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Programs**

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Plain Truth
 WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Prophecy - No Longer a Dirty Word

THE INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL

Overlooked Corollary

Who Will Feed the Hungry Millions?



Personal from...

Herbert W. Armstrong

This is the 41st anniversary number of the *Plain Truth*. The previous format was used for forty years! During that time the *Plain Truth* grew from a small circulation mimeographed magazine to one of the finest full color magazines ever printed in excess of 1,000,000 copies a month.

Extraordinary changes have taken place in the world during that 40 years. Many proud nations on distant shores in the United States were forced to cease publication - among them the *London Evening Post*, *Life* and *Look*. While they were going to the wall, the *Plain Truth* continued growing in circulation, increasing in number of pages, improving in quality and appearance.

The time has come when the editors of the *Plain Truth* feel we must produce a less costly year of operation in keeping with the times, but with a new and fresh increasing circulation reaching thousands more often.

With this 41st anniversary number I personally start my second forty years as its Editor in Chief.

And beginning with this 41st forty, I start seriously what I believe to be one of the most important books ever written.

Today we are heading straight into the total malle paroxysm of a world cataclysmic collision course.

On the one hand, the human mind has proved as superbly capable that it can produce the incredible computer and send man safely to the moon and back among other marvels.

But on the other hand, the same human mind has proved utterly powerless before our modern problems, troubles and evils here on earth.

Human leaders for six thousand years have striven in vain to bring about world peace. But at the same time science, technology and industry have produced nuclear and other awesome weapons capable of blasting all life off the earth. And this will happen unless supernatural intervention prevents it.

Today more than half of all humanity is illiterate or nearly so, existing in abject poverty and starvation, wracked with disease, living in filth and squalor.

I want to ask my readers, does this unthinkable paroxysm of human greatness and human impotence make sense to you?

This world is hurtling head on with increasing momentum toward the final blast of human extinction!

The world has produced modern science,

41st Anniversary Issue

the world's great religions, the intellectual institutions of higher learning and great government.

And yet modern science cannot find the answers nor solve our fatal problems. All religions have failed utterly to make this a better, happier world or show us the way to world peace. Higher education, intelligent constant knowledge production does not know and cannot teach us the answers to our problems, supposed to be the best of our people, are more and more being overthrown because dissenters conclude that they have failed.

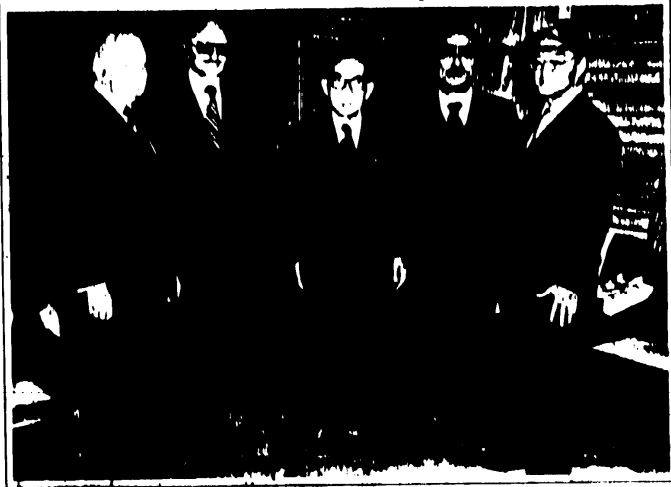
What is wrong? Where are the answers? Could the whole world have been deceived?

Is it possible that even the best minds being deceived, have so often ignored the right answers and the truth?

The true answers do exist, but they have not been given by religion. Science has never discovered them. Higher education has never known nor taught them. And they are not for them from the field of politics and human government.

Forty eight years ago I was challenged both on a point of religion and on the theories of evolution. I was then certain a bible of afterlife. But this dual intensive research took me not only into the writings of Darwin, Haeckel, Huxley

(Continued on page 11, col. 1)



Herbert W. Armstrong left is escorted by Japanese Prime Minister Ichiro Kishi, writer Ochiai from left are Stanley R. Pater, Dkt member Yamashita and Osamu Gotoh, Ambassador College Director of Asian Studies.

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The Missing Dimension in Knowledge**

The first installment of a new and illuminating book by Herbert W. Armstrong



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Readers react by throwing their favorite vegetation at the editors

WHO WILL FEED THE HUNGRY MILLIONS?

by Dexter H. Faulkner

With drought in Africa, food shortages in Bangladesh, and a 27 day global grain reserve — the lowest in 30 years — the world faces a food scarcity of unprecedented dimension and duration. There is a very real threat, says Africa's Senator Charles H. Percy, R-Illinois, of a worldwide food crisis far exceeding in impact the energy crisis.

The world has now come to the place where 50 million people, perhaps more, could perish from famine in a single year. So says Nobel Prize winning agronomist Norman Borlaug.

World food authority Lester Brown of the Overseas Development Council adds that the world has entered a period of more or less chronic food poverty. The growing demand for food, he stresses, has begun to overrun the production capacity of the world's farmers and herdsman.

Population growth is putting 70 to 75 million more mouths to feed on the planet earth every about 200,000 each day. These figures translate into a demand for millions of extra tons of grain each year.

If the problem of worldwide famine is to be dealt with — at least on a short-term basis — American agriculture will have to play a major role. The United States remains the chief producer and exporter of food and agricultural products in the world.

In recent years American farmers have produced around a fourth of the world's combined wheat and corn crops and three fourths of the world's soybeans. The United States has been the largest each exporter of these and other farm products and by far the largest single source of food aid.

The big question now is: Can the United States provide food in sufficient quantities to make more than a mere dent in what threatens to be a runaway situation?

Even in 1974, the United States Department of Agriculture called on American farmers to go all out in a "foot toward full production to refill the nation's grain bins and pump more food into the world's commodity pipelines.

Based on preliminary estimates USDA officials predict the 1975 wheat crop will be a record 2 billion bushels, a ten percent increase over 1974 production. Yet, despite cautiously optimistic predictions of an increased U.S. food output, feared as it is by the

world for far more fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, two elements stand to seriously threaten it.

First of all, the world has become dangerously over dependent upon the United States and a mere handful of other food exporting nations. Then there is the second, all important yet many times overlooked element — the weather. With all the modern technology and dogged determination to produce bumper crops, man is still very much at the mercy of the weather. Weather can either be the ace or the joker in the deck of cards when it comes to production.

Only last year the worst weather in three decades plagued the United States — excessive rains, drought, then early frost. The bad weather cut into the expected 1974 U.S. harvest by 7% to 8%. The fallout was unfortunately timed. It came when American food reserves already were at the lowest in a quarter of a century.

Weather experts warn that more climatological upsets could be in the offing this year. Some fear that the agricultural bloom years of the post two decades are over and that long term, unfavorable climate changes are occurring around the earth. If so, again the question must be asked: Can the U.S. provide? Or will the crushing land often thereafter look become proverbial: *Meatless Impossible!*

Seven years ago in a book entitled *Famine 1978!* brothers William and Paul Paddock warned that population growth would soon overtake the ability of the less developed countries to feed themselves. The authors forecast the United States, as the principal food surplus country, facing terrible choices about which countries to feed. They suggested that the only realistic policy would be to do nothing for the hopelessly poor and overpopulated countries, such as India, and concentrate only on those who might be able to sustain themselves if they stopped their population growth.

The crunch is that population rates have not slowed off since the book was written. In fact, India's rate has risen from 2.3% a decade ago to 2.8% now.

The assessments of brothers Paddock and Dr. Hendler sound sobering. They are not pretty. But they are cruelly realistic and should shock a largely apathetic citizenry in the West. It would still more concerned about the price of food rather than its availability.

Mideast on Brink of New War

Threat of Total Embargo Worries West

The shaky truce of the Middle East... The Israeli military remains poised for any emergency. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat states that the Middle East is a bomb ready to explode at any moment.



Military intervention by Western powers in the Mideast? Not out of the question. Not only as a deterrent...

All Saudi Foreign Ministers... The fact of the Mideast has been burned down a few inches more shortly after the Embassy...

The most developed countries... The United States to limit Saudi oil... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

During the Middle East war... The United States to limit Saudi oil... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

Well if there is a... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

By special... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

Wealth of Oil-Rich Nations Poses Dilemma

Spending oil prices are bringing about an unprecedented transfer of wealth from the industrial world to the oil exporting nations. The per capita pile up compares populations of Middle Eastern states...



Peace with honor.



Energy with honor?

ing recession. Economists generally are bewildered as to what to advise oil importing nations in their predicament. The most commonly offered solution is to encourage the Arabs to invest long term in Western nations.

The key phrase is long term. Economically shaky nations such as Italy or Great Britain may borrow for long periods of time in order to meet their import bills. They simply do not have the money to pay off their debts quickly. If the money margins of the oil rich Arab nations bank accounts which in the main is what they have been doing then the money simply is not available to lend to borrowers for a longer period of time.

Resisting to be of any value necessitates the type of investment whereby the lenders acquire a long range stake in the customer nation such as one of its major corporations. But how far the dilemma. When Arab governments for example reveal intended plans for long range investment in Western industry fears and suspensions come to the fore and host country officials get excited or at least suspicious.

Within the small capital Arab nations \$100 million in American bonds... Arab financial sources viewed the Lockheed deal as a test of how much the U.S. was willing to allow Arab investment. They found an obvious reluctance.

Arthur Burns, U.S. Federal Reserve Board Chairman has spoken for legislation to prevent Arab oil income from leaving the U.S. Strategic American industries.

A large investment of oil and money in our strategic enterprises would mean that we would be putting money in a safe storage container... Arab sources however believe that the 'push' to open up products will only discourage investment.

The underdeveloped nations are being lured... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

These... Saudi demand to prevent Israel...

Trouble Along The 48th Parallel

A rapid post-war... threatening the uniquely harmonious relationship between the United States and Canada. Already the two neighbors who share the world's longest peaceful border have traded several punches in a small war trade war.

It began in earnest in the summer of 1951 when President Nixon froze beef prices in an attempt to curb domestic inflation. American producers evaded the ruling by exporting beef to Canada where it was sent back to the U.S. at a higher price since the tariff did not apply to imports.

The subsequent glut of beef crossing the border... American cattle for six months to a technician... until U.S. cattle could be guaranteed to be absolutely fit returned on page 4, col. 1.

