

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2013

THE

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REAL TRUTH™

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



A CATHOLIC REVOLUTION?

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■ **BEHIND BARS:** Inmates sit in the county jail in Williston, North Dakota (July 26, 2013).

PHOTO: ANDREW BURTON/GETTY IMAGES

Criminal Minds: Would God Use Prisons to Rehabilitate?

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PHOTO: MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

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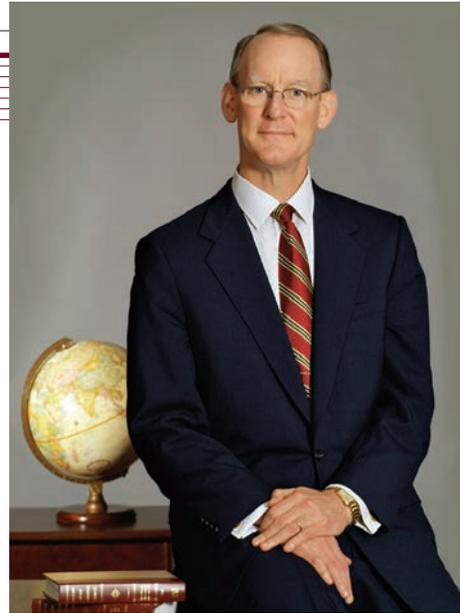
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



The True Church— Identifying It Part 1

NEARLY 2,000 YEARS ago, Jesus Christ built His Church—and promised at the same time that it could never be destroyed (Matt. 16:18)!

Foretold to remain small, persecuted and uncompromising, this Church—with faithful leaders and members in every age—has ENDURED and CONTINUED. During the same two millennia, men have been building *their* organizations—*their* churches. But Christ’s Church has been recognizable to those knowing what to look for.

This Church has existed unbroken for all these centuries. It can be found in history and traced to the present day. But how is it identified? For instance, some know the seventh-day Sabbath is commanded. Is any Sabbath-keeping church good enough? What else—how many other things—must we know?

This Personal will *open your eyes!*

Christ Built One Church

In one of the most powerful, dramatic and profoundly important statements in the Bible, Jesus Christ declared,

“I will build *My Church*” (Matt. 16:18). He did not say “churches,” “fellowships,” “sects,” “denominations” or “communities of believers.” No matter how men try to place an interpretation on it, this passage speaks of a single Church—of one, undivided organization!

Jesus continued, “...and the gates of hell [meaning the grave] shall not prevail against it.” He promised that *His* Church could not be destroyed. This Church—Christ’s Church—the *true* Church—was foretold to *never* be extinguished—to *never* die out.

Unrecognized and discounted as a cult or a fringe sect on the edge of supposed Christianity, the Church of God has endured every trial and storm it has faced.

For nearly 2,000 years, almost everyone has been looking in the wrong place for God’s Church. The true Church was called out of this world—out of its religions, creeds, customs, beliefs and traditions. The word translated throughout the New Testament as “church” comes from the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning to be “called out”—and Christ’s Church has come out of the world. This has made it more difficult for traditional historians to locate it. Unlike historians within the Church, they simply do not know where to look, or what to look for.

Since the Bible states that the whole world is deceived (Rev. 12:9) and blinded (II Cor. 4:4), as well as cut off from God (Isa. 59:1-2), it is evident that civilization as a whole could never be greatly influenced by the truth or by the true Church that always strove to uphold it. This helps explain why so few would become converted in this or any previous age. In fact, it is evident from just one other passage that the true Church of God would never be large. Notice how Christ addresses His Church in Luke 12:32: “Fear not, *little flock*; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

The respected and accepted churches of this world are so because they teach the popular doctrines and traditions familiar to the masses. By no means could any of these well-known denominations be considered a “little flock.” Instead, many of them are comprised of millions, or even hundreds of millions, of members. One has over a billion.

More than 2,000 different Christian organizations have been “built” by men just in the United States. Estimates place the number of professing Christians at over two billion. While *attendance* seems to be increasing, it is not growing as fast as the confusion surrounding the question of which is the *right* church.

While it has been said, “They cannot all be *wrong*,” it is more correct to say, “They cannot all be *right*.” If Christ built His Church as He said, then it can be found somewhere on Earth today—and it is the only *right* Church. But we must ask: How do we find it—what do we look for—how do we identify it—and how do we know it if we see it?

Early “Religion”

My mother required her three children to read many books when growing up. I spent a lot of summers reading her assigned “book a week.” On occasion, perhaps two or three times, I picked up the Bible and attempted to read it. But I never got far because it made no sense to me. I simply *could not understand the Bible*.

Despite this lack of understanding, when quite young, I was “confirmed”

into the church that I had been born into. I recall having to appear briefly before a panel of “deacons” to answer a couple questions, which I no longer remember. I do recall making some kind of general affirmation about this denomination, but I also remember that I was not concerned in the least with whether or not I was in the right church, or if I was fulfilling the Bible definition of a Christian.

Neither of these questions remotely interested me. I did vaguely believe God existed, but He was not *real* to me. I had certainly never attempted to build a personal relationship with Him or to find His one Church. I did not pray or study His Word for guidance or doctrinal instruction. These concerns did not enter my mind until some years later, in 1966, when I heard a powerful voice on the radio introduce me to Christ’s statement in Matthew 16:18. I began to question where I could find this true Church. I immediately realized that it *had* to exist because, through just basic study, I came to understand Christ’s promise that it would remain and could not be destroyed.

Traditions of Men

Jesus declared something in Matthew that almost none seem to believe, or even know about. He wrote, “But *in vain* they do *worship Me*, teaching for *doctrines* the commandments of *men*” (Matt. 15:9). In Mark’s parallel account, He added, “Full well you *reject the commandment of God*, that you may keep your own TRADITION” (7:9).

The world’s Christianity is filled with traditions. One of the largest is its view of the New Testament Church. Most ministers, theologians and religionists typically define the Church this way: “All those who *sincerely believe* in Jesus Christ, and accept Him as their Savior, constitute the true Church,” I might add, without regard to their denomination or beliefs. This is often followed with the familiar statement, “There are many routes to heaven” or “There are many spokes on the wheel of salvation.” Though the

Bible does not teach that heaven is the reward of the saved, the clear implication of these cliches is that people can believe what they want, or be a part of any group or organization they choose, and still be Christians—still receive whatever is salvation. While people may sincerely believe these traditional ideas, *they are sincerely wrong!*

(While it is not the purpose of this article to detail salvation, learn more by reading *Do the Saved Go to Heaven?* available at rcg.org/dtsqth.)

My research led me to absolute PROOF of *where* the Church was that Christ promised to build. I learned that this Church, foretold to span seven eras or phases, could be carefully traced through the centuries.

I was shocked. I could not believe the Bible was *so clear* on a subject that confuses *so many*.

Can Be Identified

Your Bible declares, “God is not the author of *confusion*, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints” (I Cor. 14:33). The context shows that “all churches” means all *congregations* of the true Church, not *all* of the *many organizations* of men.

God’s Church was to reflect *peace*—not confusion. You need not be confused about its identity—about the location of the true Church. God commands, “*Prove* all things; hold fast that which is good” (I Thes. 5:21). While this refers to *scriptural* matters (not the car you drive or the house you buy), it does say “ALL things,” not “*some* things,” should be PROVEN! Surely God would not exclude something of such magnitude—such supremely vital importance—as the matter of where His true Church is found. And He would never emphatically tell people to prove things that *cannot be proven!*

The more I studied the other doctrines of the Bible, the more I learned that the churches of this world were *wrong*—on virtually EVERYTHING! One plain scripture after another contradicted each *traditional* supposed Christian idea I had been taught. I was amazed—actually STUNNED—at how easy it was

to find direct, clear, undeniable proof that even the most popular—the most *widely believed*—traditions of the big denominations were not based on the Bible—at all!

Each time I studied a Bible doctrine—salvation, baptism, who and what God is, the gospel, death and hell, law and sin, grace, being born again, the Christian Sabbath, the true origin of supposed “Christian” holidays, where the modern-day tribes of ancient Israel are found today, the sequence of prophecy in the last days, including events surrounding Christ’s Return—and so much more—I gained *undeniable proof* of what the Bible *really* taught! I was excited and fascinated. I found that the churches of this world were confused on every one of these and many other plain points of Bible teaching. I came to realize there had to be a church that correctly believed and practiced *all* of the doctrines of the Bible—including perhaps the most central—*what is the true Church*.

So, I learned that this Church existed, and that the proofs *identifying* it and setting it apart from all the churches of recognized, mainstream Christianity were no different from the proof of any other biblical doctrine. I also learned that the *scope* of the proof—the sheer volume of facts—about God’s Church was vast, almost overwhelming in amount. Of course, therefore, I came to see that those who were in this Church absolutely *knew* they were—and it could not be otherwise.

