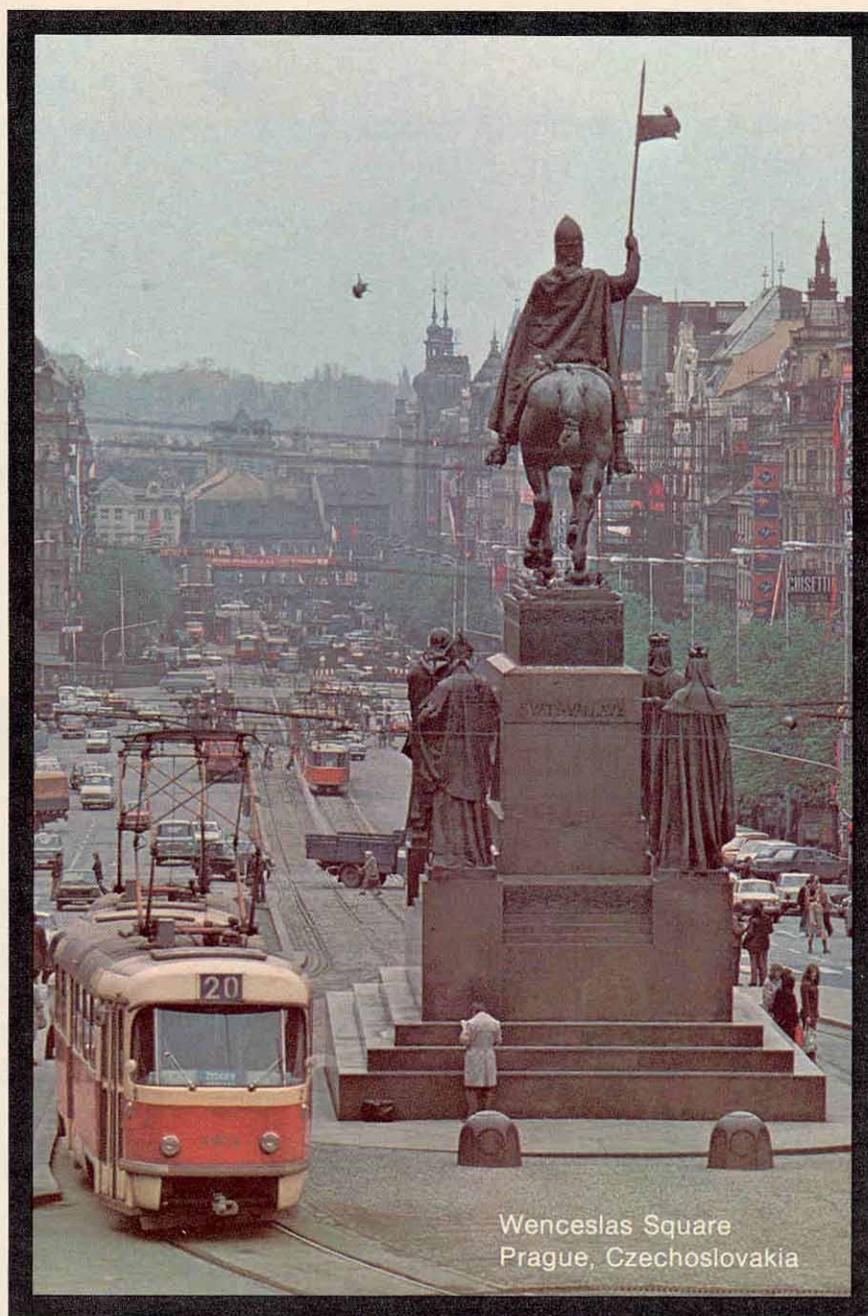
Riding on the bus from the airport into the heart of Prague, I was puzzled. I had made this same jaunt once before, two years previously, but something was strangely different this time. The city was almost deserted. Where had all the good *Praguers* gone?

Shops everywhere were closed; pedestrians were almost nowhere to be seen; the red-and-cream-colored trams were few in number and nearly devoid of their customarily crammed human cargoes. Only an occasional *Skoda* or *Tatra* automobile sped past our coach-load of travel-weary Americans to break up the expanse of empty pavement.

It was Friday, a business day, wasn't it? Normally that would be true, Vera, our ample Czech guide reminded us, but it was also May 2, midpoint of the three-day "May Day" Communist holiday. Prague would not revert to its normal pace until the following Sunday, she told us, when it would again be business as usual (*not* normally true of other Sundays).

Explanation accepted (not always the case from East bloc guides, especially those in the Soviet Union), I nevertheless kept wondering to myself: Where were the burghers of "mystical, magical, millennial

(Continued on page 8)



Wenceslas Square
Prague, Czechoslovakia

LANDS LOCKED IN MOSCOW'S GRIP

by Gene H. Hogberg
photos by Dexter H. Faulkner and the author

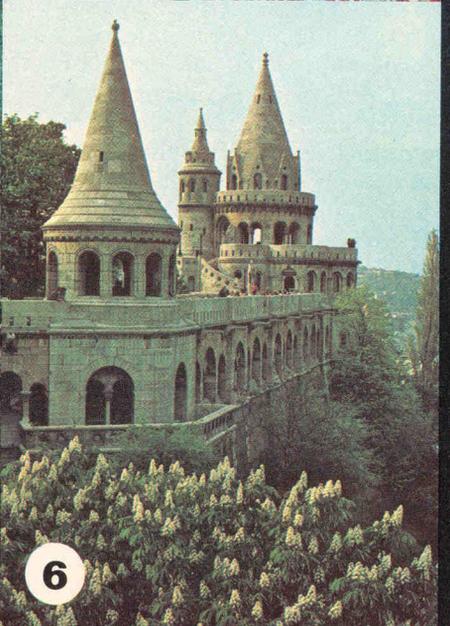
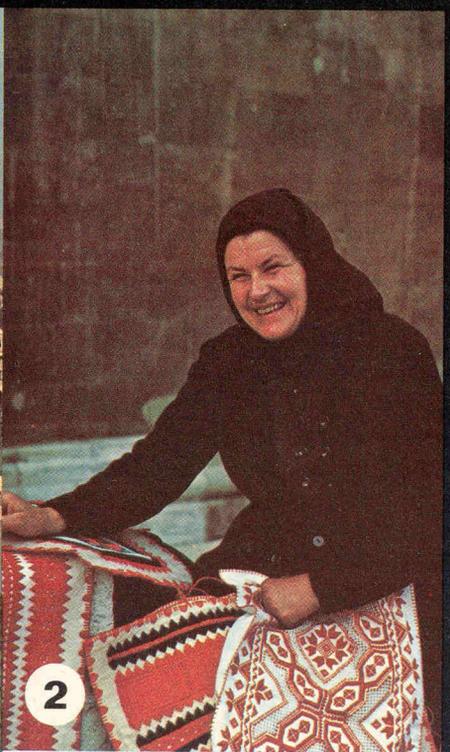
a tale of t



Prague

1. Spanning the Vltava (Moldau) River in Prague is the 14th-century Charles Bridge. In the background looms the immense compound of Hradcany, or Prague Castle. **2.** Czech air force planes fly overhead during May Day 1975 exercises. **3.** Young lad amuses his elders on a holiday outing. **4.** Perched on a pedestal is the tank that led Soviet columns into the city in May 1945. **5.** Banners on buildings proclaim 30th anniversary of the lifting of the Nazi yoke. **6.** Tightly compacted headstones in the Jewish cemetery where almost 200,000 Prague Jews were buried from 1439 to 1787. Prohibited from acquiring additional land, ghetto leaders were forced to bury their dead layer upon layer, moving earlier headstones to each new surface.

two cities



Budapest

1. Hungary's elegant, multi-spired, 19th-century Parliament building lines the Pest side of the Danube. 2. Peasant woman displays handcrafted items for sale. 3. Striking World War II Liberation Monument located atop Gellert Hill on the Buda side. Budapest suffered severe damage during the war. As much as 90% of the city's industrial plant was partly or totally destroyed, and 85% of all dwellings were ruined or seriously damaged. 4. Young maiden enjoys the afternoon springtime sun in a Buda park. Hungary's population has remained stagnant for years. Cramped urban housing conditions limit family size. 5. Tram traverses Lenin Boulevard, a major thoroughfare in Pest. 6. Spring flowers climb the hillside toward the turrets of 13th-century Buda Castle.

Prague" (as author Joseph Wechsberg termed this thousand-year-old city in the heart of Europe) sequestering themselves? I couldn't believe they were all whiling away three dreary days in their cramped quarters in the massive, prefabricated apartment blocs so characteristic of Communist Prague — which stand in grotesque contrast to the architectural treasures still extant from Gothic and Baroque Prague.

The answer to my question, I subsequently discovered, lay in the stream of privately owned Czech-, Soviet-, and East German-built automobiles which funnel back into the city at the end of every weekend and extended holiday. (Nearly one out of every 6 inhabitants of Prague owns an automobile.) The citizens of Prague find welcome relief from the grim, gray (and, at times, intensely smoggy) atmosphere of the capital in the beautiful surrounding countryside, dotted with lake and river resorts and thousands upon thousands of simple, privately owned weekend cottages.

The countryside dachas serve three good purposes. First, they provide a substitute for foreign travel — especially travel out of the East bloc. Czechoslovakia, along with Romania and East Germany, are very restrictive of this privilege.

Secondarily, the scratch-built cabins help drain off accumulated personal savings which still can't be spent to the degree desired on good quality imported consumer items. (The best imports are sold in the hard-currency stores that cater to tourists. This is the reason why in Prague, more than anywhere else except Warsaw, one is approached on the street continually with offers to swap *koruna* for dollars at rates far exceeding the official exchange.)

Lastly, the retreats in the wooded hills and mountains of Bohemia absorb, or at least attenuate, "dangerous political energies." As one professional Czechoslovak lady told an English journalist a short while back: "Fooling around in the open air is a substitute for serious intellectual or political pursuits — not to be recommended."

Perhaps that is why Alexander Dubcek — the officially disgraced leader of the abortive 1968 "social-

ism with a human face" reform movement — is now consigned to planting trees in a somber Czech forest somewhere.

A Slogan in Every Window

The first week and a half of May is always a good time to judge the relative freedoms enjoyed by the people in the various nations of the Soviet orbit. The three-day May Day is followed closely by Victory Day — May 9 in Eastern Europe — a very big holiday celebrating the victory of communist forces over Hitler's Reich. The two holiday periods — the one political and the other military — tend to blend together into one. Especially was this so in 1975, the 30th anniversary of the defeat of Nazism.

In Prague, signs, banners, flags, pennants, posters, and pictures were everywhere present. There was not a single shop window, regardless of the business conducted, that did not dutifully display a prominent "30" poster or the ubiquitous picture of a World War II Russian tank crew hugging the girls of Prague upon the city's "liberation" by the Red Army in May 1945. (There were no displays, incidentally, of Prague's "reliberation" in August 1968.)

In contrast, Budapest, which we visited next on our tour, appeared remarkably free of propaganda with mostly just small national and Communist Party flags displayed on lamp posts and building facades — nothing ostentatious.

Access to written material from the West proved to be quite different in the two cities as well.

In Budapest, it was possible to obtain newspapers at the hotel (though not on the newsstands) from several Western nations, including the popular American-owned *International Herald Tribune*, which is published in Paris. Also available was an eight-page daily news digest, half in English, half in German, published by MTI, the Hungarian news agency. It was fairly newsworthy, carrying dispatches from Western news wires as well as Tass, the Soviet agency.

Access to such information was impossible in Prague, however. At the hotels as well as at the news kiosks, one was limited solely to the

Communist press, including the immensely boring *Morning Star*, the journalistic flagship of Britain's Communist Party.

Human Scars

On the surface, at least, few scars remain in Prague of the events of August 1968 when the invading forces of five "socialist brother" Warsaw Pact nations brought the liberalizing reforms of the Dubcek government to a screeching halt. Of course, the Czech capital sustained relatively little damage in the first place, especially when compared with the pitched battles which raged through the streets of Budapest during Hungary's 13-day effort to gain freedom from Soviet domination in 1956. The docile Czechs succumbed much more easily.

Human scars still remain, however. Under the post-Dubcek slogan of a "return to Leninism" the Czech Communist Party was purged of half a million members. Trade unions and other institutions were similarly cleansed of all those who had even partially participated in what was called the "Prague Spring."

Vera's husband, once a prominent singer, was one of these unfortunate individuals "officially disgraced" because of his involvement in the 1968 political reform. Vera showed us a well-worn copy of the February 1968 edition of *National Geographic* magazine. In it, on page 162, was a picture of her husband performing at the annual three-week-long Prague Spring music festival (whose gay and airy atmosphere lent its name to the political movement which was intended to add a brighter side to socialism). Never again, Vera assured us, would he be privileged to perform in a major musical production in his country.

Economic Dilemma

The Czech people enjoy, despite their many limitations, a higher standard of living than any of their Communist neighbors with the exception of the East Germans.