NEWSMAKER PROFILE

Takeo Miki - Japan's New Man at the Helm



A former member of the Japanese Diet... Miki has assumed the post as Japan's eighth prime minister. Miki pronounced his first act of state by his party's first ever meeting in Tokyo on January 15th. He signed in December in the case of an alleged financial scandal and has managed 10% in the population.

Miki considered a progressive and a reformer... Miki's (House of Representatives) could be chosen... Miki's (House of Representatives) could be chosen...

MIKI (Continued from page 1)

Japan since 1940. Both were also leaders of major factions within the I Ching.

Born on March 17, 1907 on Japan's smallest island of Shikoku, Miki was the only son of a rural middle class fertilizer merchant.

Unlike most of his predecessors in the family office, he did not attend a prestige school, but he earned Tokyo's Meiji University in 1936.

Because of his visits to the U.S. (where he studied for four years) and Europe (at only 11 years), he got through the law school. He received his law degree from Meiji in 1937 and soon thereafter was assigned to the Diet to which he has been re-elected 14 times.

Miki publicly opposed war with the United States and came into conflict with wartime Premier Hirohito. He was consequently allowed to continue in public during the postwar U.S. occupation.

He is an experienced politician having served in five cabinet positions since the war including Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry.

Miki unsuccessfully sought the premiership three times in 1960 and 1970 against Leiji Aso and in 1972 against Kakuei Tanaka. Premier Miki faces numerous challenges including reorganizing modernizing the cabinet and dealing with Japanese unions in labor problems (over 20% on strike).

Miki will undoubtedly remain Japan's top politician. He is responsible for the peace in Vietnam. He is also known to have met with Peking and a more recent Japanese visit to Vietnam. He is also known to have met with American and Soviet leaders. He is also known to have met with Japanese American leaders.

ART RICHWALD

2600 years before Vladivostok

WASHINGTON It is written in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah that the Lord promised the people. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

It never really happened and I have in my possession a Dead Sea Scroll which tells why.

At one time the Philistines and the Jews signed a disarmament pact limiting the number of swords and spears. When the King of Judah brought the treaty back to his people they were angry in the land.

Does this mean we will not have to spend gold for arms? they asked.

It means we such thing the king replied. We will in fact have to spend more gold than ever.

But I write asked the king if we have a treaty with the Philistines why do we have to spend more gold for armaments?

Because of us have to buy our swords and plowshares and we spend more money to buy our swords and plowshares to replace the Philistines. The King of Judah replied. This will involve a terrible investment in research of new things and machines and removal of debris. Such as you know are now covered by the treaty. We cannot allow our agreement with the Philistines to put us at a military disadvantage.

Are you saying we should break the agreement since all we have to do is buy more plowshares and swords? the king asked.

Yes, because we cannot afford to buy more swords and plowshares. A treaty with the Philistines has been broken. It is a very deep mistake. The king's intervention could be carried out. American Jews and Muslims were here stepped up their military training. But on a large scale.

How long will it take to get the message to the king? I asked. The king replied. It will take a long time. The king will not be able to get the message to the king. The king will not be able to get the message to the king. The king will not be able to get the message to the king.

Such a message intervention is of course a step of a war treaty. I have a copy of the book of the Middle East. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book.

"No, it doesn't. It means that both sides may keep the swords they now have and increase their spear carriers to 2,000. The Philistines as you know have superiority in the weight of their spears but our numbers are twice as accurate. We have more than enough to repulse any first strike attack but we're still weak in conventional weapons such as tanks and large planes."

"How can we get more than one head on their spears?" a scribe asked.

While the treaty does not limit the number of heads you can put on a spear, the king replied. It does limit the number of spears to three. This is the first time the Philistines have ever been willing to discuss putting a stop to the spears.

What is to prevent the Philistines from beating their swords into plowshares and then attacking us with the plowshares?

At this time we have a three to one plowshare advantage over the Philistines.

That defense people have asked for an extra ton of gold in America. This could date the deployment of any plowshares by the Philistines. They also are asking to their budget for a new sailing vessel capable of carrying 100,000 tons of gold. This will make up for our loss as well as it will be being promised to make new swords. I shall make these requests to the Council of the State of the Kingdom. My message is to meet.

Are you going to be saying this has no doubt we are close to peace with the Philistines than we were before the plowshare treaty? did you fall on what we gained from it?

The Philistines have agreed to buy all our wheat crops until 21 A.D.

Reported by permission through the I Ching.

It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book.

It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book. It is a very interesting book.

Worldwatch by Gene H. Hogberg

REPORTING FROM ARMAGEDDON...

While warming up the early morning coffee the other day I was performing my customary dial twisting ritual flipping back and forth between NBC's Today Show and the CBS Morning News television being the ukor-ridden competitive market that it is the best shows are always on at the same time even news and special events which make a full time news watcher like myself furious.

During a commercial time out of the Today I switched over two dial spots to Hughes Ridd's Morning News. A special report was in progress from the volatile Middle East. The newsmen was interviewing Israeli citizens on whether they felt their nation was justified in developing and more important using atomic weapons. All those interviewed the unanimous answer was yes even from a gentleman philosopher who had been up until now a lifelong pacifist. To him Israel's burdened back was slowly but steadily being shoved up against a political Walling Wall. Israel would be worse come to worse in a future Arab Israeli war. Israel would be justified in using the bomb if it had it and in risking even self imposed extinction rather than submitting to the threatening Arab armies.

In rich symbolism the CBS reporter switching to a very appropriate outside location for his sign off said "This is Tom Fonten reporting from the plains of Armageddon."

This made me think Fonten just might have to do another report from the same spot in another ten years, the way things are going in the world now.

Outside the singularly frightful U.S. USSR race (believed to a mere test by means of the Vladivostok Summit agreement) the nuclear gun threatens to break out all over.

India thought the world by exploding its device in May 1974. Now Ali Bhutto the president of Arab led Pakistan claims that his frustrated impoverished country might be forced into a crash program to develop a device of its own.

France and China continue their expensive nuclear weapons research development deployment programs.

But it is in the extremely narrow geographical and political confines of the Middle East where nuclear proliferation could have the greatest impact on the world. It is a frightened Israel actually in the process of developing the bomb. Will Japan despite U.S. assurances to the contrary divert the plutonium from her promised U.S. nuclear power plants into weapons production? Will the Soviets despite the heavy curbs of détente supply tactical nuclear weapons to certain of their Middle East allies?

It may all of the above speculation truly dangerous or are now treated to continual rumors from many circles about categorically denied of course of future military action against the Middle East oil producers whose crude oil prices come down or in case there is another embargo?

How near are we then at the time of Armageddon reported in Revelation 16:16 where all the major nations of the world will be gathered for history's greatest bloodbath?



WEEK ENDIMINI FEB 8 1975

Europe's Inconclusive Summit

By Ray Kinoshita and Henry Sturbe

PARIS—Europe is not yet weak enough to unite. That's the real message here at the conclusion of the summit conference of the nine member nations of the European Economic Community.

Having agreed beforehand not to disagree during the conference, the nine produced a final communiqué that covered safe ground and did not touch on positive generalities. But in no concrete manner were the assembled heads of state able to come to grips with the economic stagnation Western Europe is in—the danger of a major economic depression, the unemployment problem, the inflationary pressure, the energy crisis, the need for a more unified approach to the common market, the need for a more unified approach to the common market, the need for a more unified approach to the common market.

At the conference, relatively unimportant details were discussed. Much of the European summit conference was spent in arguing for a "flexible" approach to the common market, the need for a more unified approach to the common market, the need for a more unified approach to the common market.

40TH PARALLEL
As announced from page 11, the summit conference of the nine member nations of the European Economic Community... (text continues with details of the summit and the role of the 40th parallel in the context of the article).

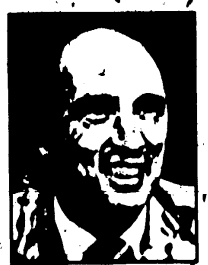
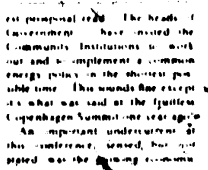
London... (text continues with details of the summit and the role of London in the context of the article).

WILL FINNELL, FEB 6, 1975

course is the key factor in the global economic picture. Yet in Paris, the Nine were unable to come up with a meaningful united approach toward the oil-producing nations and six or six other major oil consumers, most notably the U.S.

In fact in the twelve-page final communiqué delivered in Paris only 19 lines were devoted to the crucial issue of energy. The energy

Presidentiscard d'Estaing of France gives toast to fellow European heads of state in Paris



Giuseppe Paolo Elviri, Italian

... (text continues with details of the summit and the role of Giuseppe Paolo Elviri in the context of the article).

might of Germany. Only Germany has been able to hold its inflation rate to a near manageable level. Moreover, the monetary reserves of all eight other EEC members added together do not approach the formidable mass possessed by Bonn.

As a result of West Germany's continual good showing leadership within the Community is passing to the Bonn government almost by default.

While Chancellor Helmut Schmidt did a remarkably tactful job at the Paris Summit in not forcing German economic muscle, the voice of Germany could soon become the dominant one in European affairs if...

... (text continues with details of the summit and the role of Helmut Schmidt in the context of the article).

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WORLD PRESS LOOKS AT... Europe's Plight

The meeting of the nine European leaders in Paris in early December provided a striking demonstration of Western Europe's political weakness.

Deterioration of worldwide economic conditions, shocks created by unilateral actions of member nations, stubborn nationalism within the EEC, the near bankruptcy status of Britain and Italy and finally the lack of oil embargo have stopped the progress of the market in its tracks.

Here are some comments on Europe's plight from major European and American news sources.

Adrian and Londoners
The European political scene is a mosaic of weaknesses. It is a continent adrift in peril and without a leader. Manifestly defeated, the European electorate has constructed a vicious political circle. It elects governments that are either weak or fragmented, then the leaders must depose these energies in sheer survival with neither authority nor power to handle basic problems.

London Times
The summit conference of the nine member nations of the European Economic Community was not a mere trading box for a political enterprise destined to change the face of Europe. But since these departed the reputation of the summit conference has been damaged.

Fundamentally Weak
Europe is in a profound crisis. The crisis will not be resolved in two days of a summit conference. Europe is sick and she is fundamentally sick. For several years she has experienced an economic and monetary crisis. It is clear that there is more to the crisis than high prices. It is clear that there is more to the crisis than high prices. It is clear that there is more to the crisis than high prices.