A Persecuted “Little Flock”

Let’s begin to take a closer look at what Jesus built. Recall He said, “Fear not, *little flock*; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Jesus recognized His people might naturally conclude, “We just don’t seem big enough.”

Now think. By no stretch can any church comprised of millions—let alone over *two billion* collectively—be considered a “little flock.” And such numbers would not have to be reassured.

Christ understood that *His* Church—His *little* flock—would be persecuted and despised by the world. Just before His crucifixion, He warned, “Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have *persecuted Me*, they will also *persecute you*...” (John 15:20). In the preceding verse, Jesus had reminded His disciples that “I have chosen you *out of the world*, therefore the world *hates* you” (vs. 19). Of course, Christ *was* persecuted to the point of horrible torture and crucifixion. Therefore, the true Church could also expect to be persecuted—and hated! Those in it are not “of the world.” The world senses this and hates them for it (John 17:14). The apostle Paul recorded, “Yes, and *all* that will live godly *in Christ Jesus* shall suffer *persecution*” (II Tim. 3:12).

The word “all” means what it says! What church do you know where absolutely *every person* in it is suffering at least some form of persecution? Any? Even one? And remember, Jesus said His servants would be HATED! We will learn momentarily what *causes* the hatred.

First, consider what just these points reveal. How many churches can you name that are small, persecuted, not of this world—and to the point of being hated because of it? Think about those you are familiar with. Again, do *any* fit this description? If so, surely not many! And we have only begun the proofs.

Importance of the Name

The world’s churches have many different names, which are derived in various ways. These include the particular *doctrines* they teach, the names of the *men* who founded them, the humanly devised type of *church government* they espouse, their *location*, or their intended scope and size, such as *universal* or *catholic*—in this case to be seen as all-encompassing and therefore being a BIG flock.

On the night of His betrayal, Christ prayed for His Church: “...Holy Father, keep through *YOUR OWN NAME* those whom You have given Me, that

they may be *one*, as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them *IN YOUR NAME*...I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them [notice this hatred is tied to God’s Word], because they are *not of the world*...” (John 17:11-12, 14).

There are 12 verses where the New Testament records that the true Church *has* been kept in the name of the Father—meaning *God*. Let’s look at three.

First is Acts 20:28. This verse instructs elders: “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock... to feed THE CHURCH OF GOD...”

Next is I Corinthians 10:32: “Give none offense, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to THE CHURCH OF GOD.”

Last is I Corinthians 15:9. The apostle Paul wrote, “For...I persecuted THE CHURCH OF GOD.” There are nine other places where it says much the same.

In the modern age, for corporate reasons, God’s Church may use an additional descriptive name to distinguish itself from other “Churches of God”—those merely *appropriating* God’s name to themselves (and many groups do)—but who are not obeying His commandments, believing all His true doctrines, or doing His Work. Because of circumstances in our time, we use the name *The Restored Church of God*.

Just as various mainstream denominations may have a few correct doctrines mixed with much error, some appropriate to themselves the name of God’s Church. A *few* churches may have some amount of truth, while accepting many false doctrines. Only one Church on the face of the Earth has the correct name *and* teaches all the additional many true doctrines of the Bible!

Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them [this means *set them apart*] through Your TRUTH: Your Word is TRUTH” (John 17:17). The Church that Jesus works through, directs, and guides is sanctified—is set apart—by its belief of the *plain truth* of God’s Word!

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MOUNTING WORLDWIDE CRISIS IN AGRICULTURE

Part 4

Too often, agriculturists see only the *effects*, while the actual *causes* of the crisis grow worse and more complicated. Yet we must *recognize* our agricultural problems—their *causes*—and CORRECT THEM.

BY DALE L. SCHURTER

This article is excerpted from the book *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* by Dale L. Schurter, the world's foremost authority on biblical agriculture and sustainable husbandry. Subsequent installments will appear in *The Real Truth* over the coming months.

LET'S CONTINUE by asking some basic questions—and finding some simple, yet profound, answers. Do insects have a purpose? What causes insects to attack plants and become “pests”? Few seem to know.

Insects constitute 70 percent to 80 percent of all animal species. They are so numerous that no one knows how many species there really are. More than 800,000 have already been classified and about 10,000 more are classified annually. While there are seven billion humans on Earth, there are on average three billion insects on *every square mile* of the planet!

Insects multiply rapidly. A single pair of flies is potentially capable of producing 191,000,000,000,000,000,000 (191 quintillion) offspring in just six months! If they all survived, the Earth would be covered to a depth of 47 feet!

This cannot happen, though, because natural laws never permit a single species, plant or animal, to completely dominate any environment. Weather factors—such as temperature and rainfall—limit the distribution of an insect species. Toads, lizards, frogs, moles, snakes, birds, bats, shrews and other creatures feed largely on



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



insects. Some birds eat their own weight in insects every day. Predatory insects prey on other insects. Larvae of parasitic insects develop in the eggs, young or adults of other insects. Viruses, fungi and bacterial diseases also help control the insect population.

In fact, if insects were not kept in check by these natural (that is, *created*) forces, it is doubtful whether any conceivable volume of chemicals could possibly keep their populations down. Yet we are seldom aware of these created controls that protect and serve us.

All these *natural* checks do their work without threatening man. *Insecticides*, which contribute only a very small part of the total controlling force over harmful insects, *are threatening to ALL life*. Does it not make sense for man to encourage the inherent balance, rather than devastate the natural controls?

It is not generally realized that *less than 0.5 percent* of insect species are considered pests to man. But crop loss due to these pests accounts for one-fifth of the world's annual crop production (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations). The positive benefits of insects are often overlooked because they are more difficult to estimate.

It is easy to forget that bees, wasps, flies, butterflies and other insects pollinate plants that provide us with fruits and vegetables. Among the top likely factors for Colony Collapse Disorder, which causes sudden and complete destruction of beehives, are pesticides including miticides and fungicides as well as genetically modified crops.

Pollinators in trouble

Populations are declining for some species that are important for spreading pollen to fertilize plants.

 Bees More than 3,500 species that pollinate Pollinate: Alfalfa, Almond, Blueberry, Watermelon Problem: Honeybees, crucial to agriculture, are prey to parasitic mites	 Butterflies Transfer small pollen amounts, but move longer distances to visit flowers Pollinate: Milkweed, Wild carnation Problem: Species diversity down, cause unknown	 Bats Pollinate about 600 to 1,000 plant species, many with big flowers that open at night Pollinate: Agave, Balsa tree, Cactus Problem: Cave roosts being destroyed	Other pollinators not distressed  Ants  Beetles  Wasps  Flies	 Opossum  Hummingbirds Other birds, such as doves, parrots, woodpeckers and swallows
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Source: National Research Council of the National Academies

Graphic: Angela Smith



In addition, some insects are vital links in the food chains of fish, birds and land animals—others act as scavengers of animal and vegetable debris and others as aerators of soil—still others are parasites or predators of damaging insects.

Instead of studying the habits of insects and implementing natural control methods, however, many now simply mow them down with spray guns.

For the most part, the function of “harmful” insects is all too little understood. Now, thankfully, some few scientists are beginning to realize the *relationship* between soil fertility, crop production, and pests.

Why Insect “Pests”?

In his landmark book, *An Agricultural Testament*, the famous British agriculturist Sir Albert Howard related how in five years’ time at a research station in India he “had learnt how to grow healthy crops, practically free from disease, without the slightest help from mycologists, entomologists, bacteriologists, agricultural chemists, statisticians, clearing-houses of information, artificial manures, spraying machines, insecticides, fungicides, germicides, and all the other expensive paraphernalia of the modern Experiment Station.”

Sir Albert worked with the principles any small farmer could use economi-

cally. From his experience, he observed that: “Insects and fungi are not the real cause of plant diseases but only attack unsuitable varieties or crops imperfectly grown. Their true role is that of censors for pointing out the crops that are improperly nourished and so keeping our agriculture up to the mark. In other

words, the pests must be looked upon as Nature’s professors of agriculture: as an integral portion of any rational system of farming.

“The policy of protecting crops from pests by means of sprays, powders, and so forth is unscientific and unsound as, even when successful, such procedure merely preserves the unfit and obscures the real problem—how to grow healthy crops.”

These conclusions are not dreams of a man who failed. Sir Albert was knighted for this very agricultural research—for effectively proving the usefulness of the system.

Many who have worked with the soil have noticed the tendency of insects to prefer plants that are weak, sickly, unhealthy, unbalanced or just a little “under the weather.”

This deficiency or imbalance may be so subtle or slight that it cannot be measured or analyzed by present scientific methods. But it does exist. And the bugs know it!

Now take the cause-effect relationship one step further. What is it that causes plants to be weak and inferior—prone to insect attack?