But danger signs for the Czech economy are showing up. Growth rates are slowing. The state economic planners have yet to institute
(Continued on page 10)



working on the railroad— Hungarian Style

No visit to Hungary would be complete without a ride on the Pioneer Railway — a unique little line which winds its way deep into the verdant hills on the rolling Buda side of Budapest.

The railroad is operated by Hungary's national railway system as a training ground for future employees of the nation's rail network. (Such a practice is quite common in the communist world. The Soviet Union has 30 such railroads!)

The Hungarian version is a scaled-down, narrow gauge line, about 8 miles in length. The engineers on each train are adults, but virtually all other employees are "Young Pioneers" — youngsters around the age of 12 to 14, members

of the communist equivalent of the "Boy Scouts" or "Girl Scouts."

In learning the profession of railroading, the youngsters take their turn at performing a wide range of operating roles — as ticket sellers, conductors, station masters, telegraphers, and flagmen. The young railroaders take their job very seriously, and it seems impossible for passengers to distract them from their duties.

Children from the Budapest area enjoy riding the Pioneer Railroad as well. Groups of schoolchildren, accompanied by their teachers, regularly take field trips on the railroad, disembarking at various stations along the way to disappear into the wooded countryside, which is ex-

cellent for hiking and picnicking. On board our train we were joined by a group of exuberant 10 year olds extremely eager to talk to their American fellow travelers. Hand gestures on both sides helped surmount the formidable language barrier. American television programs also lent a hand. The children, wrestling to come up with the few English words they knew, managed "cowboy" and for some curious reason, "Arizona."

A ride on the Pioneer Railway affords some of the most scenic views of the Budapest area. It also provides a good opportunity to see the young people of Hungary at work and at play.

— G.H.H.

the broader managerial powers already in effect throughout other Comecon states — perhaps because to do so would carry with it the “dirty word” of reform. Yet President Gustav Husak reports that the new five-year plan will require better qualified management personnel.

How to accomplish such reorganization without tapping the skills of the thousands of engineers, academics, and other members of the intelligentsia who are politically barred from responsible jobs is perhaps the biggest dilemma confronting Czechoslovakia today.

President Husak, who is also Communist Party General Secretary, realizes the importance of this dilemma very well. A former Stalinist prisoner, Husak is a realist who is, from all reports, striving to achieve a middle ground between old hard-line communism and the permissiveness that Moscow would not tolerate in 1968. Mr. Husak must move deliberately, but very cautiously in reintegrating lesser figures from the reform experiment back into jobs where their know-how could be best utilized for the good of the whole country.

Mr. Husak presently enjoys Moscow's blessings. But the thousands of Soviet troops still “temporarily stationed” on Czech soil guarantee that any reform from now on will never get out of hand.

Fresh Air on the Danube

In contrast to Prague, Budapest appeared to our tour group to be almost a “swinging” city.

Even though statistics reveal that Hungary ranks considerably below Czechoslovakia in per capita GNP in the communist world (\$1,850 as opposed to \$2,870), the streets of Budapest seemed to tell a different picture. Both private shops and state-run stores were well stocked, many with attractive window displays.

Book stores contained a wide variety of subject matter — far more than in Prague, where the emphasis was very heavy on politics and economics. In fact, Budapest is said to have more foreign books on sale than any other communist capital. (The pricing of the books is unique. Prices on “acceptable” books are deliberately kept very low so as to



HUNGARY'S Communist Party chief, Janos Kadar, chats freely with Western newsmen at European Security Conference in Helsinki last year — only East bloc head-of-state to do so.

be affordable. The more politically or culturally marginal ones carry very heavy surcharges.)

The pace of Budapest is quite hectic. Approximately half of all industry in Hungary is concentrated in the area in and around Budapest. (The city contains over 2 million people; the next largest city, Miskolc, is far down the population ladder at only 190,000.)

It was difficult to sleep at our room at the Hotel Royal Grand. All night long, every 30 seconds or so, noisy three-car trams trundled outside along *Lenin Korut*, a major thoroughfare on the Pest side of the Danube. The traffic became worse during the morning rush hour — which began around 5 a.m.!

All the apparent business we witnessed, however, cannot mask serious economic problems now facing the nation as a whole. Hungary is a small country with almost no natural resources of its own to feed its ambitious post-World War II industrialization.

Because of its heavy dependence on trade, the impact of world inflation has come down awfully hard on Hungary. It has not been able to shield itself from soaring prices outside the communist world as well as other East bloc countries.

In fact, Hungary's most serious economic problem was generated within Comecon, the Soviet-led

Eastern European “Common Market.” In the aftermath of the startling increase in prices of Middle East oil, the Soviets, chief petroleum suppliers to Hungary and the other satellites, hiked their rates as well.

The Soviet price on oil sold to its socialist trade partners is still below the world price. And, attempting to soften the impact, Moscow has granted increased credits, as well as agreeing to pay more for the products it buys — such as buses and farm produce, Hungary's major exports to the U.S.S.R. Nevertheless, to cope with soaring trade deficits, Hungarian leaders, over the last two years, have had to reshuffle their economic planning. The much heralded “New Economic Mechanism” (NEM) designed to reduce central planning and increase productivity and trade with the West has had to be scaled down.

Government officials insist there will be no major curtailment of consumer imports from the West. The maintenance of a relatively high standard of living is politically important to a government that never wants to see a repetition of 1956. But some import lines are being trimmed back to avoid duplication.

Price of Freedom

Hungary's price of relative freedom and limited liberties on the home front is unswerving loyalty — indeed, total subservience — to the Soviet Union on international and ideological matters. Last month, at the quadrennial Soviet Communist Party Congress in Moscow, Hungary's party leader, Janos Kadar, made all the appropriate ideologically sound pronouncements.

Prisoners of their own geography, both Hungary and Czechoslovakia are indispensable elements in the great protective partition the Soviet Union erected for itself in Europe in the aftermath of World War II. Events in 1956 and 1968 proved their immobility unmistakably. And, last year at the European Security Conference in Helsinki, the cement in the Soviet western wall hardened even further. The state borders in Europe, agreed 35 nations from both sides of the ideological barrier, are now “inviolable.” □

(To be continued)

THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL, PART VIII

HUMAN NATURE—AND HOW A WHOLE WORLD IS DECEIVED ABOUT ITS ORIGINS

Here is a BOMBSHELL of TRUTH almost no one has understood. The world's evils are attributed to HUMAN NATURE. WHY, as the Bible says, is the heart deceitful above all things and desperately wicked? Did God create in us a nature that "is enmity [hostile] against God"? Are babies born with this selfish, evil nature?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

I OVERHEARD one say: "Just look at that beautiful, sweet little baby — and to think it's filled with all that evil, despicable human nature!"

But *was it?*

Think of this paradox! How can it be explained? The human mind can produce wonders. We have sent successive teams of men to walk on the moon. We have returned them safely through the earth's atmosphere. Yet these marvelous human minds cannot solve our problems here on earth — cannot bring the world PEACE!

WHY? All the violence, war, crime, corruption, dishonesty, and immorality is blamed on HUMAN NATURE.

But where did HUMAN NATURE come from? Did the Creator instill it within us from creation? Were we born with it? And please understand that in this article I am speaking of human nature in its evil spiritual phase — of vanity, lust, greed, envy, jealousy, competition, strife, rebellion against authority, resentment, and hate.

The answer requires a knowledge of the composition and nature of the human mind — accessible only by revelation. In Part VII (*The Plain Truth*, Sept. 6, 1975) the composition of the human mind, as compared to animal brain, was ex-

plained. BUT **WHY** does such wonderful MIND power work so much evil?

Did an all-loving, all-merciful, almighty GOD deliberately plague the human race He created with an in-born nature of vanity, lust, and greed — with a heart of hostility against God, of deceit, envy, jealousy, and hatred?

How Was Adam, at His Creation?

As stated in Part VII, few indeed know *what* a human being really is, HOW we humans came to be here on earth, the real human potential, *where* we are going, or *what* is the WAY?

In preceding installments I have shown what *caused* God to create man, *why* we came to be put on earth, the real PURPOSE for human life, the AWESOME human potential. Yet we humans seem to be cursed with this evil human nature!

In the present installment I want to show what is the real source of this evil nature — *why* the human mind works as it does. The Bible is our source.

So first, let's see what is revealed about the first man, Adam, and his nature *at the time of his creation*.

The Bible reveals only the most brief high points of human history for the first two thousand-plus years — a third of all the time from the

creation of man to now! Only eleven chapters are devoted to the history of all that span of time. The account of the first created couple is merely the briefest possible summary.

The first humans were the last act of creation on the sixth day of what is commonly called "creation week," recorded in the first chapter of Genesis.

God had created plant life — the flora — on the third day of that week, animal life — the fauna — on the fifth and sixth, each reproducing "after its own kind." Cattle reproduced after the cattle kind (verse 25), lions after the lion kind, horses after the horse kind, etc.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." In other words, "Let us make MAN after the GOD kind!" God was actually *reproducing Himself!*

And notice, the name God — the original Hebrew name as originally written throughout Genesis I is *Elohim*. It is a uniplural noun, like family, group, church. It is ONE family composed of more than one person. It is like one team, one church, but each composed of multiple persons. The God to whom Jesus prayed is the FATHER of the FAMILY that is GOD. God IS a FAMILY — but ONE family, ONE GOD.

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him, male and female created he them." WHY? Because human reproduction is the type of God's reproducing Himself. And physical reproduction requires both male and female.

But continue: "And God blessed them . . ." Did He *bless* them by creating in them an evil sinful nature, utterly unable to be subject to God's *right* way of life? But continue this passage: "... and God

said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Gen. 1:28).

"And God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good" (verse 31). If the first humans — as God had created them — were VERY GOOD, could it include a hostile and evil nature that was very BAD?

That ought to give every reader something to think about!

Now what does this record of the creation of the first humans reveal as to Adam's nature *at the time of his creation*? I repeat: Only the very most brief high spots are recorded here. The little that is revealed gives us, however, all we really need to know.

Here it is: "And out of the ground the Eternal God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them . . ." (Gen. 2:19).

Here, in the briefest of summaries, we may see clearly whether this short account reveals a rebellious and disobedient nature in Adam, or one of compliance and obedience.

Absolutely NO REBELLION is indicated here. We find, instead, the response that Adam gave names to all cattle, to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field.

This incident reveals Adam's attitude and nature *as he was created*, PRIOR TO his temptation by Satan (which is recorded in chapter 3). Notice carefully. Absolutely NOTHING in the account of this pre-temptation incident indicates in Adam the presence of an evil, hostile, rebellious attitude or nature. It does not reflect a heart that is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, as human nature is described (Jeremiah 17:9), nor a carnal mind that is enmity (hostile) against God and which "is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

Nor, on the other hand, does it reveal a nature filled with the spirit of God. Adam had not yet been confronted by Satan, had not disobeyed, nor had he taken of the "tree of life" to receive the indwelling LOVE and POWER of God's holy spirit, which would have im-

parted the DIVINE NATURE (II Peter 1:4).

So prior to the temptation by Satan, we have only the revelation that Adam's NATURE, as God created him, was *not* evil, hostile and diabolical. There may have been the physical and mental nature of self-preservation and such things. But *NOT* the evil nature of SELF-centeredness.

We need to realize that God created Adam and the human race for a PURPOSE. We need to have clearly in mind, at this point, WHAT that purpose is.

Angels had inhabited this planet before the creation of man (II Peter 2:4-6). These angels had *sinned*. God had set over them a king — Lucifer, a super archangel — to govern them with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:11-17). All this has been covered in detail in previous installments.

This super king, Lucifer, was the supreme being in created perfection it is possible to create (Ezek. 28:12, 15). But, remember, holy and righteous CHARACTER is something that *cannot* be created in one *instantaneously by fiat*. It must be *developed* in an independent entity through a process in which one comes to recognize the right way from the wrong, to *choose* the right and reject the wrong even against self-desire.

The great Lucifer and the angels under him (apparently a third of all angels) were created as holy beings, composed of spirit, immortal. But in order that they have personality and individuality as independent beings, it was necessary that they be provided with faculties for knowing, thinking, reasoning, and making their own decisions and choices.

These angels followed their king Lucifer in the decision to turn *from* and rebel *against* the GOVERNMENT OF God — God's WAY OF LIFE. That is THE WAY of LOVE — outgoing concern for the good of others — the way of humility, obedience to and love for their MAKER, of giving, serving, cooperating, and sharing. They turned to THE WAY of vanity, lust and greed, of rebellion, jealousy, and envy, of competition, strife, and violence, of resentment, bitterness, and destruction. Obviously the other two thirds of the angels and

archangels have remained holy, loyal, and obedient to GOD's government.

But now, to carry out God's PURPOSE for the inhabitants of this earth, to accomplish the grand and awesome PURPOSE throughout the entire universe that could have been theirs, GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF THROUGH HUMAN BEINGS!