British Post
The philosophy of the founding fathers was that the creation of a common market with all the progress in the way of economic and social progress would lead to the establishment of political union. In fact the way of economic and social progress would lead to the establishment of political union. In fact the way of economic and social progress would lead to the establishment of political union.

U.S. Concept of Unity Lost
The common market will not make a united confederation of Western Europe gripping toward unity. But so many officials pointed out that they were engaged in the past in activities Europe with walls around it, assuming a role as a neo-imperialist in a single possible. No such have seen in the de...

What emerges from the thinking of the European leaders is a slower, more flexible formation guided into a cohesive force by principles of self-interest and even economic survival.
Chris H. Lawrence, New York Times, December 11, 1974

Maybe Glue United Up
Nine days when magic glue existed to make perhaps a federal Europe are gone. Under M. (iscard d'Estaing) France is trying with obvious denial whenever the opinion polls look particularly bad to have the market with America. The aspirations in Germany and Benelux for a united Europe of the future, although still passionately held by some, are now very shop worn. Despite the press book commitments to future elections, the European parliament, monetary and economic union are in on the summit of the time. European community members put a stamp on the idea that Europe will remain a loose confederation of nation states.

The Economist, London, December 12, 1974

Supranational Enterprise Evaded
Time and again EEC spokesmen, President Walter Hallstein and his successor Jean Rey of Belgium, reminded the world that the EEC was not a mere trading box for a political enterprise destined to change the face of Europe. But since these departed the reputation of the summit conference has been damaged.

British Post
The philosophy of the founding fathers was that the creation of a common market with all the progress in the way of economic and social progress would lead to the establishment of political union. In fact the way of economic and social progress would lead to the establishment of political union. In fact the way of economic and social progress would lead to the establishment of political union.



The INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL...

The Missing Dimension in Knowledge

It's positively astounding! It has remained undiscovered by science! No religion has revealed it! Higher education has never taught it! Is it possible the whole world has been deceived — as to the awesome purpose of human life — as to the way to world peace and how it will come? And could it be true that the real gospel message Christ brought from heaven... REVEALS this missing dimension? This is the eye opening story of the real gospel message of Jesus Christ — of how this missing dimension was withheld, and the whole world deceived.

PART I

Does it come as an astounding shock to learn that the most important dimension in knowledge was sent by God the Father to this earth by Jesus Christ? But that message was suppressed by those living in the very first century? That Jesus himself was put to death for revealing it? That his apostles who were also martyred for proclaiming it?

Yet this message from the living God if humanity had received and heeded it would have saved this world from nearly all of its troubles, sufferings and evils.

The very word "gospel" means good news. That message when fully understood reveals a human potential so stupendous, so awesome it appears at first to be totally beyond belief.

That message reveals facts about humanity that man in the past knew for which mankind was put on earth where we are going what is the way to world peace, happiness and universal prosperity, what are the true values that are the awe some human potential, and how may it be achieved.

Answers to these questions from the most important knowledge ever made accessible to man. Yet man spurned and rejected it.

Christ's gospel message when fully grasped reveals what science has been utterly unable to discover. It reveals what religion in this world knows nothing of. It reveals what the world's higher education has never known or taught.

It reveals the most wonderful fact in a human mind could ever come to know. It reveals what I call the missing dimension in knowledge. The knowledge most vitally necessary to know.

It is the most monumental fact news ever revealed by our Father in heaven. It would men have wanted to reject it, hate it, put to death the messengers who brought it?

Yes, why? The answer is that men were too ignorant. And all nations are deceived today.

The purpose of this article is to reveal how men were deceived and to make plain what that good news really was. And is.

Nevertheless it was suppressed. And that all important revelation from the living God was not again proclaimed to the world until our present century.

Even today most of humanity has never heard the glorious true gospel. And even those millions who do hear it have been so dragged and stupefied by false religions and false "gospels" that they

by Herbert W. Armstrong

only become confused. The result, indeed, is stranger than any fiction. Prepare yourself to read astounding truth. Hardly believe yet! (1)

The Arch-Deceiver

It is not intellectually fashionable today to believe in the actual existence of a devil. Biblical revelation explains this.

Biblical prophesies say plainly that in our time today the worst wrong would be deceived. Notice one such prophecy in the book of Revelation chapter 12 verse 9.

"And the great dragon was cast out that old serpent called the Devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world."

This Satan is revealed as the arch deceiver who has deceived the whole world. But how did he manage to deceive the human race?

In the third chapter of Genesis he is shown as the deceiver of mother Eve. Through her, he caused the first man, Adam, to commit the first sin by a human hand.

When Jesus was born in Bethle-hem Satan was still here on earth as the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He is also the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2), holding sway over the whole of man kind.

Christ's message revealed the awesome news of the final, total, and his banishment from the earth. It revealed that Christ was coming as his successor to take over the axis of all nations. In Satan's mind, it was necessary for him to go all out to prevent that message from going to the world.

But how could he do it? First he moved to destroy the Christ child and thus prevent his growing up to proclaim that message. He influenced King Herod the Roman provincial ruler over the land of Israel and Herod caused all infants in Bethlehem and surrounding areas two years old or under to be put to death. But God warned Joseph and Mary moving them to flee to Egypt with the infant Jesus until Herod was dead.

Again when Jesus was about thirty years old Satan sought to destroy him spiritually. Before he qualified to preach a word of his message. But the supreme temptation with which Satan planned to ensnare Jesus became the very way which qualified Christ to depose Satan and to become ruler over all nations. Jesus thus qualified to restore the government of God on earth and to set up the kingdom of God. However, it was not in God's manner plan for Christ to be

inducted into that office until the end of mankind's first 6,000 years on earth.

Nevertheless, Jesus proceeded with the mission for which he had come to earth at that time. He proclaimed his message and taught it to his disciples.

Satan, however, still was in power to sway the world. Even though many of the Jews to whom Jesus preached believed on him as the promised Messiah, they were swayed against believing his message — his gospel.

How did, and does, Satan deceive, move, and sway humanity? The amazing answer will be given later.

His Gospel Rejected

Notice how it happened. In the 11th chapter of John, verses 30 through 46 you will read:

"As he spake these words, many believed on him: then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [his message] then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free: but ye seek to kill me, because my word [his gospel message] hath no place in you. But now ye seek to kill me a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: for I proceeded forth and came from God, neither came I of myself, but he sent me."

In due time the Romans crucified Jesus. But he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. From there, he sent God's Holy Spirit for his disciples.

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The Counterfeit "Gospel"

In Samaria north of Jerusalem, lived a Gentile people whom the Jews of Christ's day spurned, calling them "dogs." They had been moved there from areas of the Babylonian Empire about 700 B.C. by Shalmaneser of Assyria (II Kings 17:18, 21, 24). They had brought with them into the land of Samaria their own Babylonian mystery religion in the 14th chapter of Acts you'll read of their religious leader in the time of Christ, Simon the sorcerer.

Christ raised up the church of God to stand back of the proclaiming of his gospel message by his apostles to A.D. 31. By A.D. 23,

after a most amazing initial growth, a great persecution set in against God's church (Acts 8:1). At that time, A.D. 33, this Simon the sorcerer had himself baptized along with multitudes of others. He then tried to buy an apostleship in God's church from the apostles Peter and John with money — but of course was refused and rebuked.

Thereupon this Simon attempted the name of Christ calling his Babylonian mystery religion "Christianity." Satan swayed this man and used this instrument to persecute and all but destroy the true church of God. Before the end of the first century — probably by A.D. 70, he managed to suppress the message Christ had brought from God.

There ensued "the lost century" in the history of the true church of God. There was a well organized conspiracy to blot out all record of church history during that period. A hundred years later, history reveals "Christianity" utterly unlike the church Christ founded.

It had taken the name of Christ and applied it to the Babylonian mystery religion. It had replaced the message Jesus brought from God with a "gospel" about the person of Christ — proclaiming the message but suppressing the entire missing dimension from his message.

And for at least 18th centuries the true gospel which he proclaimed to the world.

"Another Gospel" Gains Acceptance

By about A.D. 58, when the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Galatians, many already were turning to this new, new counterfeit "gospel."

Paul wrote "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another [was not good news], but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6, 7).

To the Thessalonians about A.D. 54, Paul wrote "For the messengers of iniquity doth already work" (II Thes. 2:7). It was the Babylonian mystery religion, started by this Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8), a religion of iniquity, lawlessness, a religion rejecting the law of God. Much more of this later.

The True and The False Church

In Revelation are pictured two churches, each of which go under the name of Christ. One, pictured in the 12th chapter, portrays the true church of God small in number, reduced through perfection and martyrdom, but obedient to God's law, based by Jesus. The other, in the 17th chapter, called "Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth" (verse 5). In other words, the Babylonian mystery religion steeped in "iniquity" — abominating God's law.

During the time of Paul's ministry, these same Simon Magus ministers were troubling the Corinthian, Paul wrote to the Corinthian, "I am jealous over you with godly jealousy; for I have compassed you in mine husband, that I

may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ [the true church in the resurrection, is to be married to Christ, spiritually]. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he [a minister of Simon Magus] that cometh preacheth as other Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit [of rebellion and disobedience] which ye have not received, or another gospel." (II Cor. 11:2-4). More, later, about the connection with the deception of the first woman, Eve.

But notice, they were proclaiming another Jesus, as well as another gospel, and they followed another spirit of rebellion and not obedience. That deception has continued through the centuries and is the state today. They took the name of Christ. They called their Babylonian religion "Christianity." But they not only presented a counterfeit gospel but a counterfeit spirit of self centeredness and a counterfeit Jesus. It is suggested the reader request our free booklet, *The Real Jesus*.

Of these false ministers, Paul wrote further to the Corinthian, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And as servants of righteousness, they transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness." (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Paul, John and Jude Expose Them

Peter wrote of these deceivers "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies. And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they that feigned words make merchandise of you." (II Peter 2:1-3).

John wrote of these same perverters of the true gospel, denying obedience to the way of God "He that saith I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4). "They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us" (I John 2:19).

Jude warned us that he should "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness [license to disobey]. Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion [government], and speak evil of dignities. Whom unto them for they have gone in the way of Cain, and run greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gaining of Cove. These are spots in your feasts of charity, as clouds they are without water, carried about of (Continued on page 11)

"United Nations" or Disunited Non-Nations?