Substandard Plants

A number of factors may cause weak and inferior plants—poor seed, moisture levels (too much or too little),



temperature, climate, etc. But one of the most important factors is plant malnutrition caused by *unbalanced soil*.

In 1974, professional soil consultant for Brookside Laboratories of New Knoxville, Ohio, Martin H. Augustin stated in a personal letter: “We are proving today that sick soils produce sick plants and sick plants produce sick animals and humans. There are about one hundred of us who work with about 10,000 farmers at the present time. The overwhelming majority of them have already discovered that in a *truly healthy soil* our crops are not attacked by insects because God created these pests to destroy sick plants so that they cannot reproduce themselves.”

Insects serve a vital purpose as guardians and supporters of our health and well-being. Many pollinate vast numbers of food crops, flowers, trees, shrubs, provide honey, etc., while others

consume and destroy sick, unhealthy plants and trees so that humans, birds and animals do *not* eat them and themselves get sick. But we go to war with the insects by using pesticides, destroying both the “good” with the perceived “bad.”

In times past, this interrelationship of soil, plants and insects was recognized. In 1870, American journalist Horace Greeley reported: “I hold that [insect] multiplication and their devastations are largely incited by the degeneracy of our plants caused by the badness of our culture.” Later he stated, “I heard little of insect ravages in the wheat-fields of Western New-York throughout the first thirty years of this century; but, when crop after crop of Wheat had been taken from the same fields until they had been well nigh exhausted of their Wheat-forming elements, we began to hear of

the desolation wrought by insects...” (*What I Know of Farming*).

Mr. Greeley had understanding that most seem to lack today. In this day and age, so few see any relationship between our depleted soils, the use of incomplete synthetic fertilizers, and the alarming increase in insect pests. Unsustainable tillage and cropping methods continue to contribute to this growing problem of soil infertility and bug invasions. Our good stewardship, or lack thereof, is witnessed by its fruits—good or bad.

It is to our shame that most agricultural institutions of the “modern” era have been preoccupied with research dealing with effect-driven palliatives such as pesticides—which make the problem appear less severe or painful, but do not effect a cure. Should we not rather be performing judicious research into how to correct the cause of insect pests?



■ **FIELDS OF GREEN:** Left, an aerial shot of farmland south of Dallas, Texas, shows the difference between two cotton fields, which were planted the same day with the same seed stock, on a farmer’s property who was consulting with Ambassador College agriculture personnel. Right, close-up photos show the two cotton fields top and bottom. The one on the top used Ambassador College’s biological and mineral balancing program. The one on the bottom used conventional fertility growing methods. Notice that the plants on the top are much fuller. It was a very dry growing season and much of the difference is due to better moisture retention and deeper root growth.

PHOTOS: DALE L. SCHURTER



“Various studies have shown that if the soil fertility is good, then the resistance to insects is high,” Dr. Stig Erlander demonstrated in his article published by the German scientific journal *Starch/Starke* in 1970. “Thus [Dr. William Albrecht] has shown that spinach grown in fertile soil resisted the attack of thrips [winged insects], whereas that grown on poor soil was destroyed

by these insects. A deficiency of phosphorus or magnesium produced tomatoes which were susceptible to the greenhouse white fly, whereas those grown on good soil were not. Moreover, corn can be destroyed by chinch bugs when a deficiency of nitrogen occurs. But if the amount of nitrogen is too plentiful, then the grass becomes deficient and is subjected to damage by bugs.

“It can be concluded from the above that a change in the composition of the soil may lead to genetic changes which could alter the structure of the cell wall or other constituents such as the starch granule. Moreover, good soil fertility will produce plants which are resistant to insects, viruses or detrimental worms. Genetic variations produced by radiation only eliminate specific enzymes or protein structures and hence weaken the plant. Unlike natural mutations, they may not allow the plant to return to its original state when soil conditions change. The best method for producing insect-resistant crops is thus soil fertility and not induced mutations which no doubt will eventually be [disastrous].”

In January 2012, scientists from Arizona State University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences published a report directly linking land management practices with modern-day locust swarms. Like chinch bugs, locusts also thrive and multiply on plants low in nitrogen, such as those from heavily grazed plots, and can “populate over 20 percent of the Earth’s land surface, negatively affecting more than 60 countries” during an outbreak year (*ASU News*).

Work done at the University of Florida shows that both the rate and the source of nitrogen have a pronounced effect on the susceptibility of grass to chinch bug damage. Grass receiving high rates of inorganic nitrogen was severely damaged by the bugs, in contrast with the grass receiving nitrogen from an organic source (*Florida Turf Grass Association Bulletin*).

Haughley Research Farms in England, established in 1939 and now under the world-renowned Soil Association, found in actual practice that crops grown on soil built up by natural manures were much more resistant to pest-inviting weaknesses than crops grown with the aid of chemicals.

Please see **AGRICULTURE**, page 26



■ **COMPARE AND CONTRAST:** Top, two sample crops of hay grazer in eastern Texas (the left was grown using Ambassador College’s soil treatment program and the right was conventionally grown), were planted on the same day using the same seed to demonstrate a vast difference in results. Due to extended drought after planting and lack of the soil’s friability, the soil’s hardness prohibited the roots on the right from penetrating deeply into the soil. In contrast, the roots on the left grew in healthy soil, which meant the plant’s roots could grow much deeper to extract the needed water and nutrients for proper growth. A penetrometer, below, which measures the permeability of the soil, rests in between uprooted samples from both fields that demonstrate the effectiveness of the Ambassador College treatment.

PHOTOS: DALE L. SCHURTER



DETROIT

Sick Man of America

Can this once-prosperous city—and the entire United States
—recover its former prominence?

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER

THE MOTOR CITY is chronically ill. Over the last 60 years, its population has wasted away from a vibrant 1.9 million to a little over 700,000. Its stout physique of a bustling metropolis has been replaced with a thin, sickly frame. Now, the bones of burned-out houses, rusted factories, and gutted high-rise buildings jut through the tautly stretched skin of Detroit, Michigan.

Until the 2008 financial crisis, however, hardly anyone took note of the ailing city. Yet symptoms of decline were there for decades: corruption and crime, drugs and destruction, overspending and under-producing.

Year after year, it has been a U.S. capital for murder, poverty, arson, illiteracy and crime.

The Great Recession put Detroit on life support, with Washington granting a \$17 billion bailout for the big three car manufacturers: Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler.

But it did not work. In July 2013, Detroit—once a symbol of the American Dream—filed for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. The move made it the first U.S. city to file with that large a population and high amount of debt (about \$20 billion).

This was just the latest development for a metropolis already bedridden. Citing an official report to the city's creditors, *Michigan Radio* stated: "Detroit's violent crime rate is five times the national average. And it takes Detroit police an average of 58 minutes to respond to a call, where the national average is 11 minutes.

"Those harsh realities are just the tip of the proverbial iceberg."

In fact, Detroit has about a 30 percent poverty rate and a 25 percent high

school graduation rate. Unemployment stands at more than 16.3 percent and an estimated 70 percent of murders—and 90 percent of overall crimes—go unsolved.

Each major blow to the Motor City brings renewed concern from politicians and the news media. America fears the disease may run in the family. The world worries it is contagious. Everyone is horrified that the city is on its deathbed.

Newspapers and bloggers work frantically to pin down the lessons of the shriveling metropolis. They call it America's "vanguard on the way up and the way down"—the "canary in the coal mine" signaling danger—a U.S. "cautionary tale."

Each of these analogies fit Motown. It has always been at the front edge of American trends, both good and bad. For example, its population began to decline in the 1950s when the United States as a whole reached peak prosperity.

Seemingly afraid to catch Detroit's disease, no one is willing to get close enough to pinpoint the root cause.

Blame Game

With a major American city in the throes of death, many feel there must be someone to blame. No one has been spared as a suspect. There is everything from white racism to black racism, conservative policies to liberal policies. Each accusation comes with excessive finger-pointing and name-calling.

In an extended quote from the book *Detroit: an American Autopsy*, journalist Charlie LeDuff detailed the never-ending list of potential culprits: "Detroit's slide was long and inexorable. You might blame it on white racism and legal mortgage covenants that barred blacks from living anywhere but the most squalid ghettos.

"You might blame postwar industrial policies that sent the factories to

the suburbs, the rural South, and the western deserts.

"You might blame the city's collapse on the 1967 riot and the white flight that followed. You might blame it on Coleman Young—the city's first black mayor—and his culture of corruption and cronyism.

"You could blame it on the gas shocks of the seventies, which opened the door to foreign car competition.

"You might point to the trade agreements of the Clinton years that allowed American manufacturers to leave the country by the back door.

"You might blame [labor unions], which demanded things like near-full pay for idle workers, or the myopic management, who instead of saying no took their piece and simply tacked the cost onto the price of the car.

