

FEBRUARY 1984 • CIRC. 6,416,000

the

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

50

YEARS

Where We Have Been
Where We Are Going

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PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

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OUR COVER

Volume 1, number 1 of *The Plain Truth* was February 1934. So, for English-speaking readers this is our 50th anniversary. The magazine was not published one year in the Great Depression, which is why this issue is volume 49. The German edition began with the August 1961 issue, the French in June 1963; the Spanish and Dutch in 1968. The Italian edition commenced with the July 1982 issue. We welcome the Norwegian as our seventh edition, beginning with this number.

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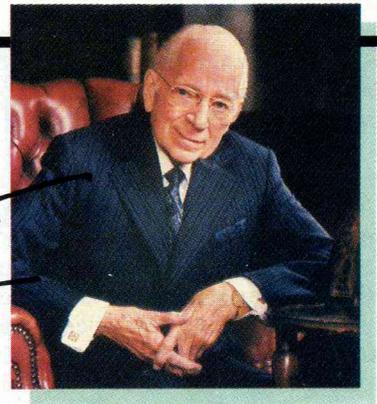
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PERSONAL FROM



The Only REAL Value of a Human Life

Five decades ago, in the first edition of *The Plain Truth*, I could not have written this "Personal." I did not then have UNDERSTANDING of the only real value of a human life. But *The Plain Truth* was born a magazine of UNDERSTANDING. Thankfully, as this publication has grown in circulation and influence, we have grown in knowledge and understanding also.

In this 50th anniversary number, it is my hope that what I write here, in my 92nd year, will help increase the understanding of many of our millions of readers in this very troublous time.

I'm sure this personal message will anger some, hopefully interest many, and bring new understanding to at least a few.

Philosophers, humanists, speak loftily of human worth as of supreme value in itself. They speak of the "god" within you—of tapping the innate hidden resources within yourself. They teach SELF-reliance, self-glorification.

They are smugly ignorant and unaware of the TRUE VALUES and the incredible but real human potential.

Human life is at once of infinitesimally less value

than they suppose, and at the same time of supremely greater potential than they know.

Real truth is revealed. Unless revealed it remains a mystery, utterly unknown to the deceived and vain intellectuals. Jesus said in prayer, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and revealed them unto babes."

What is the real truth concerning human worth? What is the real value of a human life? It is grossly overestimated in its own reality, and astoundingly undervalued in its supreme potential. The truth indeed is staggering.

You look upon a sweet, innocent babe a few hours old, or upon a life-fulfilled elderly person of 80 and ask yourself, "Just how valuable is that life?—one just beginning, the other already spent." Could you supply the correct answer?

Let's UNDERSTAND! Right here is the point of difficulty. Right here is the jumping off point where the world's educated jump the track. Science and advanced education today almost universally assume nothing exists but matter. They deny the existence of spirit. Which is to say, whether admitted or not, they deny the existence of God.

We come to the modern science of brain research. We learn that the human brain exercises many functions impossible in animal brain, yet we learn there is virtually no significant difference, physically. The animal cannot think, reason, study, make decisions apart from instinct. It cannot know what the human knows. It does not have attitudes of judgment, wisdom, love, kindness, cooperation, nor is it aware of competition, conspiracy, envy, jealousy, resentment. It has no appreciation of music, art and literature. Yet science and higher education insist the faculty of intellect in humans is solely physical.

I had to PROVE to myself rationally that God exists and is in fact more REAL than matter. I had to PROVE that the Holy Bible is in fact the authoritative word of God, by which he communicates to man, reveals truth otherwise inaccessible to man. And I found revealed PURPOSE, DESIGN, MEANING that is hidden from the self-professed scholarly. I found revealed the reason for mounting evils in a progressive world.

Can the human, who has been designed, created and made, say to his Maker, "WHY did you make me

thus?—and for what PURPOSE?” And can he instruct his Maker? Should he not, rather, open his mind, and listen when his Maker reveals to him the very reason for his being?

The Creator reveals and instructs in a highly coded Book, the Holy Bible. Its profound message is opened to human understanding through the presence and in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit injected into the human mind that has surrendered and yielded completely to the revelation in belief and obedience. To such a one the TRUTH is made plain—wonderful beyond description.

The real value of a human life, then, lies solely within the human spirit combined with the human brain. It should be stated at once that this human spirit is not perceived by the most highly educated psychologists, yet it is the very essence of the human MIND.

The Creator’s Book reveals, contrary to fallible humanist teaching, that man was made from the dust of the ground, and this dust thus becomes soul, mortal—like all vertebrates. Man has continued to accept the first lie in human history—Satan’s lie to mother Eve that man is immortal and cannot die.

The soul is merely the breathing animal. All animals are biblically called “souls” in English translations of the Bible. But there is a human spirit *in* the human soul.

This human spirit does not impart human life. Human life, like that of all vertebrates, comes from blood circulation, oxidized by the breath of air. But God reveals there is a spirit within every human. This spirit is not present in animals. The human spirit empowers the human brain with intellect—with ability to acquire knowledge, to think, reason, make decisions, produce attitudes of good or evil.

Human and animal brain are alike. Human mind superiority comes not from superior brain, but from the presence of human spirit within the human brain. Animal brain is supplied with instinct, not intellect.

It may seem shockingly strange, because it is a dimension in knowledge hitherto untaught, but the real value of a human life lies solely in the human spirit, as it works in combination with the human brain.

God formed man of matter, but after his own image and likeness as to form and shape.

But the brute animal and man have the same breath, the same source of life. They die the same death. Human life *is* animal existence, in the form and shape of God, and with the human spirit added to the brain.

Man was created to have a relationship with his Maker. Therefore he was made in his Maker’s form and shape, with contact and relationship made possible by the presence within him of the human spirit.

But man’s creation was not completed. He was made mentally and spiritually only “half there.” He needed the addition of God’s Spirit to unite with his spirit, begetting him as a child of God—uniting him with God—ultimately to be born into the very GOD FAMILY.

Thus immortal life was freely offered Adam. But he had to make a choice. He followed Eve in obeying Satan instead of God, choosing SELF-knowledge of good and evil, rather than God’s

revealed knowledge of the right way of life by choosing the “tree of LIFE.”

Thereupon, God closed off the tree of LIFE (God’s Holy Spirit), UNTIL Jesus Christ, the second Adam, should come and by death pay the human penalty incurred by sin. Thereupon also God decreed that as in Adam all humans must die so in Christ the same all shall be resurrected to life and to judgment.

Adam had sold out to Satan—had been “kidnapped.” He and his family—the human family which sprang from him—became Satan’s, deceived and swayed by Satan. Thus mankind grew and developed the civilization or pattern of life we call this world.

It is not God’s world, but Satan’s. In due time—some 4,000 years after Adam, Jesus Christ was born as the second Adam. He came to pay the ransom price—his death in payment for the penalty humanity has incurred through sin. He started an entire NEW CIVILIZATION—GOD’S world through the Church. Following his death, those humans chosen by God, called into the Church, upon repentance and faith received the Holy Spirit the first Adam had rejected. Those called into God’s Church are the “first fruits”—the first to be judged, pardoned on repentance and baptism and begotten (but as yet unborn) children of God by receiving the Holy Spirit, joined with the human spirit.

At the Second Coming of Christ in supreme power as WORLD RULER, replacing Satan on earth’s throne, those begotten with God’s Spirit will be resurrected immortal and changed instantly from mortal to immortal, the dead in Christ first, then those still living. They will rule and teach the mortals still alive and those born during the next thousand years. Judgment and opportunity for salvation and immortality will then come to all living humans. After this millennial judgment, an opportunity for immortality shall come to all who had died prior to Christ’s coming.

Now back to our original question: “What is the only real value of a human life?”

Human life is animal existence, in form and shape of God, and with human spirit empowering the brain with intellect. The human spirit in man makes possible the union with the Holy Spirit and mind and immortality of God. When mortal man dies, the body reverts to dust, and the spirit returns to God. The human spirit of itself cannot see, hear, think or know. The only real LIFE, inherent and self-containing, lies in the Holy Spirit of God, united with the human spirit. The value of a human life lies in the human spirit and its potential of being united with God’s Spirit—which is God-mind and God-life.

Philosophers think of human worth as of supreme value in itself alone. They speak of “human dignity.” They speak of the innate “god” powers within each human. They advocate SELF-confidence, self-glorification. They make mortal man to think of himself as immortal God.

Much to the contrary, the sole value of human life lies in the human spirit and the potential of being begotten of God, (Continued on page 21)

A World Held Captive

by Herbert W. Armstrong

You live in a world of awesome progress, but paradoxically of appalling evils. *WHY?* It's a world held captive, loving its captivity.

THE NEWS has been replete with stories of kidnappings and aircraft hijackings. Bizarre among them was the Patty Hearst kidnapping, in which the victim was brainwashed into preferring the criminal life of the kidnapers to the respectable status of her parents. Happily, Patty's mind later became cleared of the delusion.

But most astonishing of all is the actual fact of the colossal kidnapping of all time—in which the captive for 6,000 years has willed to pursue the life and evil philosophy of the archkidnapper Satan the devil. The willing victim in this case is the world that inhabits this planet earth! Yet this world has been so completely deceived that it cannot realize what actually has happened to it.

In this 20th century a world of

awesome progress and material development is so blinded by the deceptions of the superkidnapper that it cannot understand the paradoxical fact that its progress is accompanied with appalling and still escalating evils inflicting indescribable suffering, frustration and death.

I have enjoyed private conversations with many kings, presidents, prime ministers, the great and near great of industry and education. I have discussed with them national and world problems, personal, social, economic troubles. They are faced with crises, fears and worries completely beyond their human abilities to solve. There seem to be no solutions to the human dilemma.

In a famous law school a professor of law devoted 30 minutes of a speech explaining that lawmaking bodies, judges and supreme courts are unable to determine right from wrong on many knotty problems before the courts. *WHY?*

You live in a world almost 6,000 years along on its course of history. You see the world as it is today at this advanced stage of civilization,

with its systems of organized society.

It's like coming in on a motion picture already far along on its sequence of events. Not understanding what led up to the present sequence of the story, you find yourself perplexed to understand what you are viewing. If we are to UNDERSTAND what is happening in this world—and *WHY*—we must backtrack 6,000 and more years. We must bring into view the origins, the causes, the events that went before and led up to the perplexities of our day. In no other way can we understand the present and look into the future.

Overview in Retrospect

We look back far into prehistory, at the beginning of life and all things.

There can be no understanding of the present without a right knowledge of origins. There is no greater cause to present-day perplexity than the false premise now holding universal acceptance in modern education—the theory of evolution.

I have learned, in a lifetime now

in its 92nd year, that errors all too frequently arise from a false premise, carelessly assumed. The eye-glasses through which all modern thought is viewed is this theory of evolution. To my satisfaction, after in-depth study and research, the theory has been proven false. If you prefer to believe this illusion because it is presently the educational "IN" thing, you can have no rational understanding or explanation of the conditions of the world in which you live.

I have learned that basic original truth is revealed truth. Without it you are left devoid of the knowledge of reality. Evolution cannot explain the problems and frightening state of humanity. You cannot understand any purpose for human life. Your very existence is without meaning.

So I give you here the only rational approach and comprehension of conditions as they exist.

In the Beginning

In the very beginning, before all else, there existed two living Beings composed of Spirit, possessing supreme mind, intelligence and power, and of perfect righteous character. They are revealed in the biblical book of John, chapter one. One was named the Word (the spokesman—the revelatory thought). The other was named God. The Word ultimately—almost 2,000 years ago—was born as Jesus. The Word also was God—the second personage of the God family. As a human, Jesus was "God with us"—or God in human flesh, born of a virgin woman, but sired by God.

"All things" were made by him. In Ephesians 3:9 it is revealed that God created all things *BY* Jesus Christ.

The Word and God *LIVED*. What did they do? They created. How did they live—what was their "life style"? They lived the way of their perfect character—the way of outflowing *LOVE*. When Christ was baptized, God the Father said, "You are my *beLOVED* Son." God *LOVED* the Word. And the Word *LOVED* God—obeyed him completely.

Two can't walk together except they be agreed. They were in total

agreement and cooperation. Also two can't walk together in continuous peace except one be the head, or leader, in control. God was leader.

Their way of life produced perfect peace, cooperation, happiness, accomplishment. This *WAY* of life became a *LAW*. Law is a code of conduct, or relationship, between two or more. One might call the rules of a sports contest the "law" of the game. The presence of law requires a penalty for infraction. There can be no law without a penalty for its violation.

The very fact of law presupposes *GOVERNMENT*. Government is the administration and enforcement of law by one in authority over the law. This necessitates authoritative leadership—one in command.

When the only conscious life-Beings existed, God was leader—in authoritative command. Thus, even when the only conscious life-Beings were God and the Word, there was *GOVERNMENT*, with God in supreme command. Since they created other conscious thinking life-beings, this very fact of necessity put the *GOVERNMENT* of God over all creation, with God supreme ruler. Bear in mind the government of God is based on the *LAW* of God, which is the way of life of outflowing *LOVE*, cooperation, concern for the good of the governed. And this law of God produces peace, happiness, cooperation through obedience.

Very First Creation: Angels

First, before all else, the God family created angels. Angels are spirit beings, immortal, with power of mind superior to human.

God creates in dual stages. Angel life was not completed until *CHARACTER* had been formed within them. Character may be defined as the ability of a conscious thinking entity to choose the way of life of outflowing *LOVE*—God's law—and to will to live that way of life, even under outside contrary pressure or contrary self-desire. Once *CHARACTER* had been formed and lived, angels, composed of spirit, could never change. I compare it to the pouring of cement or concrete. When first poured its form and shape changes—but once "set," it

is hardened and cannot be reshaped or formed.

Scriptures indicate a third of the angels were placed on the earth prior to final formation of their character.

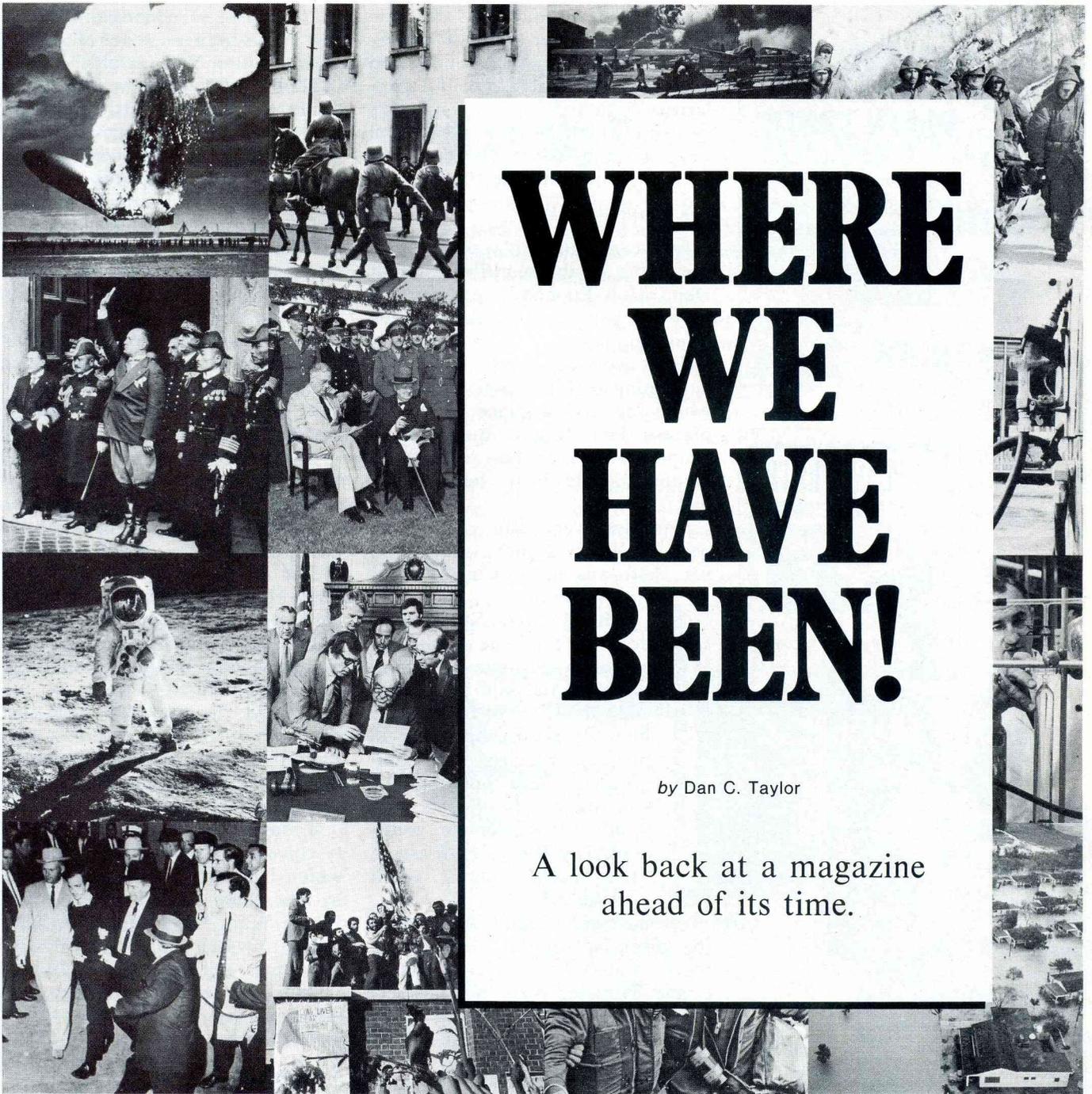
Following the initial creation of angels, God created the physical *UNIVERSE*. Chapters one and two of Genesis state that the earth and the heavens—the physical universe with galaxies—were all created in the same day. In this instance "day" does not necessarily mean a 24-hour day, but a general period of time.

Job 38 says plainly the earth was created when angels had been previously created. God placed a throne of *GOVERNMENT* on the earth. Both Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 reveal the cherub Lucifer being placed on the throne of the earth. II Peter 2:4 reveals that angels *SINNED*. Lucifer was a super archangel. Lucifer had been trained in the administration of God's government on the very throne of God in heaven. He was supremely beautiful, dazzling in brightness. Vanity seized him. Vanity is self-glory, self-centeredness, concern for self even to the point of hostility toward others. He became jealous, envious, resentful and hostile against God his Creator. He turned hostile to the law of God. He turned to a way of life of vanity, covetousness, envy, rivalry, competition, violence and destruction. And this hostile way of life is itself a *LAW*. It is the law of vanity, self-concern, "do your own thing," rebel against the authority of God. That, then, became the basic *LAW* of the *GOVERNMENT* of Lucifer, whose name was changed to Satan the devil. The name Satan means "adversary."

So the government of God on the earth had been replaced by the government of Satan.

This sin of the angels, now called demons, brought on them the *PENALTY* of perversion of mind, bitterness, anger, wrath—but they had been created immortal. Their character now "set" as evil, being spirit beings, they can never change. Forever they must suffer the torture of such perverted and unhappy minds. Their sin brought physical chaos,

(Continued on page 41)



WHERE WE HAVE BEEN!

by Dan C. Taylor

A look back at a magazine
ahead of its time.

“EVERYBODY senses that something is wrong with the world . . . that some mighty event is about to occur. What is it? Bible prophecy tells! Here is a solemn warning . . . and it is the plain truth.”

Those words were written half a century ago in the February 1934 issue—the first issue—of *The Plain Truth*.

Its modest bow was made under

the editorship of Herbert W. Armstrong in the form of an eight-page, mimeographed issue totaling about 250 copies.