From the early days of the Cold War, when the United Nations General Assembly appeared more as a sounding board for Communist propaganda than a serious attempt to solve the monumental problems of the world, to the mid 70's and the United Nations resolution recognizing the Palestinian Liberation Organization's claim to West Bank and Gaza, it has been clear there is nothing really "united" about the United Nations.

United Nations—Another "League of Nations"?

by Raymond McNeil

What has the U.N. accomplished during the past thirty years? Will it last till the end of this century? Or, how serious a crisis has it averted the ultimate major morose of the U.N.?

Thus, the League of Nations proved powerless either to prevent or stop real wars. By 1919 men had lost faith in this organ of world peace. They turned to their own national peace.

But at the end of World War II the bleeding nations were weary. Over forty million civilians and soldiers had died in that ghastly carnage. Men were once again sick and tired of war. But how could they prevent future wars?

Once again it was obvious to many that the world needed some kind of a super government if international peace were to be maintained.

The world's elder statesmen worked long and hard to create an effective instrument of peace and in 1945 the United Nations was born. This was man's best attempt so far to build an instrument which, hopefully, could prevent war among the nations.

Satan Up, God Down?

The Center for Policy Research tells us that belief in Satan over the last decade is up 10 percent, while belief in God has declined 10%. Between 1963 and 1973 the percentage of those who believed in Satan jumped from 17 to 48 percent, while another 20 percent believed that Lucifer "probably" exists.

Meanwhile the ranks of believers in God declined from 77 to 69 percent, with the number of avowed atheists doubling.

WEEK ENDING FEB. 8, 1975

complain that the United Nations is little more than an opportunity for Afro-Asian bloc, "third world" revolutionaries to scream themselves at the United States, but there seems little the U.S. can do except continue to play the role of whipping boy. While possessing only one vote among over 100 nations, the United States continues to shoulder twenty-five percent of the United Nations' costs.

Today, what of rich Arab nations want to rich Arab nations get. The U.S. is far more fearful of international repercussions from Japan and Western Europe, should an other new oil embargo be precipitated, than the immediate energy crunch at home.

"So far, it's been out with Nationalist China, reject South Africa, but lay out the red carpet for a non-nation national leader, Yasir Arafat, and lay the groundwork for showing out Israel.

"United"? How? "Nations"? Where? 11

leaved it to be man's last hope at preventing future global wars.

Shortly after its creation it became suspect that this organization, like the League of Nations before it, was ineffective as an instrument of peace. It proved to be a divided organization divided between the Communist and Democratic nations. And a house divided cannot stand. Drawing out cold war heightened antagonism within the U.N.

The U.N. proved unable to prevent the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973. Likewise it was unable to prevent or, by itself, even shorten the Korean War. Neither was it able to do anything impressive in the Congo, Vietnam or any other major area of conflict.

The more recent 1974 war in Cyprus proved once again how helpless the U.N. really is.

In 1974 the General Assembly voted to suspend South Africa from the General Assembly for the rest of the year. And then, as it is to add insult to injury, the U.N. took the unprecedented step of inviting the leader of a non-nation, Yasser Arafat, to speak before the General Assembly.

In his speech Arafat said he came bearing an "olive branch" in one hand and a "freedom fighter's gun" in the other. Though millions of TV viewers got a glimpse of Arafat's "gun," no one has yet claimed to have really seen any sign of an "olive branch."

Today, the U.N. is more divided than ever between the wealthy "have" and the poor "have-not" nations of the world.

The real voting power of the 138 nation U.N. is held by the "Third World" nations. It now looks like these smaller nations have taken control of the U.N. — especially its General Assembly.

Many fear that any Israel will be expelled from that assembly because most of the 138 member nations of the U.N. are openly pro-Arab.

To its credit, the U.N. has accomplished much good in the area of culture, education and economics. However, the U.N. continues to be used as a sounding board for various nations to hammer out their propaganda.

The U.N. has the form but not the substance or the power to keep the peace. It has a beautiful skeletal framework, but not enough muscle on its bones to really make it work.

How long will it be before the world recognizes that the U.N. cannot of itself ever bring world peace? □



HOW LIBERATED CAN YOU GET?

by Amy Bowman

If one can successfully look into the Women's Movement and not become "maimerized" by the emotional impact of the battle cry, some interesting and sound concepts can be salvaged.

Between the black-hat image of the militant, man-hating feminist and the white-hat image of female gentility is the more balanced outlook, such as Margaret Fuller's who sees woman "as a nature to grow, as an intellect to discern, as a soul to live freely and unimpeded to unfold such powers as were given her."

Theodora Parker observed that "the domestic functions of woman does not exhaust her powers." It can certainly consume a great percentage of her time — the responsibility of becoming a wife and mother cannot justifiably be tossed aside in the sole pursuit of "human identity" — but the lives of most women can encompass more.

The need or impulse for personal expression is being more widely recognized and accepted by today's biologists, social scientists and psychologists as a primary need, as basic as love and sex. Yet one long-term survey, conducted by a university, revealed the startling fact: When a selected group of graduating men and women were given IQ tests, the women rated slightly higher as an average than the men. The same group was tested 10 years later, and it was found that the men who had married had continued to increase their IQ (1970).



much as 30 points) but (for most of the married women's IQs had actually dropped. The men, through their contact with the outside world, were being constantly challenged and stimulated while the women who had become housewives had fitted their boys with mental tasks. Interpersonal communication was limited to other mothers and the juvenile minds of two- and three-year olds. Such diverse worlds create a communication gap between husbands and wives which can result in marriage problems.

What is true "liberation"? Does it mean being totally independent of the man and the family unit? Or can it encompass being a competent, efficient, independent woman who effectively fulfills her responsibilities in the home, but who may also apply them outside the home should there be such a desire or need (as in case of death, divorce or disability of the man)?

Interestingly enough, the Bible answers these questions. Many would consider the Bible as a repressive book against Women's Lib, but let's see what the Bible says by examining the life of the woman of Proverbs 31. This woman was a wife and mother who performed all the womanly arts pertaining to the home: cooking, sewing, shopping for food (v. 13-15), she was thrifty and energetic enough to plant a garden (v. 16). Yet she had developed such talents as upholstering with fine tapestry, and she was evidently informed and knowledgeable enough in the area of real estate to be capable of inspecting land and wisely choosing whether or not to buy it (v. 16). She was aware of the economy (v. 18). She had physical strength (v. 23) but wore very stylish and feminine clothing (v. 22). She extended herself beyond her own family unit to get involved with the community around her (v. 20). She had a part-time job which brought in extra income (v. 24). Finally, she was not a silent partner. She did speak with wit, yet kind, advice and suggestions (v. 26).

What did her family and the community think of this woman? Was she supposed to bring too aggressive, and independent, and rebellious? No! In fact quite the opposite. Her husband not only had trust in her abilities (v. 14) but praised her for them (v. 28-29), her children were extremely proud of their mother (v. 28) and her accomplishments in the home and the community brought her praise and recognition from the civic leaders (v. 31).

How did she become so liberated? First of all, she was a responsible person to her husband and family. She definitely had her priorities straight, yet her family and society did not deny her the opportunity to fulfill herself beyond her family unit. Another major key is that she was loved, encouraged and appreciated by her family. They didn't make her life a matter of "either/or" between family and greater personal fulfillment.

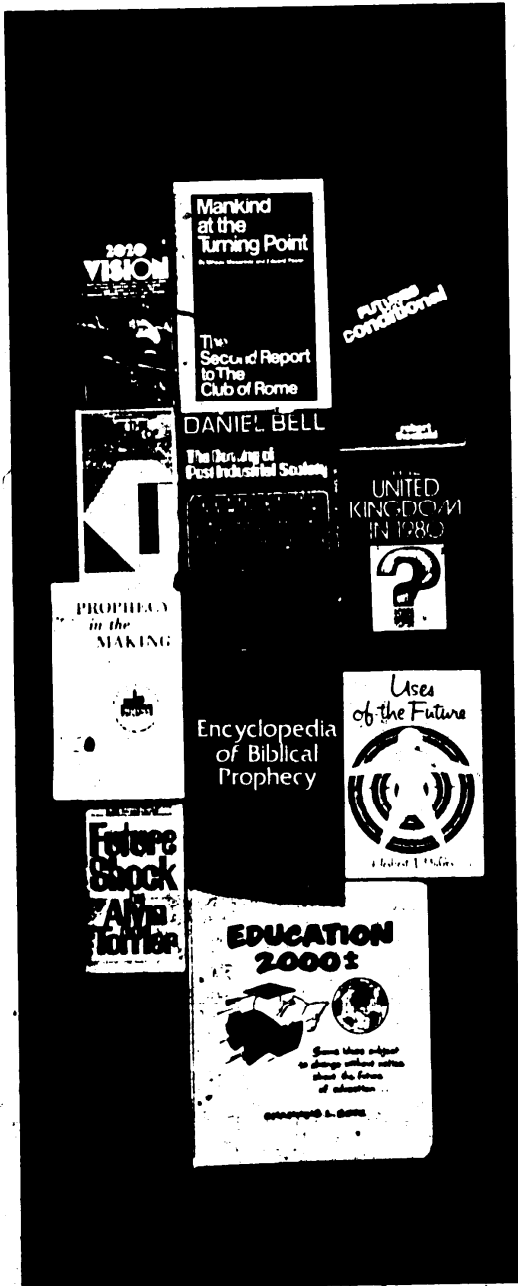
So how can we view the Women's Movement and apply it more rationally? We should realize that individual development is extremely important, but also that an individual is of little consequence until it is linked up with others. Women have an awesome and vitally important opportunity, through their individual and collective uniqueness, to improve the quality of life.

Add of the "woman's role" is the ultimate identity crisis, Jesus Christ Himself speaks: "For in the resurrection they [in man and a woman] neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels [of God] in heaven" (Matt. 22:30, RSV; Mark 12:25; Luke 20:35). Paul explains, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:28-29).

Just how "liberated" can you get? □

PROPHECY— No Longer a Dirty Word

by Robert L. Kohn



Ten years ago you would have been labeled a nut, a crackpot, a charlatan, a weirdo — for so foolishly or naively dabbling at the edges of society. Today you could be a scientist, an economist, a psychologist, a theologian — a highly respected member of your profession, investigating the forefront of human knowledge. You are a prophet. You predict the future.

The Future Comes of Age

The future isn't what it used to be. It has invaded the present. What will happen has suddenly become terribly relevant to what is happening.