"Then there is the thought that Detroit was simply a boomtown that went bust, a city that began to fall apart the minute Henry Ford began to build it. The car made Detroit and the car unmade Detroit. Detroit was built in some ways to be disposable."

In the end, it seems a perfect storm of factors led to the Detroit of today. Yet these are all surface symptoms that obscure the deeper cause—one that is equally worrisome for the entire U.S.

"...So Goes the Nation"

The old adage, "As General Motors goes, so goes the nation," could easily be, "As Detroit goes, so goes the nation."

While naming Detroit 2013's "most miserable city" in the union, *Forbes* recalled the days when the metropolis was a hotbed of innovation: "Detroit was a thriving city during the industrial revolution. Innovation in all things mechanical led to the modern automobile; a marvelous innovation which, literally, everyone wanted. As demand skyrocketed, Henry Ford's management

■ **DOWNTRODDEN:** Opposite page top, the General Motors world headquarters is seen behind a dilapidated house in Detroit, Michigan (Feb. 24, 2013). Opposite page bottom left, broken windows define the former Packard plant in the city (July 24, 2013). Opposite page bottom right, a homeless man approaches a couple walking on a sidewalk in Detroit, Michigan (Feb. 24, 2013).

PHOTOS: J.D. POOLEY/GETTY IMAGES

“Detroit’s broke” – Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder

On July 18, Detroit became the largest American city to declare Chapter 9 bankruptcy, succumbing to decades of steadily declining population, reduced tax revenue, and job losses in the auto industry. Governor Snyder approved the bankruptcy filing and a restructuring plan put forth by emergency manager Kevyn Orr.

In 1950, Detroit’s population was **1.8 million**; in 2012, it was **701,475**



Source: Office of Emergency Management (City of Detroit), Detroit Free Press, MCT Photo Service Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

team developed the modern assembly line which allowed production volumes to skyrocket as well.”

“This fueled growth in jobs, which led to massive immigration to Detroit. With growth the tax base expanded, and quickly Detroit was a leading city with all the best things people could want. In the 1950s and 1960s Detroit reaped the benefits of the local auto companies, and their suppliers, as ongoing innovations created better cars, more sales, more revenue taxes, higher property values and higher property taxes. It was a glorious virtuous circle.”

Mr. LeDuff stated that the city gave birth to “mass production, the automobile, the cement road, the refrigerator, frozen peas, high-paid blue-collar jobs, home ownership and credit on a mass scale. America’s way of life was built here.”

The country’s rise hinged upon innovation and Detroit provided a blueprint.

Continuing, Mr. LeDuff noted that during the 1950s and 60s, Motor City automobile executives went to Washington to implement Detroit-style management. Notable examples include Charles Wilson and Robert McNamara, who both served as secretary of defense.

As a tenant of President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, the federal

government poured funds into impoverished cities in the late 1960s. By then, Detroit was deep into decline. It and a few other struggling areas were intended to be “model cities” of urban renewal.

While the program never met its high aims, the Motor City has been a model city for America—for better or worse—since Henry Ford set up shop there in the early 1900s.

Other cities have already contracted symptoms of the same sickness as Detroit.

USA Today reported: “Detroit may be alone among the nation’s biggest cities in terms of filing for bankruptcy, but it is far from the only city being crushed by a roiling mountain of long-term debt.

“At the heart of Detroit’s problem is a growing unfunded debt on benefits owed to current and future retirees—some \$3.5 billion, according to its emergency manager, Kevyn Orr—which mirrors a circumstance being seen across the U.S.

“From Baltimore to Los Angeles, and many points in between, municipalities are increasingly confronted with how to pay for these massive promises. The Pew Center on the States, in Washington, estimated states’ public pension plans across the U.S. were underfunded by a whopping \$1.4 trillion in 2010.”

Taking things one step further, an expanded adage also rings true: “As America goes, so goes the world.” Similarly—for better or worse—the nation has been a model for the globe.

To understand Detroit, one must look at the U.S. as a whole. The nation came out of nowhere to become, without a doubt, the most powerful and wealthy single country of all time.

Detroit was at the heart of this. From 1900 to 1930, it was the fastest growing city in the world. It perfected American-brand capitalism. It was the engine of World War II, churning out the war machines that defeated Germany and Japan. The U.S. then exported this industrial model to the rest of the world.

Clearly this greatness is slipping away. In Detroit, it is already gone. Equally important to the cause of America’s national sickness is what caused its rise to importance in the first place.

Model Nation

The Real Truth and its predecessor magazine *The Plain Truth* have reported on the ongoing decline of the nation for decades. Using the Bible as a lens through which to view world events, both publications have brought clarity to what the next years will bring to the U.S.

In 1978, *The Plain Truth* founder and Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in the magazine about the reason behind America's meteoric rise and fall. He also detailed why one can fully trust Bible prophecy by stating that "there is a great God who says, 'The Eternal wrecks the purpose of pagans, he brings to nothing the nations plan; but the Eternal's purpose stands for ever, and what he plans will last from age to age...The Eternal looks from heaven, beholding all mankind; he who alone made their minds, he notes all they do' (Ps. 33:10-15, Moffatt translation)."

"Through His inspired prophets, the great God caused to be written, some 2,500 years ago, and preserved in writing to our time prophecies filling approximately a third of the whole Bible. In them, He named every city of consequence of that time on earth—and also every nation! And he foretold precisely what would, through the years, happen to every city and every nation! In every instance the prophecies came to pass!

"What was prophesied HAPPENED to Babylon, to Tyre, Sidon, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Ekron; to Egypt, Assyria, Chaldea, Persia, Greece and Rome. There has not been a miss! Those prophecies were accurate.

"And now, in other prophecies, the same supreme God has foretold precisely what is going to happen to the United States..."

(To learn more about Mr. Armstrong, read *Herbert W. Armstrong – His Life in Proper Perspective* at rcg.org/hwahlipp.)

The Bible *does* make plain why America rose to great heights and why it would crash down decades later. In the Old Testament, the Creator blessed the patriarch Abraham declaring that his descendants would become "a nation and a company of nations."

This birthright blessing was passed down until a pair of brother nations emerged to become the single-greatest nation and biggest-ever company of nations of all time:

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the United States of America and the British Empire.

History brims with examples that show the connection to Abraham and ancient Israel. David C. Pack's *America and Britain in Prophecy* available at rcg.org/aabibp puts the pieces together from the Bible and secular sources to PROVE what lies ahead for these two nations.

The intended purpose for the U.S.—and all nations descended from Old Testament Israel—include being a model nation to prove God's Way works.

If America were to have kept the commands and statutes outlined in the Bible, the globe would have turned to it and said, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people" (Deut. 4:6).

But this has not happened. America thinks its own ingenuity, laws and principles brought its greatness—not God's blessings.

Knowing human nature, the Creator warns of this typical Israelite response in Deuteronomy 8: "Beware that you forget not the LORD your God, in not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes...Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God..." (vs. 11-14).

The common thinking among Americans can be found in verse 17: "And you say in your heart, *my power* and the might of *my hand* has gotten me this wealth."

America thinks its Constitution and ideals brought prosperity. It has attempted to export these principles around the world. Despite good intentions, instead of the blessings of God, the U.S. has spread national illness.

Sick Man of the World

As Detroit crumbles, the darkest elements of human nature rear their heads: political corruption, debt, greed, murder and theft.

Most in the U.S. think of the Motor City as an outlier—that what is occurring in Detroit is not indicative of the entire country. But America as a whole must take a long, hard look at its national character.

Detroit: A 64-year-old in the city was beaten and repeatedly stabbed in a convenience store while onlookers watched seemingly unaffected.

America: While similar stories are widespread, in Baltimore, Maryland, gawkers "laughed and did nothing to help as a man was beaten, stripped and robbed on the street..." (CNN).

Detroit: A political pundit told *ABC News* that broken families helped push the city into bankruptcy, stating: "...47 percent of Detroit residents are functionally illiterate, 79 percent of Detroit children are born to unmarried mothers. They don't have a fiscal problem...they have a cultural collapse."

America: The U.S. Census Bureau reported that 36 percent of children nationwide are born to unmarried mothers.

Detroit: The Motor City has been besieged by political corruption and financial excess for decades.

America: Almost daily, news outlets break fresh scandals involving Washington politicians—both Democrats and Republicans.

Everywhere there are lies, deceit, adultery, covetousness

■ PENNILESS: Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, right, and Detroit's emergency manager Kevyn Orr, left, discuss the city's bankruptcy filing at a news conference in Detroit, Michigan (July 19, 2013).

PHOTO: BILL PUGLIANO/GETTY IMAGES



and a focus on *getting* rather than giving.

The Bible describes the modern U.S. in the book of Isaiah: "...the whole head is *sick*, and the whole heart *faint*. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is *no soundness* in it; but *wounds*, and *bruises*, and *putrefying sores*: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment" (1:5-6).