The super archangel Lucifer was the supreme pinnacle of God's creative power in a created being. When he turned to rebellion, it left ONLY GOD Himself who could be utterly relied on NEVER to deviate from God's WAY — God's GOVERNMENT. It is impossible for God to sin — because he WILL NOT! It now became God's purpose to reproduce Himself through human beings.

That required *the development* in human beings of God's own holy, righteous CHARACTER. It was necessary, for this purpose, that man be composed of physical matter, that he CHOOSE God's government, reject Lucifer's (now Satan's) self-centered rebellious way, and strive to overcome it. God's PURPOSE in having put humans on earth can be achieved only by man coming to choose God's GOVERNMENT as God's way of life — to reject with utter finality Satan's way, completely overcoming it.

So God created MAN out of physical matter. God created in man a MIND like God's, though of course inferior, because it was composed of physical brain, empowered with intellect by a spirit (essense) in each.

Although the holy and righteous CHARACTER to be developed within man must actually come from God, each human must make his own decision. He must make his own choice to reject Satan's WAY, strive against it, and to obey God's GOVERNMENT.

Adam was compelled, therefore, to make the choice. God purposely allowed Satan opportunity to confront Adam with his way of rebellion. But He did NOT allow Satan to get to Adam *first*. God Himself instructed Adam in GOD'S WAY — the way of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD based on the LAW OF GOD, just as Lucifer and his angels had been first instructed in the ways of THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

Then God allowed Satan to confront Adam. Satan got to Adam through his wife. Satan subtly deceived Eve into DISBELIEVING what God had taught them. Adam followed her in choosing rebellion and rejecting God's rule and government over them. They took to *themselves* the knowledge of what is good and what is evil — deciding for themselves right from wrong.

Then, something happened to the minds of Adam and Eve — the eyes of both of them were opened (Genesis 3:7). The spirit and attitude of rebellion had entered their minds. Their minds (hearts) now had become perverted — deceitful and desperately wicked.

And THAT EVIL IN THEM CAME FROM SATAN, NOT FROM GOD! They were NOT created with this evil nature.

But how did humanity, today, come to have this evil attitude we call "HUMAN NATURE"? Did the children of Adam and Eve inherit it from them? Or, was it passed on by heredity?

Let me give you an example of heredity. God put Adam to sleep and removed one of his ribs, out of which He made Eve. Do all men today find themselves short one rib by heredity? Of course not. *Acquired characteristics are not passed on by heredity.*

Adam and Eve chose and *acquired* the "nature" or attitude of sin from Satan. It was not passed on by heredity. Jesus Christ called their second son "righteous Abel."

Then how do we humans come to have (universally) this evil attitude we call human nature today?

It's partly explained in the apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church. He said he desired to present that church "as a chaste virgin to Christ. BUT I fear, lest by any means, *as the serpent beguiled Eve* through his subtilty, *so your minds should be corrupted* from the simplicity that is in Christ" (II Corinthians 11:2-3).

Satan was still around when Paul wrote. (The reason is explained elsewhere.) The people at Corinth had not received this evil nature by *heredity*. Rather, the apostle feared lest they (in this NEW Testament time) should be beguiled into evil

attitudes *in the same manner* as was the original mother Eve — directly by Satan.

Eve did not have a mind that was evil *before* Satan came along and confronted her. But Satan, by subtlety, deceived Eve. Eve's children were not born with this evil nature. Nor were the people of the Corinthian church. But Paul feared lest Satan, still around after some 4,000 years, pervert Corinthian minds directly, *as he had done to Eve.*

Satan was still around when Christ was born. He tried to destroy the Christ child by having Him murdered. Satan was still around when Jesus was thirty and baptized. And he tried to destroy Jesus spiritually then, in the temptation. As Satan destroyed (spiritually) Adam, he tried to destroy the "second Adam." Satan is still around *TODAY!*

But the wily Satan has succeeded in deluding many, if not most, of the best minds into believing he is a nonexistent myth. The best minds, unsuspecting, are deceived (Rev. 12:9).

Here is a TRUTH you, the reader, NEED TO KNOW!

To the church at Ephesus, God said through the apostle Paul (Ephesians 2:1-2): "And you [who] . . . in time past . . . walked according to the course of this world, *according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience . . .*"

GRASP IT! Satan is here called "*the prince of the power of the AIR!*" I could not have understood that 60 years ago. I did not then realize how communication by sound and by picture can be broadcast instantaneously *through the air.*

In past installments of this series I have stressed the point that Satan, the former great archangel cherub Lucifer, was the most perfect and powerful being that God could create as an individual being. He was perfect as originally created. But he is composed of spirit, and thus he is invisible to human eyes.

This great and powerful being, even though evil, has power literally to surcharge the air around this earth. HE BROADCASTS!

Wherever you are as you read these words, chances are there are

voices and perhaps music *in the air* around you. A radio or TV set tuned to the right wavelength would make them audible to you.

The spirit in every human being is automatically tuned in on Satan's wavelength. You don't hear anything because he does not broadcast in words — nor in sounds, whether music or otherwise. He broadcasts in ATTITUDES. He broadcasts in attitudes of SELF-centeredness, lust, greed, vanity, jealousy, envy, resentment, competition, strife, bitterness, and hate.

In a word, the selfishness, hostility, deceitfulness, wickedness, rebellion, etc. that we call "HUMAN NATURE" is actually SATAN'S NATURE. It is Satan's ATTITUDE. And broadcasting it, surcharging the air with it, Satan actually NOW WORKS IN the unsuspecting all over the world today! That is *HOW* Satan deceives the whole world today (Rev. 12:9 and 20:3). Being invisible, people do not see or hear him.

This prince of the power of the air — this god of this world — IS THE REAL SOURCE OF WHAT WE HAVE COME TO CALL "HUMAN NATURE"!

Here is the real CAUSE of all the world's evils!

But it seems *nobody* understands it, and therefore the world does nothing about it — except to go along with it blaming human nature and supposing it was GOD who created us with an evil nature. Actually, it is Satan's nature.

Let me give you an illustration of how we can be swayed, influenced, and driven Satan's wrong way by his broadcasting through the air. When God wanted to cause captive Jews in ancient Babylon to return to Jerusalem to build the second temple, He put it in the mind of Cyrus, king of Persia. The Persian Empire had taken over the rule of empire from Babylon. Following is the explanation of how God moved Cyrus to do what God wanted.

"Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia . . . the Eternal stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom . . ." (Ezra 1:1) that a contingent of Jews return to Jerusalem.

God did not speak to Cyrus in
(Continued on page 24)

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT and PLAIN TRUTH RENEWAL

Dear *Plain Truth* Reader:

YOU ASKED FOR IT! . . . and *here* it is! After 14 months in a newspaper tabloid format, *The Plain Truth* reverts to a *magazine* with this April-May issue! And with this format change, your annual **RENEWAL**.

An extensive survey (via telephone) in February helped us with the decision. Here in a "nutshell" is what you, our readers, confirmed in telephone conversations across the country.

1. *Plain Truth* readers are a loyal and dedicated lot, who (to borrow an advertising slogan) would "rather fight than switch" and who anxiously look forward to receiving and reading each issue.
2. When asked for suggestions on how we might improve the contents, you overwhelmingly voiced: "We like it as it is! Don't tamper with a good thing!" You expressed appreciation for the exciting truth about WHAT MAN IS, WHY man was created, how to live successfully, as well as to-the-point analyses of critical world events.
3. What about format? Those who gave an opinion preferred a magazine over the tabloid by a margin of 3 to 1. But all insisted that such a change should *not* alter the contents! "We'd read *The Plain Truth* if you printed it on a paper bag," exclaimed one enthusiastic reader, "but a magazine would be very much appreciated as long as the contents remain as is!"
4. "Why," many asked, "don't you charge a subscription price for *The Plain Truth*? With inflation, rising postage, paper, and production costs, you certainly can't continue giving away a monthly publication!" A large percentage (well over 50%) of our loyal readers said they were willing to *pay* for the privilege of receiving *The Plain Truth*!

RENEWAL NOTICE

This brings us to the subject of our long-standing subscription policy . . . and this **RENEWAL** notice.

Indeed, we are suffering very severe cost increases due to inflation and have from time to time considered putting a subscription price on the magazine. But for over 40 years we have insisted on making *The Plain Truth* available free of charge to readers on every continent — rich or poor. We have taught and practiced the principle of *giving* — never wanting to charge a subscription price, always relying on *freely given contributions* from appreciative readers to defray publishing costs.

Our ability to send free magazines, of course, is limited by available funds. And we must have your assurance — **THROUGH THIS RENEWAL** — that you appreciate *The Plain Truth* and want it to continue.

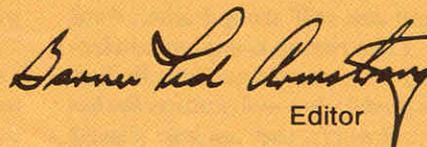
Your willingness to pay is extremely encouraging. But your appreciation can also be shown by making a *generous contribution* to *The Plain Truth*. (It costs us in excess of \$5.00 for each annual subscription.) Your donation will be used to keep your *Plain Truth* coming each month, while also providing subscriptions for our *less privileged* readers as well — those who have no income or means of support.

We think this subscription policy is still the best formula. Use the accompanying envelope for your **RENEWAL**. Contributions are gratefully received and are *tax-deductible* in the United States.

Here, then, is your *Plain Truth* — a magazine once more! The contents are *alive* with those vital, often misunderstood or ignored truths that affect your very lives . . . raising the question of human survival . . . asking **WHAT'S AHEAD TOMORROW** — daring to give the answers!

Yes, this improved *Plain Truth* format does cost *more* than the tabloid, but if you readers appreciate it, we'll do our best to keep it coming month after month. Be sure to send your **RENEWAL** *now*, and let us know how you like it! Use the envelope provided.

Sincerely,


Editor

a case against PORNOGRAPHY

by Gordon Muir

Britain, the United States, Europe and Australia are wallowing in pornography on a scale never before equalled in their history. As one writer put it, there has been in Western society "an escalation in what you are permitted to see in the ordinary normal way of things unparalleled in history."

Gradually over the last few decades pornography distributors have sensed and taken full advantage of the commercial potential of merchandising the female body — and now also the male body. As a result pornography today is a multi-million dollar business. An outshoot of the "19-sixties," the pornography boom has moved from the back streets to the respectable bookstalls, from the "voyeur" film clubs to the local movie theaters.

The import and export trade in pornography in Europe and Britain was estimated two years ago to be more than \$100 million per year. That figure is probably meaningless because it all depends what you call porn. But even if the definition of smut is limited to the ultra-obscene "hard" porn, the turnover is probably at least twice that today.

A recent cover count at a London street vendor's stand revealed 95% of the display to be porno-journalism with a 15-yard expanse of raw flesh depicted in an incredible assortment of poses. Credit must surely be due for the ingenuity of

Editor's comment: We were pleased to note that "The Case Against Pornography" was recently selected by the London Evening Echo to be reprinted as an excellent example of the anti-pornography position. Dr. Muir, now residing in England, is a regular contributor to The Plain Truth.

providing some kind of variety in the circumstances.

In Britain much of the pornography used to be imported from the U.S. and Denmark. Now more is home produced — which might be cheery news for British economists.

The Moral Revolution in Western Society

Today it seems our moral values are changing more rapidly than at any other time in man's history. Describing our moral revolution, historian and columnist Max Lerner said: "We are in a late sensate period. The emphasis in our society today is on the senses and the release of the sensual. All the old codes have been broken down."

If you are old-fashioned enough to like family films, you probably gave up going to the movies long ago. In Britain in 1974 a record 266 "X" certificate films were passed for

viewing — more than all the other categories put together.

In the U.S.A. the blue-movies business is reported to have reached the ultimate in sadistic pornography. Films believed to originate in Latin America show depraved acts of sexual debauchery which end in the horrifying scene of the bewildered girls actually being stabbed and murdered by their partners.

The Roots of Permissiveness

To what can we ascribe the flood of pornography, smut, filth — call it what you will depending on your point of view — that has swept over the sluice gates of convention?

Undoubtedly the permissive seventies are experiencing the full brunt of reaction to repressive Victorian prudery. As our Editor-in-Chief previously pointed out, "the commonly accepted Victorian attitude was 'keep our children innocent and pure through ignorance until marriage — and then instinct will tell them what to do.'"

Sex was viewed as indecent, degrading, shameful and sinful — even in marriage, except for procreation. The dissemination of knowledge about sex was forcibly withheld from the public. Parents taught their children nothing, they knew nothing, and besides, it would have been too embarrassing.

If we trace this prudishness back into history, we find it is rooted in

the early development of orthodox Christianity. Among the early Catholic church fathers, St. Augustine of Hippo was perhaps the most responsible for foisting on the church such an oppressive approach — but not until he had sown his own wild oats in an orgy of promiscuity. His teaching of “No sex please, we’re Christians” (except of course for procreation in marriage — and even that’s nasty) was expounded by succeeding influential leaders in the church and soon became doctrine. It stuck through the Middle Ages and lingers on today. In effect the church had “excommunicated” sex from anything to do with love, and it became a dirty word.