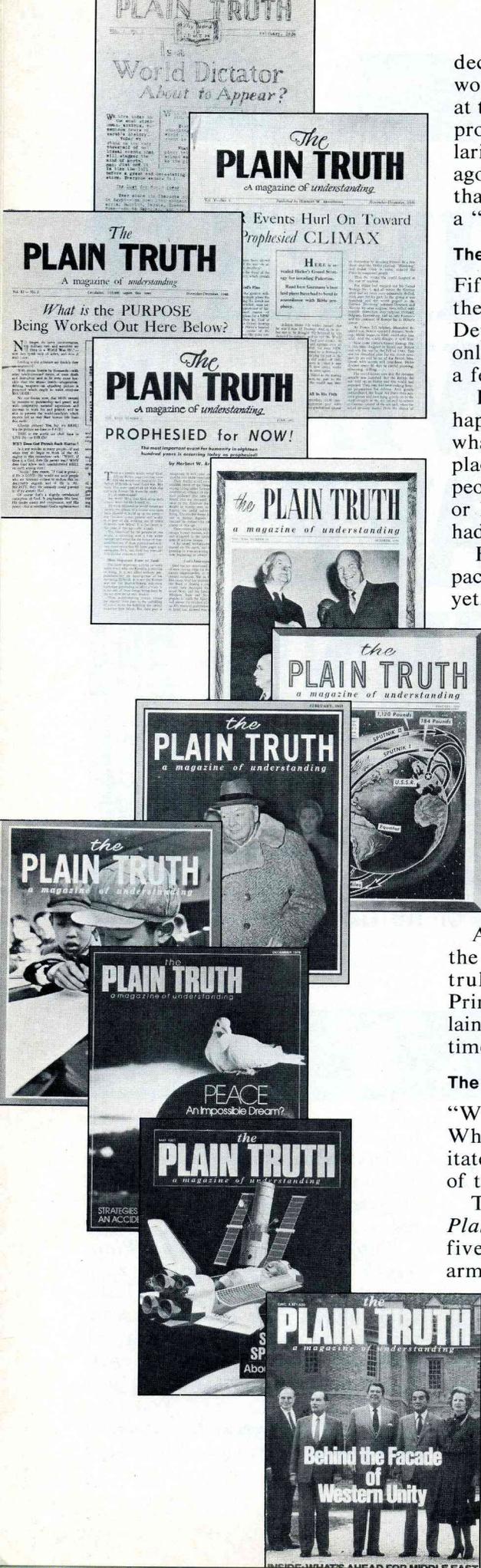
As Mr. Armstrong wrote in his *Autobiography*, “No publication could have had a more humble, or a smaller start.” It was the time of the Great Depression.

Today, *The Plain Truth* has a monthly circulation of more than six million copies in seven languages. But its up-to-date, unique perspective has remained the same these past 50 years. That perspec-

tive is made possible through an understanding of biblical prophecy. There was no other magazine like it 50 years ago, nor is there one like it today.

Through the years, *The Plain Truth* has continued to act as a “watchman” of world events (Luke 21:36; Ezek. 33), to explain what certain trends mean in light of Bible prophecy and warn our readers of perilous times that lie just ahead.

Though the world has changed immensely in the past five



decades—in many ways for the worse—if one were to look closely at the world scene today, one would probably find some unsettling similarities with the world of 50 years ago—in which lived a generation that Franklin Roosevelt noted had a “rendezvous with destiny.”

The World in 1934

Fifty years ago, the world was in the midst of the worldwide Great Depression. Economic recovery was only just beginning to take shape in a few countries.

Few worried about what was happening with the environment or what was taking place in far-off places. The biggest question on people’s minds was how to get a job or how to hold on to the one they had.

Families were still close. The pace of life was more sane. And yet, there was an uneasiness, a tension in the air.

The United States was debating the issue of whether or not to continue the prohibition of the sale of alcohol, and the merits of Roosevelt’s New Deal. Europe was in turmoil. Fascists and communists were battling for control of the hearts and minds of the entire continent. *The Plain Truth* asked, “Is a World Dictator About to Appear?”

As the world began to approach the latter half of the 1930s, many truly wanted to believe British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, who proclaimed “peace in our time.”

The Winds of War

“When will the next war come? Which will be first, the war precipitated by Russia . . . or the revival of the Roman Empire?”

This question posed by *The Plain Truth* in 1934 was answered five years later. Soon Hitler’s armies were rolling over Poland and then the rest of Europe. The war had begun.

As the Nazi Afrika Korps began to close in on Palestine (see Daniel 11:40-43) in 1942, many began to think in terms of Armageddon. However, in the November 1939

Plain Truth, Mr. Armstrong noted that “This may not, after all, be the ‘Armageddon War’ at all!”

He proved to be right. The Allies did turn the tide of battle and finally crushed the Axis powers after nearly six years of bloody struggle that took 50 million lives.

Yet, even as a shattered Germany lay prostrate under a heap of rubble, the editor in chief of *The Plain Truth* was informing a war-weary world that the German nation would rise, phoenixlike, from the ashes of the Third Reich to become a major economic and military power once again, but in the framework of a united Europe.

Even before World War II began, this magazine informed its readers of the prophesied formation of a new “United States of Europe.”

The June-July 1943 issue of *The Plain Truth* explained: “The 17th chapter of Revelation tells us the ancient Roman Empire will be once more revived, this time by a federation of 10 nations.”

In 1958, the groundwork for that resurrection of the once powerful Roman Empire was laid with the inception of the European Common Market.

Today, the European Community consists of 10 nations—many of which had only a few decades ago battled each other in the Second World War. *The Plain Truth* continues to watch the ebb and flow of European political and religious trends to keep our readers informed of the latest developments there.

A Perilous Age

Near the end of the Second World War, a different weapon was introduced into the arena of human conflict. We were now living in the atomic age.

“Where Are We Headed? What’s prophesied from here? Will we have hydrogen war?” This headline from the November 1953 issue of *The Plain Truth* underscores the uneasiness mankind has learned to live with under the shadow of the nuclear bomb.

Similarly, other important events to occur in the course of passing decades were revealed to

startled audiences in subsequent issues of the magazine. The demise of the once proud British Empire was proclaimed in *The Plain Truth* long before the Empire was officially ended. Today, the Empire upon which the sun never set is merely a shadow of its former self.

For a more in-depth look at why the demise of Britain and the United States has taken place—as well as future problems they will face—please write for a free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.

Korea and Vietnam

In 1950, because of an absent Soviet delegation, the United Nations voted to send troops to aid the beleaguered South Korean nation. The United States moved into the area to block the communist advance in a police action designed to force the North Koreans to the bargaining table.

The Plain Truth, however, warned the United States, then at the very pinnacle of its might and strength, that it had won its last war.

The United States and its U.N. allies did not win in Korea. They merely succeeded in gaining a draw. Vietnam, however, was another matter altogether.

Many of the United States' closest allies stood helplessly by while this floundering giant became mired in a war of nerves. There was no surrender of American troops... just of the will to fight. This war was lost, not in the jungles or rice paddies of Vietnam, but in the television sets in the living rooms of America. It was an even worse defeat than any could have imagined.

As the May 1968 issue of *The Plain Truth* noted, "Bible prophecy reveals that not even America, with all of her nuclear muscle, can prevent Southeast Asia from eventually being overrun by communism."

That was stated seven years before North Vietnamese forces conquered Saigon, ending the existence of the Republic of South Vietnam and sealing the fate of Laos and Cambodia.

(Continued on page 10)

Why THE PLAIN TRUTH Has No Subscription Price

For half a century *The Plain Truth* has given its readers an understanding of how a world surcharged with incredible progress can be so afflicted with appalling troubles.

Yet this magazine of understanding is made available without a subscription price. Why?

When Herbert W. Armstrong first conceived of the idea, in 1927, of publishing a magazine called *The Plain Truth*, he believed it must be a different kind of magazine. It would have no outside advertising, no price. Mr. Armstrong learned that God says that we should "buy the truth, and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23). Indeed, he learned that God's way is simply the way of "give."

Today, *The Plain Truth* is a mass-circulation magazine spanning the globe in seven languages with a circulation of more than six million copies each month.

As it has been since its modest debut in 1934, this massive undertaking is made possible by tithes and freewill contributions of those who voluntarily, without solicitation or request, have joined us in this "give" way of life.

Cover Prices—Then and Now

MAGAZINE#	PRICE ^x 1934	PRICE 1984
The Bulletin (Aus.)	6d	\$1.40 Aus.
Colliers	.05	*
Christianity Today	*	\$2.00
Domenica del Corriere (It.)	.30 lira	1,000 lira
Elseveres Magazine (Neth.)	*	3.70 f
Famiglia Christiana (It.)	.10 lira	800 lira
Good Housekeeping	.25	\$1.50
Maclean's (Can.)	.10 Can.	\$1.25 Can.
Newsweek	.10	\$1.50
Paris-Match (Fr.)	*	9.00 F
People	*	\$1.25
The Plain Truth	No Cover Price	
Punch (Br.)	6d	60 p
Reader's Digest	.25	\$1.25
The Spectator (Br.)	6d	75 p
Der Spiegel (W. Ger.)	*	4.00 DM
Stern (W.Ger.)	*	3.50 DM
Time	.15	\$1.75

Published in the U.S. unless otherwise specified

x Prices in February 1934

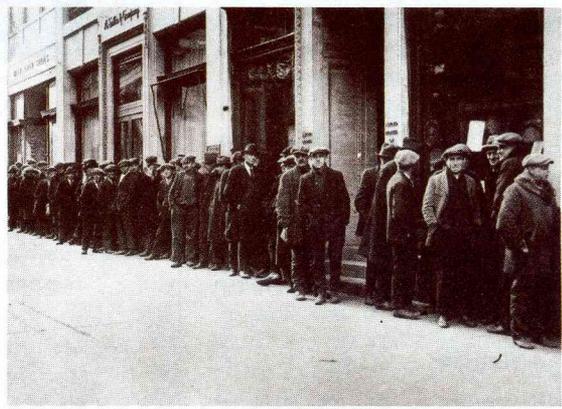
* Not published

THE WORLD IN 1934

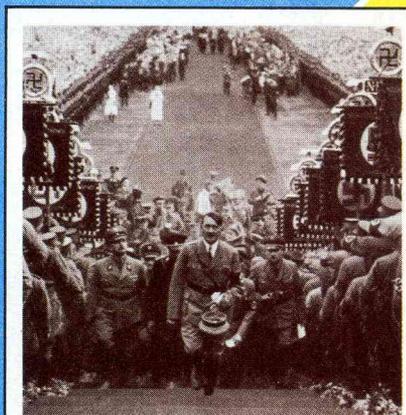
by Dan C. Taylor

The big headlines of 1934 focus on the world's violence.

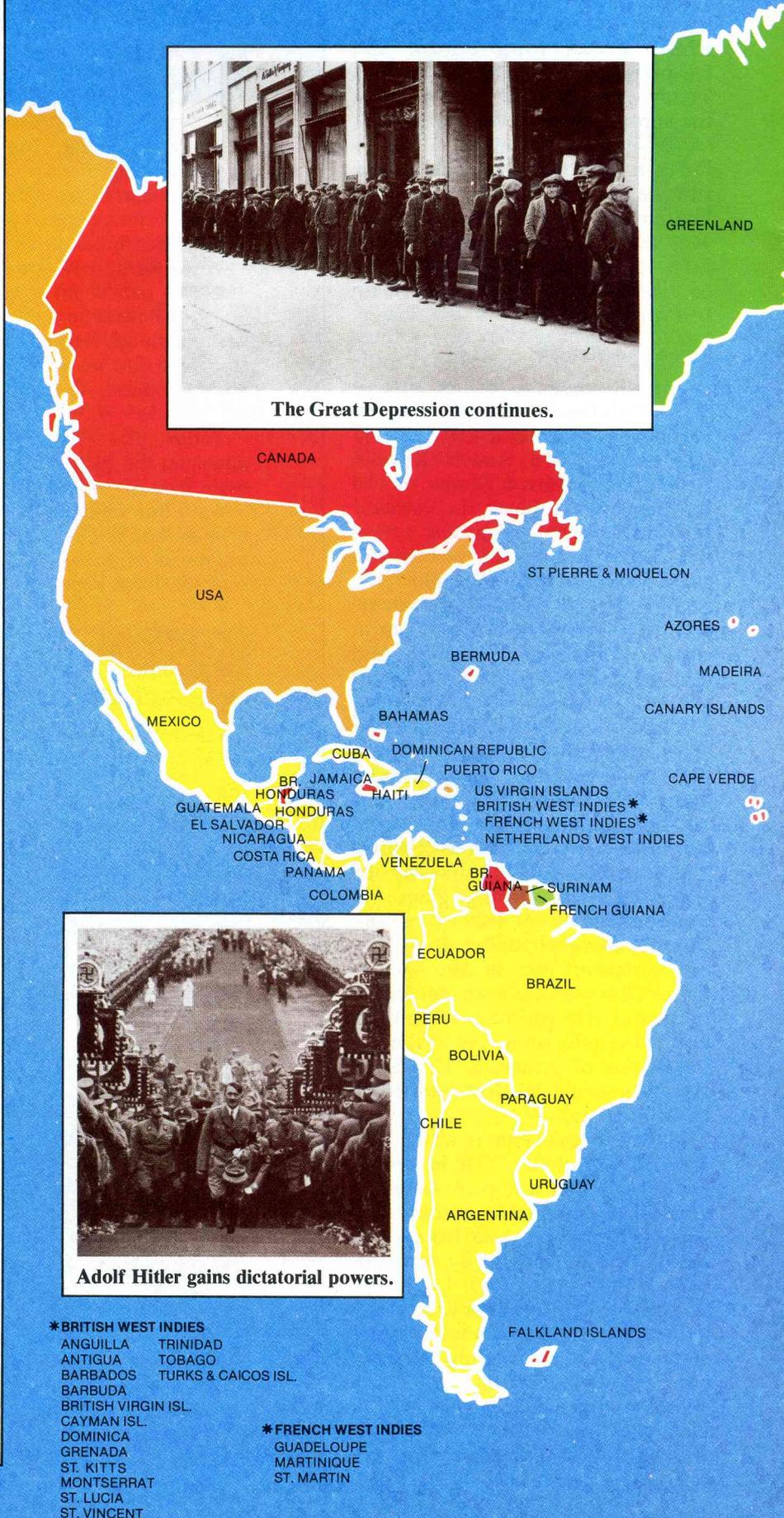
- In the U.S., many of the most notorious criminals including Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker, John Dillinger, Charles "Pretty Boy" Floyd and Lester Gillis (alias George "Baby Face" Nelson) are slain in gun battles with law enforcement officials.
- In the U.S., Bruno Richard Hauptmann is arrested for the kidnapping-murder of Charles A. Lindbergh's young son.
- Nicaraguan national guardsmen ambush Gen. Augusto Sandino, killing him and several other rebel leaders. Forty years later, Sandino serves as the rallying cry of the "Sandinistas" who topple the Somoza regime in 1979.
- Germany and Poland sign a ten year pact renouncing war as a means of settling disputes between them.
- The Soviet Union extends its non-aggression pact with Poland through 1945 and signs a new nonaggression pact with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
- Chancellor Engelbert Dolfuss is murdered by Austrian Nazis during a failed takeover of the Austrian government.
- King Alexander of Yugoslavia, French Foreign Minister Jean Louis Barthou and three others are shot to death by an assassin in Marseilles, France.
- Pope Pius XI ends the Holy Year, which began in 1933, by closing the doors to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- In Germany, Marinus van der Lubbe, a young, mentally retarded Dutch communist, is guillotined following charges of having set fire to the German Reichstag. As a result of the state of emergency that had been declared, Adolf Hitler is given dictatorial powers.
- Adolf Hitler secures firm support from the German military by executing 74 "enemies of the state" in the infamous "Night of the Long Knives."
- On August 2, when German President Paul von Hindenburg dies, Hitler addresses the nation in a radio broadcast eulogy in which he prays for peace.
- The League of Nations abandons its efforts to make peace between Bolivia and Paraguay in their bloody war over the Chaco province. Nevertheless, new hope is raised with a plan to cut off arms shipments to the two warring nations.

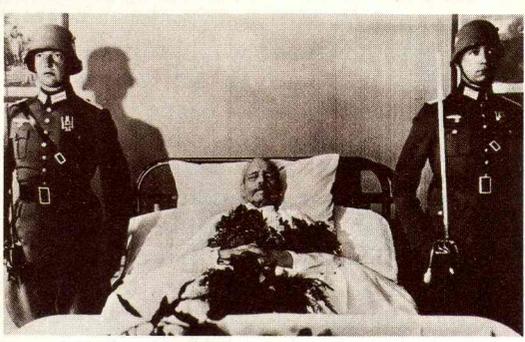


The Great Depression continues.

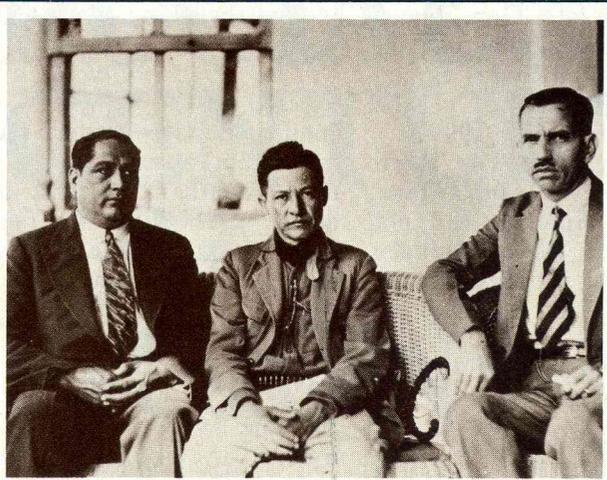


Adolf Hitler gains dictatorial powers.





German President Paul von Hindenburg dies.



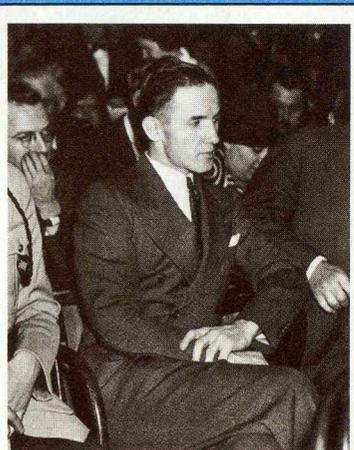
Nicaraguan rebel leader Augusto Sandino (center) is killed.



LEGEND

MAJOR POWERS AND OTHER NATIONS WITH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES:

- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- United States and possessions
- Netherlands and colonies
- British Empire and Commonwealth
- Belgium and colony
- France and colonies
- Portugal and colonies
- Japanese Empire and Manchukuo
- Spain and possessions
- Italy and colonies
- Denmark and Iceland



Bruno Hauptmann is arrested for kidnapping the Lindbergh baby.

In 1977, then President Jimmy Carter and the late Gen. Omar Torrijos of Panama signed a treaty in which the United States agreed to turn complete control of the Canal over to Panama in 1999.

In November 1965, *The Plain Truth* warned, "We said before, and we repeat: America will not keep the Canal!" Bible prophecy clearly points out that *all* important "sea gates"—for instance, the Falkland Islands—held by the United States and Britain will fall into the hands of others.

The World in Focus

The Plain Truth has continued to

that oil would play a major role in the earthshaking events that are yet ahead of us.

The Plain Truth has also focused on the subject of weather conditions. Our readers have long been kept abreast of the world's upset weather patterns, drought, floods, earthquakes and famines in light of what these events *really* mean and *why* they are occurring.

The Role of World Government

In June 1945, 50 nations met in San Francisco, California, to approve the United Nations Char-

This new body would supposedly have the power to act where its predecessor, the League of Nations, had utterly failed.

Editor in chief Herbert Armstrong was at that meeting in San Francisco and declared in the January-February 1945 issue of the magazine, "The plain truth is that the United Nations never will be able to give the world any permanent peace."

The League of Nations was unable to prevent the catastrophic events of its day, neither has the United Nations been able to prevent the suffering mankind has experienced since the Second World War. Witness the more than 140 wars and countless bloody skirmishes fought since 1945.