Head to toe, America is SICK with national sins!

The symptoms of this sickness—namely the dramatic and continued decline in world status—should give those in the U.S. pause.

Yet this is not how human nature works.

David C. Pack writes in *America and Britain in Prophecy*: "Most people will not seek God unless forced to—unless severe trials or other circumstances drive them to God. During good times, most are happy to trust in their own strength, crediting themselves for their successes and achievements, when they may have had little to do with blessings that came to them. On the other hand, these same people generally blame God when things go wrong in their lives.

"But understand this. God does not and has never owed blessings to anyone. He may choose to bless individuals or nations, for His own purposes, but no one automatically deserves prosperity, wealth, abundance and a generous portion of God's bounty."

"So it is with the peoples of America and Britain. God has bestowed to them astonishing, unparalleled blessings beyond what any nation has ever enjoyed. He has kept His promise to Abraham to make many nations from him and to give the sons of Joseph the promised awesome birthright blessings after two and one-half millennia.

"But our peoples have neither been grateful for these birthright blessings, nor sought God, repenting of our NATIONAL SINS!"

Continued decline—well beyond the level seen in Detroit—awaits

America unless the nation collectively gets on its knees and turns to the Almighty God.

For the individual, however, the Creator offers a way of escape, but it requires obedience to His Way.

America, fast becoming the sick man of the world, should stand as a clear example of the negative effects of ignoring the way of life outlined in the Bible. As it undergoes severe national punishment, God intends the U.S. be a powerful example to the world: "So it shall be a reproach and a taunt, an instruction and an astonishment unto the nations that are round about you..." (Ezek. 5:15).

The Creator, as a loving God, diagnoses America's national sickness and provides a clear cure.

This diagnosis—NATIONAL SINS—should ring in the ears of all who hear it.

Isaiah 58 demonstrates the power with which God intends this warning to go out: "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet, and show My people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins" (vs. 1).

Despite the powerful warning found throughout the Bible, however, human nature stands in the way of change.

Business as Usual?

Symptoms of decline can be found in many corners of the United States, yet there are still places that *seem* okay. Even in Detroit.

The Economist stated: "For visitors expecting broken windows and muggers, downtown Detroit is a pleasant surprise. Busy food stands serve diners on lime and orange picnic benches, with live music provided by a classical guitarist. After lunch you can play a free game of outdoor table tennis, borrow a bicycle or take a stroll on the lovely riverfront.

"The city may be broke, but some parts are reviving. Property is so cheap that Detroit still attracts dreamers. Perhaps the most prominent is Dan Gilbert, the chairman of Quicken Loans, a mortgage provider. In 2010 Mr Gilbert moved Quicken's head-

quarters from the suburbs to the centre of town. Another of his companies, Rock Ventures, owns or controls over 30 buildings in the area...Mr Gilbert's firms have invested around \$1 billion in downtown Detroit and employ some 10,000 people there."

The same goes for the rest of the U.S. At least for a while longer, life will continue as normal. Everything may feel okay. It may even appear that by using American grit, the nation can pull itself up by its own bootstraps.

Yet the underlying sickness so obvious in the Motor City—and seen throughout the U.S.—will not go away. Make no mistake! It WILL worsen unless the underlying causes are addressed.

Witnessing America's decline is painful for its citizens who have enjoyed abundant blessings for decades. And it is not what God intended.

He admonishes the nation: "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; *cease to do evil*; learn to do well; *seek judgment*, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isa. 1:16-17).

God longs for America to come to its senses. Notice verse 18: "Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

This offer comes with a qualifier: "If you be *willing* and *obedient*, you shall eat the good of the land: but if you *refuse* and *rebel*, you shall be devoured with the sword..." (vs. 19-20).

The symptoms of national collapse are intended to shake everyone to their core. As they continue, America has a choice. Continue as the sick man of the world—or regain world prominence.

To do the latter, the nation must shake itself from complacency. It must take a long hard look at itself. It must listen to the thundering warning from the Bible.

WAKE UP, AMERICA—YOU ARE SICK FROM HEAD TO TOE! □



A CATHOLIC REVOLUTION?

Just months into his papacy, Francis has shown a flair for dramatic changes.

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

A PROMOTIONAL VIDEO for World Youth Day (WYD) 2013, held July 23-28 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, touts the event as the largest youth gathering in the world. Conceived by Pope John Paul II in 1985, WYD is an international assemblage of young Catholics from around the globe, held at a major city every few years.

Recent venues include Madrid, Sydney, Toronto, Cologne and Paris. When held in Manila, Philippines, in 1995, four to five million young people gathered to hear John Paul

II speak in Luneta Park—one of the largest crowds in history.

Melodramatic music reminiscent of a movie score fills the video as it flashes images of previous WYDs: masses of young people gathered in a field for a papal address, groups of teens hoisting huge wooden crosses, intimate gatherings of devout youth, teary-eyed girls listening to a homily. It is a striking presentation.

But something is wrong. Interspersed through the scenes of crowds large and small, footage of

a white-haired, elaborately adorned pontiff alerts viewers that the film was produced prior to March 13 of this year. That was the day Benedict XVI (the pope featured in the WYD video), just weeks after announcing that he would step down from the papacy, became Pope Emeritus, and Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was chosen by the papal conclave as his replacement.

The producers of the film could scarcely be faulted, as it had been 600 years since a pope had resigned his position. Who could have seen that coming? But they probably would

■ **ADORATION:** Pope Francis waves at followers standing along the beachfront in Rio de Janeiro as hundreds of thousands of Catholics await his arrival for the final mass during his visit to Brazil (July 28, 2013).

PHOTO: NELSON ALMEIDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

have liked the chance to start again with footage of the new Bishop of Rome—a very different pope.

For the final Sunday mass during the youth gathering in Brazil, Francis drew an estimated three million people to the beaches of Rio de Janeiro—not a new record, but still a huge throng, more than the whole population in dozens of nations. As one of the first major events attended by this pontiff in the era of an embattled Roman Church, the Vatican considers it a great success.

In the months since his election, it has become clear: Francis's is a unique papacy that has come during a unique and historic time for his church.

Changes at Many Levels

An impartial observer watching Francis's first months in the Vatican might conclude that the papal conclave chose him in a fervent reaction to the outcome of Benedict's short tenure. The two men's approach to the office could scarcely be more different. Such an observer might first wonder if Francis, upon being elected, reinvented himself in a new image to distance himself from his predecessor. But those familiar with the former cardinal have known him to be this way for decades.

A common denominator is their European descent, one German and one Italian. But any obvious outward similarity stops there. Francis was born to Italian immigrants and raised in Argentina, far from the opulent culture for which the Continent is known.

The Washington Post summarized the new pope's presentation: "By now you've heard the story: Simple living, highly educated Jesuit priest-turned-archbishop-turned-pope rocks the Vatican with a modest lifestyle and frank tone seen as a radical departure from the practices of previous pontiffs.

"He's the pope who church watchers say hasn't mentioned abortion or gay marriage in his first 120 days.

"The pope who named himself after the radical mystic St. Francis of Assisi in order to remember the poor.

"The pope who said nice things about atheists.



■ **BELOVED:** Pope Francis waves to the faithful as he arrives to celebrate mass at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City, Vatican (June 16, 2013).

PHOTO: GIORGIO COSULICH/GETTY IMAGES

"The pope whom many already see as the best hope to re-energize a fading Catholic Church in the West.

"The new pope's influence has been dubbed the 'Francis effect'; he's been compared to Princess Diana and called 'the people's pope.' Early polls indicate that Francis is unusually popular, and in the months since his election, Catholics and non-Catholics alike can be found buzzing about his latest sermon or act of humility. Did you hear, the pope isn't living in the papal apartment? Did you see, Pope Francis paid his own hotel bill after becoming the leader of the Catholic Church? Did you notice, the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics carried his own

bag onto the plane for his trip to World Youth Day?"

Francis has embodied qualities and habits not often associated with the papacy: a modest lifestyle, a penchant for wading into the middle of crowds (much to the chagrin of his security detail, which he sometimes orders to stand down altogether), a focus on inclusiveness and tolerance for other religions, and a notably constant theme of focusing on the world's poor. The final result is a "man of the people" charisma.

The so-called Francis effect does not stop with his personal example. It has been reported that the papal conclave brought him into office with a

mandate to reform the church, which has been repeatedly battered by scandals for more than a decade.

How much progress is evident in his first five months on the job?

In April, the Vatican announced his formation of a group of eight cardinals, hailing from six continents, “to ‘advise him on the government of the universal church’ and ‘to study a project of revision’ of a document from John Paul II on the Roman Curia” (*National Catholic Reporter*).