Peregrine Worsthorne points out that it is this type of extremism that provoked counter-extremism from the sensualists. He added: “The cavalier dismissive attitude of the church to all the blessings that sex can procure for man and the cavalier dismissive attitude of the sensualists to all the curses that [the wrong use of] sex can procure for man were rooted in the superficial attitude to the subject — the church was prepared to risk seeing it twisted and tortured into the stunted shapes of a puritanical nightmare. And [now] the sensualists are prepared to risk seeing it travestied into the leering face of uncontrolled concupiscence.” Worsthorne claims that today the real threat to sex is from the pornographers: “It is the pornographers who treat it with contempt.”

Where the church fathers taught that love should be sexless, the message of pornography is that sex should be loveless.

David Boadella, discussing the effect of the commercial exploitation of sex, points out that it is no more than a “mass conditioning [which] amounts to a progressive prostitution of culture and involves a hidden control over people’s feelings that is more insidious than the old repressive system.”

“Therapeutic” Pornography

Today society is reacting strongly against prudery. This is a movement which, even if not initiated by *avant-garde* libertines, has certainly been used to advantage and accelerated

by them. The process has also been helped along by the “generation gap.” A further catalyst has been the contribution of various intellectuals who belong to the small band of academic ignoramuses in the universities and certain other areas. One result is that pornography has spread like a cultural bubonic plague.

But is there really a case against pornography, or is it truly a sign of advancement toward a freer and better society? Are the sex magnates like Hefner doing society a favor as they line their own pockets? Some intellectual pornophiles feel they can make out a case that pornography is actually therapeutic — thus we have “pornotherapy.” Danish pornocrat Leo Madsen used this justification in planning what must have been the ultimate porno-spectacle — a special line featuring cripples so that the disabled could identify with the fantasies!

It has been said that there is no more certain and revealing guide to the sexual preoccupation of an age or race than the amount of pornography it consumes.

The Case Against Pornography

Those who believe that pornography has no ill effect on people are immediately faced with certain problems. We know that the great works of art and literature often have very profound effects on people. It is therefore possible to conclude that pornography can also have a profound effect, and most people intuitively realize that that effect can often be harmful.

You are being asked to believe that the multimillion dollar pornography onslaught is unrelated to increasing morbid sexual interest, depersonalization of sex and a rise in sex crime.

The whole principle of advertising is based on the notion that people are motivated to act on visual stimuli. Since the essence of pornography is visual stimuli, it may also cause people to act, and often in very antisocial ways.

A normal person probably won’t commit some horrible sex crime if he looks at pornography. There are doubtless other individuals who will commit sex crimes regardless of

whether they look at pornography or not. (This sort of person, however, is almost always an avid reader of pornography.) But there are others, “marginal individuals,” who will commit sex crimes if they are exposed to pornography, but who otherwise wouldn’t. There is consequently a strong correlation between sex offenses and pornography: those who commit such crimes are practically always voracious consumers of the stuff.

Yet someone is bound to ask, “What about the report of the American Commission on Obscenity and Pornography?” This report concluded that pornography has no adverse effect on behavior. A minority of this commission, however, strongly objected to the majority’s conclusion. According to one social psychologist asked to evaluate the findings, the evidence used was “often inaccurately and selectively reported to the commission members and many areas were neglected.”

Professor Eysenck says of this report in his volume of essays, *Psychology Is About People*: “It provides a wonderful example of one-sided reporting, biased selection of evidence and failure to base conclusions on the evidence.”

The “Danish experiment” has often been quoted by the pornography lobby as an example of the harmlessness, indeed the benefits, of pornography. The argument is that by abolishing the laws against obscenity the Danes achieved a reduction in sex crime rates.

Let us look at the facts. Danish obscenity law changed in two stages in 1967 and 1969. A Working Party of the Arts Council in Britain published a *Report on Obscenity* in 1969 which pointed out that “since hardcore pornography became legally available in Denmark at prices that even the poorest delinquent can afford, the incidence of sexual crime has dropped as a result (or coincidence) by the astonishing figure of 25%.”

This fitted well with their own preconceived ideas. Today the authors are probably blushing over their naïveté because they ignored several key factors. Firstly, the sex crime statistics in Denmark had

been showing a decline all through the sixties. Secondly, the biggest single drop was *before* the new laws came into force. Thirdly, at the same time the pornography law was changed a number of offense categories were abolished, resulting in fewer total crimes. Fourthly, as a result of changing public attitudes, it appears that there has been a decrease in reporting minor sex crimes which, of course, also affects the overall figure.

Certainly, if we look at the Danish statistics on convictions for rape and similar violations, we find a significant increase from 1967 to 1973 (the latest available figure). The 1973 figure is more than twice that of any year in the late sixties. The pornography lobby is very quiet about this.

Rape statistics from England and Wales tell the same story. According to Home Office figures, total convictions have increased almost 100% in the period 1965 to 1974. The examples of England and Denmark confirm a trend noted by psychologist J. H. Court of Flinders University, South Australia, that in those countries in which major legal barriers against pornography have been removed, there has been an increase in the incidence of rape. This is all the more significant because of the contrast with countries where pornography is not freely circulated. While Australia, New Zealand and the United States have all experienced a dramatic rise in rape at the same time that legal barriers to pornography were coming down, Singapore, where the barriers are still in force, has managed to keep the incidence of rape at the same low level. And as the chain reaction proceeds, pornography is increasing progressively into sadism, brutality and new depths of filth. In Denmark recently, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals even had to petition the courts to prohibit the use of four-footed animals in live sex shows. To remain "competitive," pornographers have to be progressively degenerative. In some films today, such as *Clockwork Orange* and *Straw Dogs*, rape has become a theme of entertainment. The actual effect of the film *Clockwork Orange* on some immature minds is docu-

mented in rape-case records in several countries. Of this film and its contemporary, *Straw Dogs*, an American reviewer wrote that rape was pictured in the context that "a man could only prove himself a man when he had won his combat badges in rape and murder."

Case after case can reveal the effect of today's pornography on the minds of at least a segment of society. At a trial in England of a young man who raped two fourteen-year-old girls, the defending Q.C. stressed that the accused had had "his youthful sexuality turned into a very powerful driving force through the effect of pornography." Evidence like this, however, is counted for nothing beside the test-tube theories of the *avant-garde*.

Pornography and the Mind

That pornography can be a dangerous influence on large numbers of psychosexually disturbed adults and teen-agers is clear. It has the effect of so arousing a volatile sexual appetite that social and moral restraints are totally ignored in the search for sensual satisfaction.

But more balanced individuals can equally be hooked by this psychological drug. The route from the normal to the perverse is progressive. And the effects that pornography can have on normal married life and normal sexual relations have been largely overlooked.

Pornography totally depersonalizes sex and detaches copulation from its necessary environment of love and a natural experience. Now a man can drool over one glossy picture of erotic seductivity after another. And pornography is no longer just a man's world. If the woman wants it, she can have at it too. Curiosity in pornography can turn into indulgence, and in time, indulgence gives way to obsession. The female and male torsos pictured throughout the pages of sex magazines become no more than objects of lust, and the porno-addict is able to indulge in multiple mind-damaging acts of vicarious adultery. The result? Boredom with the real thing — sexual boredom between husband and wife who no longer find pleasure in a normal healthy sexual relationship. Sensual images

begin to take the place of the wife — or husband.

A situation involving a police officer can be cited as an example of this reaction to pornography. The man was not dabbling in pornography for his own pleasure. He had been assigned to a pornography investigation case, but after a while he had to ask to be taken off the case. He claimed that the exposure to a constant stream of pornography was killing his interest in normal sexual relations with his wife.

It is difficult to believe that you can "wallow in filth and not get dirty." As Solomon said, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?"

Pornography belongs to the world of fantasy. It is designed to appeal to those who prefer to seek their gratification through deviate sexual diversions and to trap the "uninitiated" into a fascination with perversity. It is an education in self-gratification, denying all care and concern for others. Professor Robert Stoller in the symposium "The Case Against Pornography" described it as "a kind of visual rape — a taking from others of what they would not give voluntarily." And yet, in the final analysis the pornography addict is left empty and miserable, devoid of the happiness which a natural, healthy sexual relationship could bring, desiring fulfillment of his perverse mental machinations.

In effect, pornography is anti-sex. Those who oppose pornography are sometimes accused of being anti-sex, but they are really anti "counterfeit" sex. If someone is anti counterfeit bank notes, is he accused of being anti money? No, he very much wants to preserve the real thing.

The Right to Choose

But if pornography is not freely available, this is said to be an interference with the individual's right to choose what he wants to see or read. At least so goes the "freedom" argument of the liberationists. But what about the rights of society as a whole? Should the vociferous minority of so-called intellectuals call the tune by placing their own interpretation on the word "freedom"?

The flood of pornography has

also had dangerous "spillover" effects on the family. It is now much harder, perhaps even impossible, for parents to protect their children against the lowest form of literature and pictorial journalism. Children and teen-agers are now exposed to the rawest displays of nudity at many bookstores and newsstands.

The dangers cannot be underestimated. Pornography is like any other addiction: It is possible to develop a taste for it. Although lip service is paid to the protection of children and minors, more and more young people are being exposed to a way of thinking and a way of life which could destroy their future happiness. It should be no surprise that specialists today are having to deal with cases of 12 and 13 year olds who indulge in regular intercourse. To them it is not a relationship, but only an act.

Well did one police official say — following a major rape conviction — to those who consider that censorship of pornography interferes with the liberty of the individual: "Let [them] reflect upon the victims of these crimes and ask themselves if they would express these views if the victims were their own relatives and friends."

The Real Motives

What are the *real* motives of the intellectual pornophiles? They appear to be mixed. Some no doubt genuinely believe it should be available "by right" as a "harmless" ingredient of a free society.

But there is little doubt that others are defending it as a tool to ultimately help destroy the free society that spawns it, and thus destroy the truly worthwhile values of that society. If they can use pornography to help erode and sap the strength of a society whose present structure they wish to see swept away, well and good. As we have attempted to show, it is a powerful incentive to crime and increased immorality, as well as a nauseating means of attacking and damaging the marriage institution. It is an ideal weapon to use to weaken Western civilization, to undermine the foundations of our society, and thus to pave the way for a new — presumably Marxist — society. Yet,

paradoxically, one of the first things to disappear in the new communist society would be pornography. Anyone who doubts that should try the "high life" in Havana or Ho Chi Minh City.

It should be no surprise to us that *The Little Red Schoolbook* should try to tell schoolchildren that pornography is "harmless" and recommend to them to "try" anything that "looked interesting." This publication has communist authors and expounds a Marxist philosophy. As one of the authors later admitted, it was a calculated exercise in anarchy. Are we surprised that the original Danish version was subsidized by Maoist funds? Yet Article 228 of the Soviet criminal code, chapter 10, makes publishers and distributors of pornography liable to fines and imprisonment. As the Longford report points out, this chapter deals with "crimes against public security, public order, and the health of the population." Soviet authorities clearly seem to know more about the health of society —

at least in this respect — than their Western counterparts.

A quote from Professor Irving Kristal in the *Wall Street Journal* pinpoints the contrasting legal priorities of our twisted "liberals": "In the United States today the law insists that an 18 year old girl has the right to public fornication in a pornographic movie — but only if she is paid the minimum wage."

Pornography is a big business. The profiteers are not concerned with the well-being of others. Their values are defined in terms of "box office," "circulation," and "sales." For example Bob Guccione, proprietor of *Penthouse* magazine, at one time considered the rival publication *Men Only* to be indecent when it began introducing full frontal nudity. Now that he has himself discovered the commercial value of public hair, he is really prospering. One result is a 40-room mansion being built in Manhattan.

Pornography is a ruthless commercial con job. More and more people, especially young people, are being lured by its siren song. But it often brings only progressive frustration and despair. This cruel deception offers broken families, broken lives and disease. And it can lead the weak to crime.

Yet why is it that the millions of upright, law-abiding citizens who do not go along with this boom in pornography just sit back and do nothing while our once stable society is being mauled by the media to the applause of the ignoramuses of the intellectual fringe and the conspirators of the far left?

It is time the majority let its voice be heard in opposition to those who are out to warp national morality and integrity. It's past time that people should be made fully aware of the harmful effects of pornography.

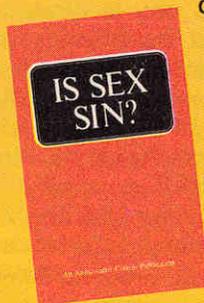
True values and real knowledge of the type that can bring genuine happiness and fulfilled lives (sexually and otherwise) seem to go unpromoted and unadvertised these days. For further information on sex and morality in society, write for our free booklet entitled *Is Sex Sin?*

Certainly any society with its own long-term interests at heart will have to learn to contain the cult of the sensual and salacious. □

IS SEX SIN?