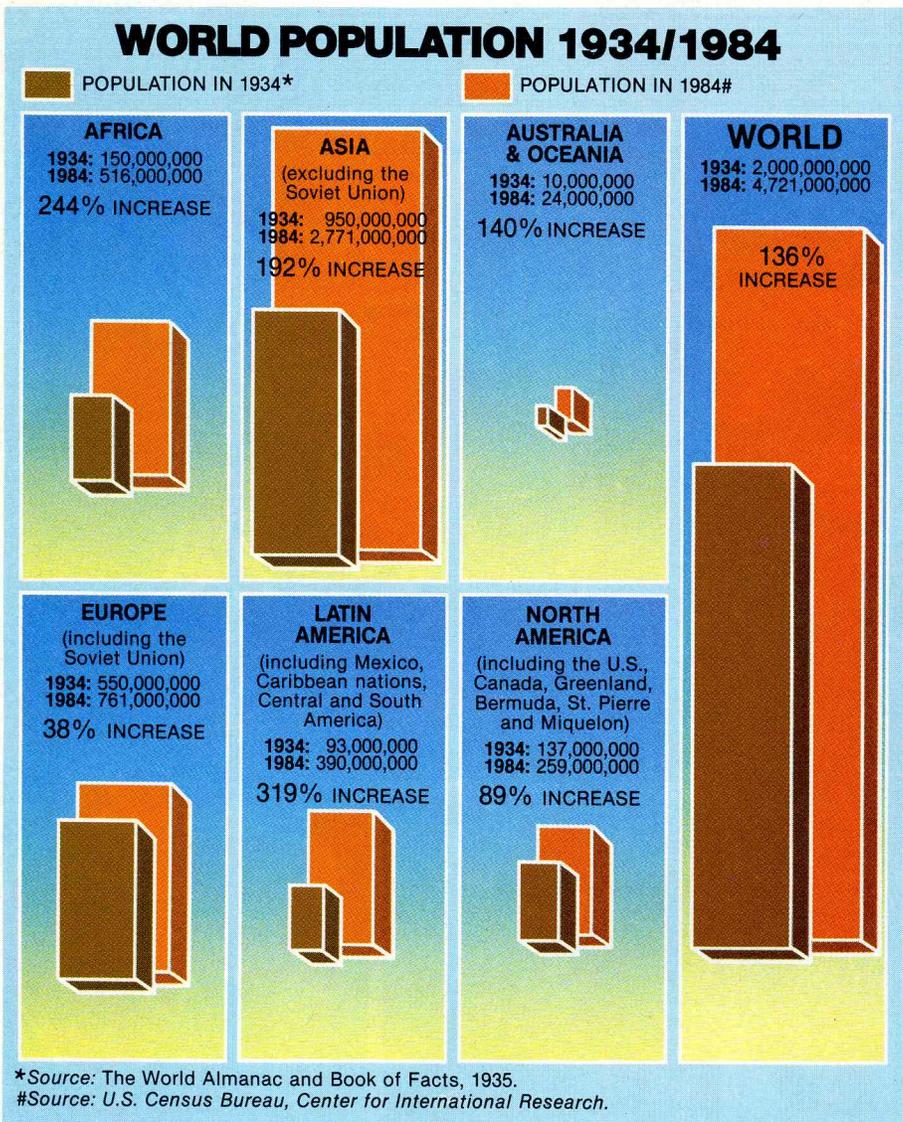
One report, released in 1983 by the Center for Defense Information, noted that one in four nations was engaged in major or minor conflicts. These struggles, to date, have taken an estimated one to five million lives with as many as three times that number wounded.

The Bible reveals that mankind will experience peace—and peace in our time (Luke 21:29-33)—but in spite of man's best efforts, not because of them.

Everybody today "senses that something is wrong with the world . . . that some mighty event is about to occur."

Soon God will intervene directly in the affairs of man to impose peace on the nations. This will be accomplished through a long awaited "mighty event"—the return of Jesus Christ to this earth.

Instead of retaining false hopes of a human-devised world government, *The Plain Truth* has for 50 years pointed to the ultimate solution for solving mankind's overwhelming problems. We announce the restoration of the government of God by divine intervention in human affairs and the establishment of the law of God to bring justice and true mercy to a confused world. *The Plain Truth* will continue to keep you informed of the real news—news that will affect you—until our commission (Matt. 24:14) is completed. □



focus our readers' attention on the Middle East—the focal point of Bible prophecy. Long before the world was rudely awakened by the oil embargo of the early 1970s, this magazine was pointing out

ter. It was believed that only a world governing body could save mankind from further and even more frightening mass destruction than experienced during World War II.

A CRUCIAL HALF CENTURY OF RELIGION

by Keith W. Stump

We highlight the most significant developments.

IF YOU had been in your 20s at the time of *The Plain Truth's* inception in 1934, you would have lived your adult life during a momentous time in the world of religion.

In the past half century, several great events and issues of the day have centered, in whole or part, around religion. Had you been a *Plain Truth* reader during these five decades, you would have been kept abreast of those developments—and their significance in Bible prophecy.

As the first issue of *The Plain Truth* made its bow, a special Holy Year was underway in Rome. It was proclaimed by Pope Pius XI to commemorate the 19th centenary of the Crucifixion (A.D. 33 by official Catholic reckoning). During the 50 years that were to follow, you would have witnessed momentous changes in the Roman Catholic Church.

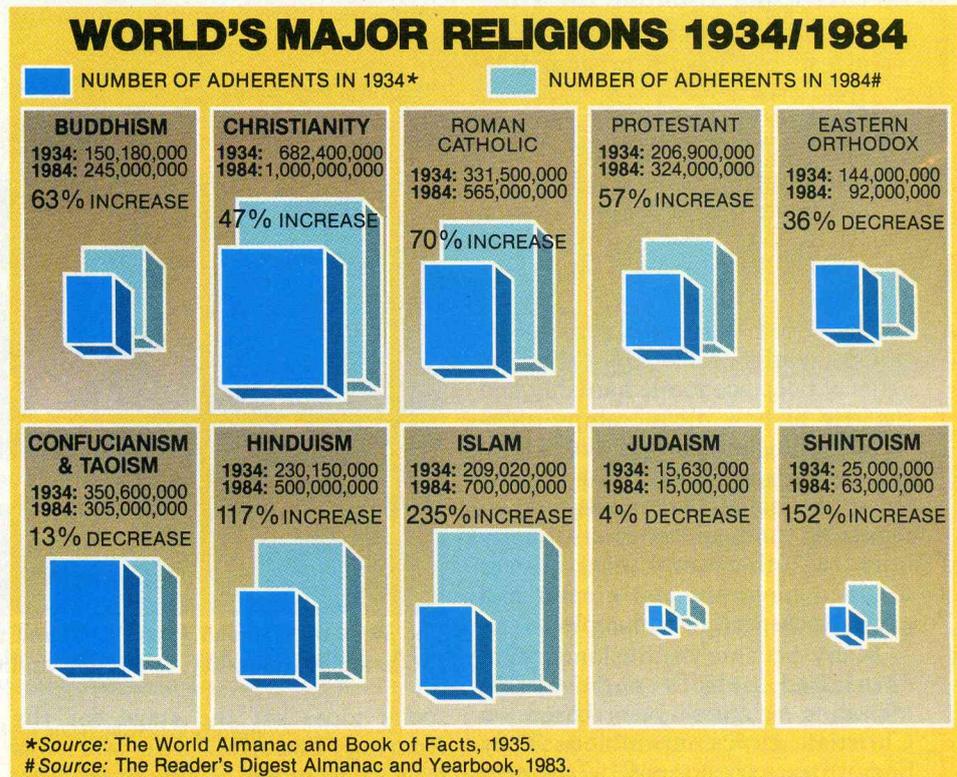
Revitalized Vatican

By the end of this eventful period, a revitalized Vatican would be flexing its muscles as a major power in the international arena. The unprecedented, globe-girdling journeys of Pope John Paul II and the pontiff's repeated calls for a united Europe would spotlight this trend toward a greater Vatican role in world affairs.

Also during this half century, you would have seen a modern-day ecumenical movement under way. This movement toward church unity would be given impetus by the second Vatican Council (1962-65), called by Pope John XXIII to "renew the Church" and provide an

have had the background to all this in *The Plain Truth*.

You would also have seen Judaism come onto center stage in a major way during this period. In 1934 the infamous Holocaust, the Nazi slaughter of European Jews, was beginning. Out of this horror



occasion for Christian churches separated from Rome to join the search for reunion. The quest for One Church—a united Christianity—would become a major theme of the Catholic Church. You would

would spring the modern state of Israel in 1948, fulfilling major biblical prophecies.

The headlines of your daily newspapers would have told you of
(Continued on page 20)

OVER 50 YEARS OF THE NEW MORALITY

Where has it brought us?

by Donald D. Schroeder

WORLD WAR I (1914-1918) completely altered the course of the world's political order. But few living then would have predicted the revolution in moral attitudes and social values.

Six decades of social revolution have not brought the freedom and happiness promised.

Instead, we have a great moral-spiritual crisis!

The Great Disillusionment

The widespread carnage, chaos and suffering of World War I was a shock to many. It destroyed the youth and the economic vitality of Europe.

The Great War, as it came to be called, compounded by following years of deep economic hardship and the rise of new dictatorships, shattered an illusion held particularly in the developing West. That illusion led to the belief that rapidly industrializing and more scientifically oriented 20th-century mankind was destined for peace and greater and greater prosperity and happiness.

Many became disillusioned. Old cherished beliefs and values, including religious ones based on Christian ethics, crumbled. They began to experiment with new codes of behavior.

At this same time, the ideas of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud grew in popularity in education and psychology. Freud promoted the idea that at the root of many

human neuroses and fears were sexual conflicts and repression. Freud's thinking was a consequence of the sexual ignorance of the Victorian era that had, indeed, produced much suffering.

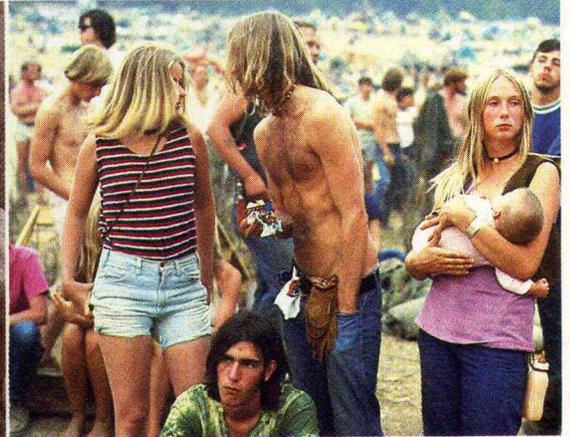
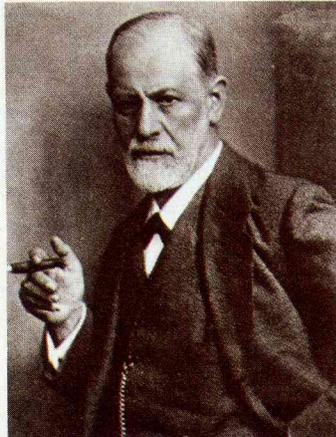
Many Freudian disciples preached that inhibition of sexual desires was to be avoided. Authoritarian discipline, said many of these believers, might produce unfortunate sexual-neurotic feelings.

"Roaring Twenties"

Such "scientific," political and

young women. She was a woman considered bold and unconventional in actions and dress. Not all followed looser life-styles, of course. But the battering rams for greater permissiveness were busily at work knocking away at and trying to discredit the virtues of honesty, thrift, faithfulness and virginity.

The United States experimented with Prohibition. It was an utter failure. Again humanity tried to treat an evil effect (drunkenness caused by abuse of alcohol) without eliminating the true causes of alco-



The ideas of Sigmund Freud (left) and the permissive hippie movement of the 1960s molded morality, impacting millions of lives.

social ideas set the stage for the Roaring Twenties. The war was over. The mood of the times was: "Throw out the old, bring in the new. Let's live it up!" The Jazz Age with its lack of inhibitions came into vogue.

The emancipated "flapper" of the 1920s became a model for many

hol abuse. Prohibition ushered in its own evils: bootlegging, speak-easies and gangsters who promoted more vice and prostitution.

Through the 1920s and 1930s, sensationalist newspapers featured stories of clandestine love affairs, crime and vice. Magazines and the increasingly popular movies pro-

vided ever more thrilling and risqué romance and love stories (though many would be considered tame by modern standards).

But the looser life-styles adopted by growing numbers were not without grave social consequences.

A startling full-page advertisement in extra large type in a leading U.S. magazine in 1930 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company warned: "Mankind's most dangerous enemy is syphilis. . . . It is estimated . . . one out of ten . . . in the United States and Canada have or at some time have had syphilis" (*Collier's*, June 28, 1930, page 5).

Many were ignorant that syphilis was "the great imitator." The killer disease mimicked many other diseases of the skin, heart, eyes, lungs and nervous system. In certain general hospitals, said the *Collier's* ad, as high as 30 percent of all patients were found to be suffering directly or indirectly from syphilis.

But this plague was only an introduction to greater social disease epidemics to come in following decades.

The Missing Morality Link

In the 1930s economic depression descended on the world. The Great Depression was caused by human greed for profits at the expense of others, for gain beyond that which was honestly produced and earned.

World War II intervened and temporarily lifted some nations from economic depression. But the curse of war ripped men from their families, and wives for the first time in great numbers flocked to work outside the home to aid the war effort. A post World War II pattern was set for unprecedented numbers of mothers to leave their homes and children for jobs and careers, leaving more and more children lacking in proper maternal instruction and discipline.

In 1948 and 1953, Alfred Kinsey created a wide stir when he revealed his studies of the sexual behavior of American males and females. These studies, based on thousands of personal interviews, showed wide variation existed in human sexual behavior. But what many took it to mean was since so many are doing traditionally for-

bidden sexual acts, one need not feel abnormal if engaging in them.

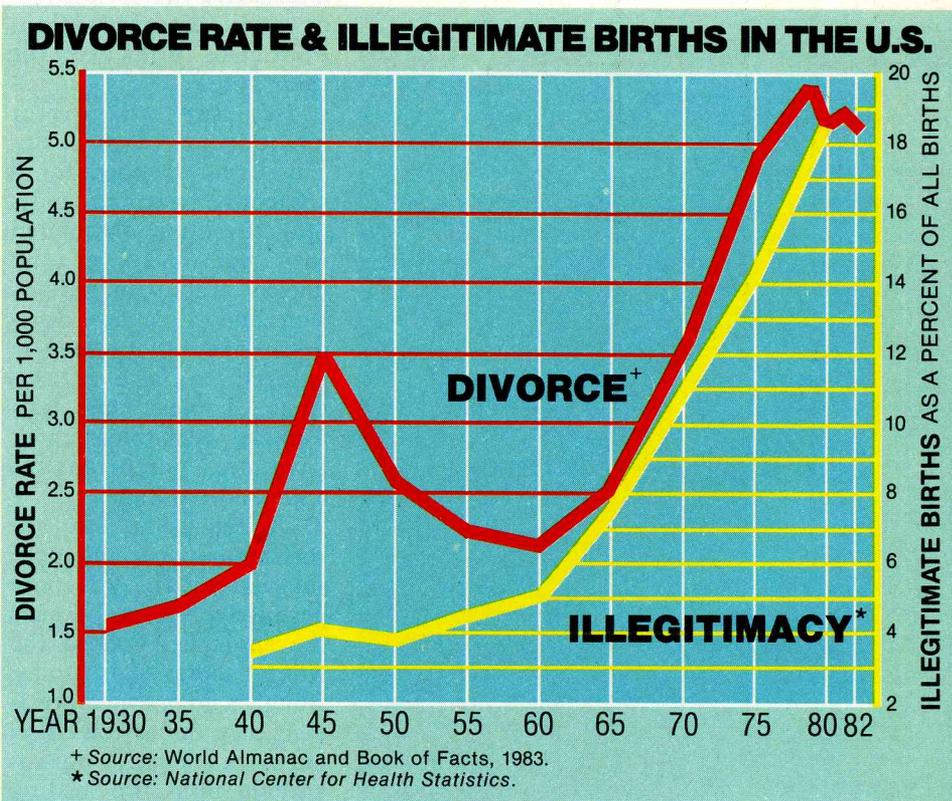
By the 1940s, leaders of public education in many schools in the West were highly influenced by the teachings of John Dewey. Dewey, himself influenced by evolutionary biology and psychological thought, rejected the idea of "ethical absolutes." He taught modern man could find meaning and goals in life through scientific experimentation and human experience, that we did not need to look to past experience.

In addition, Sigmund Freud's

Smid, University of Southern California chancellor, said before a gathering in Pasadena, California, "Today we are paying for support of schools which act . . . as if there were no God."

In the September 24, 1963 issue of the mass-circulation American magazine *Look*, the editors published the results of their extensive research on American morality. They concluded:

"Rarely will two Americans agree on who is immoral or what is the moral thing to do. We are adrift



ideas that physical or corporal punishment may result in damaging sexual or neurotic feelings had much influence in child rearing theory. The writings of Benjamin Spock encouraged millions of parents to allow more permissive behavior in their children (which writings Mr. Spock recently has been reconsidering).

Alarming Moral Vacuum

Is it any wonder that by the late 1950s juvenile crime, family breakdown, desertion, illegitimacy, venereal disease, disrespect for authority and lack of sense of responsibility for one's actions mounted?

In 1959, Rufus B. von Klein-

without answers. . . . No single authority rules our conduct. . . . We are free to be prejudiced or promiscuous, to cheat or chisel." The *Look* editors said the United States was in the midst of a moral crisis because many no longer were certain of what is right and what is wrong.

Churchmen of that decade also confessed that religion in general had been overcome with permissiveness. "We churchmen are gifted at turning wine into water—watering down religion," said Yale's Chaplain Henry Sloan Coffin.

The mid-1960s saw the birth of situation ethics, where various lib-

eral churchmen and psychologists suggested that no action is good or bad based on the act itself or on any law, but on whether an act would "help others" in the context of the situation.

While there was a certain fadism in popularizing such permissive views, breakdown of moral standards in education, the family, business and religion was becoming prevalent in virtually all nations of the Western world. Parents were enjoying growing incomes and prosperity. They decided to indulge

reported a social historian in Sweden in the late 1960s.

Out of the Closet

From the decade of the 1960s onward, homosexuality, the "love that [once] dare not speak its name," began to be more and more open and tolerated. Today, sizable sections of many large cities are given over to this life-style. Homosexual activists by the thousands boldly march in streets and pressure legislatures for full legalization of homosexuality as a valid alternative life-style without any discrimination. Politicians often vie for their vote.

In 1968, the strict movie code of past decades was dropped for a subjective warning code. Quickly films descended into portrayals of the depths of human perversion and violence. Businesses arose that blatantly catered to base attractions. Topless and bottomless bars blossomed. Live sex performances appeared on stage.

On television, too, advertisements became more suggestive. "If TV is more permissive, it is because the audience—indeed the whole society—is going along," said one vice-president of a major television network. Today pornographic films are leading sellers for U.S. cable TV

sentent peace) often turned into violent behavior.

Unisex fashions came into vogue (see the prohibitions of such fashions in Deuteronomy 22:5). Men's hairstyles became like women's; and women's became more like men's (in ignorance of the instructions revealed in Scripture—I Corinthians 11:14).

Music and lyrics progressively took on louder, more raucous, sensual moods of indulgence and rebellion.

From the wife-swapping of the 1960s, scores of thousands in the 1970s and 1980s simply turned to living together without benefit of marriage. Some sociologists suggested extramarital affairs could be beneficial.

Not long ago in Britain, a college official stated, "The young must work out their own code of morality—we can only advise them." Said a noted U.S. psychiatrist, "Unless a girl comes to college with a strong, religiously backed moral code, she may find it increasingly difficult to remain chaste in the permissive atmosphere on today's campuses." Today, not losing one's virginity early is looked upon by many as foolish.

The women's liberation movement encouraged women to demand the freedom to do whatever they wanted with their minds and bodies. Many were influenced to scorn the traditional mother-homemaker role. The impact on family life and life itself was deeply felt.

New Social Plagues Erupt

Today, abortion (killing) of innocent babies mounts up to a silent holocaust of multiple millions every year. Illegitimate babies account for more and more births; in sections of some cities up to 60 percent or more of births occur out of wedlock.