Though mankind has always been interested in the future, never before has the future so seriously concerned all strata of society and so dominated the present.

A virtual tidal wave of future-oriented books has flooded the market: computer simulations, technological forecasts, scientific projections, socio-political predictions, eco-environmental extrapolations, innovative futuristic approaches, wildly original conceptual ideas, transcendental philosophical musings, theological speculations, and even science fiction.

The approaches vary, but the effects are the same: human beings, uncertain of their prospects in this overpopulated, over-missiled world of the last quarter of the twentieth century, have become obsessed with the future.

In the past decade — really since the late 1960s — a steadily increasing public interest in the future has directly paralleled the advent of serious interest by professionals in widely diverse fields. Physical scientists are predicting what will happen to the earth's depleted resources; social scientists are predicting what will happen to man's hypertensive society; economists are predicting what will happen to man's stagnating capacity to produce goods and services.

Forecasting the future has become serious business — and prophecy is now a respected member of the Establishment.

Parapsychology and the Occult

But it is not only in the traditional sciences that prophecy has suddenly

become culturally significant. Triggered by the downfall of man's total confidence in technocratic materialism, the past few years have witnessed the strange and paradoxical revival of widespread interest in the supernatural.

Both in parapsychology — the scientific study of ESP (extra sensory perception) — and in many religious, quasi-religious and occult groups, prophecy is having the progressively greater impact on the general public.

In parapsychology the technical term precognition is used to describe awareness of future events or situations by nonphysical means. Precognition is currently being seriously and intensively studied by trained investigators around the world. As a result, the number of scientists who believe that the human mind can nonphysically apprehend the future has been rapidly growing.

Though the general public is largely unconcerned with these technical (and esoteric) studies in the sciences, economists and para-psychology, public interest in prophecy is high. Increasing numbers of people gorge themselves with the virtual amalgam of occult prophecy — mediums, ouija boards, tarot cards, Ching, the papal prophets like Edgar Cayce, Jean Dixon, etc. and especially astrology. How many millions consult their daily horoscope can only be estimated — but it surely must exceed by many times the number of those who read their Bibles.

For such enormous appeal to continue, one is tempted to conclude that there must really be something there — and the accuracy (albeit occasional) of occult prophecies does seem to transcend the physical.

(Note: Accuracy would not make the occult good, only real and not everything real is good!)

Human beings have an innate desire to know the future. In our day, this desire has almost become an obsession.

Prophecy in Religion

Many religious organizations have been quick to join the bandwagon. Some of the new Eastern-oriented religions (really quite old) that have recently invaded the West have

complex and frightening prophetic ideas of the future (sometimes only fully known to insiders) often regarding their own ultimate recognition and supremacy.

Until recently, mainline Christianity has largely (and ironically) ignored prophecy — when according to its professed scriptures, it should have been leading the pack with continuous emphasis on prophecy as instructed by its claimed founder (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, Revelation, etc.)

However, a growing segment of fundamentalist and evangelical Christianity has recently become more concerned about prophecy — actually since 1967, when interest was substantially enhanced by the Israeli capture of the old city of Jerusalem in the Six Day War. In the past seven years, a large number of books and magazines have been prominent regarding all facets of biblical prophecy. And every more recently, with the specter of widespread massive famines, world-wide economic catastrophe, and Middle East geopolitics prominently present in most people's daily consciousness, biblical prophecy has taken on new significance. (Even those people who vehemently reject the direct inspiration and/or the literal interpretation of the Bible are reluctantly being forced to admit that world events in the last quarter of the twentieth century will annoyingly make the Bible seem accurate.)

Though interest in prophecy has become universal, both the approaches to prophecy and the specific prophecies themselves widely diverge, from one group to another. But strangely, the general conclusions of these widely diverse forms of prophecy converge — all agree that humanity is heading for its most calamitous, most treacherous, most perilous period of time in all human history. We are, as William F. Tompkins put it, "at the edge of history."

Prophecy in Prophecy

It will be a time of great confusion — religious and prophetic confusion to add to the confusion created by the economic and geopolitical changes in the years ahead. The buzz word of the day will change from "attention" to "hysteria."

Bible prophecies — and now actual fact — shows that an increasingly distraught and anxious public will turn its attention to prophecy in the years ahead. Human beings, especially in catastrophic times, will desperately desire to know the future. And where there is a demand, there will be a supply, where there are buyers, there will be sellers. Prophecy will be provided cheap and in abundance.

The last quarter of the twentieth century, as we approach the year 2000, will herald the greatest avalanche of prophetic statements, utterances and proclamations that the world has ever seen. As illogical and irrational as it would have seemed to a "logical" and "rational" society a few years ago, this is now coming to pass. To have then prophesied that prophecy itself would soon become commonplace and eagerly accepted by our modern masses would have sounded absurd. Yet prophecy now lives — it has been resurrected.

What about the current and soon coming prophecies themselves? Some will be partly right, most will be mostly wrong. To the confusion of everybody, or almost everybody — For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matt. 24:24)

Humanity's best moments have advanced various theories to characterize the last quarter of the twentieth century: an energy crisis, an ecological watershed, a population fault, a crossover, a war/peace crossroads. They are all right. But the complete Prophecy, and eventually religious fanaticism on an unprecedented worldwide scale, will dominate the scene so completely that other human events will become insignificant in comparison. Long though to be dying, religious, general and prophecy in particular will make the greatest comeback in world history.

And that's what the Plain Truth has been saying for over 40 years. Prophecy has been one of the primary themes of the Plain Truth since its inception in February, 1934, and prophecy will continue to be a primary theme of every issue in this new, more comprehensive, more urgent, more frequent format.

Subjects to be covered in future issues include: the uniqueness of the 20th century, alternative futures, incredible predictions, the nature of history, the coming transformations, as well as all aspects of prophecy: scientific, philosophical, theological, religious, occult, the history of prophecy, the prophecy of history, when prophecies fail and the dangers of prophecy.

The Plain Truth staff will be analyzing every significant world trend and event. Personally (and others) will be following developments in prophecies and religion, reporting them in these pages. All the forms and varieties of prophecy and religion in this world will be analyzed in the context of biblical prophecy.

In other words, we will be watching prophecy in prophecy. The watch promises to be spectacular! ☪





Ambassador College Supplies Missing Dimension in Education

by Lee Stocker

Now in its twenty eighth year Ambassador College has produced hundreds of graduates who had received a high standard of college education. Many of them have returned their allegiance to the United States Ambassador College education.

The type of education at Ambassador College is not merely preparation for the business world but also for the spiritual and moral development of the individual. The type of education at Ambassador College is not merely preparation for the business world but also for the spiritual and moral development of the individual. The type of education at Ambassador College is not merely preparation for the business world but also for the spiritual and moral development of the individual.

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How to Survive Scarcity

by Ron Horwath

Scarcity is not really a new word. We in the United States have practically forgotten such a term existed but believe it or not it has been right there in our Webster's all along. I know I just checked it to be sure.

Suddenly the old standby we use to describe the American economic scene "plenty" "surplus" "growth" and the like "winded ark" in fact scarcity has achieved such dreaded proportions at least in the minds of consumers that we might well consider it a new word after all.

What most people don't know is that scarcity is one of the fundamental concepts behind a science, or perhaps more appropriately an art that is much in the news today. Economics is now being taught through a high school and college curriculum that is not only of the first few pages of the author's manual but also of the last few pages of the author's manual. The basic concepts behind economics are money, but scarcity in fact there will only be a definition somewhat like that found in Sam Houston's famous text "Economics is the study of how men and society rise up, choosing what to consume the use of money to employ more productive resources that could have alternative uses to produce more for consumption."

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a shortage of some commodity develops it is only logical that consumers will bid the price of that commodity upward. This is why the Moon Line is so valuable - because there's only one.

Go, to take a practical and recent example if there is a partial failure of the soybean crop, then the price of soybeans and of products made from them will logically go up. People will have to either buy less soybean products or buy less of something else. If consumers should be quick to recognize and accept a shortage they're not. Instead of acting like capitalists and realizing that soybeans due to their low degree of scarcity are more valuable they act like gamblers and start expecting the government to bring down the price. It's always good to have a government around so you have someone to blame.

Certainly a price rise could be partially the government's fault. A price rise could also be the fault of a private interest that is so large it can partially control the market but when a price increase is induced by a crop failure as a result of shortage or some other naturally similar cause there are only three alternatives consumers can pursue.

1. If public pressure is strong the price rise may be reduced or even eliminated. But if the price rise is not eliminated it will not be eliminated to produce more and the scarcity conditions will persist. That's partially what happened when former President Nixon first applied price controls.

2. If public pressure is strong and the price rise is not eliminated it will not be eliminated to produce more and the scarcity conditions will persist. That's partially what happened when former President Nixon first applied price controls.

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Rate-roster Ratings

Rate-roster ratings are a new development in the Water Works Rating Department in the 17th Street area of the city. The new ratings are based on the amount of water used per square foot. The new ratings are based on the amount of water used per square foot. The new ratings are based on the amount of water used per square foot.

Man of Few Words

Man of few words is a new book by the author of the best-selling book 'The Book Tells You Why'. The book is a collection of short stories and essays. The book is a collection of short stories and essays. The book is a collection of short stories and essays.

The Book Tells You Why!

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Personal from...

Herbert Armstrong

(Continued from page 1)

and the supporters of evolution but also into Genesis and other books of the Bible.

I was astounded at what I saw in these books.

In Genesis I was intrigued with the incident of the forbidden fruit. There I read of a Creator God revealing basic knowledge to the first two humans he had just created. Connecting the Genesis account with additional revealed elsewhere in the Bible I saw that their Maker was revealing to them man and woman what they were, why humanity was put on earth and the way to peace, happiness and joy in material and spiritual abundance. What he taught them, strangely, seems to have been entirely overlooked by all religions. I saw there also the cause of all humanity's troubles: evil, sufferings and woes.

Then in the first four books of the New Testament I saw where Jesus Christ came with a message from the great God in heaven. That message scattered all through those four books the writings of Paul, James, Peter and John as well as much of the Old Testament was the same revelation of truth that their Maker had been teaching Adam and Eve.

That message covered the way to world peace — and how it actually will yet come. It revealed the cause of all human troubles and evils. It revealed the incredible awesome human potential. It revealed the purpose for which humanity was put here on earth. It revealed where we are going and what is necessary to reach the missing dimension of knowledge! Yet all the revealed truth appears to have been completely outside of and apart from the field of any religion as taught.