Sex — a controversial subject from time immemorial — has been labeled as everything from "a necessary evil" to a panacea for almost everything. The truth, obviously, lies somewhere between these two extremes. The booklet, *Is Sex Sin?* provides a balanced view from a biblical perspective. For your free

copy, write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you (see back cover for our addresses.)



LENT, ASHES, EASTER, RABBITS, AND EGGS...

As children, to most of us the word "Easter" always meant bright, colorful, egg-shaped jelly beans, grass nests with cute little Walt Disney-type bunnies, and newsreels about the big parade on Fifth Avenue in New York.

The name didn't bother us especially. It seemed to rhyme with "yeast" or perhaps have something to do with a direction like "east." But everyone seemed to figure it was mighty important to pay it some special attention, and, being normal people who were inclined to get starry-eyed over brightly lit candy counters, it probably seemed like a good idea at the time.

But What Does It Have to Do With Christ?

The desire to follow the crowd exerts a tremendous pull on little children. But Easter wasn't invented by children — and it's not child's play!

What about it? Did you ever wonder about some of the strange customs being observed by "Christian" societies today?

Just what do eggs have to do with Christ and his resurrection? What do rabbits and eggs have in common? Rabbits most assuredly do not lay eggs, even though millions of little children are taught to assume they do!

And why "hot cross buns"? Why not cold triangle ones or just plain bread? And what was there about Wednesday that led to putting ashes on one's forehead, and what is really "good" about Friday? And if Friday was the day Christ was crucified, then why did he keep insisting (Matt. 12:40) he was going to be three complete days and three complete nights in the tomb?

He couldn't have been, if he was resurrected on Sunday morning, could he?

Pagan Festivities

You would be shocked if you read the history of the "hot cross bun," the Easter bunny, the eggs, and the practice of bowing toward the east as the sun rises!

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

by Garner Ted Armstrong
and Eugene M. Walter

Just what is "Easter"? What does the name mean? Have you ever wondered why you believe and practice certain customs at Easter time. You'll be surprised to find the plain truth about Easter!

In Germany several years ago, the usual riotous German version of the "Mardi Gras" was taking place in Cologne. People were acting as if insane, drunken revelry was taking place, and hideous masks, weird costumes, idiotic dancing, and noisemaking were everywhere.

We asked passersby what it all meant! One man said vaguely, "Oh, it's for the children!" Another said it had no "special" meaning. Only one man out of several seemed to know it was the pre-Lenten rioting that accompanied the days of "fasting" prior to Easter!

After all, who needs an excuse, people reason, to attend a party?

It's Easter — But Why?

On one Sunday morning each spring, a strange and bewildering phenomenon takes place in cities, towns, and countrysides around the world. Instead of sleeping late as usual, many thousands will get up early on this day — very early. They must be at their destination well before sunrise.

The occasion? A game of golf? A fishing trip? No, not on this particular morning.

Instead, they will meet with friends and, of all things, watch the sun rise! And as if this were not strange enough, this is all part of a religious service!

On this very same day, millions of others will be preparing to do something unusual, too. This is one of the two or three times during the year when they will darken the door of a church! Or perhaps it would be better to say decorate the door of a church, for they will have purchased fashionable new clothes especially for the occasion.

Some, because their forty days of partial abstinence called "Lent" are over, will once again freely indulge themselves. Others anticipate a family reunion, a big ham dinner, or, perhaps, a fashion show or a parade.

And the children? They are absolutely delighted with the chocolate rabbits, the colored eggs, and the prospect of exciting egg-hunting and egg-rolling games on the lawn!

This is Easter — one of the big holidays of the Western year. But what is its purpose? What is it supposed to commemorate? And why all these incongruous activities? Why watch the sun rise on this day? Why purchase new clothes for it? Why eat ham for dinner?

Why rabbits? Why not a puppy or a kitten? They can lay just as many eggs as a rabbit. But, then, why eggs? Wouldn't oranges or onions roll just as well?

To a world steeped in tradition, these customs seem normal. But when you stop to think about it, what real *sense* do the activities of this day we call "Easter" make, anyway?

And why is Easter observed on a Sunday? Why not on a Tuesday, Thursday or Monday?

To this question many will immediately reply that Sunday was the day on which Christ rose from the dead and that his resurrection is the very reason for observing Easter.

But is it? Was Christ resurrected on a Sunday? Are you sure? Have you ever proved it from the Bible?

And what has the Easter rabbit

to do with Christ's resurrection?

Where did the "Easter Sunday" tradition come from? How did it find its way into the professing Christian church? Why is it observed throughout the entire Western world today?

Where Easter Came From

Believe it or not, Easter was observed thousands of years before the time of Christ and the beginning of the Christian era!

"Easter" is merely the slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess Ishtar. It was pronounced by the Assyrians exactly as we pronounce "Easter" today.

Hislop says in *The Two Babylons* that Easter "bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the 'queen of heaven,' whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country" (p. 103).

In the Bible, God condemns the worship of Astarte, the "Queen of Heaven," as the most abominable of all pagan idolatries. In connection with the Easter celebration, God specifically condemns sunrise services (Ezek. 8:13-18) and the making of "hot cross buns" (Jer. 7:18-20; 44:19).

How did this pagan celebration ever become one of the two most important holidays of the professing Christian church?

Easter a Counterfeit of God's Passover

Now read the facts for yourself. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, article "Easter," says: "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers... The first Christians continued to observe the Jewish festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the Passover, with a new conception added to it, of Christ as the true Paschal Lamb and the firstfruits from the dead, continued to be observed."

Hislop states, "The festival, of

which we read in church history, under the name of Easter, in the third and fourth centuries... at that time was not known by any such name as Easter. It was called... Passover... That festival agreed originally with the time of the Jewish Passover, when Christ was crucified... That festival was not idolatrous, and was preceded by no Lent" (p. 104).

God's Passover pictured Christ's death.

Contrast this with Easter. It claims to commemorate Christ's resurrection — not his death.

When did this clever counterfeit creep into the professing Christian church?

How Easter Became "Christian"

Easter was a pagan festival long before Christianity and the New Testament Church ever existed. It anciently commemorates the Friday death and supposed Sunday resurrection of Nimrod, the false pagan savior.

In the great apostasy which swept through the New Testament world in the latter part of the first century, this pagan "Good Friday-Easter Sunday" tradition was falsely applied to the death and resurrection of the true Savior, Jesus Christ. It was made to appear "Christian."

This teaching became especially popular in the area around Rome. But in Asia Minor, where the apostle Paul had established churches, the New Testament Passover continued to be observed on Nisan 14.

The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* article "Easter" states: "Generally speaking, the Western Churches kept Easter on the first day of the week, while the Eastern Churches followed the Jewish rule."

This difference soon led to serious controversy. Gradually the Greek and Asian churches began to succumb to the pagan tradition. The article referred to above states: "Polycarp, the disciple of John the Evangelist, and bishop of Smyrna, visited Rome in 159 to confer with Anicetus, the bishop of that See, on the subject, and urged the tradition which he had received from the apostle of observing the 14th day. Anicetus, however, declined."

The story doesn't end here. "About forty years later [A.D. 197] the question was discussed in a very different spirit between Victor, bishop of Rome, and Polycrates, metropolitan of proconsular Asia [the territory of the churches established by the apostle Paul]. That province was the only portion of Christendom which still adhered to the Jewish usage. Victor demanded that all should adopt the usage prevailing at Rome. This Polycrates firmly refused to agree to, and urged many weighty reasons to the contrary, whereupon Victor proceeded to excommunicate Polycrates and the Christians who continued the Eastern usage. He was, however, restrained from actually proceeding to enforce the decree of excommunication... and the Asiatic Churches retained their usage unmolested. We find the Jewish usage from time to time reasserting itself after this, but it never prevailed to any large extent."

It did, however, crop up from time to time as an irksome and annoying issue that caused disunity in the professing Christian church. When the pagan Roman Emperor Constantine convoked the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325, he ordered the bishops to settle the matter once and for all. It was one of the two big issues of the council.

Council Confirms Roman Usage

"The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter was to be kept on Sunday, and on the same Sunday throughout the world, and that 'none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews'" (*ibid.*).

In the spiritually darkened minds of those at the council, anything that was biblical — anything that God commanded — was "Jewish."

The bishops at Nicaea so abhorred anything they thought to be Jewish that they "decided that Easter Day should always be on a Sunday, but never at the same time as the feast of the Jews. If the 14th Nisan fell on a Sunday, Easter Day was transferred to the following Sunday"! (Burns, *The Council of Nicaea*, p. 46.)

"For how," explains Constantine, "could we who are Christians possibly keep the same day as those

wicked Jews?" (Arian Controversy, Gwatkin, p. 38.)

So strong was the anti-Jewish feeling that pork or ham — an abomination to the Jews — was deliberately eaten on Easter to show utter contempt for anything "Jewish."

Thus the Nicaean Council — regarded by the world as one of the great milestones of Christianity — condemned observance of the New Testament Passover without even looking into the Bible. And by "violence and bloodshed" — as history shows (Hislop, p. 107) — the observance of the pagan Easter was enforced in its place.

Does It Make Any Difference?

Some will still say, "Yes, I know that Easter has a pagan origin, and I can plainly see that Christ was not resurrected on a Sunday. But as long as we keep Easter in a Christian spirit as a kind of remembrance of Christ's resurrection, what difference does it make? After all, regardless of the significance of the day or the various customs associated with it, we're doing it to remember the resurrection of Christ, aren't we?"

Not the Christ of the Bible, you're not! Really, though, it doesn't make a bit of difference — if Christ is not alive, if the Bible is not the Word of God, and if there is no God.

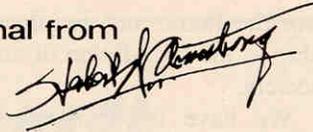
Because if there is no God and we're left free to pick and choose whatever custom most appeals to us for our own religions, then let's have at it with great zeal! But, at least, let's call a spade a spade — and realize the true significance of the symbols we use.

But since there is a God and since Jesus Christ really did walk out of his tomb, then it does make a tremendous difference — to Christ!

There is not a single word in the Bible telling us to observe Easter. Instead, God thunders, "Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2). And any encyclopedia will tell you that Easter is a pagan festival, long antedating Christianity. More detailed proof is available in our surprising free booklet, *The Plain Truth About Easter!*

Are you going to obey God? The choice is yours. □

Personal from



(Continued from page 1)

But by about 1960 something significant had happened. The average American wage was about three times higher than that paid in Britain and Europe and almost four times higher than that paid in Japan. But meanwhile, the Common Market had given European nations a MASS MARKET, and they had gone to mass-machine production. Result: European nations had come to mass-machine production with low-cost labor, while the United States had mass-machine production with HIGH-cost labor.

This in turn got the U.S. dollar into trouble abroad due to unequal cash balances.

But this is only a partial explanation of what skyrocketed the United States up to the highest per capita income — the highest living standard of the nation as a whole of any nation in the history of mankind. And it also is only a partial explanation of the present downturn of that affluent living standard.

A major cause lies in much deeper roots and involves a history of upwards of 3,000 years. Actually, what is now happening — this sudden downward trend in American prosperity, the accelerating trend worldwide of increasing violence, wars, overthrow of governments of nations at the rate of one a month, and world evils in general — is the beginning of a staggering climax of world trouble such as never occurred before.

World leaders do not realize what's coming. They are almost totally unaware. They have been falsely educated into closing their minds to the CAUSES of great world events. They have been educated to ignore causes and deal with effects.

The world's best minds are in ignorance of the unprecedented cataclysm that is about to strike. It has

been laid out in advance for thousands of years in prophecy. But the prophecies have not been understood or believed because the vital KEY that could unlock prophecies has been LOST!

That key is the identity of the United States and the British nations in biblical prophecies. It's all explained in our free booklet *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

This booklet shows that it was prophesied long ago that, beginning 1800-1803, the United States and Britain would suddenly spring to the greatest wealth and power ever attained by any nation. God had promised that. It happened!

These nations reached the zenith of world power and wealth by the year 1950. The most amazing fact of world history is the sudden skyrocketing of two nations — the United States and Britain — to unprecedented wealth and power. The British and Americans came into possession of more than two thirds — almost three fourths — of the cultivated wealth and resources of the WHOLE WORLD! All other nations combined shared between them less than a third!

What CAUSED this unequaled surge to wealth and power?

Abraham Lincoln answered: "We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards fertility of soil, extent of territory, and salubrity of climate . . . We . . . find ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in their acquisition or the establishment of them."

Again Lincoln said, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations *only* are blessed whose God is the Lord. . . . We have been the recipients of the choicest blessings of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and

prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation ever has grown, *but we have forgotten God!* We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

The living God *gave* us this vast, unprecedented prosperity.