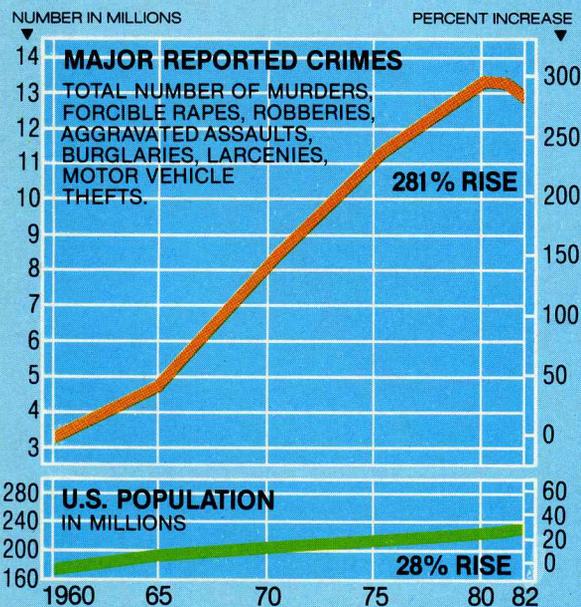
New social disease terrors have been unloosed on society through loose sexual living.

Incurable genital herpes and antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea have joined around two dozen other sexually transmissible diseases rampaging out of control. Now AIDS—acquired immune deficiency syndrome—terrorizes the homo-

(Continued on page 21)

SOARING CRIME RATE: U.S.

(Note: Figures for U.S. prior to 1960 are incomplete. Only a few hundred cities reported in 1930s and 40s; today over 15,000 do.)



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

in a pleasure binge. Family breakup and divorce spiraled. Youth, with more cars and money than ever before, joined in the permissive fling.

"There is more illicit sex today than ever before," said the Minister of Health in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1968. Venereal disease among adults had doubled over the previous dozen years, he said.

"English college students are more promiscuous than their counterparts in Canada, the United States, West Germany and Norway," said a survey organized by American author Vance Packard. Two thirds of Swedish women were pregnant by their wedding day,

and home videotape viewers.

In the 1960s, the "free speech movement" of U.S. colleges and universities quickly descended into the "dirty speech movement." College dormitories commonly became coed.

Then in the late 1960s and 1970s the hippie movement blossomed in Western nations. This was a movement of mostly young people who by the scores of thousands were totally turned off to adult values and life-styles. Instead they turned on to natural foods, natural childbirth, nursing at the mother's breast and, tragically, to illicit drugs, free sex and communal living. But the "love" of the flower children (flowers repre-

POLLUTION

Why we're not winning the battle

by Ronald S. Toth

How far have we progressed in the fight against pollution?

In some areas, astounding cleanup took place in the 1970s. You could breathe the air without distress. In rivers once declared dead, fish returned.

But at the same time that limited progress occurred in reducing some types of pollution, scientists are only now aware that we humans pollute our environment differently than a few generations ago.

In the last five decades significant changes have occurred in the types of pollution produced. Late 20th-century man endures pollution that was not experienced by former generations.

Think of these facts. Since *The Plain Truth* began chronicling world events in 1934, chemists developed pesticides, herbicides, plastics, synthetic food additives, drugs—thousands of chemicals resulting in toxic waste. Thanks to human desire for comfort and pleasure, these chemicals and their noxious side effects are now engulfing our society! Electric utilities, petroleum refining, mechanized agriculture and food processing all use chemicals, resulting in toxic waste.

Unlike smokestack pollution or filth-ridden rivers, many new forms of chemical pollution remain undetected. *Decades* may elapse before a problem arises. Exposure to deadly chemicals is often insidious—sometimes with fatal results only showing up years later.

The Big Change

Before 1934 chemical pollution affecting individuals usually origi-

nated from contamination on the job—lead poisoning in mines and smelters, or black lung in coal miners—and was limited to the area of production. Today as many as 1,000 new chemical formulas come on the market every year. Around 35,000 of the 50,000 chemicals now available on the U.S. market, for example, have been classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as either definitely or potentially hazardous to human health. And some that are banned in the U.S. are legal in other countries, and vice versa.

For relatively few of these chemical compounds do scientists know the long-term effects on health or at what levels they cause health problems. Many man-made chemicals cannot be broken down naturally and will be toxic and dangerous for hundreds, some even thousands of years.

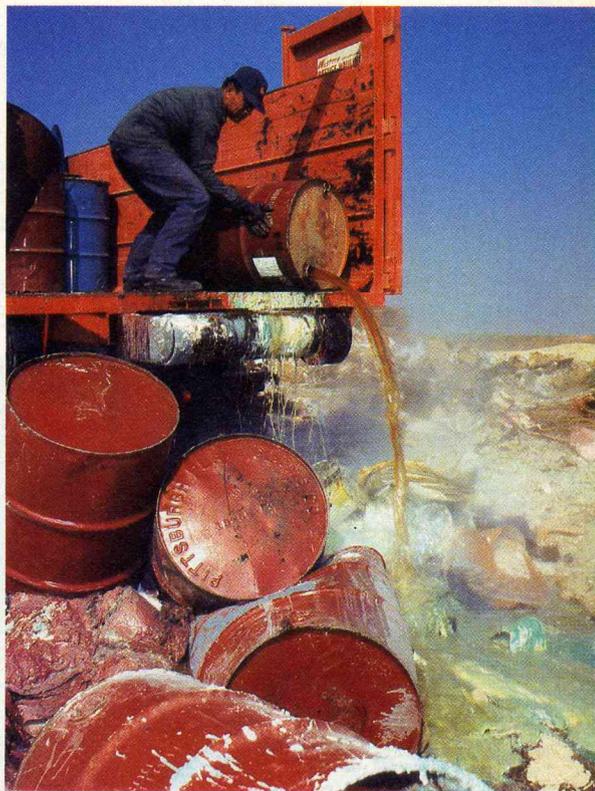
Few realize how profoundly chemical development has impacted man's environment.

Our Chemical Environment

When the surge of synthetic chemical compounds first developed, global chemical and toxic waste disposal tended to be haphazard and carelessly done. Manufacturers did not realize at that time they were dumping substances that could find their way into the water supply or combine with other elements to become hazardous.

Deadly mixtures of chemicals were carted off to municipal dumps or placed in drums and buried or mixed with garbage, or dumped into the nearest sewer, stream or lake.

These hazardous wastes—some dating from 40 years ago—now have



Chemicals carelessly dumped leach into water supplies, rivers, even the oceans, or evaporate.

come back to haunt us. Chemicals leach into water supplies, rivers, even the oceans, or evaporate into the air. Declared one health official, "Toxic waste will be the major environmental and public health problem facing the U.S. [and we must add, other nations] in the '90s." (Continued on page 21)

A HALF CENTURY OF TECHNOLOGY

What have we reaped?

by Jeff E. Zhorne

EXACTLY 50 years ago a primitive, cylindrical rocket exploded upward, seemingly defying gravity.

Smoke from the rocket's liquid fuel filled the nostrils of Wernher von Braun, German engineer, as he watched one of his first rockets climb 1.5 miles

to form a rocket-powered research plane—the X-15—that could fly at altitudes of 100 miles and at speeds almost seven times the speed of sound.

Today a huge rocket propels a space shuttle's 99 tons into orbit around the earth. The shuttle handles like an aircraft but lands like a glider.

An impressive record wouldn't you say?

ground of the jet set and arena of the businessman."

Innovations in the fields of transportation and communications required a vital ingredient—new forms of energy. Gasoline to power automobiles did the most to spark the transition from coal to oil as a primary source of energy.

As man became increasingly mobile, however, a host of problems arose. Traffic jams began to clog city centers; in downtown areas driving became nearly as slow as walking. Each year more than a hundred thousand are killed worldwide in traffic accidents. Smog hangs over the world's major cities.

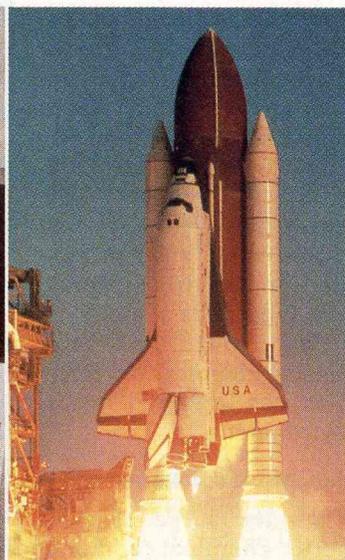
Inquisitive man in the last 50 years pushed on, past fast, convenient ground and jet transportation to the rocket. The commercial use of space has arrived.

Whereas this century began with no powered air flight of any kind, within 70 years man had lifted himself to the moon.

Now let's look at some of the consequences accompanying such rapid growth.

Technology for War

Soon after Wernher von Braun's historic rocket tests, some feared what consequences the rocket might bring. And rightly so. By 1937 von Braun, directing hundreds of scientists, engineers and technicians, was developing the



Wernher von Braun (second from right) helped launch the first U.S. satellite Jan. 31, 1958. Right, the space shuttle *Columbia* before orbiting April 12 to 14, 1981.

into the clear sky for a flight that lasted only 16 seconds.

Within 25 years, the United States, with the aid of von Braun and many others, would manufac-

ture a rocket-powered research plane—the X-15—that could fly at altitudes of 100 miles and at speeds almost seven times the speed of sound. Today's civilization would have been beyond the comprehension of earlier generations.

Our world has become the "play-

long-range rocket as a *weapon* for the Third Reich. The V1 and V2 rockets were in a few short years targeted on Britain.

After that, the U.S. and Soviet Union developed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that could travel thousands of miles, land on target and, carrying a thermonuclear warhead, do unimaginable damage.

Von Braun's explanation? "Rocket energy may be used for peaceful purposes of exploring space, or it may be used for war. It does not make sense to ask a scientist whether his [discovery] is good or bad for mankind."

When American physicist Leo Szilard patented the formula for creating a chain reaction between uranium atoms and neutrons in 1934, he tried desperately to keep the patent secret. He wanted to prevent technology from being misused. But as World War II become more and more threatening, Dr. Szilard's efforts were futile. The formula leaked.

In 1939 Albert Einstein sent a letter to U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt saying, "Nuclear energy is here. War is inevitable." Six years later, at 8:15 a.m. on Aug. 6, 1945, the atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. So much for "peaceful purposes."

Since then, the Pandora's box of scientific technology has precipitated the ghastly fear of nuclear war that now grips government leaders the world over. In addition to bringing mankind to the brink of nuclear annihilation, scientific and technological know-how has left a trail of burdensome environmental and social ills.

A Misguided 50 Years?

Look at the path of industrialization. Urbanized populations during the past 50 years have been plagued with serious air and water pollution, the accumulation of nondisposable wastes, noise at threatening levels, shortages of power and the imminent exhaustion of numerous irreplaceable natural resources.

Forming earth's air surfaces are extremely complex and delicate balances of water vapor, fresh

water and ice, factored by ocean currents, salt content, evaporation, rainfall, snowfall, oxygen supply and the activities of living organisms. Man—often through ignorance—clearly has interfered with this balance in the 20th century.

Fluorocarbons and pesticide sprays have deteriorated the ozone layer. Industrial wastes and domestic detergents are killing rivers. Pills and drugs for everything from supposedly making sex safe to fighting myriad bodily dysfunctions complicate health. All stand as testimonies to man's myopia in technological endeavor. Out of the promising fruits of science and technology have indeed emerged "hidden worms," as put by one newsmagazine.

"Science and technology's dreamy wonders sometimes turn out to be nightmarish blunders."

Besides the environment, the same is occurring in the social realm. Herein lie the big problems. *The Plain Truth* asked 13 years ago: "Can science provide the key that will unlock the solutions to the problems of delinquency, of unhappy marriages, of mental illness, of crime, of financial worry—of all the big world and personal problems that plague our society?"



Many speculated about the power of the atomic bomb. When unleashed on Hiroshima, Japan, Aug. 6, 1945, the horrifying devastation removed all doubts.

"Hand in hand, science and technology can find new and unlimited sources of energy, clean and safe, and with such energy, we can clean the world, recycle its resources, and

reduce its inequities," said author Isaac Asimov.

True, the discovery of antibiotics, vitamins and hormones, not to mention modern surgical techniques and the use of X rays, electrocardiograms and biochemical diagnosis and treatment, has caused the life expectancy of the average person living in the industrial world to jump from about 40 in 1900 to about 74 today. In less developed areas also, for example Puerto Rico, from 1941 to 1955 the life expectancy of the average baby shot up 22 years.

But we are beginning to realize that along with longer life expectancy, lower infant mortality and better nutrition, have also come massive populations and worldwide starvation.

Many insist that science and technology can provide the answers to all these problems. "If they can't, nothing can!" is the promoted philosophy. Philosopher Bertrand Russell once said: "All knowledge is attainable solely by means of the scientific method."

It should be evident, however, from assessing world troubles today that science in human hands is failing to combat suc-

cessfully earth's staggering problems.

Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked if civilization were nearing the light—a

day of freedom and peace for all mankind. He thought not. "Science seems ready to confer upon us, as its final gift, the power to erase human life from this planet," he said.

Simply put: Science cannot, by its very nature, provide the most important answers in life. No doubt we benefit from living in a scientifically and technologically advanced environment. But the benefits derived from science and technology are now being far outweighed by their negative by-products—war,

and businessmen—look to discover the answers?

Humans, beginning with the first man Adam, have opted to explore experimental knowledge rather than accept God's revealed knowledge. If Adam had taken of the "tree of life" (Gen. 1-3), he would have received revealed spiritual as well as physical knowledge from the Creator God, telling him how to solve his problems.

But man succumbed to Satan's deception—that humanity, not God, should determine for itself

lems that are not basically scientific but spiritual in nature.

Since people have rejected knowledge from God, God will also reject them—"because you have forgotten the law of your God" (Hos. 4:6, RAV throughout).

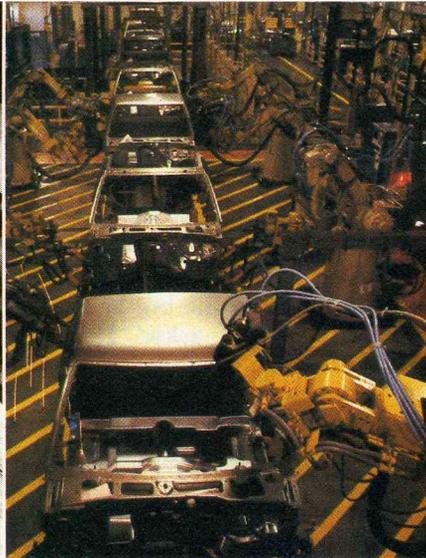
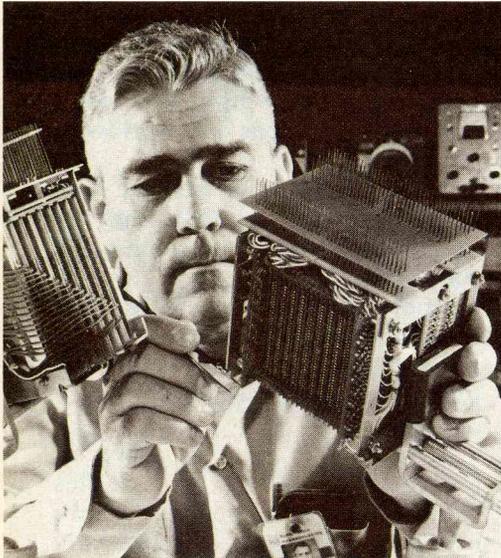
Without spiritual knowledge mankind has, as one author put it, "slowed to groping its way into a fog-bound future, taking soundings as it goes." This world, lost without God, has been for nearly 6,000 years reaping the wearying results of human confusion. Fortunately, Jesus Christ will step in soon—and sooner than some would like.

Jesus Christ foresaw our world. He announced more than 1,900 years ago the technological advancements and scientific discoveries we have today. When he walked this earth, he warned, "And unless those days [now today] were shortened, no flesh would be saved [alive]" (Matt. 24:22). He could only have been talking about society today, because only now does mankind have the capacity to kill all life on this planet with nuclear weaponry and chemical and biological warfare.

Jesus Christ also predicted the brushfire wars, the famines, diseases, natural disasters and immorality plaguing different areas of the world today. People don't want to face the causes of these problems—broken spiritual laws. They say—like they did in the prophet Isaiah's time—"Do not prophesy to us right things; speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits" (Isa. 30:10).

This magazine cries aloud that punishment will unquestionably come to nations if they do not repent and seek the true God. But we also proclaim the good news of the soon-coming government of God to bring us peace at last—the wonderful world of tomorrow.

Six thousand years of human rule, under the sway of Satan, are almost up. Soon a utopia of God's making will be here with a time of unprecedented peace and happiness—for all. Then the earth shall indeed be full of the knowledge of the Eternal God as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9). God hasten that day! □



Thanks to technological innovations, functions performed by computer memories this size 15 years ago can today be executed by a single microchip that can fit on your fingertip. Right, robotics aid in auto assembly.

violence, poverty, crime, broken homes, suffering, immorality, discontent and unhappiness. These by-products cannot be resolved by science because they are spiritual in nature and result from broken spiritual laws of which science knows nothing.

Only True Solution

Are scientists to be blamed? Partly.

The most fundamental law of science is to challenge any concrete truth. No sacred truths must exist in science. Well, it's time we realized that man's number-one problem right now is survival! And the only way to assure human survival is through the discovery of sacred truths. Where should scientists—or for that matter politicians, church leaders, civic leaders, teachers, bankers

what is right and what is wrong. And the fallen archangel has been deceiving humanity ever since into believing that science—human knowledge through experimentation or speculation—can and will solve our problems, which are spiritual in nature.

How many people want to hear about God? Most think the things of God are foolish. They want to know even less about his inspired, revealed written word—today known as the Holy Bible.

The plain truth is that humanity's disobedience to God and his laws has cut the human race off from the very source of solving our problems—that same God and those same laws! These spiritual laws man cannot discern for himself. They are revealed only in the Bible. Without them *man cannot possibly solve, on his own, prob-*

CHAOTIC WEATHER

Return of the dust bowl?

by Donald D. Schroeder

IS ANOTHER disastrous weather cycle about to begin?

Devastating drought in North America's breadbasket. Millions threatened with starvation by protracted drought in Africa. Australia battered alternately by drought and floods. Europe suffers record heat.

You thought these stories were of 1983? No, these weather disasters describe the weather that ravaged nations in the 1930s.

Dust Bowl Again?

It is not without significance that the founding year of this magazine, 1934, was one of the worst years of the American dust bowl in the 1930s. That year God's message in print began to be proclaimed announcing startling events, prophesied in your Bible, to shake the United States, Britain and other nations.

The World Almanac and Book of Facts of 1935 described 1934's upset weather like this:

"Drought and dust storms in the Mid-West are destroying winter wheat at the rate of 1,000,000 bushels a day. . . . Corn planting is held back. . . . Cattle are suffering. It is estimated 300 million tons of topsoil were blown away. It darkened the air to the Atlantic seaboard."

That same year, 65 million Chinese in 14 provinces of China were forced to become refugees in a national calamity of civil wars, famines, droughts and floods. Two thirds of the Chinese nation was ultimately affected by weather disasters.

Heavy rains drowned hundreds

in Japan, Korea and Manchuria in 1934. Hurricane winds also swept the central island of Japan leaving more than 4,000 dead, 200,000 homeless and US\$90 million worth of damage.

Today, we again are witnessing devastating patterns of weather—particularly prolonged periods of heat, drought or driving rains—over vast areas of the globe.

In late summer of 1983, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that the yield of the U.S. corn crop would be cut more than 40 percent because of a surprise period of severe drought. Soybean production was hurt.

The Midwest drought was a surprise because a wet spring delayed much crop planting. If the U.S. drought persists again this year, the great grain reserves of the United States will plummet, food prices will soar and scores of nations dependent on North America's relatively cheap and abundant food will be shaken.

Gone are the days when people could simply migrate away from drought and famine. What will nations do if severe weather destroys crop surpluses in major food exporting regions—in North America, Australia, Argentina or parts of Europe?

Vast areas of the continent of Africa are now apparently locked in a pattern of prolonged and spreading drought. Drought devastation

has spread into the prime croplands of South Africa and Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), cutting food exports from these major suppliers to other food-short African nations. Australians only now are beginning to recover from the severe damages of record droughts and rains.