In July, he formed another group—a commission to help him reform the Vatican’s finances and administrative structure, both also plagued by scandal. “Made up of seven international lay experts and one cleric, the commission will report directly to the pope and advise him on economic affairs, improving transparency and enforcing accounting principles” (*Reuters*).

Prior to this, in dealing with the Vatican bank (officially called the Institute for Religious Works or IOR), Francis “fired Nunzio Scarano, the top accountant in the Vatican office that oversees Vatican property and investments, after he was accused of money laundering and corruption and subsequently arrested. Then, practically overnight, he forced out IOR Director Paulo Cipriani and his deputy. Now the bank will be led by Ernst von Freyberg, a German baron and former consultant, member of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and the president of the IOR supervisory board since mid-February” (*Der Spiegel*).

Tackling broader problems at the church’s city-state center, he “overhauled the laws that govern the Vatican City state...criminalizing leaks of Vatican information and specifically listing sexual violence, prostitution and possession of child pornography as crimes against children that can be punished by up to 12 years in prison. The legislation covers clergy and lay people...” (*USA Today*).

Beyond sweeping gestures, he has directly admonished the clergy at a very specific and personal level, stating, “It hurts my heart when I see a priest with the latest model car,”

and that “something’s not right” with priests, nuns and seminarians who “are too serious, too sad” (*The Associated Press*).

Near the close of WYD 2013, in unprecedented comments that will likely thrill many young Catholics and upset some traditionalists, he told a gathering of Argentinian youth, “What is it that I expect as a consequence of World Youth Day? I want a mess. We knew that in Rio there would be great disorder, but I want trouble in the dioceses!...I want to see the church in the street. I want to get rid of the mundane, the comforts, clericalism, this closing ourselves off in the parishes, the schools or institutions” (*The Washington Post*).

Add various statements from Francis that have offered olive branches to atheists, Muslims, homosexuals and other groups, and you have a picture that some have called revolutionary.

So far, the general response to the “Francis effect” has been one of renewed enthusiasm among Catholics worldwide. Any distaste among conservatives is largely lost in a chorus of praise.

The World’s Response

Approbation for Francis has come from many directions—some predictable, others surprising.

Early in his papacy, American columnist Peggy Noonan mused, “...this pope seems to me the pope of sweetness, not of a shallow or sentimental kind but some deep sweetness that has to do with words like tenderness, and mercy, and protection.”

“John Paul and Benedict were bringers, givers, teachers. But Francis seems like a summoner, an inviter. And this seems just right for the world right now.

“...I am finding it impossible not to be interested in what he is doing, and what he will become” (*The Wall Street Journal*).

His first official trip outside Rome was to the small Sicilian island of Lampedusa, known as a way station for those migrating from Northern Africa

to Europe, with many not surviving the journey often undertaken in dangerously overloaded and under-equipped vessels. This brought positive comments from many media outlets, humanitarian relief organization UNICEF, and from Fouad Aodi, president of the Arab Community in Italy (Comai), who called the visit “unforgettable” and “historic” (*AnsaMed*).

The Italian edition of *Vanity Fair* has already named Francis “Man of the Year.” It featured him on the cover of an issue that contains statements of admiration from various celebrities. Most notable was musician Elton John. The singer/songwriter, who once called for a ban of all organized religion, hailed the pope “a miracle of humility in an era of vanity.”

And the head of the world’s most influential international organization—United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon—offered a glowing assessment of his first meeting with Francis. Speaking at a New York City reception in April, he stated: “I can tell you that after meeting [the pope], I came away with a deep, abiding respect for his moral voice and his passionate commitment and his deep humility. I told [him] that his choice of name after St. Francis of Assisi was a powerful message. It speaks loudly of his commitment to the poor and his resolve to improve the human condition... We also talked about the need for all of us and the world to advance the dignity and human rights, especially for women and girls. Pope Francis is a bridge builder. I know that he strongly shares my conviction that inter-faith dialogue can point the way for a deeper appreciation for shared values, which in turn can lead to tolerance, inclusion and peace.

“As I said at the Vatican, Pope Francis is a man of peace, a man of purpose, a voice for the voiceless. He is a defender of the defenseless people. I look forward to continuing our dialogue with His Holiness and the Vatican. In this spirit, I was honored to invite Pope Francis to visit the United

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What Will **Emerge** f

Political upheaval persists following the

AS HUNDREDS of thousands—perhaps millions—of Egyptians amassed in Cairo’s Tahrir Square for the third time in as many years, news watchers turned once again to the churning crowd, the waving flags, and the deafening roar—waiting to see what would happen.

After months of protests and growing worry that President Mohammed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood were monopolizing power in the government, the nation’s military issued an ultimatum: share power with the political opposition or be forced out.

The president was deposed a little more than 48 hours later on July 3.

The violence that followed across the nation led to the deaths and injuries of hundreds.

The continued clashes underline the deep divide in the country between Islamists, secularists and the military.

Each of the three major events tied to these celebratory gatherings seemed monumental: The February 2011 ouster of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak gave a sense of renewal to the nation. The June 2012 peaceful election of President Morsi built faith in the democratic process, despite the victor’s conservative-Islamic leanings. And now, the July 2013 removal of Mr. Morsi has made

the nation feel it can quash a potentially oppressive regime before it takes hold.

Yet this third time was different. An Egyptian writer who was in Tahrir Square for all three events described the subtle difference in *Al Monitor*: “The floods of people in the streets around Cairo appeared to me bigger than before, people seemed to genuinely believe they ‘took back their country,’ and that the military was a hero doing all the right things. But perhaps what characterized this time in Tahrir for me was my sense of worry, deeper than ever before.”

Between political polarization and waves of violence, a dark cloud hangs over Egypt, in many cases in the eyes of international observers.



from Egypt's Coup?

removal of President Mohammed Morsi.

Soon after his removal, Mr. Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected president, was held "incommunicado" at an undisclosed location, according to *Reuters*. The Muslim Brotherhood refused to recognize the transitional government that ousted Morsi and vowed "instead to press on with protests until the Islamist politician is released from military custody," *Bloomberg* reported.

Violence is a daily occurrence for many Egyptians. Video footage of incidents between opponents and supporters of Mr. Morsi has flooded social media outlets. One such video is of young men being thrown head first off a rooftop only to be beaten by angry protesters on the pavement below.

Also, there has been a drastic increase in sexual assaults against

women, which has prompted an advisory that women travel in groups. According to the *Guardian*, more than 100 women were attacked in July.

"The military and police are also struggling to end militant attacks in Sinai, which have intensified since [Morsi's] removal," *Bloomberg* stated. "Clashes in Sinai killed three soldiers, two policemen and one civilian, [Egypt's] state-run news agency reported, while a further five policemen and one civilian were wounded in an attack on a central security camp in Rafah in north Sinai [July 22]."

With unrest at every turn, what will emerge out of Egypt?

Universal Concern

The sense of worry over Egypt's situation spans the globe.

International community: United Nations "Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay have spoken out several times on the need for all parties in Egypt—which has been undergoing a democratic transition since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak two years ago—to exercise

■ **POWER STRUGGLE:** Left, an Egyptian man chants slogans during a demonstration against President Mohammed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood in Tahrir Square (June 28, 2013). Middle, demonstrators for and against the ousted Mr. Morsi hurl stones at each other in the nation's capital (July 5, 2013). Right, Egyptian security forces stand guard during a demonstration against the deposed president in northern Alexandria (July 7, 2013).

PHOTOS: GIANLUIGI GUERCIA/AFP/ (LEFT); MOHAMED EL-SHAHED/AFP/ (MIDDLE); -/AFP/ (RIGHT) GETTY IMAGES

restraint, protect human rights and resort to dialogue to peacefully resolve differences” (*UN News Centre*).

United States: A White House statement issued in early July stated that President Barack Obama “condemned the ongoing violence across Egypt and expressed concern over the continued political polarization. He reiterated that the United States is not aligned with, and does not support, any particular Egyptian political party or group.”

African Union: The African Union’s Peace and Security Council suspended Egypt’s membership immediately after the military removed Mr. Morsi from office. The organization warned that “Egypt risks being engulfed in a civil war unless its newly installed interim government includes Islamists,” *Reuters* stated.

Israel: “Israeli officials have maintained a diplomatic silence since Mr. Morsi’s overthrow, refusing to comment publicly on what they say is an internal Egyptian affair,” *The New York Times* reported. But one official speaking on condition of anonymity told the paper: “We are observing very closely. This is a matter of highest importance for us. We really hope the Egyptians manage to put together a functioning democracy, slowly but surely, but there is still a very high level of uncertainty.”

Government Takes Shape

After deposing Mr. Morsi, the armed forces placed the head of the Supreme Constitutional Court, Adly Mansour, as interim president and called for another round of elections. Little is known about the 67-year-old Mr. Mansour, which adds to the country’s unease.