Lincoln saw a nation that had forgotten God — a nation drunk with a success not due to its own efforts — a nation taking all the credit and glory to itself. This great president called for a day of fasting and prayer to confess the national sins before God. The fate of the nation was then hanging in the balance. God heard and answered — the nation was saved.

But today the threat is a thousand times greater. And today there is no national leader with the UNDERSTANDING, the courage, and the faith to bring our nations to their knees for our deliverance.

What have we done with these multitudes of national and individual blessings which actually were the gift of the living God? God did NOT promise to continue the blessings if we rebelled. We have been rebellious and unwilling to yield to our God and HIS WAYS which would have guaranteed *lasting* peace and prosperity. We have become arrogant and selfish. We have polluted the fertile lands the living God GAVE US. We have polluted the air, the rivers, lakes and oceans. We have polluted our own minds and those of our children — teaching the anti-God fable of evolution. We have given public acceptance to the misnamed "new morality" which is gross IMMORALITY! We have given public acceptance to homosexuality, premarital sex, and perversion. We have polluted the sacred institution of marriage, and through a constantly increasing divorce rate, we have started on a course of destroy-

ing the home and family relationship — the foundation of any stable society.

We have filled our lands with crime — with corruption in high places — with violence.

Speaking of this very condition and time, God says in the prophecy of Leviticus 26, "I . . . will break the pride of your power. . . ."

Fifty years ago we had less power, but we had PRIDE in our power. When a German battleship was steaming toward Manila Bay, President Theodore Roosevelt sent a strong note to Kaiser Wilhelm demanding the immediate withdrawal of the battleship. When the Kaiser ignored the demand, "Teddy" sent another note. Only, as I myself

Today there is no national leader with the understanding, the courage, and the faith to bring our nations to their knees for our deliverance.

heard him say, he did not send this note to the Kaiser. He sent it to Admiral Dewey, in command of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. It instructed Dewey to steam with the whole fleet full speed toward the German battleship, to fire one warning shot over her mast, and if she did not thereupon turn around, the note instructed, "SINK HER." Roosevelt said, "The Kaiser learned that I MEANT IT!"

But we as nations have turned from the God who so richly blessed us. And He is now withdrawing the blessings.

The United States has now won its LAST WAR! We were defeated humiliateingly in South Vietnam by little North Vietnam. We *have the power*, but WE ARE AFRAID TO USE IT! Our high standard of living is starting DOWNWARD. Our defeat in South Vietnam and our Watergate scandal — followed by the CIA scandal — have greatly weakened the respect other nations had for us.

Europeans had relied on the United States for protection against Russia. They are fast losing con-

fidence in that reliance. Soon they will unite POLITICALLY and MILITARILY in a gigantic U.S. of EUROPE — a resurrection of the once powerful "Holy Roman Empire." And it will be a threat that could DESTROY the U.S. and Britain.

Already the once proud British Empire has crumbled. They were PROUD of their power — a PROUD people. They are no longer a major nation.

Now, as other prophecies reveal, the United States and the British peoples are to be visited soon by such extreme drought and famine that disease epidemics following in their wake will take millions of lives — up to one third of our populations! When the heaven above us is as iron and the earth is as brass (Leviticus 26:19), our nations will realize that needed rain does not come from iron above, and an earth like brass does not soak up rain nor grow crops.

"And," continues the prophecy, "your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits" (Lev. 26:20).

But continue the prophecy: "And [after this] if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. . . . And I will bring a sword upon you. . . ." — INVASION — NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION! (Lev. 26:21, 25.)

Unless these nations do turn to our God and to HIS RIGHTEOUS WAYS OF LIFE, this and other prophecies warn of another third of our people being destroyed by military invasion. Our CITIES shall be destroyed — undoubtedly by NUCLEAR holocaust — and our people will go into CAPTIVITY AS SLAVES!

But UNDERSTAND THIS! With God, punishment is CORRECTION for our GOOD — not revenge! Prophecy shows OUR PEOPLE IN CAPTIVITY AND SLAVERY at the time of Christ's coming!

BUT THEN will come DELIVERANCE, at Christ's coming, and



In Brief

by Stanley R. Rader

The Lesson of Angola

Nassau, Bahamas, February 16, 1976: Former Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger, forced to resign late last year after losing a power struggle in Washington with Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, has written in the February issue of *Fortune* that "global realities have thrust us [the American people] into a role that we might have preferred to avoid. It is an unenviable fate. Yet, it must be faced soberly. There is no escape." Mr. Schlesinger sees a specter arising and haunting Europe — a specter of Soviet hegemony resulting from the steady expansion of the military power of the Soviet state.

He is not alone, however, in his concern. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, leader of Great Britain's Conservative Party, is likewise concerned. She has recently stated that the strategic threat to Great Britain and its Western allies from Soviet power was greater now than at any moment since the end of World War II. NATO's General Alexander Haig, Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, agrees that Soviet power is greater than ever before on the sea, in the air, and on land, and it threatens not only Europe but also Japan, the Middle East, and Africa. Russia, he has said, has risen from a regional or continental power to become a superpower playing a global, imperialistic role.

Such power, General Haig has cautioned, will not be controlled by mere rhetoric. There can be only one

answer — the maintenance of equivalent Western power. Within NATO, he has said, with twice the industrial base and one and one half times the human resources, this power is clearly greater — given the will.

Mrs. Thatcher has said the West will wind up on the scrap heap of history if it cannot learn the lesson of what the Soviets and their 12,000 Cuban proxies have successfully accomplished in Angola. It is either stand up to future challenges or see the entire world ruled within a short period of time by *Pax Sovietica*.

Angola is not the only area where Russia is operating in Africa. Russia is now operating through its "technical advisers" in Algeria, Libya, Somalia, Guinea, Nigeria, Uganda, and Mozambique. Such an elaborate network of Russian activity in Africa reflects a policy — both economic and military — which should give rise to great concern in Washington and elsewhere in the West.

Yet, despite Mr. Kissinger's general efforts toward "détente" and despite his statements in Congress and on his recent swing through Latin America denouncing the Soviet intervention in Angola, the U.S. response has encouraged additional Soviet activity in Africa and elsewhere.

The Plain Truth has warned of the danger from the Soviet Union and from communism in general for more than 40 years. In issue after issue, its pages have been devoted to warning the American people, as well as its

friends in the West (readers throughout the world in the English, French, German, Spanish, and Dutch languages), of the Soviet threat or of the specter of Soviet hegemony, as Mr. Schlesinger has referred to it. Mrs. Thatcher was right that we must learn our lesson from Angola — and there is not much time to do so.

As I write this column, it is just a little difficult to remember that the world is such a dangerous place and that we are truly confronted with such an ominous threat to our future security. Nassau is truly beautiful, and we are enjoying one of its more beautiful days. Mr. Herbert Armstrong and I are here for another of his personal appearances, and just a few hours ago we completed our interviews with two local newspapers, several international wire services, and the national radio network. Mr. Armstrong once again stressed that man is in a position now to destroy all human life and that the world will know more chaos and more destruction, although man will not be permitted to destroy himself entirely. Once again, he emphasized a strong, supernatural, intervening hand will be necessary to prevent cosmocide. On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights he will tell his audiences more about the world tomorrow, as well as this troubled world today.

Postscript: We have just received word from Japan that one of our greatest friends and one of Japan's great leaders has died. Dr. Nobu-moto Ohama, former president of Waseda University and a man who has worked throughout his long life in bringing about better understanding between the people of Japan and the United States, had cooperated with us in so many ways throughout the years as we have striven to build a bridge between his people and ours. He had recently agreed to serve as the Chairman of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation of Tokyo, Japan. □

WORLD PEACE, with OUR PEOPLES elevated to once again become the HEAD — in greater prosperity and blessings than ever before — and with our peoples turning to and receiving SPIRITUAL SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE!

WHY have those who profess to base their religion on the BIBLE

never WARNED our people of these plain and clear PROPHECIES?

I have been commissioned by the living GOD to get out this WARNING to our peoples — as well as to take Christ's last MESSAGE to Gentile nations for a warning to ALL NATIONS! Sure, I get persecuted for it. Sure I've had to make unrealized per-

sonal SACRIFICES for it — but SOMEBODY has to have the courage to DO IT, and the living Christ has called and chosen me. And our great God continues to bless me with youth, strength, dynamic energy and vitality. And I know, that with YOUR PRAYERS and help back of me, it will be accomplished! □

HUMAN NATURE

(Continued from page 13)

words or direct communication, as He talked with Moses and God's prophets. God reached Cyrus *through Cyrus' spirit*. God stirred up his spirit, causing him to want to do it. God did cause King Cyrus to know that in issuing this proclamation he was doing it according to the will of God.

Utilizing this same principle, Satan, prince of THE POWER OF THE AIR, stirs the spirits of humans, injecting into them attitudes, moods, and impulses of selfishness, vanity, lust, and greed, attitudes of resentment against authority, of jealousy and envy, of competition and strife, of resentment and bitterness, of violence, murder, and war. People do not recognize the source of these attitudes, feelings, motives, and impulses. As I said, they do not SEE the invisible Satan. They hear no audible voice. They do not know the attitude came from Satan (Rev. 12:9). But they come to FEEL such attitudes, impulses, and desires. That is how Satan DECEIVES THE WHOLE WORLD.

People will feel depressed and won't realize why. But those unaware of this phenomenon, with this self-centered attitude being broadcast and injected into their unsuspecting minds from earliest childhood, do, to a greater or lesser degree, absorb it until it becomes their normal attitude. It becomes habitual. It does not, of course, exhibit the *same degree* of effect in all minds — one person will become more evil than another. But the natural tendency is there. They come to have it *naturally*. It becomes their very NATURE. And we call it "human nature."

All this is an outstanding example of just *how subtle* Satan is! The finest and most brilliant human minds have been deceived by it. Thus the WHOLE WORLD has been swayed by Satan into what I often term, simply, the "GET" way of life — the way that has become HABITUAL and NATURAL which we term "HUMAN NATURE."

Few realize how many passages in the Bible, especially in the New

Testament, warn us about Satan and his subtlety. But first, before I take you to more of these, let us follow on through this 2nd chapter of Ephesians.

In chapter 1 of this letter to the church at Ephesus, the apostle Paul gives thanks and praise to God who has blessed "us" (the converts at Ephesus and Paul — all Christians) with every spiritual blessing within the heavenly sphere. God had chosen us before we were born — before the foundation of the world — predestinated to be called to spiritual salvation. God has richly *lavished* on us His grace. He shows that we being called in this time — this New Testament "church age" — are the *first* to be called to this glorious grace (emphasizing that this is NOT the time God is trying to save the world, but only those predestined to be called NOW). Paul has heard of their faith and never ceases to give thanks for it. He prays for their eyes to be opened fully to the awesome human potential — the supreme greatness of their divine heritage.

I urgently suggest the reader carefully read this first chapter in the Moffatt translation. As translated by Moffatt I think it is one of the most beautiful, uplifting, and inspiring pieces of literature I have ever read.

Now the highlights of chapter 2: You Christians at Ephesus were spiritually dead, but Christ has given you the impregnation of eternal life. You are now spiritually alive. In the past you lived according to the way of this world (the SELF-centered way), according to the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR. In II Corinthians 4:4 Satan is called the god of this world, who has blinded the minds of those who do not believe in Christ and His truth. NOT that they inherited this spiritual blindness — but that *Satan* blinded those living in that generation *directly*.

But here in Ephesians 2 Satan is referred to as the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR! Notice the word *POWER* — the POWER of the air. Then it calls him the SPIRIT (being) that NOW — the time when they were living — actually was WORKING IN those of the world who were not obedient — that is, the world in general. The Phillips translation in

modern English renders this: "You [then] drifted along in the stream of this world's ideas of living, and obeyed its unseen ruler [who is still operating in those who do not respond to the truth of God]."

Emphatically this shows Satan is the UNSEEN one who, unrealized by the people, is actually swaying their minds, leading them in what I term the "GET" way.

The Phillips translation continues (verse 3): "We all lived like that in the past, and followed the impulses and imaginations of our evil nature... like everyone else." This "nature" has been *acquired* from Satan. It was not inherited from our parents. It was not created in us by God. That which has become *habitual* and therefore *natural* becomes a NATURE within us.

Such nature is NOT hereditary, but an *acquired* characteristic. This very passage shows the AUTHOR of this "nature" to be Satan, NOT GOD. The next words in the Phillips translation are: "being under the wrath of God by nature." It would make no sense at all for God's wrath to be on us BECAUSE OF WHAT GOD PUT WITHIN US. Adam was NOT created with this "EVIL nature." Adam acquired it from Satan. Lucifer (Satan) was created PERFECT. He acquired it by false reasoning. These Ephesians, in their generation, had acquired it from Satan. But now, IN CHRIST, through His grace, Christ had given them LIFE, who *were* spiritually dead because of this acquired evil nature.