Unseen Dimension

Through the years meteorologists



The devastation of the U.S. dust bowl in the 1930s (top) was repeated in recent decades in Australia.

have gained better understanding of the physical factors involved in producing weather patterns. But they confess they don't know *why* major global-impacting weather forces, such as high altitude jet streams or powerful ocean currents, shift as they do.

The Bible makes plain who is in control of the weather! "Fire and

hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word" (Ps. 148:8, RAV). God intervenes in weather to work out his purposes among nations. *The Plain Truth* has stood out as one of the few voices proclaiming this fact!

Plagues of disastrous weather are a warning to humanity. Weather for the most part operates according to natural laws. Damaging weather patterns sometimes develop. God simply may not choose to intervene to stop them because of nations' various sins and idolatry.

The Bible reveals God also directly intervenes to cause weather plagues to warn certain nations. "I have smitten you with blasting and mildew . . . yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord" (Amos 4:9). He, in his great purpose, may also allow Satan—the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4)—to have a role in producing calamitous weather, for man's ultimate learning (see Job, chapter 1).

In the 1950s, as earlier, North America was ravaged by several years of severe drought. But people as a whole didn't get the message.

Then between the late 1950s and the early 1970s, North America and

many other areas of the world experienced unusually favorable weather. The United States produced year after year of record crops. Monsoons arrived on schedule in India, West Africa and China.

World population grew rapidly during this period. Good weather permitted the Green Revolution to take off. Many became complacent. But weathermen say this period of unusually favorable weather was a fluke. It should have been much more variable.

Few understood that God in recent years has granted many nations added prosperity and time for us to finish his work of proclaiming Christ's gospel of the kingdom of God to the world. That's the good news of Christ's soon return to earth to establish the government of God and put down sinning nations.

As the work of God's warning nears completion, the Bible reveals great upsets in weather and increasing natural disasters before the end of man's age of rule. Meteorologists themselves predict we are in for a period of more unstable and variable weather.

Human activities have a part in

causing changes in weather. In recent decades, scientists have begun to understand that industrial air pollution, harmful agricultural practices and deforestation are causing changes in local weather patterns. Man's burgeoning industrial activities and burning of coal and oil are significantly increasing carbon dioxide buildup in the atmosphere, threatening to alter world weather patterns.

God allows mankind to reap the consequences of these physical sins. But many have yet to awaken to the fact that God intervenes in the weather to punish for *spiritual* sins.

Centuries ago wise king Solomon understood the relationship between transgression of God's spiritual laws and bad weather. When he dedicated the Temple of God, Solomon prayed, "When the heavens are shut up and there is no rain because your people have *sinned* [emphasis ours] against you . . ." (II Chron. 6:26, NIV).

Modern nations—even Christian-professing nations—are gravely sinning. We have ignored God's laws. God is now speaking to sinning nations in prolonged upset weather patterns. □

RELIGION

(Continued from page 11)

other religions in far-flung parts of the world suffering similar persecutions—foreshadowing a time yet ahead of unprecedented horrendous atrocities, including a prophesied great martyrdom of true Christians, as *The Plain Truth* has explained. Most recently, the oppression of the Bahai community in Iran would grab the attention and sympathy of the world.

In the United States and many other Western countries, you would have read of a steady downward trend in church and synagogue membership (percentage of adults who are members of a congregation) during the past five decades. Dwindling congregations would be attributed to growing materialism and the failure of institutionalized religion to be "relevant" in the modern world.

At the same time, you would have witnessed a much-publicized period of increasing strain between

Church and State in the United States, fostering what many would see as an erosion of religious liberty in America.

Islamic Revival

In contrast to declining church memberships in the West, news reports would have told you of an opposite trend in the Moslem world. Islam would become the world's fastest-growing religion (see chart). By the late 1970s, for example, one of every two births in the Soviet Union would be to Islamic parents!

By the early 1980s, Islam would be the religion of more than one fifth of humanity, second only to Christianity. It would be the dominant belief in some 40 countries. The rise of an Islamic fundamentalist movement would be reported across the Middle East—a reaction to Western mores and values that contradict the principles of the Koran. The biggest triumph would be in Iran, where a revolution would install a Shiite regime in 1979. *The Plain Truth* has

been there and would have told you the *true* story behind this volatile region.

Most Significant Development

But the most significant and far-reaching of all developments in the religious sphere during the past half century would be the beginning of the fulfillment of a major prophecy of the Bible, found in Matthew 24:14. That prophecy declares:

"And this gospel [good news] of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." This is not a gospel about Jesus but Jesus' own gospel of the kingdom of God!

It was 50 years ago this month that this gospel began to be disseminated by way of this magazine. This worldwide endeavor is now blanketing the globe, heralding the fast-approaching crisis at the end of this age—and the soon-coming establishment of the millennial kingdom of God on earth! □

PERSONAL

(Continued from page 2)

later to be born VERY GOD, a child in the GOD FAMILY.

Man is not "god" within himself, but only mortal flesh and blood with a brain empowered with intellect by the human spirit.

NEW MORALITY

(Continued from page 14)

sexual community where more than 75 percent of cases occur. Health officials express fears this disease may spread more widely in society through bisexuals, or through drug addicts passing around infected needles. Or through infected blood transfusions.

Our new decade of the 1980s is plagued with rapidly growing alcohol addiction. Every year new millions slide down the slippery slope into abuse, illness, crime and death.

William Pollin, director of the United States Institute on Drug Abuse, told *Plain Truth* writers: "We've gone through a period of approximately 20 years during which there was a dramatic increase in the use of drugs in this country. . . . If you get a 100 percent increase, that's epidemic. In the area of drug abuse, we had a 3,000 percent increase."

Virtually every area of life is

Therefore, man of himself is infinitesimally of less value than the self-professed wise of this world suppose. But, once begotten by the supreme God through the very LIFE and Spirit of the living God dwelling in him, a human being's potential is of infinitely greater value than the world has understood.

touched by the impact of these frightening social developments.

Pinpointing Causes, Solution

Mankind long ago rejected knowledge from its Creator that would have prevented all these curses. We break God's laws, they break us. Scriptures are full of the consequences that automatically come on nations that reject God's laws. Read especially the cause and effect relationship in Deuteronomy, chapter 28, and Leviticus, chapter 26.

The apostle Paul was inspired to prophesy our end-time moral crisis: "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors . . . lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power . . ." (II Tim. 3:1-5, RAV).

Isaiah warned those who would

Ultimately, born into the GOD FAMILY, we shall complete the creation of the entire endless universe. We shall continue the creative process for ever and ever, in dazzling splendor and glorified beauty, time without end.

That is the incredible human potential. □

try to turn right values upside down: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes . . ." (Isa. 5:20-21, RAV).

We are all witnessing those woes today!

Isaiah also foretold our upside down family crisis: ". . . children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. . . . Those who lead you cause you to err" (Isa. 3:12, RAV).

For 50 years, the *Plain Truth* magazine has explained the real causes of humanity's problems and warned of earthshaking punishments from God to wake up nations to the need for God's supreme rule and authority over their lives.

Only this magazine and those behind it will tell you how God's wonderful plan to restore his government over the earth will soon put mankind back on the right moral/spiritual track! □

POLLUTION

(Continued from page 15)

Twenty years or more can elapse between the first exposure to the chemical and the onset of cancer. Consider this: Whole cities have at times been drinking from contaminated wells where toxic wastes ate their way out of the sides of drums and then seeped into the water supply. Physicians may not notice symptoms for decades. Then tragedy strikes!

Who knows what problems our children face because of continual exposure to low detection level toxic waste?

Man's Dilemma

What a dilemma. Man in his desire for prosperity created a Frankenstein monster. In his quest for

greater comfort and convenience, for more speed and improved health, man developed chemicals resulting in toxic waste and unsuspected side effects. Almost no one at first considered the ramifications to society and future generations.

The ancient prophet graphically foretold our day: "The earth is drooping, withering . . . and the sky wanes with the earth; *for earth has been polluted by the dwellers on its face*. . . . Therefore a curse is crushing the earth, alighting on its guilty folk; mortals are dying off, till few are left" (Isa. 24:4-6, Moffatt trans.).

The let's-have-it-now philosophy threatens the future generation. Only after a particular horror appears do humans begin to consider the consequences of what they have invented. This is the

way of selfishness and self-centeredness.

It's time to recognize man's limited wisdom, his careless planning, and acknowledge that the whole fabric of society needs changing. It is time chemical companies *and chemical consumers* become concerned with causes and effects. Think before using chemicals around the home. We should ask ourselves, "Do I really need to use this chemical? Will it harm my family?" Educate yourself to alternatives—using biodegradable products—instead of using potentially hazardous chemical compounds. It is time we all begin to be concerned for the health and welfare of others and not just ourselves. A further delay and it may be too late to save humanity from the consequences of increasing chemical pollution! □

Why They Needed a “Magazine of Understanding” Fifty Years Ago

They didn't know each other, Eugene, Oregon but in late October 1933, two editors sat not far from here putting their publications together.

The editor of the *Jefferson Review* never claimed his newspaper to be one of the world's major newspapers. Its job in the Great Depression was, once a week, to faithfully report the events of a peaceful farming community in the Willamette Valley, a few miles north of Eugene.

But even a small newspaper has a responsibility to try to inform its readers of more than local trivia. Oregon's Willamette Valley was a peaceful place, but the news from outside was worrying. Far away across the ocean, war clouds were gathering again over Europe.

It had been less than 16 years since the end of the First World War. In November 1918 Germany signed an armistice, and her Kaiser had gone into exile. It had been a bloody war, the like of which the world had not seen. It was fought in the fields of France and Belgium, but its horror was brought home to the Willamette Valley when some of the local fellows who went off to fight returned maimed, wounded—or to be buried.

When the guns were finally silenced, a shocked world said, “Never again.” That had to be the war to end all wars.

But now new rulers in Europe were starting to sound belligerent. Yes—it was worrying—very

worrying indeed. The *Jefferson Review's* readers needed to know what was going on.

And so, amid the news of plans for organizing a harmonica band and occurrence of the school carnival, the editor printed this:

“We have advanced far in our civilization, but not so far, that we cannot hear the rattling of the sabre. Difficulties now, as in the time of David and Goliath, must be settled with vast armies, death to the youth of the world, and a step backward in all that civilization is supposed to have accomplished. Instead of using common sense, understanding, and reasoning when some difficulty arises, we fly off in a tangent, and the argument can only be settled by a flare of brass bands, uniforms, marching feet, exploding guns and death. . . .

“Greed for more power, more wealth is usually the basic cause for war. . . . War looms heavy on the continent, and the futility of the [last] World War is no argument against another. We can only hope and pray that the human race has advanced a step since that war, and that this lurking danger of conflict can be escaped through our superior intelligence and Christian religion of which our present civilization so boldly boasts.”

I found this old editorial among the microfilmed records on file at the University of Oregon Library in Eugene. I don't suppose more than a handful of people have read it for more than half a century. But probably most of the *Jefferson Review's* few hundred readers read it back in October 1933. Perhaps it reassured them, because in 1933, the thought of another war was terrible to contemplate. The weapons were too awesome—the consequences too dreadful.

The First World War had shown that the days when quarrels could be decided by hired armies in set-piece battles were over. Whole populations—soldiers and civilians—had been involved. It had been total war. So, said the *Jefferson Review*, our “superior intelligence” and “Christian religion” must lead us to find a better way to solve conflicts between nations.

Needless to say, they didn't. In 1939, the Second World War in Europe began, and millions more were to die before it was over. During nearly six years of conflict, “superior intelligence” and “advanced civilization” developed the technology and apparatus of slaughter to new heights.

The editor of the *Jefferson Review* didn't know all this, of course. What he did know caused him to select that poignant editorial for his readers. But there was something important that the author of this little piece did not understand. He was not the only one.

Two major newsmagazines had begun publication in the U.S. that year. They brought a new standard of excellence in reporting world news. People could now have a better idea of *what* was happening. And yet there was still a missing dimension in news reporting in 1933.

But not far from where the editor of the *Jefferson Review* was putting his paper together, a unique magazine was taking shape. It was a humble affair—its hard-pressed editor lacked most of the resources needed to produce a magazine. But Editor Herbert W. Armstrong was also concerned about the state of the world. His understanding came not only from reading the disconcerting news from Europe. He also had begun to understand the true significance of the prophecies of the Bible.

His eyes had been opened to the true identity of the peoples of North America and Northwest Europe. Prophecies that most people considered historical curiosities had suddenly become dramatically and frighteningly alive. He realized that the situation was far more serious than anyone thought. The people of Oregon—of America—indeed, of the world—were in mortal danger.

Yet no news source seemed to understand the seriousness of the times. There was a need for a “magazine of understanding,” so—carefully—by hand-holding a mimeograph stencil against a window—Mr. Armstrong wrote *The Plain Truth's* first headline—“Is a World Dictator About to Appear?”

Five years later, Hitler's armies swarmed over Europe, and Britain stood alone and practically defenseless. Then came Pearl Harbor, and the dramatic success of the Japanese offensive in the Pacific. It seemed that the time of “Jacob's trouble” had come.

But slowly the tide began to turn against the Fascist powers.

Peace came in 1945, and once again the world breathed a sigh of relief. *That* had to be the war to end all wars. War was no longer a practical way for man to solve his conflicts—there had to be a better way. Much hope was placed in the United Nations—a place where nations could talk instead of fight.

But *The Plain Truth* did not share this optimism for the immediate future. Even before the dust settled, this magazine was warning that the world should expect another, even more terrible war.

Certainly in 1945, as Europe staggered around in its ruins, that seemed unlikely. But the years are proving us to be right. Since the end of the Second World War mankind has learned more than at any other time in history. Astonishing progress has been made in transport, communications, health, science, building construction and agriculture. But men are still fighting, starving, destroying and dying. We still do not know how to live in peace. In spite of all other progress, we have learned absolutely *nothing* about that.

Nations with “advanced civilizations” and “superior intelligence” still threaten each other (and everyone else). Even so-called Christian nations

quarrel and fight with not even a passing thought for the sixth (or any other) commandment. Peace is as far away as ever. As men fight and die, famine and pestilence are increasing, as Jesus Christ said they would just before the final catastrophe (Matt. 24:6-8). In spite of superior technology, advanced civilization and what passes for the Christian religion, this earth is a far more dangerous place than it was in 1933.

The Willamette Valley, however, is still as beautiful as ever. I know of few places on earth that can rival this part of Oregon for scenic splendor—snowcapped mountains, soaring forests, cascading rivers and neat farms nestling in quiet valleys.

In the pleasant university town of Eugene, the wars overseas, the missile crisis in Europe, the dirt, filth, poverty, disease and misery of the Third and Fourth Worlds all seem far away—just as they did in 1933. There is one difference. Another conflict would not just affect those who volunteer to fight.

The superior intelligence of advanced civilizations has made it possible now for war to be brought to everyone's doorstep, so that, “except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved” (Matt. 24:22). It is now 50 years since *The Plain Truth* began to say that. We cannot change our tune—not yet. Not while there is still a need for a warning and a witness.

Looking through the old newspaper of 50 years ago really underscores this point. People have learned so much—but human beings are as far as ever from developing an advanced civilization based on the true Christian religion. One day we will have one—but God will have to show humanity how. First these prophecies must be fulfilled—we will not learn our lessons any other way.

The *Jefferson Review* is still published regularly. It is a decent little paper, faithfully reporting the comings and goings of its Willamette Valley community.

The *Plain Truth* offices moved from Eugene in 1947. It is now a worldwide magazine, published in seven languages. But it is still concerned for the people of the Willamette Valley, as it is with its other millions of readers worldwide.

Today, as 50 years ago, other news sources cannot bring you the full significance of the events that affect your life. They don't understand *why* we cannot solve the problems that threaten human existence. Or why, as our civilization “advances,” things keep getting worse.

It is no longer considered outrageous and doom saying to warn of imminent disaster and the collapse of the present world order.

Other publications do that regularly. But they *still* don't know the real *cause* of the trouble. They still can't help you anticipate and prepare for the marvelous future *as it is going to be*.

You need to know the “plain truth” about these things.

That's why the world needed this magazine of understanding 50 years ago.

It still does.

—John Halford

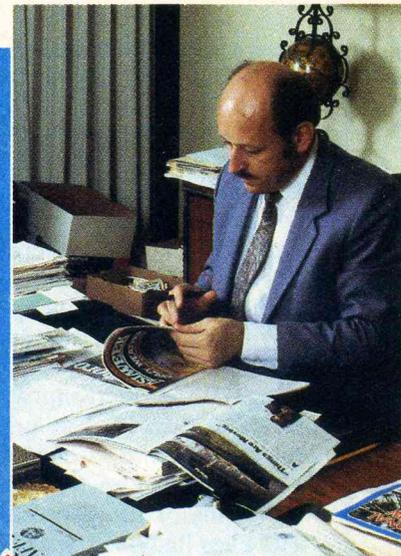
“The Plain Truth”

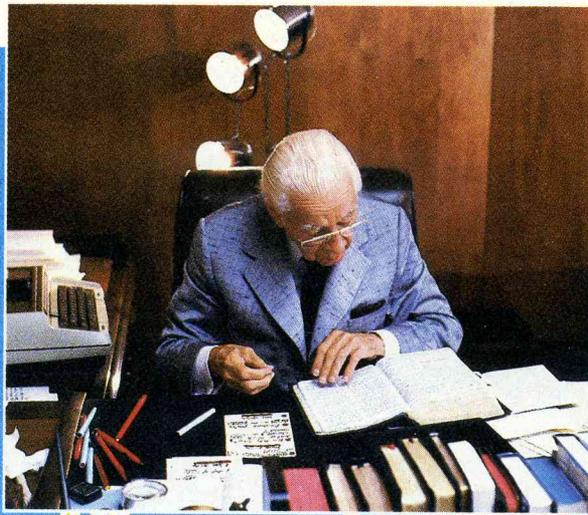
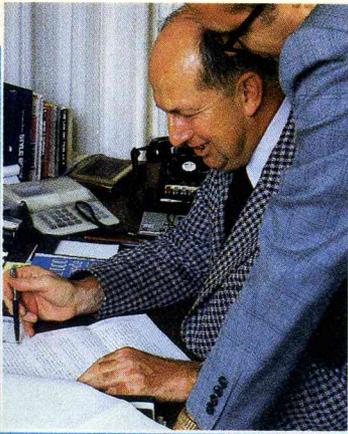
Explaining the meaning of world events and the awesome purpose of human life

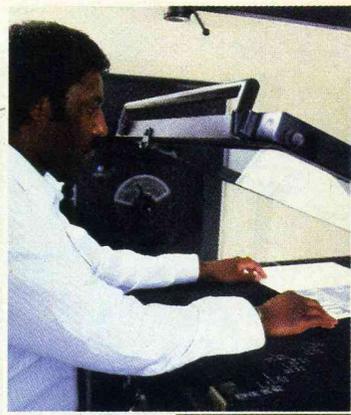
More than 20 million people representing 196 countries and territories now read The Plain Truth each month. Most major news magazines publish their various editions, worldwide, in one language. Only The Plain Truth publishes simultaneous editions in seven languages worldwide. The accompanying world map illustrates the varied impact on each of the continents of the message of The Plain Truth.

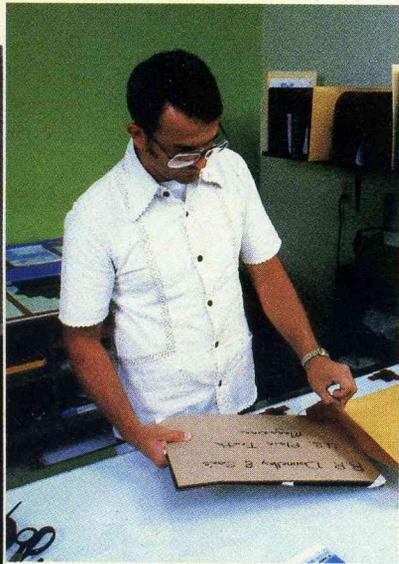
In photo insets, from left to right, we take readers through the major steps from planning to publishing an issue. This February number you hold in your hands began with an editorial planning meeting in our editorial conference room in early August. Only a part of the writing staff is shown here. Following an hour's in-depth discussion on the focus of the 50th anniversary issue, assignments are approved.