One of Mr. Mansour’s first acts was to name former finance minister Hazem el-Bablawi as prime minister and liberal politician Mohamed ElBaradei as interim vice pres-

ident. He then “outlined a path to quick elections and a return to democracy,” *The Washington Post* stated.

“The plan presented by Mansour drew immediate condemnation from Morsi’s supporters in the Muslim Brotherhood, but it also elicited a lukewarm response from key players in the loose alliance of politicians and activists who had lobbied for Morsi’s ouster” (*ibid.*).

Reuters reported that the liberal activist group, Tamarod, which helped topple Mr. Morsi, voiced its disappointment on its website that it had “not been consulted ahead of Mansour’s constitutional declaration.”

Mr. Mansour’s next step was to swear in a new cabinet, which is dominated by liberal and leftist politicians, according to *The New York Times*: “Not one of the 34 cabinet members belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood... or any other Islamist party. The cabinet does include three women and three Coptic Christians, making it slightly

more diverse, in some respects, than Mr. Morsi’s cabinet.”

Egypt’s interim president has been described as a mystery man by local and international media outlets. Oddly, Mr. Morsi had appointed him to his role as head of the Supreme Constitutional Court just weeks prior to his ouster. As one of Egypt’s longest-serving judges, Mr. Mansour has been politically quiet and has kept a low-profile. It is because of this that some analysts have suggested the interim president may really be a puppet for the military.

Egypt’s military chief General Abdul-Fattah el-Sisi, however, claimed his interests were apolitical during the July 3 televised address that placed Mr. Mansour in power: “The armed forces couldn’t plug its ears or close its eyes as the movement and demands of the masses calling for them to play a national role, not a political role as the armed forces themselves will be the first to proclaim that they will stay away from politics.”

Despite such assurances, General el-Sisi has taken on the title of deputy to the prime minister. What exactly his powers are remains to be seen.

Uncertain Footing

While the armed forces’ move to overthrow Egypt’s elected government was sudden, continued political turmoil in the nation comes with little surprise. The country has been split down the middle since Mr. Mubarak’s departure in 2011.

Though Mr. Morsi did win the 2012 presidential election, it was only with 51.7 percent of the vote. His opponent, Ahmed Shafiq—who served as prime minister under Mr. Mubarak—garnered 48.3 percent. Almost one in two Egyptians was ready to hand power to a main player in the former regime.

Since Mr. Morsi’s inauguration, the military did everything it could to limit his power, while the Muslim Brotherhood worked tirelessly to cut the

Turmoil in Egypt

Main events in current crisis

June 30, 2012: Mohammed Morsi takes office as president of Egypt

August: Mr. Morsi strips military of voice in legislation and drafting the new constitution

November: President Morsi declares himself above the judiciary; sets vote on disputed constitution; thousands protest

January 2013: Crowds protest in Tahrir Square against Mr. Morsi on the anniversary of the revolt that ousted President Hosni Mubarak

February: Mr. Morsi schedules elections for new lower house of parliament to begin in April; later postponed

March: Protests continue in Port Said and other cities, dozens die in clashes; some police units go on strike

May: President Morsi reshuffles Cabinet, bringing in more ministers from the Muslim Brotherhood

June: Demonstrators accuse Muslim Brotherhood of monopolizing power and imposing Islamic law

June 30: Millions of demonstrators demand Mr. Morsi’s resignation

July 3: Military ousts Mr. Morsi, declares Adly Mansour, head of constitutional court, interim president

July 8: At least 55 people killed, hundreds wounded in shootings outside Republican Guard headquarters, where Mr. Morsi’s supporters are gathered

July 24: General el-Sisi calls for mandate to confront “violence and potential terrorism”



Source: Reuters, AP, BBC, ESRI Graphic: Melina Yingling, Pat Carr © 2013 MCT

Why Constant Conflict in the Middle East?

Request your free copy at rcg.org/tmeibp to learn how it will be resolved!

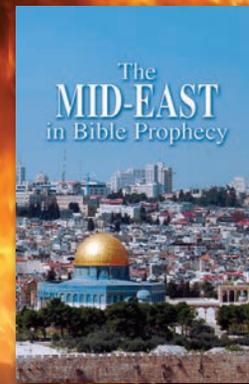


PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

armed forces out of the political process.

Over a year ago, *U.S. News and World Report* provided this summary: “The odds are overwhelming that the current military and Muslim Brotherhood leadership will not be around in five years time unless there is a military coup,” says Center for Strategic and International Studies analyst Anthony Cordesman. “Several political transitions likely will play out over the next decade until a regime experienced enough and capable enough comes in.”

Egypt seems unsure of what it wants. Will it embrace a theocracy based on the tenants of Islam? A free-market democracy? Or something else entirely?

Mid-East Pacesetter

Most cannot see where Egypt is ultimately headed, yet clues to the nation’s future—and what is coming for the entire region—began to emerge in 2011 on the night of Mr. Mubarak’s resignation. At that time, *Real Truth* Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack wrote: “To look closely at Egypt is in some ways to look closely at the entire Middle East.

“The biggest and most populous, and most geographically central nation in the Mid-East, Egypt—and its historical role—is referenced many times in the Bible. Egypt was the world’s first recorded great empire. And it is still the 16th most populous country in the world. History records that Noah escaped to Egypt when persecutors sought his death before the Flood. The ancient patriarch Joseph was sold into slavery there, which led to his father, Jacob, then named Israel, settling there. Certain historians believe that the patriarch Job—Joseph’s nephew—built some of the pyramids. Moses was largely trained in Egypt. An infant Jesus was taken there for protection. Before the Exodus, it took many miracles to break the will of the stout-hearted Egyptians before God could deliver His people from enslavement. Egyptian arrogance caused Pharaoh to ignore all of this and lose his army in the Red Sea as God’s people fled under His protection. History records Egypt never recovered.

“Ancient Israel often went to war with Egypt. The Bible records many accounts involving this country as

God’s servants and people came into contact with it.

“Of course, many dismiss such Bible accounts as Hebrew fables. They do not believe the miracles of Egypt—or any *other* miracles of the Bible—actually occurred. It can be proven with *unmistakable clarity*...Even the close-minded will be surprised at the stubbornness—and the power—of the facts. The authority of the Bible *can be proven*.”

The World to Come broadcast “You Can Prove the Bible’s Authority” available at worldtocome.org presented by Mr. Pack addresses this topic in detail. Yet the Bible—which provides a road map to Egypt’s future—reveals much more. It outlines the role the nation will play in a foretold entity called “the king of the south,” which is a lead player in a long prophecy found in chapter 11 of the Old Testament book of Daniel.

To learn what is to come for Egypt and the entire region, read Mr. Pack’s eye-opening and fact-filled booklet *The Mid-East in Bible Prophecy* available at rcg.org/tmeibp. It provides a clear, authoritative, biblically based foundation for understanding the future of this pivotal region. □



Criminal Minds

Would God Use Prisons to Rehabilitate?

The Founding Fathers framed much of the United States on Judeo-Christian values, so it should be no surprise that prisons have roots in religion. But is modern imprisonment biblical?

SEVENTEEN-NINETIES America was a fledgling nation—a clean slate. It was thought that any problems of the past could be solved with the high aim of constructing a perfect nation.

One of the first projects was to revise the criminal justice system.

Colonial America punished criminals through swift execution of verdicts, which were generally performed publicly to bring shame and humiliation to the perpetrator and prevent similar crimes from occurring. Typical sentences involved being whipped or a stint in the stockades.

Jails did exist, but they were only used to hold criminals awaiting trial and sentencing.

After the Revolution, however, the elite in America saw this system as archaic and inhumane. They determined to improve it through a complete overhaul.

Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signatory of the U.S. Constitution, proposed a new system of punishment to rehabilitate criminals. The hope was to turn the “dregs of society” into good citizens. Drawing from a Quaker belief that all humans have an “inner light”—

an inherent goodness—Rush devised a system of solitary confinement. (This was also similar to an isolation punishment used by Catholic monasteries to punish disobedient monks.)

In this new system, men were placed in a tiny cell and given only a Bible to read. The prisoner was referred to by a number rather than a name and kept in his cell most of the day, except for a short period of exercise in an adjoining pen. Silence was maintained at all times. When an inmate was allowed out of his cell, a hood was placed over his head to continue his isolation. Being alone with one’s conscience was considered the most effective form of punishment as it was believed that it would give an inmate time to meditate on his actions and repent. In fact, the term penitentiary includes the idea of repentance.

Although this system of complete isolation was scrapped after the

■ **RESTORATION PROCESS:** An inmate peers out from his cell in the medical ward of Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, California.

PHOTO: LUIS SINCO/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

American Civil War due to its high cost, it marked a move toward imprisonment as the primary form of punishment. Variations of Rush's system spread throughout America and the world.