But how about the converted Christian? His spirit, like all others, is tuned on Satan's wavelength. The same tendency, just as if this evil nature were inherent in him from birth, is present. Satan has been injecting it since early childhood. But the true Christian has repented of that WAY. He has REJECTED it. He has turned from it. He has accepted and turned *to* GOD's way — the way of GOD'S GOVERNMENT!

The passage in Ephesians 2 explains it. People generally, in the world, are spiritually dead. They have gone along with the rest of the world in the self-centered way. As the Phillips translation renders it, they have "drifted along on the stream of this world's way of living."

They have "obeyed its UNSEEN ruler [who is still operating in those who do not respond to the truth of God]."

I have quoted from the Phillips translation, not because it is a more accurate or dependable translation, but because it brought out the meaning more clearly in this particular passage.

Conversion *does not disconnect* Satan's wavelength. The tendency to become resentful over real or fancied wrongs or injustices from others, the tendency to try to get the best of others, may still prove a temptation. THESE are the things the converted Christian must strive *to overcome!*

When Jesus spoke of OVERCOMING, He referred to overcoming these WAYS of Satan, which are contrary to GOD's way. The Christian must, as Peter was inspired to write, GROW in grace and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We read in James 4: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." This is speaking of resisting these very self-centered thoughts, attitudes, tendencies, and ways which Satan injected into us from childhood and is constantly broadcasting and injecting into unsuspecting minds through the spirit in man.

However, no man is IMPELLED to respond to and obey these impulses being broadcast by Satan. Satan has no power to FORCE anyone to think or do wrong. But the unsuspecting automatically do without fully realizing what is taking place in their minds. They drift along.

The passage in II Corinthians 4:4 adds clarity to the entire thesis that this evil spiritual nature in humans has been *acquired*, individually by each person, from Satan.

Before I became familiar with radio, I could not have understood HOW Satan injects this evil attitude into humans. He is a SUPER POWERFUL spirit being. He was set on a throne as king over the earth. He himself, by his own reasoning processes, *acquired* this evil nature. God did not create it in him (Ezek. 28:15). Though disqualified now to administer the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over the earth, he must remain

here UNTIL his successor has qualified AND been inducted into office. There is a REASON why Christ has not YET come to take over that office, remove Satan, and *restore* the government of God.

Before Jesus Christ could qualify to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and RULE all nations, He had to withstand Satan's most severe temptation. You'll read of that supreme struggle in the 4th chapter of Matthew. Jesus had to — *in human flesh* — reject Satan's way and teach and prove OBEDIENT to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — so He can RESTORE it on earth!

It was immediately after that — after Christ QUALIFIED to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth — that Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled (Mark 1:1, 14-15). It was never fulfilled until that titanic struggle in which Jesus resisted Satan, conquered him, and showed His MASTERY over him.

Now notice something you probably never realized before:

I have said repeatedly THIS IS NOT THE TIME GOD IS TRYING TO CONVERT THE WHOLE WORLD. He is calling only a comparative VERY FEW, now.

WHY? WHY does not God call everyone on earth NOW?

Are those of us called NOW getting a real SPECIAL deal?

Well, THINK OF THIS: We, now called, *must resist Satan*, who will PULL OUT ALL STOPS to attack and DESTROY those of us called NOW!

All others are drifting along SATAN'S WAY ANYWAY. Sure, he broadcasts to sway *everyone* to his SELF-centered way, contrary to GOD'S WAY. But he has the whole world already going his way. But those of us who have turned from his way, are fighting to OVERCOME it, and who are turning to God's way — the WAY of God's GOVERNMENT — are the ones Satan HATES. He seeks specially to destroy us! Without God's protection and restraining power over Satan, we could never make it!

Few, even among professing converted Christians, realize the vital and SUPREME NEED to be conscious and constantly aware of Satan's ef-

forts to get to us, who already have turned *from* Satan's way and *to* the WAY of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. For this very reason, Satan has gotten to and overthrown many who have fallen away (II Thes. 2:3).

Few actively heed what God, through Paul, said later to the Ephesians: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against POWERS, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [wicked SPIRITS] in HIGH PLACES" (Eph. 6:10-12).

There is a reason WHY God allows those predestinated to be called NOW to have to withstand Satan and his REBELLION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

It is necessary — in order for us to QUALIFY to become rulers (under Christ) in the KINGDOM OF GOD — that we NOT ONLY reject Satan's false way but *strive against* it until we OVERCOME IT, relying all the while on GOD for the power to do so.

As we, from earliest childhood growing up, *acquired* Satan's nature, so, through conversion and the struggle of OVERCOMING, we rid ourselves of it. We ACQUIRE, instead, the DIVINE NATURE. Peter wrote that we become "PARTAKERS OF THE DIVINE NATURE" (II Pet. 1:4). We most certainly were not born with it.

So, Lucifer ACQUIRED that satanic nature by his own reasoning and choice. Humans have ACQUIRED Satan's nature from childhood and call it "human nature." But converted Christians, who reject Satan's way and OVERCOME it, turning to GOD'S WAY, BECOME PARTAKERS OF — i.e., ACQUIRE — the DIVINE NATURE. But for God's PURPOSE, it was necessary that we first know and totally REJECT Satan's way and accept GOD'S GOVERNMENT.

When God does set out to CALL EVERY HUMAN ON EARTH to spiritual salvation, Satan will be BOUND a thousand years, unable to broadcast his impulses and attitudes. The world will be at PEACE! Those called then will not have to battle what we Christians have to now. But

WHY? There has to be a GOOD REASON!

To those of us being called, NOW, Jesus said: "And he that overcometh [Satan and his own self], and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27).

When Christ comes to RULE, as the KING of kings and LORD of lords, we who are called now will rule with and under Him, as He restores the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to this earth.

Notice again: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21). Those who shall reign WITH Christ, when He comes to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, MUST OVERCOME (and that includes overcoming SATAN), EVEN AS JESUS DID!

Now does this apply equally to those who shall be converted *after* Christ comes, during the millennium?

The answer is *NO!* These two quotations (above) are found in Jesus' message to the seven CHURCHES that span this CHURCH AGE! They do NOT apply to those called later! Do they apply *only* to the era of Thyatira and Laodicea? No, they apply to ALL the church age. These seven messages DO apply to *seven successive church eras*. BUT they *also* apply to the WHOLE CHURCH through ALL eras. In other words, the Ephesus characteristics DOMINATED in the first era, and the Laodicean will dominate in the last, but SOME of these characteristics are found in EVERY era. The messages apply to the WHOLE church (and so I have said and written for 49 years) but certain characteristics pre-dominate in the various eras.

But GET THIS CRUX POINT! Jesus had to QUALIFY to RULE the earth. God's WHOLE PURPOSE IS TO RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD. Jesus had to resist and overcome the temptations — very special ones — of SATAN. Are we to rule *without* any such qualifications? *Of course not!* Those who are to rule with and under Christ when He restores the GOVERNMENT to the earth

MUST QUALIFY — must turn FROM Satan's WAY to GOD'S WAY, that is, to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. We must root out — root and branch — Satan's ATTITUDE and WAY, and so thoroughly that we shall make it IMPOSSIBLE ever to turn again to Satan's way — IMPOSSIBLE TO SIN (I John 3:9).

Those called to spiritual salvation AFTER Christ comes will not have to battle Satan.

Notice, Matthew 25 and Revelation 20:

First, Matthew 25, beginning verse 31: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Christ is coming in all the supreme POWER and GLORY of the Creator GOD! He is coming to RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD over the WHOLE EARTH — OVER ALL NATIONS! One SUPER WORLD GOVERNMENT! He will restore the throne of David at Jerusalem. Since 1968 we have been in joint participation with Hebrew University and the Israel Archaeological Society in clearing off some 50 feet or more of debris which has covered the ancient throne of David, which existed some 2,500 years ago.

Continue: "And before him shall be gathered all nations" (verse 32). He is coming to RULE the WORLD — to RESTORE the GOVERNMENT OF GOD! Every government is founded on a basic LAW.

The law of God is unlike any man-made law of any human government. It is a SPIRITUAL law (Rom. 7:14). And it is a HOLY law (Rom. 7:12). It is A WAY OF LIFE — *God's way!* When people are governed in that way of life, there will be PEACE, HAPPINESS, JOY, ABUNDANCE!

But that basic LAW of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is also the law of the Christian WAY of life. Sin (spiritually) is the transgression of that law (I John 3:4). Christ is coming also to call ALL PEOPLE to spiritual salvation and eternal life. That is when God will seek to spiritually save THE WHOLE WORLD — and NOT TILL THEN!

Continue: "And he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth the sheep from the

goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:32-34).

The nations before the king on his throne are the nations of this world. Those called to salvation during the church age and previously (prophets, etc.), will have been resurrected to meet Christ in the air, as He descends to earth on His return (I Thes. 4:16-17). They will be ruling with Christ, already being immortal, composed of spirit (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). They, with Christ, will compose the KINGDOM OF GOD.

It is necessary, here, to explain the difference between the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and the KINGDOM OF GOD. The GOVERNMENT of God was established on earth IN PRE-HISTORY OVER THE ANGELS.

But the KINGDOM of God is BOTH the GOVERNMENT of God and the FAMILY of God. Those now being saved spiritually will, in the resurrection, INHERIT the kingdom of God. They shall have been BORN of God — born into the divine FAMILY of God. They shall be married to Christ. Of this divine spiritual marriage will be begotten and born spiritually children of God all during the thousand years commencing with Christ's return to earth as KING.

Now let's notice the 20th chapter of Revelation:

The apostle John is recording what he saw in vision: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:1-2).

When Christ comes again to earth in supreme POWER and GLORY, He shall already have been crowned with many crowns. The coronation ceremony will have taken place in heaven (throne of God the Father) before His return. Christ then shall have been qualified *AND* inducted into office. I have said before, Satan must remain on earth swaying the nations his way UNTIL Christ, the

successor, has both qualified AND been inducted into office.

Immediately on Christ's return, Satan shall be BOUND.

Continue: "And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (verse 3).

Those resurrected then shall reign over all nations with Christ for a thousand years of PEACE on earth.

Imagine what it shall be like with Christ and resurrected saints forming the KINGDOM OF GOD, ruling with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over all living humans who shall be left alive. Satan will be restrained from broadcasting. Christ will be ruling with GOD'S WAY of life.

But NOW NOTICE! Verse 7: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of this prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth... to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea" (verses 7-8).

Grasp it! These are people at PEACE! They have not been inoculated with the satanic NATURE we now call "human nature." They shall have been living happily in PERFECT PEACE. Now Satan once MORE BROADCASTS. Remember these nations are HUMAN. Satan is INVISIBLE to them. But notice the CHANGE come over them as soon as Satan is loosed and able again to sway humanity:

Verse 9: "And they [the human nations] went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city..." Immediately "HUMAN NATURE" shall have entered into them! Immediately they shall have been filled with envy and jealousy against the saints of God, filled with wrath and violence! But God will not allow them to destroy. They shall have been *told* — have been warned about Satan. "...and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone... and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

After this shall occur the "Great

White Throne Judgment" — the resurrection of *all humanity* from the time of Adam to Christ's coming who had not been in the first resurrection or called by God. In this judgment is to be "the book of life," meaning many, perhaps most, shall then find spiritual salvation and eternal life. In the time of their judgment, Satan will be GONE!

Up to now, God has called VERY FEW to spiritual salvation, contrary to general tradition and opinion in the "Christian" world!

From Adam to Noah we have the record of only Abel, Enoch, and Noah — some 1,900 years! From Noah to Christ, there was Abraham, Lot, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, prior to calling the children of Israel out of Egypt. God NEVER offered spiritual salvation (eternal life) to the O.T. nation Israel, but only to the prophets and those called to SPECIAL DUTY.

From Adam to Christ, NONE were called to spiritual salvation *except those called to a SPECIAL MISSION TO PERFORM*.

From Christ to now, only a VERY MINUTE PORTION of humanity has been called, and they for the SPECIAL MISSION OF THE GREAT COMMISSION — "Go ye into all the world and preach the GOSPEL" (of the KINGDOM OF GOD).

We who have been called in this "church age" have been called to qualify as rulers with and under Christ in the kingdom of God, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, in other words, to develop the holy, righteous CHARACTER of God. But OUR PART in the GREAT COMMISSION is the assignment God has given as THE MEANS of preparing us for rulership with and under Christ when He comes — and THAT IS NOW SOON!

This installment began with the question of whether this evil "human nature" is born in a sweet tiny baby. Let me now, before the close, quote three passages from the Bible.

"And they brought unto him [Jesus] also infants, that he would touch them... Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for *of such* is the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:15-16). The evil nature which some erroneously

have supposed was born in babies is the nature of Satan's kingdom, but "of such" — *these babies* — is the kingdom of GOD.

"At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, *and become as little children*, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:1-3).

"Jesus said, Suffer *little children*, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14).

We humans start out at birth all right. But soon we begin to absorb and ACQUIRE the selfish, self-centered attitude broadcast by Satan. But Satan's kingdom of angels — now turned to demons — rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and it was thus removed from earth.