Over the next several weeks









articles and graphic needs are thoroughly researched. World news editor Gene H. Hogberg, for example, keeps up-to-date in his office with the latest publications. About a month after initial planning, writers discuss their copy with the editor and any changes required by so diverse an international audience are incorporated into the text.

Meanwhile, editor in chief Herbert W. Armstrong prepares his "Personal" and articles in his office, with various translations of the Bible immediately available.

Photo Services works with the graphics designer to keep pace with the developing articles by creating visuals to illustrate the content.

In this double-page spread we continue insets (left to right) with the typeset copy being called up on a video display terminal in composing for final corrections. (The articles, meanwhile, have been sent to our offices in Europe for translation and returned by Datapost for typesetting.)

A production planning meeting of Publishing Services evaluates the layouts, designed by our graphics department, of the February number. Layouts are then sent on to separation and composing areas. In prepress each final paste-up on copyboard is photographed to make film that is then processed in film assembly and readied for shipment to the printers. As the early copies come off the press, they are reviewed by Herbert W. Armstrong with executive editor Dexter H. Faulkner.

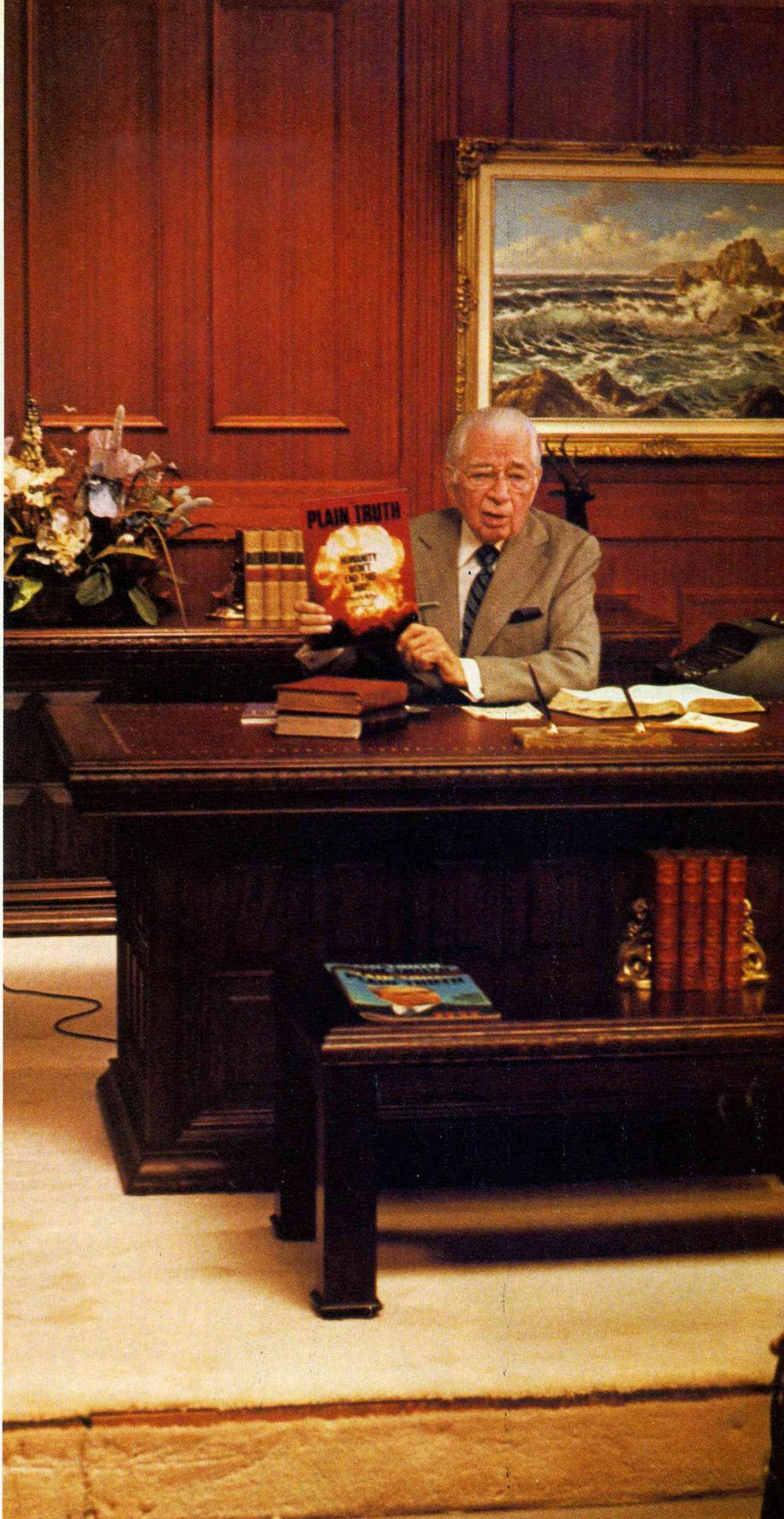
Of the more than 50 editors and international directors, 30 were available for the photograph, left, in this anniversary issue (see editorial page for various responsibilities). Front row: Colin Adair, Dibar Apartian, Guy Ames, John B. Karlson, Robert Morton, Herbert W. Armstrong, Dexter H. Faulkner, Dan C. Taylor, Norman L. Shoaf, Keith W. Stump. Second row: Bram de Bree, Roy McCarthy, Frank Brown, Frank Schnee, Donald D. Schroeder, Michael A. Snyder, Sheila Graham, Clayton D. Steep. Third row: Don Walls, Carn Catherwood, Leon Walker, Peter Nathan, Herman L. Hoeh, Gene H. Hogberg, Ron Toth, Roderick C. Meredith. Last row: Jeff E. Zhorne, Peter Moore, Raymond F. McNair, Ronald D. Kelly.

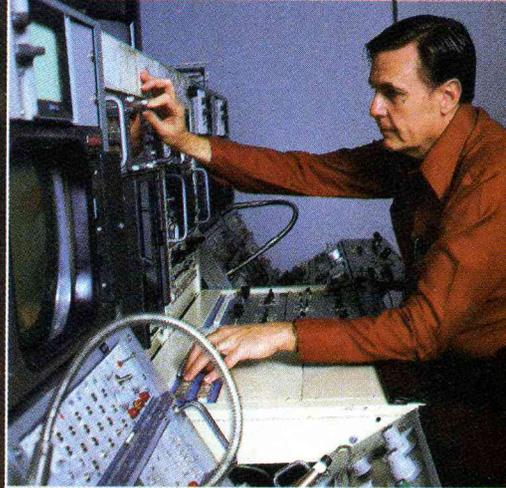
“The World Tomorrow” Program

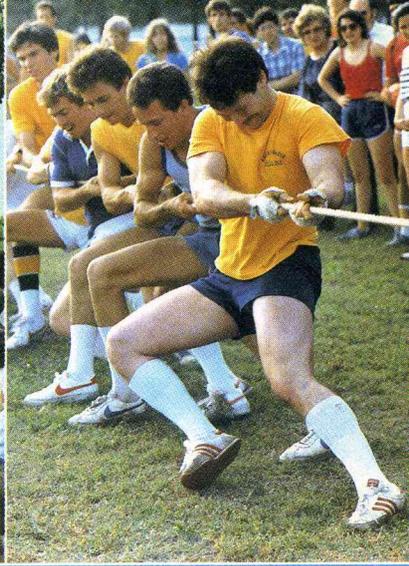
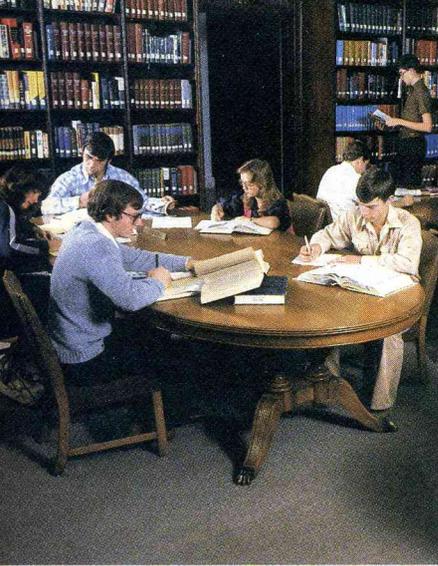
Giving hope
in an age
that appears
hopeless

Thundering out over more than one million watts of radio power and on more than 340 television stations worldwide, Herbert W. Armstrong has authoritatively explained the meaning behind world events for more than a half century on the World Tomorrow program. The program is considered by U.S. media officials to be the longest continuously running radio broadcast in the United States.

From state-of-the-art television and radio studios in Pasadena, California, Herbert W. Armstrong delivers weekly and daily broadcasts on the causes of today's international and domestic problems. Clockwise, at right: Mr. Armstrong offers a free subscription to *The Plain Truth* at the conclusion of another broadcast; an audio technician mixes a program sound track; the studio's chief engineer checks technical quality; personnel direct taping in the control room; and the telecast is electronically dubbed for worldwide distribution.









Ambassador College

Developing
the intellect and
personality
of tomorrow's
leaders

Ambassador College was founded in 1947 by Herbert W. Armstrong for the purpose of recapturing true values. Today the college's educational extension programs reach into most major nations.

Ambassador is not molded in the traditional image of conventional universities and colleges. It is free from the shackles of tradition. It is not plagued by student protests, violence, drugs and immorality. The college places primary emphasis on education of the whole individual and not of the intellect alone.

Ambassador College is a unique educational character-building institution. It teaches not only how to earn a living, but how to live. Ambassador students are taught the missing dimension in education—the underlying purpose and real meaning of human life, the worthwhile values, the basic laws of success. Students are given individual attention in the development of character, culture and personality.

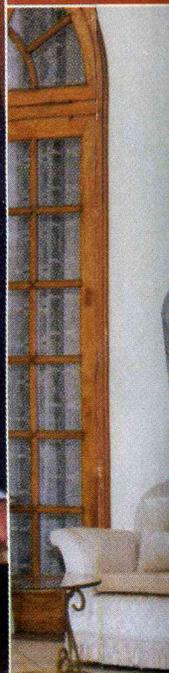
Herbert W. Armstrong

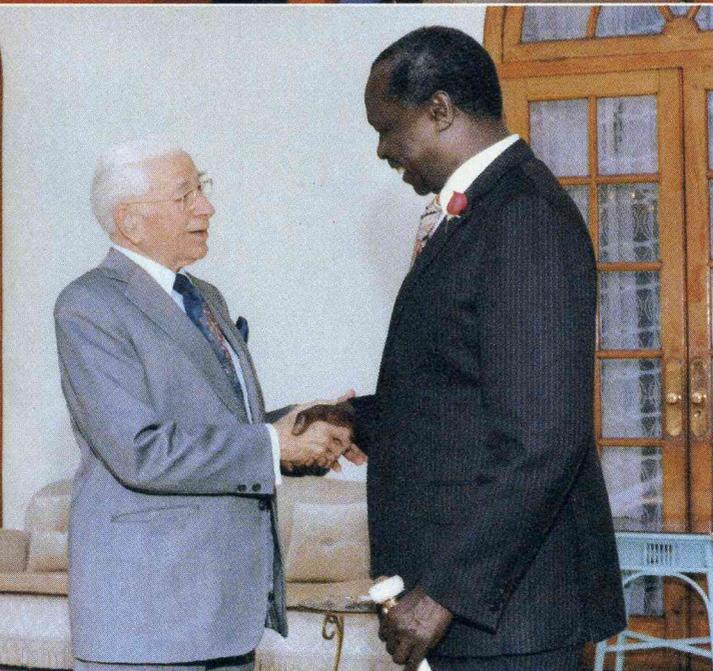
Building
bridges
between all
nations

In the words of former U.S. President Richard M. Nixon, the world today "has crossed the threshold of a period of acute crisis in which its survival into the 21st century is directly at stake."

To help alert world leaders to this threatening crisis and to educate humanity about the way to real peace and harmony, Herbert W. Armstrong has for 15 years been meeting personally with heads of state and other officials in government, education and industry. An Israeli government minister said of Mr. Armstrong in 1974: "Herbert Armstrong is traveling for humanitarian purposes, for educational purposes, and for the purpose of building bridges between peoples of different regions—and he is quite successful."

Mr. Armstrong often explains firsthand in *The Plain Truth* the outcome of his meetings with world







leaders. The content of these meetings varies. They focus on the causes behind world problems—whether they concern international, domestic, economic or spiritual issues.

The photos on these two-page spreads give our readers a glimpse into these important personal meetings. Preceding pages, clockwise from far upper left: Mr. Armstrong flies multiple thousands of miles a year, showing the way to real peace; the Plain Truth editor in chief reviews a copy of the magazine with Yasuhiro Nakasone, prime minister of Japan, and with a member of the Japanese Diet; Thailand's Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda personally congratulates Mr. Armstrong for the royal Thai decoration conferred on behalf of Thailand's King Bhumibol (Mr. Armstrong received the royal honor of "Commander of Our Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand"); greeting Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi, Kenya; Juan Carlos, king of Spain, and Mr. Armstrong converse on the king's estate outside Madrid (during the visit the king explained to Mr. Armstrong his personal interest in a possible political and economic union of European nations and the role Spain would play in such a union).

On these pages, clockwise, Mr. Armstrong presents a personal protocol gift to Yitzhak Navon, then president of Israel; The Plain Truth editor in chief and longtime friend Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem discuss problems facing the ancient city; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the same office that the late President Anwar Sadat met with Mr. Armstrong; George Ladas, acting president of Cyprus, receives Mr. Armstrong in his office; presenting a gift of Steuben crystal to King Hussein of Jordan, a longtime friend (they first met in Amman, Jordan, in 1971).



Ambassador Foundation

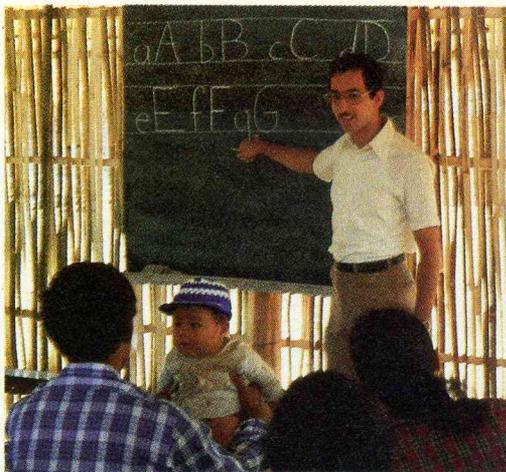
Serving the cultural and educational needs of all peoples

The Ambassador Foundation represents the philanthropic arm of the Worldwide Church of God, embracing a wide variety of cultural, educational and humanitarian projects.

Led by founder and chairman Herbert W. Armstrong, the foundation's activities transcend the complexities dividing a world where hatreds, prejudice and personal ambitions too often rule.

Beginning upper left: an Ambassador College student teaches Laotian refugees in Thailand in a foundation-assisted joint project with Wat Thai of Los Angeles, California; dancers from the Peking national acrobatic troupe perform in the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, California, under foundation sponsorship; Mr. Armstrong tours a school for the mentally handicapped in Amman, Jordan, that is funded and assisted in part by the foundation; and conductor Herbert von Karajan leads the Berlin Philharmonic through a series of exclusive performances in the Ambassador Auditorium.

The foundation also assists humanitarian projects in such diverse areas as Egypt, Japan, the Philippines, Israel, England, black Africa and other critical areas.





Worldwide Church of God

Committed to proclaiming and living God's way of life

Tracing its origins directly to the small, scattered 1st century Church that Jesus Christ personally founded in Jerusalem, the Worldwide Church of God bears the commission of proclaiming the advance good news of the restoration of the government of God to this earth. Through an extensive publishing and broadcasting program, the Church presents—free of charge—to any that desire it the long-suppressed truth of the Bible.

The Worldwide Church of God does not solicit monetary contributions from the general public. It is nonproselytizing and nonpolitical.

Clockwise from left, above: linked by a satellite network, Herbert W. Armstrong addresses more than 100,000 of the Church fellowship worldwide; some of the more than one hundred separate Church publications; hymn singing at Church services.





WHERE WE ARE GOING!

by Gene H. Hogberg

The world is racing toward the end of the century. And the role of Germany once again confounds both Moscow and Washington.

THE LAST months of 1983 produced a string of startling, unexpected events.

On the first day of September, a South Korean civilian airliner was shot from the skies, having inexplicably flown over Soviet territory in the Far East.

The world barely recovered from this shock when the next month produced a series of stunning inci-

dents. First, on October 9, 17 top South Korean officials, four of them cabinet ministers, were assassinated in a bomb blast while visiting Rangoon, Burma. Later, three officials of the North Korean military, who had slipped into the country before the explosion, were charged with the gruesome murder.

Later in the month, horrific bomb blasts took the lives of nearly 300 French and American members of the multinational "peacekeeping" forces in Beirut, Lebanon. Two

weeks later, Israelis and Arabs perished in a similar incident.

Grenada "Blitz"

October 25, two days after the Beirut massacres, U.S. forces, combined with those of six eastern Caribbean nations, intervened in the tiny "Spice Island" nation of Grenada.

American citizens, whose lives were potentially in danger, were flown back to safety in the United States. And as a corollary, the Soviet-Cuban plan to communize

one country after another in the eastern Caribbean was stopped in its tracks.

Of all of the events listed, the Grenada rescue operation (U.S. President Ronald Reagan insisted it was not an invasion) may prove to be the most significant of all in the long run.

First of all, the intervention threw a monkey wrench into communist plans throughout the Caribbean-Central American region. Lifting America out of its post-Vietnam trauma, Mr. Reagan secured a quick, decisive military victory, ending a string of communist successes around the world. Moscow and Havana now do not know where next or whether the resolute Mr. Reagan might use U.S. power.

The Grenada campaign, however well received by the vast majority of Americans, to say nothing of a number of Caribbean nations, also had its impact on Western Europe.

Europeans Concerned

Individually and privately, European leaders were generally glad to see the U.S. finally flex its muscles a bit to get rid of a localized political cancer. But publicly, praises were few and muted.

The Grenada affair came right in the midst of the NATO plan to install intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Western Europe. The governments of members West Germany and the Netherlands face a stiff challenge from those opposed to the missile deployment plan.

For a while, the shooting down by the Soviets of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 stifled the antimissile opposition, much of which is also anti-American in tone.

However, when U.S. Marines and Army Rangers descended upon Grenada without even informing Great Britain (Grenada is a Commonwealth member state), President Reagan was once again portrayed as trigger happy, one who was willing to take dangerous risks to challenge Soviet ambitions. Might he not do so in Europe as well, should war, nuclear war, threaten to break out? However remote this linkage between tiny

Grenada and nuclear-stalemated Europe may be, the association was made.

Trans-Atlantic Rift Grows

The Grenada affair is symbolic of the slow but inexorable rift developing between the United States and its European allies.

Mr. Reagan came into office in January 1981 determined to reverse America's declining position in the world. At first this was welcomed in Europe, whose political leaders had tired of the uncertainty of the previous administration.

But now many believe Mr. Reagan has gone too far. Strength is one thing, but a climate of U.S.-Soviet confrontation—typified by Mr. Reagan's calling the Soviet Union an "evil empire"—worries Europeans who live under the ever-lengthening shadow of Soviet military might.

American officials counter by saying that this is precisely the point—that Western Europe has allowed itself to become intimidated by Moscow, and is in danger of losing its independent status.

The missile controversy in Europe has not ended just because of the installation of the first few new generation weapons.

The full complement of Pershing II and cruise missiles is not due to be in place until four or five years down the road—plenty of time for political sparks to fly between a presently determined United States and an oftentimes reluctant Europe.

The key nation, of course, is West Germany, now considered by some analysts to be potentially the weak link in the NATO alliance.

In a report on West Germany's widespread antimissile demonstrations last October, Meir Merhav of the *Jerusalem Post* wrote that "the political struggle over what is Germany's most vital concern will continue, and possibly become less peaceful, even after the first missiles are stationed. The demonstrations will not sway the ruling coalition to deviate from its political course, but they reveal a wide and growing breach between the popular mood and the government's policy."