But also I saw that even those who believed on Jesus as the messenger refused to believe his message. Just as our first parents disobeyed what their Maker said so those who lived in Jesus' day (except 120 believers including his disciples) disobeyed what he said (John 8:30-43).

Our first parents instead of believing what their Maker revealed in basic vital knowledge look to themselves the knowledge of good and evil — began to decide for themselves what is right and what is wrong. And all humanity has followed in their example. Thus humanity cut itself off from revelation as the source of basic knowledge.

Notwithstanding, an all-wise, benevolent and loving God caused that basic revelation to be committed to writing in the Holy Scriptures. Yet that missing dimension in knowledge somehow seems never to have found its way into any of the world's religions — even that called Christianity!

As stated in Jesus' day, none but a handful of faithful disciples believed the message the great God sent by him from heaven, although many believed on the messenger — that is, that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah.

WEEK ENDING FEB. 8, 1975

In Brief

by Stanley R. Rader

During the past seven years Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has traveled as extensively as any man in the entire history of the world, and during that same period I have been privileged to accompany him in his worldwide efforts to bring to the people of all nations the Announcement and to establish and develop programs that are meaningful, relevant and important to the nation and the people involved that they may live more full and abundant lives. Each year has been one of increased activity, and as we look ahead into 1975 we realize that we will be in other countries with other people more than 75 percent of our time — spending more time in an aircraft than a professional commercial pilot.

People often ask me, "How does Mr. Armstrong do it? How can he keep up such a pace? How can a man approaching 83 years have the vitality and energy of one half his age?" In the Philippines recently, where Mr. Armstrong was interviewed by the national media and a live radio conference in Iloilo just prior to receiving an honorary doctorate degree, Mr. Armstrong admitted that perhaps the one determining factor in his vitality and comparative youth was the fact that he always had a mission to fulfill, and it was that determination to fulfill his duty that had permitted him to maintain the vigor and strength necessary for its accomplishment.

Still, it was very gratifying and inspiring to meet Maestro Arturo Rubinstein recently in New York. Seldom, if ever, does Mr. Armstrong spend time with a man five years senior to him, and, in fact, the Maestro jokingly referred to Mr. Armstrong as a youngster, mere child, and reminded him that when he was 13 and Mr. Armstrong was 8 he would not have even spoken to Mr. Armstrong, the difference in their age being so vast. Mr. Rubinstein is another man who has kept his vitality and youth by dedicating his life not only to music, but also to its humanitarian aspects, using music, the universal language, as an inspiration to peoples everywhere and for bringing people happiness. Maestro Rubinstein visited Pasadena and gave a special, arecital at Ambassador College on January 15. If circumstances permit, plans are being readied for a television production which will show how both the Maestro and Mr. Armstrong have, in their separate spheres and in their own ways, brought so much to mankind, and are making daily important contributions to peace and better understanding among peoples everywhere.

Immediately after the concert Mr. Armstrong and I departed for our first extensive trip of 1975, a year that will include public appearances in major cities around the world before thousands of people, as well as important interviews with world leaders in these troubled capitals. In this column I will endeavor to give you the benefit of my personal observations of these world leaders and Mr. Armstrong, as well as my comments from time to time on the significance of events as they have occurred and seemingly will occur in the near future. Our first meeting of 1975 will be with King Hussein of Jordan and will take place immediately after both the Shah of Iran and King Faisal of Saudi Arabia have paid official state visits to Antman.

Then a Satan-inspired conspiracy arose among Gentiles living in that very first century in the country of Samaria north of Jerusalem, to suppress the message Christ had brought. Instead, they preached "another gospel" (see Galatians 1:8-7, II Corinthians 11:4) about the person of the messenger, Jesus Christ.

It is true, what is called "the gos-

pel" has been preached ever since — Christ has been preached to the world and is so being preached today — but his message is not except in the Plain Truth and the literature of the Worldwide Church of God.

Actually, Jesus' message — that revelation of the missing dimension in knowledge — was the original true gospel. But man living in the very first cen-

tury suppressed it, and others, each generation deceived and following the tradition taught them by the preceding generation, have followed their deception ever since! But they did not know they were deceived — else they could not have been deceived.

So it is even as foretold in the Bible (Revelation 12:9), that ALL NATIONS ARE DECEIVED TODAY.

It's absolutely amazing! It's astounding! But it seems that each generation since the first century, taught and indoctrinated by those of the preceding generation, have followed in the deceptive tradition. Those in the Christian religion who have looked into the Bible have tried to make their inherited tradition square with the Bible. So it has become common to think the Bible must not be taken literally. They do not observe what it says.

How often have others looked askance at me, shaking their heads and saying astonished, "Why, you surely don't take the Bible literally, do you? Why should it not be taken literally just like every other book? Why? I have found that if not bound by prejudiced tradition and indoctrinated by the traditional Christianity, it makes sense and supplies the only answers to humanity's problems and evils today.

In the first issue of the new Plain Truth appears the first installment of the book I am writing, cutting out from the Bible this revealed missing dimension in knowledge — revealing the incredible human potential it makes sense — and no other explanation or revelation does! It will continue, serially, once each month.

Meanwhile I continue proclaiming the same message in major public appearance campaigns in capitals around the world. □

The Incredible Human Potential...

(Continued from page 6)

Guide never had picked up in the roots, raging waves of the sea, foaming out their angry shapes, wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever" (Jude 1-13).

The Word "Gospel" Misleading Today

"Even the very word 'gospel' is misleading today, especially as used by evangelists. Proclaimers, their messengers, their strange lads and their heroines. The world has been and is full of 'gospel programs' on television, on radio, in print, and in personal evangelism.

So to almost any person, 'The gospel' was not proclaimed to the world for 184 centuries, and he will think you are crazy (certainly) when you counterclaim 'gospel' has been wonderfully proclaimed, messenger, while revealing the message of a 'gospel' of salvation offering and describing a fair 'salvation'.

It is based on the assumption that this is the time and the only place where God is trying to "get the whole world saved." But they do not know even other salvations, or how it is obtained.

What then is the true gospel? By now to read part two in the next issue. □



**Former Fed Chairman
SPEAKS OUT!**

Only a few months prior to the 1973 Yom Kippur war, West-ern experts confidently predicted the Arab oil producers would never act multilaterally to use their oil as a political weapon against supporters of Israel. Leading magazines with such reassuring statements were still in fairly current circulation when the Arab oil producers did just that. Suddenly, it seemed that virtually unknown Arab sheikdoms, some of them barely entering the 20th century in development, were holding a scimitar directed at the jugular of much of the developed world. Western Europe, almost totally dependent on oil imports, and Japan, wholly so, were quick to get the message. Diplomats scrambled to convince the Arabs of their governments' sincerest intentions to modify their positions toward Arab countries while softening their policies toward Israel. Perhaps never before in history had the combined impact of an embargo, followed by quadrupling prices of an essential commodity brought such undreamed-of results. No one could argue when all the facts were known that the Arab oil producers were receiving too little for their oil, or that at least some significant price hikes were long overdue. But the sudden quadrupling of oil prices sent country after country into a balance of payments nightmare. India, as a case in point, suddenly found herself literally unable to pay for the now four times higher oil she needed to continue the government programs to achieve self-sufficiency in food. Only years before, India had optimistic hopes of launching agricultural increases based upon the green revolution. But this in turn required greater mechanization of agriculture, requiring massive use of gasoline and diesel powered farm machinery, intensive fertilization with oil based chemicals, and massive treatment with chemical pesticides and herbicides (oil based), as well as modern storage facilities (heated by oil) and modernized truck and rail distribution methods (using gasoline).

India's hope for self-sufficiency has now vanished. The "green revolution" did not materialize as the salvation of traditionally food-deficient nations, and the soaring prices of energy plunged India monthly into serious balance of payments deficits. In country after country, soaring oil costs have dealt equally cruel blows. Italy and Britain have been posting deficits of enormous proportions, up to 2 billion dollars per month. How do such countries pay for their desperately needed energy requirements? They borrow. Britain has borrowed from central European banks as well as directly from Iran. But even borrowing has its limits, not only from unmanageable economies at home, but even from international sources equally concerned about the viability of those sound economies. Worried about the desperately shaky economy of Britain, Saudi Arabia recently served notice it would no longer accept sterling in payment for its oil. So while the Western industrial powers were incurring massive record breaking deficits, the Arab oil producers were collecting record breaking surpluses. For 1973, even including the last few months of that year following the Yom Kippur war, the oil-exporting countries were running surpluses of around \$5 billion. By year's end, 1974, the figure had leapt to \$85 billion. At the same time, the eight major industrial nations were running up a total balance of payments deficit of \$31 billion, while the same countries had achieved a \$9 billion surplus in 1973. So far, the only practical remedy has appeared to be borrowing back — recycling — the largest share of funds accrued by the oil producers. Now, suddenly, even that picture has changed. The reason? Recent gold and monetary shuffling. President Ford and President Giscard d'Estaing of France reached some significant understanding on the official price of gold at their meetings in the Caribbean recently

which brought immediate response in the form of thirty veiled threats from some oil producing nations. Obviously, any bilateral or unilateral action on gold policy by nations with significant gold reserves would immediately result in devaluation of such national currencies, making them far more competitive in payments for imports. The Shah of Iran earlier quoted as saying he would clamp down a total oil embargo in response to any such action, was later explained by a government spokesman in more moderate terms. But the Arabs were clearly warned nevertheless. So long as the billions continued to flow into Arab hands, so long as the Western economies continued to wrestle with unacceptably steep economies, the Arabs seemed content. With the possibility of sudden reversal of gold policy, all that was changed. Iran proposed an overall international agreement on gold and money policies. Saddam Hussein, deputy chairman of the Ruling Revolution Command Council, said, "Any state or group of states that takes action that will worsen international inflation will be held responsible for them, meaning the United States and France, primarily, since a dramatic shift from \$42 an ounce for gold, as it is officially pegged, to say in the neighborhood of \$200 an ounce would immediately make the dollar enormously more competitive in buying power. Should this occur, it would seem the Arabs are threatening one of two actions, or both. They could once again clamp down on oil exports, even down to as little as 30% of present price prices (hence the warning about worsening international inflation which would effectively wipe off any such alteration in gold prices). So according to the Arabs, the use of oil embargoes, quadrupling of prices, and then additional price hikes from time to time, sending Western economies into fiscal chaos, is quite all right by them. On the other hand, for the industrialized nations to fight back by action on gold policies, thus rendering their currencies of far more value in international exchange, is supposedly immoral. The strange attitude is further reflected in the thinking of the Algerian government spokesman who said it was inadmissible for nations to consider using commodities necessary for human survival as a political weapon! This incredibly ironic statement emerged in the aftermath of the world conference on food, resulting from whatever that