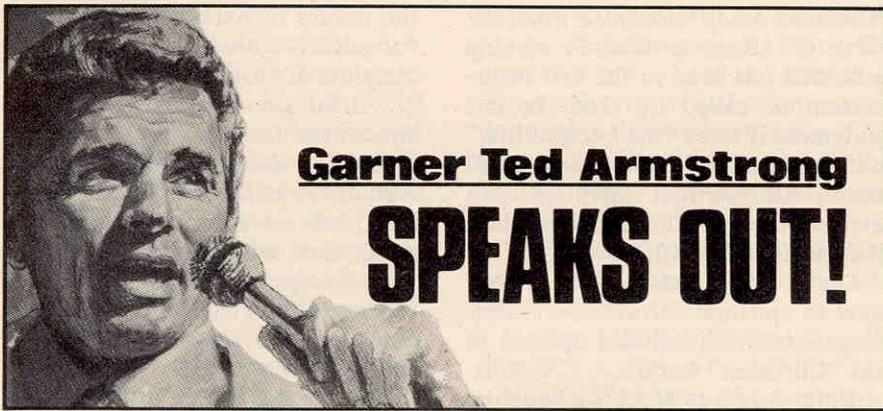
GOD'S PURPOSE in having created and put HUMANS on earth was to develop in them GOD'S own holy and righteous character. God wants a people who will REJECT and overcome Satan's WAY OF LIFE and turn to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — which is GOD'S WAY of life.

That GOVERNMENT OF GOD exists at this time on earth only in the Worldwide Church of God. Satan is angry. He hates it! He subtly tries to inject into minds under that government of LOVE a hostility that MISREPRESENTS it as a harsh and cruel government of Satan.

But I repeat, LUCIFER was created by God "*perfect in all his ways, until iniquity was found in him.*" He *acquired* the nature of rebellion and evil by false reasoning. Adam *acquired* it from Satan. The Ephesians (Eph. 2:1) *acquired it from Satan — as has all humanity, except Jesus Christ*. But now, IN CHRIST, through His grace, we may ACQUIRE the DIVINE NATURE (II Pet. 1:4).

God's GREAT PURPOSE is to RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD to this earth, in and through the KINGDOM OF GOD!

We CAN, by Christ's grace, CHANGE "human nature" and eradicate it entirely from us, replacing it with the DIVINE NATURE! □
(To be continued in future issues)



Garner Ted Armstrong
SPEAKS OUT!

A TV Program Worth Your While

***Plain Truth* Editor Garner Ted Armstrong is presently on location in Egypt where he is interviewing top Egyptian officials and taping on-the-spot radio and television programs on the Mideast situation. In place of his regular column, we present this informative background story behind the Garner Ted Armstrong television program.**

The Garner Ted Armstrong television program is a weekly half-hour program dealing with topics of social, national, and global importance. Many *Plain Truth* readers are, of course, familiar with it. But for those who are not, we would like to acquaint you with GTA-TV by letting you read some of the comments others have made about the program.

One of the first GTA programs this season was entitled "Nuclear Energy: Risk or Remedy?" A few days after it aired we received this letter:

"I wonder if it might be possible for the [U.S.] Senate Committee of Government Operations to obtain from you a copy of your transcript from the program 'Nuclear Power — Risk or Remedy?'"

"We will be holding hearings in January on the subject of nuclear proliferation and would certainly appreciate having the knowledge contained in the transcript."

The Kansas City Regional Office

of the Federal Energy Administration wrote, calling the program "... excellent... in that it explores all sides of the nuclear issue without imposing unwarranted conclusions upon the viewing audience... It is an invaluable document which will prove beneficial in increasing energy awareness." Their office requested a tape copy of the program for distribution "... among Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska electric/gas utilities, consumer/environmental groups, state energy offices, public regulatory commissions, and public education institutions."

One of January's GTA programs was on alcoholism, entitled "Here's to Your Last Drink." The California State Office of Alcoholism inquired about obtaining copies of the program for their own use. From their letter:

"It was an excellently presented, well balanced, and honestly portrayed picture of a very serious and difficult problem. The problem of alcoholism and alcohol abuse, touching so many social, physiological, spiritual, and psychological facets, are very difficult to portray accurately (let alone to begin to cope with)! You and your staff are certainly to be commended for a very professional job."

This same program brought several letters from health-oriented organizations similar to the following:

"I am a therapist at St. Anthony Hospital [Oklahoma City] on the

Alcohol Treatment Unit and am interested in the possibility of either borrowing, renting or purchasing [the alcoholism program] for viewing by our alcoholic patients."

Each season one or more GTA programs are generally devoted to exploring some of the marvels and intricacies of nature. One such program this year was about ocean life, entitled "Showcase of the Deep." An associate professor of zoology at Mississippi State University wrote:

"I was thoroughly impressed by your film and, therefore, called the TV station immediately for more information... I am very interested in obtaining this film to show to my classes in zoology. I wonder if you will loan 'Showcase of the Deep' to us free."

In addition to the topics mentioned above, the GTA program this season has also dealt with international relations (a program entitled "NATO: Who Needs It?"), agriculture ("The American Farmer: Caught in the Middle"), and personal finances ("Should You File Bankruptcy?").

Future Programs

Garner Ted Armstrong is presently in Egypt with several members of our television crew and with our mobile video tape unit, which we call the "Video Pod." (It is constructed to fit inside an air-freight container so that it can be shipped by air to distant locations.) This trip to Egypt is designed to produce three on-location programs, hopefully including one program primarily composed of a discussion between Garner Ted Armstrong and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. These programs will probably air in April or early May.

Immediately before the Egyptian trip, Mr. Armstrong taped a two-program series on juvenile crime. And shortly to go into production is a program that will examine the possibility that significant climate changes are taking place which may alter the earth's food-growing ability.

Check the Garner Ted Armstrong television log. If there is a station in your area carrying the Garner Ted Armstrong program, try to catch the remainder of our season. We'll be trying to make it worth your while.

— Ron Horswell

**THE GARNER TED
ARMSTRONG
TELECAST**

**WEEKLY
TV
LOG**

U.S. STATIONS

Eastern Time

AKRON — Channel 23, WAKR-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun.
ALBANY — Channel 10, WTEN-TV, 2:30 p.m. Sat.
ALPENA — Channel 11, WBKB-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
ATLANTA — Channel 11, WXIA-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun.
***BALTIMORE** — Channel 45, WBFF-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun.
***BANGOR** — Channel 5, WABI-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
BINGHAMPTON, N.Y. — Channel 40, WICZ-TV, 7:30 p.m. Sat.
CHARLESTON — Channel 2, WCBF-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.
CINCINNATI — Channel 5, WLWT-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
COLUMBIA — Channel 19, WNOK-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sat.
***COLUMBUS** — Channel 4, WCMH-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun.
DAYTON — Channel 2, WLWD-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
FLINT — Channel 12, WJRT-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun.
GREENVILLE, N.C. — Channel 9, WNCT-TV, 7:00 p.m. Sun.
GREENVILLE — Channel 4, WFBC-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.
HUNTINGTON, W.V. — Channel 13, WOWK-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.
INDIANAPOLIS — Channel 4, WTTV-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
JACKSONVILLE — Channel 12, WTLV-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
JOHNSON CITY — Channel 11, WJHL-TV, 10:30 a.m. Sun.
LANSING — Channel 10, WILX-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
LOUISVILLE — Channel 41, WDRB-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sat.
NEW YORK — Channel 9, WOR-TV, Rotating schedule
PHILADELPHIA — Channel 17, WPHL-TV, 11:00 p.m. Sun.

PORTLAND — Channel 8, WMTW-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
***PORTSMOUTH** — Channel 10, WAVY-TV, 12 noon Sun.
***PROVIDENCE** — Channel 12, WPRI-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sat.
SALISBURY — Channel 16, WBOC-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
***SOUTH BEND** — Channel 22, WSBT-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
SPRINGFIELD — Channel 40, WHYN-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sat.
STEUBENVILLE — Channel 9, WSTV-TV, 12:00 p.m. Sun.
TAMPA — Channel 4, WFLA-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sun.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Channel 7, WMAL-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
WILMINGTON — Channel 6, WECT-TV, 12 noon Sun.

Central Time

ABILENE — Channel 12, KTXS-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.
ALEXANDRIA — Channel 5, KALB-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
AMARILLO — Channel 10, KFDA-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sat.
***BEAUMONT** — Channel 12, KBMT-TV, 12:00 noon Sun.
BISMARCK — Channel 5, KFYZ-TV, 12:00 noon Sat.
CHICAGO — Channel 44, WSNS-TV, 9:30 p.m. Sun.
***CORPUS CHRISTI** — Channel 3, KIII-TV, 10:00 p.m. Sun.
DALLAS — Channel 11, KTVT-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun.
DOTHAN — Channel 18, WDHN-TV, 6:30 p.m. Sat.
EL PASO — Channel 13, KERP-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sat.
EVANSVILLE — Channel 14, WFIE-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
***FARGO** — Channel 11, KTHI-TV, 12 noon Sun.
***FT. SMITH** — Channel 5, KFSS-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
GARDEN CITY — Channel 11, KGLD-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sun.
GREAT BEND — Channel 2, KCKT-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun.
***HATTIESBURG** — Channel 7, WDAM-TV, 4:30 p.m. Sun.
HOUSTON — Channel 39, KHTV-TV, 3:00 p.m. Sat.
HUNTSVILLE — Channel 48, WYUR-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.
KANSAS CITY — Channel 4, WDAF-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
***KEARNEY** — Channel 13, KHGI-TV, 11:30 p.m. Sun.
LUBBOCK — Channel 11, KCBF-TV, 12:00 noon Sun.
LUFKIN — Channel 9, KTRE-TV, 2:00 p.m. Sun.
MCCOOK — Channel 8, KOMC-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun.
MERIDIAN — Channel 11, WTOK-TV, 10:00 a.m. Sun.
MIDLAND — Channel 2, KMID-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sat.
MINNEAPOLIS — Channel 11, WTCN-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun.
MONROE — Channel 10, KTVE-TV, 12:00 p.m. Sun.
MONTGOMERY — Channel 32, WKAB-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sun.
NASHVILLE — Channel 2, WNGE-TV, 6:00 p.m. Sat.

NEW ORLEANS — Channel 4, WWL-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
NORTH PLATTE — Channel 2, KNOP-TV, 6:30 p.m. Mon.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Channel 5, KOCO-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.
OMAHA — Channel 6, WOWT-TV, 3:00 p.m. Sat.
***PEORIA** — Channel 19, WRAU-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun.
ROCKFORD — Channel 13, WREX-TV, 9:00 a.m. Sun.
SHREVEPORT — Channel 6, KTAL-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
***SIOUX CITY** — Channel 14, KMEG-TV, 5:00 p.m. Sun.
SPRINGFIELD, MO. — Channel 27, KMTC-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sat.
SPRINGFIELD — Channel 20, WICS-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
TEMPLE — Channel 6, KCEN-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
TOPEKA — Channel 27, KTSB-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
***TUPELO** — Channel 9, WTWV-TV, 5:00 p.m. Sat.
TYLER — Channel 7, KLTV-TV, 10:30 p.m. Sun.
***WICHITA** — Channel 5, KARD-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun.
WICHITA FALLS — Channel 6, KAUZ-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.

Mountain Time

***BOISE** — Channel 6, KIVI-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
GRAND JUNCTION — Channel 5, KREX-TV, 4:30 p.m. Mon.
***GREAT FALLS** — Channel 5, KFBB-TV, 10:15 p.m. Sun.
***MILES CITY** — Channel 3, KYUS-TV, 6:00 p.m. Sat.
PUEBLO — Channel 5, KOAA-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun.
RAPID CITY — Channel 7, KRSD-TV, 6:30 p.m. Wed.
ROSWELL — Channel 40, KBIM-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sat.
SALT LAKE CITY — Channel 5, KSL-TV, 12:30 p.m. Sat.
TUCSON — Channel 10, KGUN-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.

Pacific Time

ANCHORAGE — Channel 13, KIMO-TV, 6:30 p.m. Wed.
FAIRBANKS — Channel 11, KTVF-TV, 5:00 p.m. Sat.
***HONOLULU** — Channel 2, KHON-TV, 1:00 p.m. Sat.
***LAS VEGAS** — Channel 8, KLAS-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sat.
LOS ANGELES — Channel 9, KHJ-TV, 9:00 p.m. Sun.
PORTLAND — Channel 12, KPTV-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sat.
RENO — Channel 2, KTVN-TV, 3:30 p.m. Sat.
SACRAMENTO — Channel 13, KOVR-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.
***SALINAS** — Channel 8, KSBW-TV, 5:00 p.m. Sun.
SPOKANE — Channel 6, KHQ-TV, 1:30 p.m. Sun.
TACOMA — Channel 11, KSTW-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sat.