Demonstrations against the NATO plan are expected not only to continue, but to escalate as subsequently more Pershing IIs are

installed. At stake is the very future of NATO and West Germany's pivotal role in it.

NATO at the Crossroads

"The history of diplomacy is a story of shifting alliances," wrote Richard J. Barnet in an article about NATO, and specifically about German-American relations, in the October 17, 1983 issue of *The New Yorker*.

"Nations do not have and cannot have permanent attachments," Mr. Barnet continued. "The anarchic international system is always in motion. *Times change, and so do allies.*"

The postwar Atlantic Alliance is 35 years old, a long time for any alliance to last. The strains and cracks are showing more than ever before. Nations in Western Europe are no longer content to let the United States exert sole leadership on security matters.

Both in Britain and West Germany, for example, there are calls for a "dual-key" arrangement for the new U.S.-made missiles that are being deployed in Europe.

Under such a dual-key link, the United States would be unable to fire the "Euromissiles" without consent from the host country's military command personnel.

This is a radical departure from previous sole U.S. control of smaller "battlefield" nuclear weapons in Europe. This move represents a European desire to insure against U.S. "recklessness."

The key country, again, is West Germany. In his analysis entitled "The 'German Question' Returns," in the October 31 issue of *Newsweek*, French international relations expert Pierre Lellouche observed that what is going on in West Germany far transcends the question of the new missiles themselves.

The missile controversy in the key nation in the very heart of Europe has to do with the age-old "German question," says Mr. Lellouche. He wrote:

"If Germany is profoundly disturbed by the Pershings, it is because they are American weapons placed under the sole control of the President of the United States. That situation maintains Germany

in the position of a defeated vassal state—a vassal state that continues to pay the price of its tragic mistakes of the 1930s by a painful division of the German nation between two blocs dominated by two rival superpowers. The Pershing missile palisade symbolizes the permanence of that division, perhaps even more than the Berlin Wall.”

Like it or not, continued Mr. Lellouche, “the Germans are gradually—and perhaps inevitably—breaking away from the postwar institutions that were supposed to take care of the ‘German problem’ once and for all. NATO, which was conceived as a political device to ‘anchor’ the western part of Germany firmly to the West, as well as a military alliance against the Soviets, no longer does the trick. And the European Community has failed to channel German national aspirations into the ‘ersatz European nationalism’ its founders envisioned some 25 years ago.”

The Role of Germany

The “German question,” concludes Mr. Lellouche, is “back on the table” once again. It is this issue, rather than the arithmetic of the missile deployment, that “will be the more important question facing both the West—and the Soviet Union—in the future. Let us not fool ourselves. The missiles issue will not ‘go away’ by the end of the year. It will be with us for many more months and years to come, simply because the Euromissiles battle is not a battle over hardware but over the fate of Germany, and with it, over the fate of Europe as a whole.”

In a curious mixture, political forces on both the left and the right are intimating that German self-interest might be better served by adopting a more independent posture.

These forces, nevertheless, see Germany’s future radically differently. Those on the left would like to see a neutral Germany of limited ambitions, a peaceful “green” nation dropped out of Europe’s controversies. Their vision is of a reunified, neutral Germany divorced from both the Western (NATO) and Eastern (Warsaw Pact) alliances. Circles on the

right, however, view Germany as exerting a more forceful independent policy, but one in concert with like-minded allies in Europe.

Jerusalem Post columnist Meir Merhav says that “the tendency towards a neutralism motivated by German self-interest is seen on the left. . . .” At the same time, Merhav notes, Franz Josef Strauss, on the right, wants Germany to have a greater role in the use of the new nuclear arms.

“He wants Europe to become the third nuclear superpower,” writes Merhav. “He spoke to a rally called by his Christian Social Union in Munich. He intimated in a barely noticed half-sentence of his address that this ‘would make Germany independent of the U.S.’”

It was Mr. Strauss who, as a long-time advocate of a strong “European pillar” within NATO, shocked Bonn a few months ago with a sudden suggestion that the West Germans should be given the “second key” to the nuclear weapons stationed on their soil.

At the same time Mr. Strauss was speaking at the *promissile* rally in Munich, referred to by journalist Merhav, French Defense Minister Charles Hernu, in Paris, approved a call by an opposition leader, Jacques Chirac, for more active West German participation in European defense.

Mr. Chirac, leader of a neo-Gaullist party, had said in Bonn that he expected West Germany to join France and Britain in developing a European nuclear deterrent force in about five years.

The French, still nominal members of NATO, realize the alliance is in danger. Should it dissolve, they would much prefer to have West Germany somehow linked with them, even to the point of sharing in nuclear matters, than to see a powerful Germany go its own way or be pulled eastward.

Grave Soviet Miscalculation?

The long-term Soviet foreign policy objective regarding Europe is to detach Western Europe’s nations from their dependence on the United States, and attach them and their vital industries and resources to the Soviet Union.

In his book *Soviet Strategy in*

Europe strategic expert Richard Pipes writes: “Russian military power resting on a West European economic base would give the U.S.S.R. indisputable world hegemony—the sort of thing that Hitler was dreaming of when, having conquered continental Europe, he attempted to annex it to Soviet Russia’s national resources and manpower.”

However, such a separation of America from Europe, says Mr. Pipes, “must not be hurried.”

Why? Simply because it carries such grave risks for the Soviets themselves. Continues this author:

“The U.S. forces in Western Europe present no offensive threat to the Soviet Union. Their ultimate removal is essential if the U.S.S.R. is to control Western Europe, but their purely defensive character does not seriously inhibit Russia’s freedom to maneuver. What the Soviet Union fears more is a German-French-English military alliance that might spring into existence should U.S. troops withdraw precipitately from Western Europe.

“The Russians are well aware that close to the surface of what appears to be a ‘neutralist’ Western Europe there lurk powerful nationalist sentiments that could easily assume militant forms. Nor do they forget that England and France have nuclear deterrents that they could place at West Germany’s disposal.

“Hasty action on their [the Soviets’] part, therefore, could cause the emergence on their western flank of a nuclear threat probably much greater than that which they face in the east, from China, let alone from the United States. As long as the United States is in control of European defenses, this development is not likely to occur. Hence Soviet strategy is to hurry slowly.”

The Soviets, simply put, are playing with fire in their attempt to split the United States from Europe over the missiles issue!

It is the Soviets, as much as any power, who will be responsible for allowing what they fear most—the final end-time resurrection of a powerful united Europe—spoken of so often in the pages of *The Plain Truth*—to emerge. □

World Held Captive

(Continued from page 4)

decay, ruin and darkness to the physical earth.

Man Is Created

In Psalm 104:30 it is revealed that God sent forth his Spirit, and RENEWED the face of the earth for MAN.

In Genesis 1:1 God (Hebrew: *Elohim*—"Gods," meaning God and the Word) is revealed as the Creator of the universe, including the earth. The earth was—BECAME (resulting from angelic sin)—*tohu* and *bohu*, Hebrew words meaning "chaotic and in physical confusion, waste and empty."

Under Satan, darkness replaced light. Later the Word spoke, "Let there be light," and physical light appeared on earth, dividing day from the darkness of night. In six 24-hour days God renewed the face of the earth for men, creating plant, fowl, fish and mammalian life. On the sixth day, God said, "Let us [God is speaking to the Word] make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). The Eternal (who became Jesus Christ some 4,000 years later) formed man of the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7), and upon breath of life entering, man became a living (not immortal) soul.

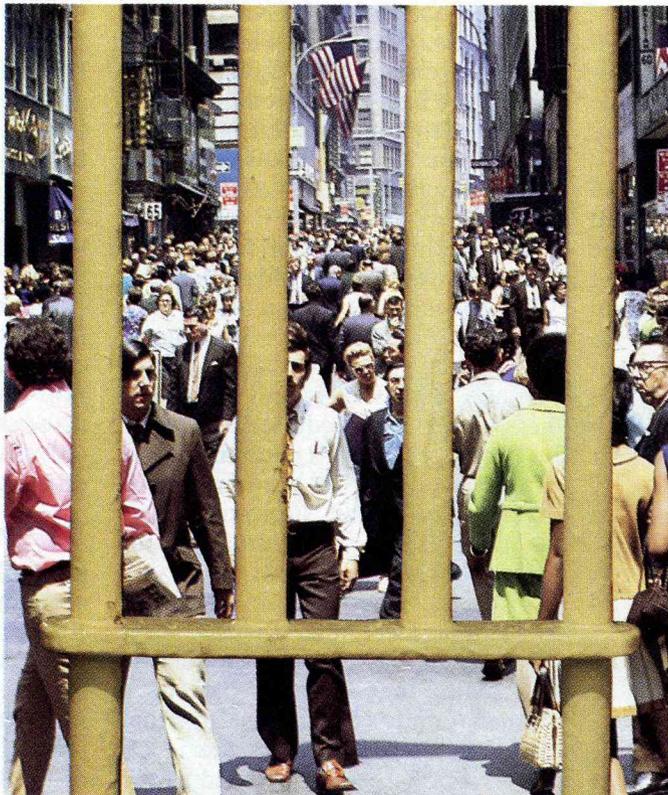
This MAN was given temporary physical existence, like animals. But man differed from animals, being in the form and shape of God. Also, as many scriptures reveal, man differed also in possessing MIND, although animals have brain precisely like human brain.

MAN was created to have a personal relationship with God—to be begotten as children of God, finally born into the GOD FAMILY.

Grand Purpose for Humanity

Precisely at this point we come to

the very root of the world in which you live today. This is where it all started. This is the point in time where today's world was started on a course still continuing in our time. All that had gone before—the existence of the God family from eternity—the creation of angels—the creation of matter and the material universe, the presence of angels on the earth, the THRONE and GOVERNMENT placed on



For almost 6,000 years civilizations have been developed, which collectively we call "the world." But it has been a world held captive.

earth—the SIN of Lucifer and earth's angels, the replacing of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD by that of Satan over the earth—all this was the backdrop to the creation of MAN on the earth.

What, then, was the divine PURPOSE for the creation of MAN on the earth?

The very first chapter in all the Bible reveals it, if we have the wit to comprehend. God—that is, God

and the Word—created MAN in God's own image, form and shape. The word *image* is used in Hebrews chapter one to designate spiritual CHARACTER.

God created the *physical* man in dual stages. First, he created one man—a male human. It was in God's supreme PURPOSE that the man reproduce his kind. But the man was unable to do that—UNTIL God completed the human creation physically by the addition of a woman, made from the man. So God anesthetized the man and extracted a rib out of which he made the woman, named Eve. Then MAN's physical creation was complete. Man could now reproduce his kind.

But MAN was not yet spiritually and mentally complete.

Human Mind vs. Animal Brain

Man could not be made into the spiritual and character image of God without the power of MIND—thinking, reasoning, decision-making intelligence.

The modern science of brain research has demonstrated that the small differences in human brain and animal brain cannot explain the vastly superior functions and output of the human brain. The human brain can acquire knowledge of chemistry, geology, astronomy, physics—one might say all the vast intricacies of knowledge contained in a many-volumed encyclopedia. Man

can think—he can put many parts of such knowledge together in a thinking and reasoning process. Man has decision-making ability.

Man has the faculty to use judgment and wisdom. Man has an appreciation of music, art and literature. Man formulates attitudes of love, cooperation, sympathy, concern for the good and welfare of others, or, on the other hand, attitudes of envy, jealousy, disgust,

hatred, competition, strife, revenge and conspiracy for perpetrating evil. Animal brain is capable of none of these.

It is only by revealed knowledge that this tremendous difference can be known. And the written Word of God reveals it as the presence of human spirit within man that sparks, constrains and empowers the physical brain in humans with intellect. There is no such spirit within any other form of physical life.

But scientists, bound and held captive by the false concept of evolution, cannot admit the existence of any such spirit. Their minds are blinded.

But understand. The human spirit cannot see, hear, taste, smell or feel—yet all human knowledge enters the brain through one of those five channels. The human spirit cannot think. It is the brain that thinks, as the human spirit empowers it. It is the brain that makes decisions, formulates attitudes, develops character, either good or evil.

Now WHY did the Creator God put human spirit within MAN, while no such spirit is present in animals? The very PURPOSE being worked out here below is God's supreme PURPOSE of REPRODUCING HIMSELF THROUGH MAN. Man was created from the ground of the earth, yet to have a relationship with his Maker. God is composed of Spirit. It is the divine PURPOSE that man, once godly character is developed within him, shall be changed from mortal and physical human to immortal and divine GOD.

As explained in the beginning, God and the Word now form the GOD FAMILY. Man may be begotten, and then later born as divine GOD. It is the incredible human potential that each human may become a child of God, one of the very GOD FAMILY!

Families, Kinds and Varieties

The first law of science is the fact that only life can beget life. Life cannot come from the not-living. LIFE could not have gradually come into existence from nothing. God could not have gradually come into existence. God and the Word ALWAYS have coexisted—without

father, without mother, having neither beginning of days nor end of life—but living from eternity through eternity.

Out of matter God created the fauna and the flora—animal and vegetable life. We might classify all existence in kingdoms. The mineral kingdom, the plant kingdom, animal kingdom, human kingdom, angel kingdom and the GOD KINGDOM. Man was created in the human kingdom, and potentially may be born into the GOD KINGDOM. But religionists who boast of being already “born-again Christians” are sadly deceived.

The ultimate creation of man—to become GOD—necessitated the development of godly CHARACTER within him.

So at this point notice the system of duality in this ultimate GOD creation. Physically, man was made complete in two stages; first male, then the addition of female. Spiritually and mentally he was to be made complete in two stages; first a human mind empowered by a human spirit. Even as God had supreme MIND, man was made with human mind. But in mind and spirit man was not yet complete.

To complete his physical creation, once the female was added to the male, they became ONE as a human family. So, in the spiritual creation, the addition of the HOLY SPIRIT of God must be added to the human spirit. This makes the man spiritually AT ONE with God. But even at this stage the principle of duality is still in force. Once the Holy Spirit is joined with his human spirit his *human* mind is complete, but he is still a human, now begotten as a God person. He is only an HEIR of God, not an INHERITOR of the God kingdom. He is only begotten, not yet born as God. The duality principle continues.

Human Birth a TYPE

Human birth is the precise type of GOD birth. In the woman is an egg cell called an ovum. It possesses potential life. Yet unless fertilized by the human sperm cell from the body of the father, it has a life span of less than 28 days. The male sperm cell on entering it

endows it with the start of human life. But to call it already a BORN human compares to the deceived calling themselves “born-again Christians.”

On conception the ovum is called an embryo. It must grow physically, fed through the mother. By four months, when taking on human form, it is called a fetus. It continues through a period of gestation for nine months from conception to parturition, when it is born.

The first human, Adam, was created, as we might say by analogy, a spiritual ovum. He had only a temporary physicochemical existence. If “fertilized” by the male divine sperm of God (his Holy Spirit—actually God-LIFE), he would have been begotten, but not yet born as God.

But GOD is supreme perfect spiritual CHARACTER. Before Adam could even qualify to be begotten into the GOD family, he had to CHOOSE between the WAY of God and the WAY of Satan who still sat on the throne of the earth.

The Two Symbolic Trees

God placed Adam and Eve after creation in the beautiful garden of Eden. In its midst were two special symbolic trees of tremendous significance. Adam did not have immortal God-life, but God freely offered it to him through the tree of LIFE. Adam had to choose between the government of Satan with its self-centered way of life, and the government of GOD with its GOD-centered way of life. Each way of life was the basic LAW of a GOVERNMENT. God could have RESTORED the government of God on earth through Adam, had he chosen that WAY of ETERNAL LIFE.

On creation, late on the sixth day we call Friday, God briefed Adam and Eve on the situation. He continued through the Sabbath eve and on that first Sabbath. He explained that the way of SELF-centeredness, symbolized by the tree of “the knowledge of good and evil,” would reject God's gift of LIFE (immortal), and on taking the forbidden fruit they would surely DIE.

After that Sabbath, when Adam neglected looking after his wife,

Eve stole out alone away from her husband. She encountered Satan in the form of a serpent. The human family was a direct threat to Satan's continued rule on earth's throne.

Notice, however (Gen. 3), Satan did not say to Eve, "Choose MY government and my law of vanity and self-centeredness, and reject God." He merely tempted her with the BEAUTY of the forbidden tree, appealed to her intellectual vanity, suggested God wasn't fair, and let her succumb to his deception, assuring her she was already an IMMORTAL SOUL. She was deceived into believing Satan, disbelieving God and into TAKING of the forbidden fruit. She gave also to her husband, and Adam willingly disobeyed God. Adam took TO HIMSELF the knowledge—that is, the production of knowledge—of what is good and what is evil.

Thus the first created human disbelieved God, disobeyed God, chose to go HIS OWN WAY, do his own thing. Adam did it willingly, but not apparently willfully.

Willingly, Adam was led into captivity by Satan. He had willingly gone along with Satan, the arch-kidnapper of all time.

A World Held Captive

Adam had been created with the potential to be born a son of GOD. Even though not as yet even a begotten son of the GOD FAMILY, he had been created as potentially just that. Once he succumbed to Satan's WAY of choosing to "do his own thing," in rebellion against a deliberate command of God, he became spiritually the property of Satan. He actually had succumbed to the GOVERNMENT of Satan, choosing the LAW of that government, leading automatically into attitudes of self-glory, coveting, competition, desire to GET rather than God's way of GIVE.

All humanity came out of Adam and Eve. The present world was FOUNDED in them. The WORLD has EVER since been HELD CAPTIVE! The world had thus chosen THE WAY of the kidnapper, rather than of the potential Parent!

But God the Father was to pay the ransom price and even yet bring

his potential spiritual children back to him.

At the Foundation of the World

Upon Adam's sin, God closed off the tree of life, until the second Adam, Jesus Christ, should pay the ransom price.

There cannot be a law without a penalty. The penalty of human sin is DEATH. At this very foundation of the world, it was determined that Jesus Christ, as the "Lamb of God," should be slain in payment of the penalty for all human sin, effective upon repentance and faith (Rev. 13:8). It was also determined by God at that time that all Adam's children should die (Heb. 9:27), but as in Adam all must die, so in Christ the same ALL shall be made alive by a resurrection from the dead to be judged (I Cor. 15:22).

But still, none could ever be born of God until God's holy and perfect spiritual character had been instilled within, by individual choice and proof by performance.

God set apart a 7,000-year period to complete his original SUPREME PURPOSE of reproducing himself through man. It was a masterminded MASTER PLAN for working out the PURPOSE here below.

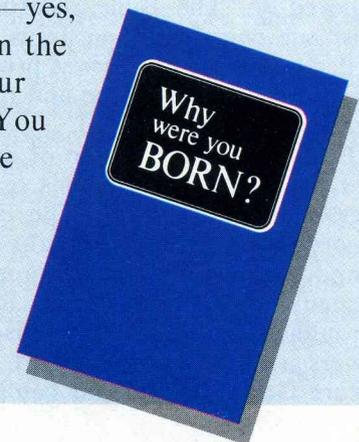
For almost 6,000 years a civilization has developed, which we call the world. But it has been a world held captive. To this day Satan is still on that throne.

Meanwhile Satan has worked IN all humans. He has injected into the world enormous EVILS. Jesus the second Adam came to start an entire new WORLD OF GOD through the Church.

(To be continued)

WHY WERE YOU BORN?

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



THIS IS “THE TIME OF THE END”!

by Clayton Steep

This present world crisis is identified as the biblical “time of the end.” Here is the proof.

WHY shouldn't we have world peace? Why not beat weapons into plowshares and pruning hooks? Why not live in a world of justice and universal prosperity?

Such a world is described repeatedly by prophets in the Hebrew scriptures in Isaiah 2:2-4 and Micah 4:1-4, for example. They point to the end of one age and the beginning of a magnificent new age.

Two thousand years ago, those prophecies were on the minds of many in the land of Judea at the time of the birth of Jesus. Events taking place during the course of Jesus' life caused a heightening of expectation. Would the Messiah set up his kingdom then? Many believed so. The Bible records at least one occasion when Jesus had to flee because a crowd was preparing to take him by force and make him king (John 6:14-15).