the large food production might be considering restriction in the form of halting grain shipments. But try as you may, it seems impossible to work out projections of balance-of-payments and debt-carrying potentials for many importers beyond the first few months of 1975. Some of the shakiest importing nations simply will not be able to pay for oil — and that in a matter of months! Clearly, something has to give. Bible prophecy strongly indicates an international pushing and shoving match between a king of the south and a king of the north, that will bring the opening round of a massive war in the Mideast (Dan 11:40-45). The language of the prophecy suggests a move by the nations located in the countries, many countries, and the land of Egypt, constituting the king of the south (Saudi Arabia is interestingly enough ruled by a king, and so is Iran, where the word "Shah" means king), to be in the area of trade or monetary policy, rather than in the military area. And if the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him (the king of the north), and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots and with horsemen, and with many ships, and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. He shall enter also into the glorious land [modern Israel] and many countries shall be overthrown. He shall stretch forth his hand also upon the countries, the land of Egypt shall not escape. But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and Ethiopians shall be at his steps. These words also indicate that gold will start flowing into the Mideast from the monetary reserves of the industrialized world to pay for oil — and that the same gold will someday be forcibly recovered! The Arabs have been pushing lately. Hard. Yasser Arafat recently charged the United States and Israel with secretly conspiring to attack the Arab oil producers. However, neither Arafat or other more bone-fide Arab leaders can guarantee that the enormous powers of Western Europe or of the super-potent of industry Japan will be found bereft of options in solving the continual drain of their financial reserves into Arab hands. What 1975 may bring in the Mideast could quite literally be the spark which ultimately ignites World War III, unless something presently unforeseen prevents it. □

THE GARNER TED ARMSTRONG BROADCAST DAILY RADIO LOG

U.S. STATIONS Eastern Time ASHVILLE WRNC 170 M 11:00 p.m. Sat...

HOUSTON KRUE 120 M 5:30 p.m. Sat... JONESBORO KRUE 1230 M 12:15 p.m. Sat...

SMITH JOHN VOCE 190 M 6:00 p.m. Sat... YARBROUGH CLCZ 170 M 6:00 p.m. Sat...

THE GARNER TED ARMSTRONG BROADCAST WEEKLY T.V. LOG

U.S. STATIONS Eastern Time AKRON Channel 22 WBAA-TV 1:30 p.m. Sat...

BAN ANTONIO Channel 12 KSAT-TV 7:30 p.m. Sat... BIRMINGHAM Channel 6 KSTV-TV 12:30 p.m. Sat...

orchids & onions

They upon a time in a remote and adre-
nched land there lived a very happy people
Happily because they lived their simple lives
to the full and because their few possessions
were shared among their things the freedom
of thought and choice

It seems that this life was instrumental in
preserving a healthy atmosphere of spontaneity,
honesty and even humility throughout
the kingdom. It was certainly respected by
all, in both public and private life. Angels
stepped out and superior notes resounded
with archaisms while an embarrassing public
performance with content was the reward
for offensively degrading and indepen-
dent (usually) public speaking of both men
and boys

Humbling? It comes. But what tremor
does it create? Is it contemplation and in-
tervention? And a lesson for youth of this
age. But all in all, everyone knew the class
of "The kids and things" was for his own good.
There was even the danger of becoming to
soon when receiving articles that if good
writing with minor corrections in order

It happens to happen to this wonderful ex-
istence it is not really desirable. But some can
lead that beautiful form of it is still hope
to our larger, more exciting ways by full
stirred politicians and businessmen who
happily make their comparisons each after
noon in slowly lit twilight hours

may just a little while ago of course.
I would make them feel better

Well with this new Plain Truth paper
and its rich and still being you our faithful
and growing family of readers to share with
others your thoughts comments and criti-
cisms up this section. Show your articles
and your opinions in the Plain Truth Editor
Dept. 11, Pasadena, Calif. 91111. Thank
you so much for you

John R. Roney
Managing Editor

letters

All of my life I have searched for what you
call the Plain Truth. You have brought to
the knowledge and understanding that we
have sought all our adult lives. Pray tell us,
how in heavens can we ever escape our
gratitude for your wonderful work?
Horacio and Bertha Clodsky,
Havantown, WV

I sincerely hope that everybody who is too
languid enough to receive Plain Truth has
learned that the most important thing in
our lives is not our material wealth but our
strength to face reality.

Ralph (ardens),
London, NJ

I am getting too disturbed regarding world
conditions. I don't care to get more dis-
turbed. I can't face these facts. You may
think me to be an idiot, but please conceal
Plain Truth

Kathleen Smith,
Seattle, WA

I've been looking for some time now for a
credible news source. I believe I have
found credibility in Plain Truth. It is im-

possible to separate scientific methods
natural science and gibberish from one an-
other as they are so interrelated. I look
at current events in all the past to
say the very best incomplete if I left it left
out of the picture

Janice J.
Boston, MA

After reading in Vietnam I reached the
regrettable conclusion that life is at least a
little more than a ridiculous absurdity. You
haven't completely changed that opinion
but I must say that after reading an article
in one of your publications I actually feel
a lot better of hope

Tommy P.
Trenton, NJ

None of your articles made me sick quite
make me mad and nearly all affect me
emotionally. Under these conditions I
probably should discontinue it but I like
the truth in your publication enclosed is
a small donation

Letter 11
Mayfield, NJ

The format change in Plain Truth is great!
I like the way you keep it alive and chang-
ing for the better

William W.

Plain Truth on course paper if you
must even print it on brown paper or
recycling paper, but print it!

Ada E. Gomer,
New Orleans, LA

The family that drinks together (the
New Issue) is the most sensible article on
drinking we have ever read

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Frank
Zimmerman MN

On the first time I've read an article in
Plain Truth I cannot accept Christ may
have made and drunk wine but in his
teaching in the book of Romans 14:21 it is
stated, "It is good neither to eat flesh nor
to drink wine nor anything whereby thy
brother stumbleth or is offended or is made
weak"

Mrs. Barbara L. Ward,
San Antonio, TX

Your article on drinking is not the plain
truth you need to have, and I've been read-
ing it for some 20 years. We never know
how old Demos Rum will affect us, so I
say don't play with the ratonnage. It is
illness to seek!

Mrs. W. J. Hollingsworth,
Crowsfoot City, FL

I'll drink to that Ad

The family that drinks together sinks
together!

(Anonymous)

and pretty clever for somebody with no
name Ad

I agree with your alcohol article on all
points. In our home Dad and Mom set the
right example and so we came to think of
wine as a food supplement instead of
something to get high on

Emma (Lash)
Santa Cruz, CA

Food Taboos— Stronger Than Hunger?

By Charles Vinson

The ultimate tragedy in the world food
shortage is that some of the hunger has been
self imposed

After, for example, spending nearly a
century eating outside the Sahara as does
North America, not high grade food and
dairy cattle of course, but animals well
adapted to a tropical environment. These
cattle are not generally used as a source of
food

Stratford seems Africa's indifference to a
new milk source. In all animal milk has
traditionally been considered as the body's
creation as regular as some foods it is a sin
to drink it. Generally it is used only as a
padding in porridge. In some areas only adult
males (and their children are allowed to
drink milk). Healthy cattle are often kept as a
stock symbol, but not as a food source

A similar situation exists in East and
South Asia although milk and animals are
abundant. Cattle owners have been known
to refuse to kill an animal even though fam-
ily members were starving

The Indian subcontinent with nearly one
billion of the world's cattle is probably the
most underutilized protein source in
the world. Unfortunately cattle are sacred to
the Hindu faith's dominant religious body.
Animals rather than people are commonly
fed special foods and bestowed with an ethereal
aura of divinity. Cattle roam through city
streets and disturbed teenagers the land and
herds while most Hindus reject beef. Many
will not eat food of animal origin whatsoever
because their religion forbids the taking of
any animal life

Improving International Conferences

By Jeff Collins

By tradition major international confer-
ences are usually always staged in historic
cultural and pleasure oriented resort cities
Pan in the sun between significant speeches

Milton Friedman, the famed economist
once speculated that international monetary
crises were deliberately manipulated by the
heads of various central banks so that they
would have a good excuse to hold a meeting
in the Bahamas or Rio de Janeiro

Assembling to discuss such urgent issues
as war, peace, or world hunger, delegates
usually find serene and often conspicuous sur-
roundings. The comfortable atmosphere
produces three unfortunate effects: (a) the
participants still find delay in order to meet
again next year in another Pan City; (b)
the participants are so worn out from extra-
curricular activities they quite often become
incoherent and illiquid; and (c) the holiday
atmosphere created for the occasion ob-
scure the gravity of the real life and death
issues at hand

Last November's largely unsuccessful
World Food Conference in Rome was just
such a study in contradictions. Delegates
consumed generous portions of smoked
salmon, fathead with truffles, and steak in
wine sauce—all while attempting to mull
over the fate of the estimated 300 million
Aussians poised on the brink of starvation

The meals posted at the conference center
itself offered a lavish array of food for the

The chicken was first domesticated in
Southeast Asia yet today chicken dishes
are often avoided by the more health conscious
of Africa because of the danger of cholera
spread by chickens. They are used for
even fighting medicine and magic. But not
for food. Many believe that eating chicken
or eggs destroys fertility or hampers sexual
performance. Some men believe eating
poultry products make them infertile

Women avoid them thinking they might
cause the unborn delivery of character flaws
to their unborn children

Fish is an important and economical
protein source in many areas. Yet large
numbers of all fish people reject certain
at all kinds of fish. In parts of Africa
it is thought that fish are unclean or
poisonous. Eating them allegedly
causes malaria. The taboo is so strong that
women have opted to lose previous pro-
creants rather than prepare fish for
themselves

Simple unwillingness to change eating
habits is one of the most insidious food
taboos. After people naturally refuse to
eat strange or repugnant foods simply be-
cause an outside taste they might be
starving. For example, Asians have re-
fused past changed diets of wheat or millet
because they were used to cooking them
that may sound foolish but most developed
people would probably be equally reluctant
to change ingrained eating patterns based on
the advice of an alienologist

It is particularly disturbing for some coun-
tries to practice a piggyback American
growing and "exporting" its way through
mountains of pesticides, dioxins and other
toxic chemicals while the rest of the world
dreads. Yet even if America were to give
them away, someone else would take it

Only education can eliminate food taboos
and only education can control the
spread of nations of the world and for both
control. Eliminating starvation is a question
of filling minds as well as stomachs

Next day's lunch four varieties of pasta four
kinds of meat a choice of vegetables, dessert
and wine best mineral water in glass
drinks. All in all the diplomats took up a \$15
million food and beverage bill

Solutions?

Delegates might be urged by a more
appropriate choice of city for international
conferences. The setting is extremely im-
portant. For starters the following recommen-
dations are offered

- The next population conference should
be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- The next food conference should be
convened in Aden, Ababa, Ethiopia, with a
preliminary conference in Akwita, India
- A meeting on international terrorism
would be most appropriate in Belfast,
Northern Ireland or Montreal, Canada
- Strategic arms limitation talks should
be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- The peace conference planning is also im-
portant. Food conferences should require
that each delegate eat a minimum of three
days at the conference. Population confer-
ences would be much more effective if no
homework assignments were made thereby
allowing delegates to sleep on the street.
Caucus style Peace conferences should ban
all identification of nationality, race, reli-
gion, or ethnic background
- Another means for stopping up the after-
thoughts of international peace conferences
would be a requirement that all delegates
meet in their own power room, military pug
entry, no fanfare. This has been done
proceed might help defuse chauvinism and
make all participants regardless of race
and nationality realize they are really all
brothers under the skin

Parents Smoke—Children Suffer

Mounting evidence indicates that parents who smoke expose their children to numerous health hazards.

Researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have found that children of smoking parents are subjected to double the risk of an attack of pneumonia or bronchitis during the first year of life. The London

study also points out that children who survive respiratory disease in the first year of life have been found to be subject to chronic respiratory disease later in life.

(It is true smoking has already been convincingly linked with lung cancer, heart disease and many other maladies. But the harmful effects on children and especially on non-smoking adults

add an extra dimension to the problem. Perhaps those who smoke for the sake of their health will quit for someone else's.)

The BIBLE—A Contemporary Book?

by Lester K. Born

I recently returned from the 10th annual convention of the Society of Biblical Literature held in Washington, D. C. Hundreds of scholars from North America and abroad gathered for five days to read and discuss papers, conduct seminars, consult on professional matters, and in general keep abreast of the latest research by their colleagues.

The basic message of salvation has never been obscure. The way of life which leads to eternal life has always shone clearly from the pages of that Book of Books.

But in such an ancient piece of literature there are many questions concerning that language, design, symbol and meaning which help to keep that ancient book forever young and forever new. There are differences of approach to the Bible and differences of opinion about its origin, preservation and continued value. But the majority of biblical scholars, whether liberal or conservative, are convinced of its relevance to the 20th century.

The Society of Biblical Literature promotes research into various disciplines relating to biblical study. Sessions and seminars were devoted to such diverse topics as Pauline Studies, Septuagint and Cognate Studies, Acts of the Apostles, Rabbinic Literature, Midrash, Form Criticism,

Textual Criticism, Masoretic Studies, Hebrew and Cognate Literatures and Targumic Studies. While some of these may sound somewhat exotic to the average man, they all have potential value for a better understanding of the Bible.

The theoretical sessions of the Society's annual meeting were primarily of interest to scholars and professional theologians. But from these academic discussions came new understandings which filter down into the contemporary religious magazines, and finally to the layman himself. A biblical truth of facting your life may have had its origin in an archaeological dig in the midnight forests of a Targumic scholar poring over texts of a long forgotten people.

The Bible itself in very vividly is witnessed by our entire modern Western world with every deeply embossed in the Jewish-Christian heritage. From those who want to overthrow the Bible cannot deny their own heritage.

The pages of the Plain Truth continually demonstrate how the biblical message is not only relevant, but ever vital to contemporary man. Future issues will carry articles showing how modern research and discovery contribute to making that message more lucid and even more urgent.

No Room for God in the World's First Atheistic State

by Gerhard Marx

One of the basic freedoms guaranteed by the American Constitution and those of other Western nations is the freedom of religion. The freedom to embrace the faith of one's choice. But can you imagine living in a country where this privilege is withdrawn? Can you picture a situation where it is impossible for you to legally purchase a Bible? Where you are unable to attend any church for divine worship? Where there is no priest to administer to be found?

There is such a country. Albania. The tiny Balkan state is today unique among the communist world. Unlike other East European nations, Albania does not profess any religion. It is the only communist country that has made the practice of religion a punishable crime. Whereas other communist nations "guarantee" religious freedom in their respective constitutions, Albania does not even concede that verbal formality to its two million inhabitants. No religion, whether practiced privately or collectively, is officially tolerated.

The architect mainly responsible for this situation is Albania's leader, Enver Hoxha. His aim is to force upon his nation a particularly "pure" form of socialism. The realization of this egalitarian society, according to Hoxha, leaves no room for religion. The Albanian regime is noted for its ruthlessness in suppressing any opposition which would dare grant any religious



atheistic state in the world. It is the only communist country that has made the practice of religion a punishable crime. Whereas other communist nations "guarantee" religious freedom in their respective constitutions, Albania does not even concede that verbal formality to its two million inhabitants. No religion, whether practiced privately or collectively, is officially tolerated.

accepted status in the country. Historically, Islam (a branch of the Muslim faith) constituted the main religious stream in Albanian life. In fact, prior to communist rule, Albania was one of the only predominantly Muslim nations. But since 1947 all mosques and churches have been closed, thus bringing all collective worship to an abrupt end.

The country was then proclaimed by its communist overlords to be "the world's first atheistic state." It was further decreed that all religious observances, customs and other religious symbols from their homes, since church buildings were turned into public meeting halls while others were permanently confiscated.

As a result of the policy instituted several years ago, private religious activities are no longer permitted to congregations and church doors are no longer open to welcome the devotee.

A tragedy in some respects, yet especially for those few who actually would have found of given the opportunity.

We in the Western world take freedom of religion for granted. Yet in spite of our religious freedom, ignorance of the Bible and knowledge of the precepts of Christianity are far too high.

What is worse? A nation that openly admits no desire to serve God and doesn't care a nation that professes Christianity but worships only with its lips, not with obedience?

The latter perhaps is an even greater tragedy than the outlawing of religion in the "world's first atheistic state."

The 10 Commandments—Backbone of Western Law and Morality

by John R. Schroeder

Much of the Mosaic Law as it is depicted in history, Animal sacrifices, disintegrated with the end of the Jewish Commonwealth of Palestine in A.D. 70. The importance of the Jewish civil codes also diminished with the abolition of temple sacrifices.

Most of the other artifacts of the Old Testament Jewish state were discarded in the Christian era. The Jerusalem Conference convened in A.D. 48, for example, annulled the death knell of circumcision as a religious practice for Christians.

Religious laws seem to come and go, even the ancient Code of Hammurabi is now merely an interesting historical find.

National constitutions are also amended as times change. Even such sacred covenants as the prohibition against birth control and the other "blue laws" are coming into question, and dying the death.

Yet one set of laws has survived from time immemorial. Spoken by the mouth of God and written by his hand, the Ten Commandments are the universal basis for much of Western law and morality. Violations of the second five commandments still form the basis of the FBI Crime Index.

Why haven't these laws also passed into history? Do they indeed form any basis for Christian—or even "humanistic"—behavior?

The Ten Commandments, though distributed with regularity, have passed the test of time (4,000 years) precisely because of the positive results that we directly

experienced when obeying all of them! No law is more powerful than the founder of Christianity himself enshrined the Ten Commandments (Matthew 19: 17; Matthew 5: 17).

Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments into two fundamental principles: love toward God (the first four commandments) and love toward man (the last six). On those that fundamental laws hung all the Mosaic law and prophetic precepts (see Luke 10: 25-28 and Matthew 22: 36-40).

The Apostle Paul, the most profound and prolific theologian, scholar, and Christian writer of his time, faithfully followed Christ's teaching in regard to the Ten Commandments. He indoctrinated and taught that the Ten Commandments of God provide the underpinning of all sound doctrine (Romans 13: 9), and that the duty of every Christian to obey those basic laws. In fact, you can't be a Christian if you choose otherwise.

What many Christians have not realized is that the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) was in force prior to Moses' journey to Sinai, prior to Abraham and even prior to Noah's flood! For study guides on this subject, write for your free copy of "Were the Ten Commandments in Force Before Moses?"

For deeper insights of each of the ten major points in the Decalogue, write for our full-length, 144-page book entitled The Ten Commandments.

Just a "Little White Lie"?

by Ted Thornton

Lying and dishonesty are commonplace in today's "sophisticated" life style. We hear and read lies so often that very early in life we cease thinking of them as such. They become an integral part of our existence. To think that a small lie could be all that important to the sophisticated and anxious in a concept that is almost quaint. It's an idea that some claim is better suited to the day of the rocking chair and cornucopia pipe, not to this day of the sophisticated lie.

Lies are so common that you might find it difficult to recall the last time you heard or told one. Some lies are so obvious that we even find them inevitable: the gift politician making campaign

promises he has no intention of keeping, or the fast talking sales man assuring you his product will last a lifetime when it obviously won't last a year. In such cases, we usually approve rather than believe.

Other forms of lies are less obvious, more insidious, appearing in the communications media, with its ability to slant and shade the news; television commercials that use repetition to build believability, or the hero of your favorite television thriller who lies to outstep a gang of hoodlums.

During the Nixon administration, the two highest political offices in the United States were emptied, due to dishonesty. Many in that administration had been so

entrapped in their own web of lies that there was no other recourse but to leave office.

There simply is no such thing as a little white lie. Whether it's a great big dirty black lie or only an intentional shading of the truth, degree is incidental. A lie is a lie.

It is an intent to deceive. Unless each individual comes to the place where he strives with all his heart to speak the truth, God says he will never enter eternity. In stress the point, God inspired double emphasis in the book of Proverbs when attention is made of those covers things he hates most. Lying is mentioned twice (Proverbs 6: 16-19).

God loathes deceit, lies and hypocrisy! Don't take lying lightly. Begin, right now, speaking the truth and living a life of integrity. Honesty is always the best policy.