Even Jesus' own group of disciples, who listened to all his teachings, didn't understand. The Bible records that “they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately” (Luke 19:11, RAV throughout). So Jesus gave his followers a parable. He showed that before God's government could be

established on earth he would have to go away and then, after a long duration, return. Meanwhile, he told them, they should busy themselves, fulfilling certain responsibilities if they wanted to have a part in that government (verses 12-27).

Later yet, after Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection, his disciples still didn't understand. They thought surely the time had finally arrived for his kingdom to be established. “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” they asked. Jesus replied that it was not given to them to know exactly when that hoped-for event would take place, but that they should go and preach the good news of that future kingdom to all nations (Acts 1:6-8).

This the disciples began to do, starting in Jerusalem. Even as they spread the message, however, they continued to believe they were living in the “last days.”

The “Time of the End”

“Time is running out!” “The great, final crisis at the close of this age.” “These last days.” “These last times.” “It is the last hour.” “The end of all things is at hand.”

Whose words are these? If you think they may belong to 20th century observers anticipating the end of the age in the foreseeable future, you are only partly right.

The first two phrases are indeed from recent editions of the *Plain Truth* magazine. The other excerpts are from the writings of Jesus' apostles more than 19 centuries ago.

James, the brother of Jesus, referred to the “last days” as though they were then extant (Jas. 5:3). So did the apostle Paul (Heb. 10:25; Rom. 13:11-12). He left no doubt in two of his letters that he hoped to be alive at Jesus' return (I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:15-17). The apostle Peter wrote of “these last times” (I Pet. 1:20; 4:7). John and Jude used similar expressions (I John 2:18; Jude 18). It was toward the end of their lives that these men realized they would die before Christ came—and they began to refer to the “last days” as being yet future (II Tim. 3:1; 4:6-8; II Pet. 1:15; 3:3-4).

Nor were they alone in history. For centuries there have been those who expected in their generation the end of the age and the coming of the Messiah to rule on earth. They publicly proclaimed it. They intensely wanted to see it happen. But in spite of the depth of their feelings, what they looked for did not come to pass—then.

Waiting and Watching

Jesus allowed the early apostles and his followers through succeeding

ages to live in expectation that Jesus' return was near, even though that expectation at times caused them to be the object of ridicule (II Pet. 3:3-4; Jude 18). Jesus could have said, "I shall return after (a certain number of centuries). Preach the gospel in the meanwhile." Then his Church would have known. But no, the time of his intervention in world affairs was yet distant, and not clearly revealed.

The very *place* Jesus' feet shall touch when he comes back is clearly designated (Zech. 14:4). Not so for the *time* of his arrival. Did you ever notice that? Even Jesus' final words in the last prophetic book of the Bible, "Surely I am coming quickly" (Rev. 22:20), have had the effect of keeping his Church alert and watching.

This is for a purpose. Can you imagine how the morale of Jesus' followers would have been affected had they been aware that the "time of the end" was centuries, yes, almost two millennia off into the future? The human tendency to let down, to become complacent, lethargic, would have become overwhelming.

Jesus specifically wanted his people in all ages to be anticipating his return and the establishment of the kingdom of God. The reason is that attaining the kingdom of God is the central purpose for human existence. Jesus said to seek that kingdom *first*—above anything else in life (Matt. 6:33). "Thy kingdom come," he told his followers to pray.

Could they all, living in the midst of societies gone amok, really put their hearts into such a prayer if they knew the outcome was thousands of years away?

Allowing his Church through the centuries to live in expectation of the establishment of God's kingdom has been a prod and an encouragement that has given strength to withstand trials, persecution, even martyrdom.

When Is the "End"?

So how are we today any different? How do we know we are really living in the "time of the end"?

When the *Plain Truth* magazine and the *World Tomorrow* radio and television program under the

direction of Herbert W. Armstrong proclaim that this generation will witness the return of Jesus Christ, readers ask, "How do you know you are not another in a long line of voices anticipating an event that is well into the future?"

We have the answer in Jesus' own words. He unmistakably pinpointed our time in a lengthy prophecy recorded in Matthew 24. His disciples had asked him, "What will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" (verse 3). That is the pertinent question. What was Jesus' reply?

The end of the age will come, Jesus explained, when the good news of the kingdom has been preached "in all the world as a witness to all the nations" (verse 14).

His Church was to preach the gospel—good news—of the coming kingdom to all nations, not to convert, but to be a witness. That commission has not yet been fulfilled. But now, after nearly 2,000 years, *for the first time in history*, thanks to modern means of communication, the moment is approaching when the true gospel will have been preached in all the world. The implications of this fact are enormous. Because then—as soon as that true gospel has been preached in all the world as a witness—not a hundred or a thousand years later—"the end will come." So said Jesus (same verse)!

By the way, do not confuse the gospel Jesus is speaking of with traditional Christianity's message. There is no connection between the two. Traditional Christianity long ago got its message about a Jesus to "all nations" and the end of the age did not occur!

The gospel or good news that Jesus was speaking of is the gospel of the kingdom of God, which has been hidden from the world as a whole for most of 18 centuries. (If you would like to learn what Jesus' gospel is, request our booklet *What Is the True Gospel?*)

Jesus also identified the time of the end as our time when he declared (verses 21-22) that world troubles would increase until it would be possible for human beings to destroy all life.

Jesus wasn't talking about the latest refinements in Roman cata-

pults or battering rams. He didn't have in mind the Gatling gun or the bazooka. He looked down the stream of history to our era, when available weaponry would make it possible for mankind to blast all life off this planet—unless God intervenes.

That is the time we are in now!

Much of Bible prophecy was written in such a way that it wouldn't be understood until "the time of the end." Certain parts of prophecy were sealed up until the crisis at the close of this age (Dan. 12:9).

A person doesn't know how many days are left in a week until he first knows what day it is. So it is with Bible prophecy. The prophecies portray a sequence of governments that would rule in the area of the Roman Empire through the centuries. A person studying the prophecies 1,500 years ago could not pinpoint where he was in the flow of time because an adequate number of those governments had not come and gone. Neither was it possible 500 years ago.

But of the "seven kings" or revivals of the Roman Empire referred to in Revelation 17:10, the moment it was possible to identify five as having passed (up to and including the days of Napoleon in 1815), and a sixth one as existing (in the days of Mussolini and Hitler), it was possible to predict that there was one final revival yet to come at the end of the age.

It was in the early 1940s, as the tide of war was turning against the Axis powers—the "sixth" revival of the Roman Empire—that it was finally clear where we in this age were and are in Bible prophecy. Prophecy has been unsealed, as it was predicted to be, in the time of the end.

There remains one final "king" or revival of the Roman Empire. It will last "a short time" (same verse). Preparations for that revival are under way in Europe now! (Request a copy of the free booklet *Revelation Unveiled at Last*. It will open your eyes!)

The Bible leaves no doubt. Neither do world events. This is the "time of the end." The righteous and peaceful kingdom foretold thousands of years ago is now just over the horizon. □

YES: A BRIGHTER TOMORROW IS COMING!

by Ronald D. Kelly

Sooner than many expect, a world of peace and happiness will be right here—on planet Earth.

FOR 50 YEARS, on radio and television, a voice has rung out, "Well greetings, friends around the world. This is Herbert W. Armstrong bringing you the GOOD NEWS of the WORLD TOMORROW!"

Good news? Is there any?

The world tomorrow? What's that?

For 50 years the news of the world today has seldom been good. Wars, rumors of war, earthquakes, volcanos, hurricanes, tornados, political upheaval, coups and rebellions, drought and hunger have dominated the headlines.

Yet for 50 years Mr. Armstrong and the *Plain Truth* magazine have constantly reported there is GOOD NEWS.

The good news is that humanity at long last will be shown the way to peace, prosperity and happiness. But how?

Too Good to Be True?

Many simply cannot imagine a world without strife, upset weather, war.

But that's the world prophesied

for tomorrow in the book we call the Bible.

Can you imagine a world where nations live at peace? Where not one dollar is budgeted for defense? Where no family has to worry about sons and daughters being sacrificed on a battlefield? Where words like *tank*, *battleship*, *bomb*, *warhead* and *holocaust* are only in the vocabulary of historians?

Can you further imagine a world where hurricanes never blow ashore? Where tornados never touch down? Where all volcanos are extinct? Where earthquakes never occur?

This is prophesied for nations that will choose to follow God's way of life.

And can you believe a world where drought need never affect a crop? Where hunger is unheard of? Where floods never destroy homes? Where rain falls in due season? Where food supplies are more than adequate to support the population of the entire world?

This is also prophesied. But for a few nations who will have to learn lessons the hard way, God will withhold such blessings till they learn how to live. Read Zechariah 14:17 as an example: "If any of the

peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain" (NIV throughout, except where noted).

In the day of God's kingdom, upset weather or other less than desirable conditions will only be used to teach that following God's laws leads to all the good anyone could possibly want.

And can you imagine a world where people learn to respect the music, dance, art, looks, abilities and talents of each other?

Too good to be true?

No—that's what has been prophesied in the pages of the Bible for thousands of years. And that has been the message of this magazine for 50 years.

But How Can This Be?

This utopian world of which we speak is not going to be brought about by the efforts of men. It will not come from peace conferences, unilateral discussions and summit meetings.

For nearly 6,000 years mankind has proved incapable of living at peace. No form of human government has brought universal peace and happiness. And scientists have

certainly proved they are incapable of controlling the powerful forces of nature—though they can unleash the secrets of the atom!

No, the fantastic world tomorrow will not be a result of politics, science or technology. It will not be by blind chance either. Man will not just accidentally stumble on the way of peace.

It will come from one source, and one source only. The Eternal God will intervene in the affairs of men. He will send Jesus Christ to bring world peace.

In the first days of the New Testament Church the apostle Peter boldly proclaimed, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that *times of refreshing* may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to *restore* everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets" (Acts 3:19-21).

But what needs restoring?

Frankly—EVERYTHING!

Mankind has managed to pollute the entire planet. The air is filled with smoke. The streams, rivers and lakes are filled with chemicals. The land has been sprayed with pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and so many other "icides" that food has minimal nutritional value.

And we've already discussed man's total inability to live at peace.

But what needs restoring more than anything else?

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

Yes, the government of God. When God sends the Messiah to bring about the utopian world tomorrow, the first order of business is government.

When the Messiah appears the Bible says: "Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations [which had been rebelling]. He will rule them with an iron scepter. . . . On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:15-16).

Call the event what you will, the appearance of the Messiah, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the end of the age. It all spells the end of this society and the dawning

of a new age—the world tomorrow. And it begins by God sending Jesus Christ to rule over all nations on earth.

Peace at Last

Probably one of the most astounding disappointments of all history occurred in the trying years before World War II.

British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain in 1939 had been to the Continent for discussions with German Chancellor Adolf Hitler. Upon his return to England the world press recorded his hopes for "peace in our time."

Within months Nazi troops had invaded Czechoslovakia. Six months later Hitler's forces attacked Poland and the most catastrophic war in all history was under way.

Some 2,700 years ago God inspired the prophet Isaiah to write, "The way of peace they do not know" (Isa. 59:8). It was true then. It is still true today. The testimony of recorded history bears that out.

But in the world tomorrow war will not be taught. In the world today war is a way of life. Vast sums are devoted to defense and military. Schools of war train men and women in the skills of killing other human beings.

That kind of financial allocation and teaching will soon be a part of the ancient past.

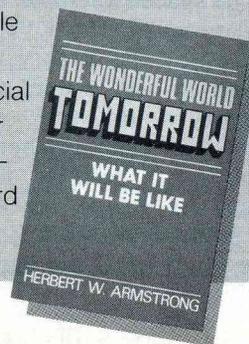
Notice what the prophet Micah wrote about the world soon to come: "Many nations will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach

Coming:

The Wonderful

World Tomorrow

Why should it sound so incredible? The Bible paints a wholly positive picture about the government, science, arts and the social order of the future. You can read about it in our free booklet *The Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*. For your copy, mail the card or write to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.



us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Mic. 4:2-3).

Can you imagine what kind of economy could exist if not one penny was spent on defense? And the greatest minds were devoted to efforts of peace, not war? The kind of buildings, transportation, communications and conveniences we would have!

That is exactly what is going to happen.

A Change in Nature

God's government and worldwide peace are only the beginnings of the fantastic world tomorrow.

One of the most beautiful scriptures in the Bible describes just how total the restoration of God's way will be.

Describing conditions after the Messiah appears, Isaiah wrote: "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:6-9).

So meaningful is that scripture that the seal of Ambassador College depicts it.

When God created Adam and Eve, he placed them in the beautiful garden of Eden. There they could enjoy the beauty of flowers, pristine air and water, and all the food they would need.

But as a result of their sin—the decision to pursue their own course—to decide for themselves what is good and what is evil—God drove them from the garden.

They would then work midst thorns and thistles, weeds and briars. The nature of many animals was changed, becoming hostile to man. So it has been ever since.

In the world to come, as Isaiah wrote, even ferocious beasts and poisonous vipers will be changed to domesticated, tame creatures.

Also of that time Isaiah wrote: "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus [or rose], it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God" (Isa. 35:1-2).

Not only that, sickness and disease will be healed. "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb [mute] shout for joy" (Isa. 35:5-6).

Good health, peace, great weather and abundant crops will make the world tomorrow a wonderful place to live.

Family Life Restored

Without a doubt one of the most needed aspects of human relationships that needs restoring is family life. Virtually no society in all history has truly practiced the God-inspired, biblical instructions on marriage and child rearing.

We can at least get a glimpse of the happy family life from a few scriptures that look to the future when God's government is set up.

Jeremiah wrote about the restoration of God's way: "The sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying, 'Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever'" (Jer. 33:11).

For most of human history the joy of brides and bridegrooms has only turned to sorrow. Sickness, poverty and war have epitomized vast segments of human history. But in that world to come, the joy of the wedding will live on and on. Husbands and wives growing in love as each year goes by.

They will have healthy and happy children. And they will know how to rear them. Notice what Zechariah saw as God revealed the future to him: "The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there" (Zech. 8:5).

Without fear of serious accident, kidnapping, mugging, abduction and the host of modern atrocities that plague our societies, children will play openly—free from harm from man or beast.

And verse 4 tells us, "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his [and her] age.'" "

War will not consume the strength of young men. Mothers will not die in childbirth. Sickness, disease, hunger and malnutrition will not consume thousands daily as in our "enlightened" 20th century.

In that world everything good will be the norm. God will prove his way is the only way by giving mankind 1,000 years of his government and instruction.

A New World Coming

This utopian world that Herbert W. Armstrong and the *Plain Truth* magazine have proclaimed now for 50 years is just as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun. The apostle Peter said: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy [Spirit]" (II Pet. 1:19, 21, AV).

No one knows exactly when the kingdom of God is going to be established. But world events are rushing toward that inevitable day. And it could happen a lot faster than many would humanly predict.

If you want to know even more about what is prophesied for the future, write for Mr. Armstrong's free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like!* You will find there is a world soon coming that exceeds all you have ever hoped the world could be. □

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



AIDS

The particular article on AIDS would have to be the most shameful piece of literature we read in many years. God created all human beings in his image. Being born hetero- or homosexual is like being born with blue or brown eyes, the recipient has no choice in the matter, it is God's will. How dare your magazine set its self up as a judge.

I am fully aware that this letter will mean nothing to your organization.

**Roger Ford
Fremantle
West Australia**

• Your letter does mean something to us. That is why we publish it here to let others know how difficult it is to face squarely the fact that individuals are not born homosexual. We do offer help to those who write us for help in this matter.

In the past two years I have been receiving the *Plain Truth* magazine and have become the more knowledgeable about our planet and its problems. I find your medical articles particularly complete and strongly associated with God's laws—such as the articles on AIDS and chronic nicotine. They render me not only a lot more educated on the subject in question but give me the solutions.

**E.I. Ikonmidis MD
Ano Holargos
Athens**

Teaching Children

I am a parent of a little girl who is coming to the age when it is necessary to tell her about religion and life. Your magazine helps me to teach and guide my daughter about complicated questions little children ask. Although I am not religious, all of your articles are so logical, and might I add interesting, that I find it so easy to answer her questions. *The Plain Truth* has helped me through some very difficult, depressing times in my own life that I am grateful to all of you for a fine quality magazine. I feel that reading it will let me and my daughter grow to be decent, loving, trustworthy persons.

The Bible Course looks extremely wonderful, as I can never understand it in the regular Bible.

**Maxine Malkinson
Bronx, New York**

Refugee's View of the U.S.

I am very happy to receive *The Plain Truth* for the first time and how surprised I am to know that the magazine has existed for 50 years.

The article I am most interested in is "The Role of Television in the Decline of U.S. Prestige." I am a Vietnamese refugee and have just been here for 6 months. I totally agree with the author's points of view. Not only has U.S. television made people in other countries have a false image of the people and nation

of the U.S., but movies, newspapers, books have done the same.

With what I knew about this country through American books, newspapers, movies, I was rather anxious before coming to the States. I thought it is a country of violence, unsafety, immoral sex, hatred, materialism. But after arriving here, I found it different. In general, people here are considerate, nice and responsible. I can say Americans are people who obey the law more than most in the world. What has impressed me most is American houses. Instead of high fences and strong gates, as those in many countries, there are green yards and beautiful flowers in the front of the house. It says that we are living in a free society, that people here are open, hospitable and have good sense of beauty.

**Ngoc Nguyen
El Toro, California**

Stunned to Hear Truth

I would like to give you my unconditional support for spreading the good news and would like to be able to do a lot more. For the first time in my life I found a purpose for my existence.

When I saw Mr. Armstrong on television I was stunned to hear the truth. It was different from anything I have ever been taught. I would like to thank Mr. Armstrong and the Worldwide Church of God for making the truth so plain to

me. You have taught me how to use the Bible. It showed me how to follow God's law and to be a responsible Christian.

**Richard Demeo
Thunder Bay, Ontario**

Your television appearances are becoming better all the time. The programs are forceful and well researched. I feel that you are getting more effective every year.

Please continue in your work a long, long time.

**H.W. Bentzien
Woodlawn, Ontario**

Youth Speaks

As a *Plain Truth* reader I would like you to know that I am a 13-year-old girl who is a little confused about what is going on in the world around me. *The Plain Truth* helps me to understand how unfortunate it is for those who live in countries threatened by war every day.

**Karina Georgiefski
Athelstan, Quebec**

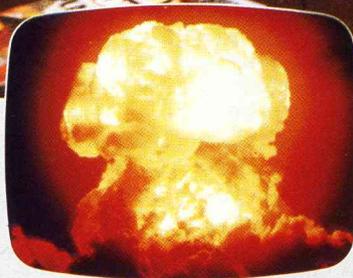
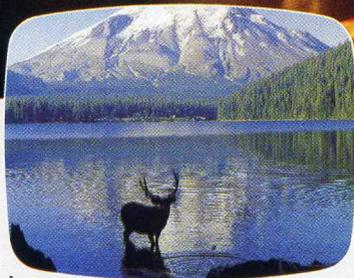
Harsh Reality

I have seen the *Plain Truth* magazine on the racks in stores all over, and fell into the trap of believing something good does not come easy. Why should this magazine be free? The harsh reality inside the magazine hurt and I didn't want to read any more, but realized as I heard you speak on television that we have to know the true facts.

**Jeanette Schick
Thunder Bay, Ontario**

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**'THE
WORLD TOMORROW'
Television Program**



A Voice CRIES OUT!

Violence, turmoil and unhappiness plague this world! Yet one voice is crying out with solid solutions—with the good news of a better world soon to come!

Herbert W. Armstrong, founder and editor in chief of *The Plain Truth*, can be heard weekly on the *World Tomorrow* program on more than 200 television sta-

tions worldwide. Mr. Armstrong analyzes world news in light of prophecy, interviews world leaders and offers sound wisdom about today's social problems.

For a list of stations and times when *The World Tomorrow* airs, call toll free 800-423-4444. In California, Alaska or Hawaii call collect 818-304-6111. Or check local listings. Tune in this week to hear the most important message of our time!

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WTBS Atlanta, GA

(Sunday, 7 a.m. EST)

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