Not much has changed in modern prisons.

Inmates are still stripped of all their possessions, given a number, and locked up in a cell as punishment—rather than being flogged and released, or publicly humiliated. More recently, high-security or “supermax” prisons have resurrected a type of Rush's model of solitary confinement.

The modern prison system borrows ideas from the Catholics and Quakers—two different sects of Christianity. But does this mean prisons are biblical? More important, would the God of the Bible use these institutions to rehabilitate—bring a change of mind—to those who inhabit them?

America's Prison System

Today's prisons have three basic objectives: punish a criminal by taking away his time, remove him from society (in an attempt to reduce crime as well), and rehabilitate inmates to become functional members of society upon release.

The problems inherent with this system have remained the same for years: recidivism (repeated relapse into criminal acts), overcrowding, cost and, most telling—despite the large amounts of funding—the utter inability of the system to contain crime.

A trend of state governments has been to pass laws calling for stricter mandatory sentences, with the thinking that longer prison time will deter future crimes. A variation of this is the three-strike rule: if convicted three separate times for a felony, a criminal receives automatic life imprisonment.

But laws such as these have not prevented criminals from falling back into old habits. According to a 2011 Pew Research Center report, more than

4 in 10 offenders return to state prison within three years of being released. These rates have been largely stable for well over a decade.

Not only are recidivism statistics troubling, the overall amount of men and women in prison is astounding. “Federal and state corrections facilities held over 1.6 million prisoners at the end of 2010—approximately one of

While housed with other offenders, inmates have time to discuss, learn and hone their crafts—whether grand-theft auto, breaking and entering, or learning how to better escape capture. Rather than being rehabilitated, prisoners are often released only to commit criminal acts again—but more effectively.

Some states have thrown more money at the problem to try to combat these and other challenges. Florida, for example, has invested in a new model, as reported by the *Havana Herald*: “[A] new \$17 million re-entry center is being called the next big innovation for getting convicted felons ready to return to society.”

This approach prepares “inmates to be released through programs like adult education and substance abuse” and could also involve administering training in vocations like “small engine repair and heating and

air conditioning” (ibid.).

The issue of overcrowding adds to the list of concerns. Prisoners now sue state and federal governments for “barbaric” conditions, which stem from excess population.

In the end, many inmates win, with the courts ordering institutions to solve such problems, which can include releasing prisoners early. Regrettably, some of these individuals then commit other crimes, in some cases worse than the ones for which they were originally incarcerated.

“An Oregon man who killed two people in Portland...was released from an overcrowded county jail just weeks before the first killing,” *The Associated Press* reported.

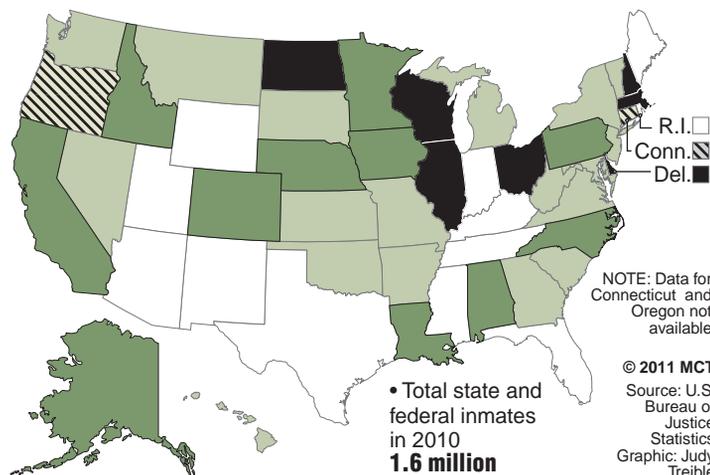
Clearly, America's prisons have failed to produce any tangible results. Simply put, they do not work.

So then, what is the biblical solution? Is the current system of imprison-

Many U.S. prisons are full

State and federal prison population as a percent of highest prison capacity:

□ Less than 90% ■ 90-100% ■ 101-120% ■ 120% or more ▨ N/A



every 201 U.S. residents,” the Council of State Governments Justice Center reported. Compare this to the 1970s, when there were only about 268,000 prison inmates in all 50 states.

The cost of holding these prisoners raises even more concerns.

In 2001, the average inmate cost over \$22,500 annually, or about \$62 a day, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Findings from a 2010 Vera Institute of Justice document, however, now reveal that the total per-inmate cost averaged \$31,286. This equates to a price per day of about \$86, nearly a 40 percent increase!

Additionally, the Pew study showed that a mere 10 percent reduction in recidivism rates for states equals a savings of more than \$635 million in one year alone!

Increasing costs are not the only worry. Correctional facilities are criticized as being a “college” for criminals.

ment, which supposedly stems from Christianity, really what the Bible supports?

Biblical Criminal Justice

Imprisonment is littered throughout Scripture. As a young man, Joseph was thrown into prison in Egypt (Gen. 39:20). Samson, after having his eyes put out, was made to work in a grinding mill prison house of the Philistines (Jdg. 16:21). Jeremiah spent many of his days in the “court of the prison” (Jer. 32:2).

Also, throughout the New Testament, men such as Paul, James, John the Baptist, and Peter were incarcerated.

This shows that variations of imprisonment have been used for thousands of years.

Prisons, however, are not God’s way of dealing with crime. The above examples all occurred in nations not governed by God.

When Israel was led out of Egypt, God gave the nation a civil code of laws that would cause the Gentiles to view Israel as a “great nation” that was both “wise and understanding” (Deut. 4:6). In this code, God included no provision for prisons. Instead, there were swift and sure punishments for each broken law.

In contrast to America’s current prison system, a broken law generally resulted in a predetermined punishment—with no gray areas. Once a man was sentenced, the punishment was quickly and publicly carried out—often with citizens helping to execute sentences.

This system of corporal and capital punishment was used so that others would “hear, and fear” (Deut. 13:11; 17:13; 19:20), while realizing the consequences of breaking the law.

The closest thing to a prison were wards, where criminals were held as they awaited sentencing (Lev. 24:12; Num. 15:34).

On top of this, penalties fit the crime. In the 21st century, however, what and how long a sentence should be are usually left to a judge to decide. For the same offense, one man may

receive years in prison, while another only a handful of months—or even none at all!

In addition, physical punishment under Israel’s civil laws was made to fit the crime, not the criminal. Some violations incurred flogging or a mandatory death sentence. Others incurred less severe punishments. For example, under certain circumstances, if a man was caught stealing, he was ordered to pay back twice the stolen amount (Ex. 22:4-9).

By consistently and publicly punishing criminals, ancient Israelites knew what consequences would result if they broke laws. In doing so, crime was thwarted.

Even though it may seem that what is outlined in the Bible is “too simple” and critics could decry it would not fit every case, applying God’s Law *would* effectively reduce crime—if a nation diligently applied it.

United States prisons cannot produce real rehabilitation or change in inmates. Modern systems are not based upon God’s Law, but rather the ideas of men. Because of this, prisons cannot get to the core problem of crime—human nature!

Broken System

The concept of solitary confinement has been amplified in the form of super-maximum security or super-max prisons. Inside these institutions, inmates have little to no contact with prison staff or other inmates and are in a single cell the vast majority of a given day.

Instead of Dr. Rush’s original objective of facilitating repentance—bringing change in mindsets of inmates—these prison cells are reserved for the “worst of the worst”—prisoners who, given the current system, cannot follow the laws of government or the rules of lower security prisons. Virtually labeled unreformable, these criminals live in solitude—with little hope they will change—and no programs in place to ensure that they do.

“An estimated 80,000 American prisoners spend 23 hours a day in

closed isolation units for 10, 20 or even more than 30 years,” *National Public Radio* reported.

The media outlet detailed the case of a man who served 29 years in solitary confinement “in a 3-by-6 cell that he describes as a ‘tomb.’”

“There was a slab of concrete that you slept on...and during the winter time you froze, and during the summer time you overheated,” the inmate stated.

During the remaining hour, prisoners are usually escorted to an exercise pen and then returned to their cells, which generally contain a desk, a bed with a thin mattress, a sink, and a toilet. The metal door is soundproofed to ensure as little contact as possible with adjacent prisoners, and three meals a day are delivered through an opening on the door for the prisoner to eat in solitude.

This is not what God intended.

While modern prisons are plagued with mounting problems, God’s Way involves swift sentencing and swift punishment.

“God” of Modern Prisons

There is one future case, though, in which God will use a sort of “super-max prison” for His own purpose. A sentence for someone He deems unfixable—but whose imprisonment will yield tremendous results!

What flows from this example reveals both the author of modern prisons and why they cannot succeed in rehabilitating men and curbing crime in society.

The book of Revelation describes when Satan himself will be imprisoned. Notice: “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him” (20:2-3).

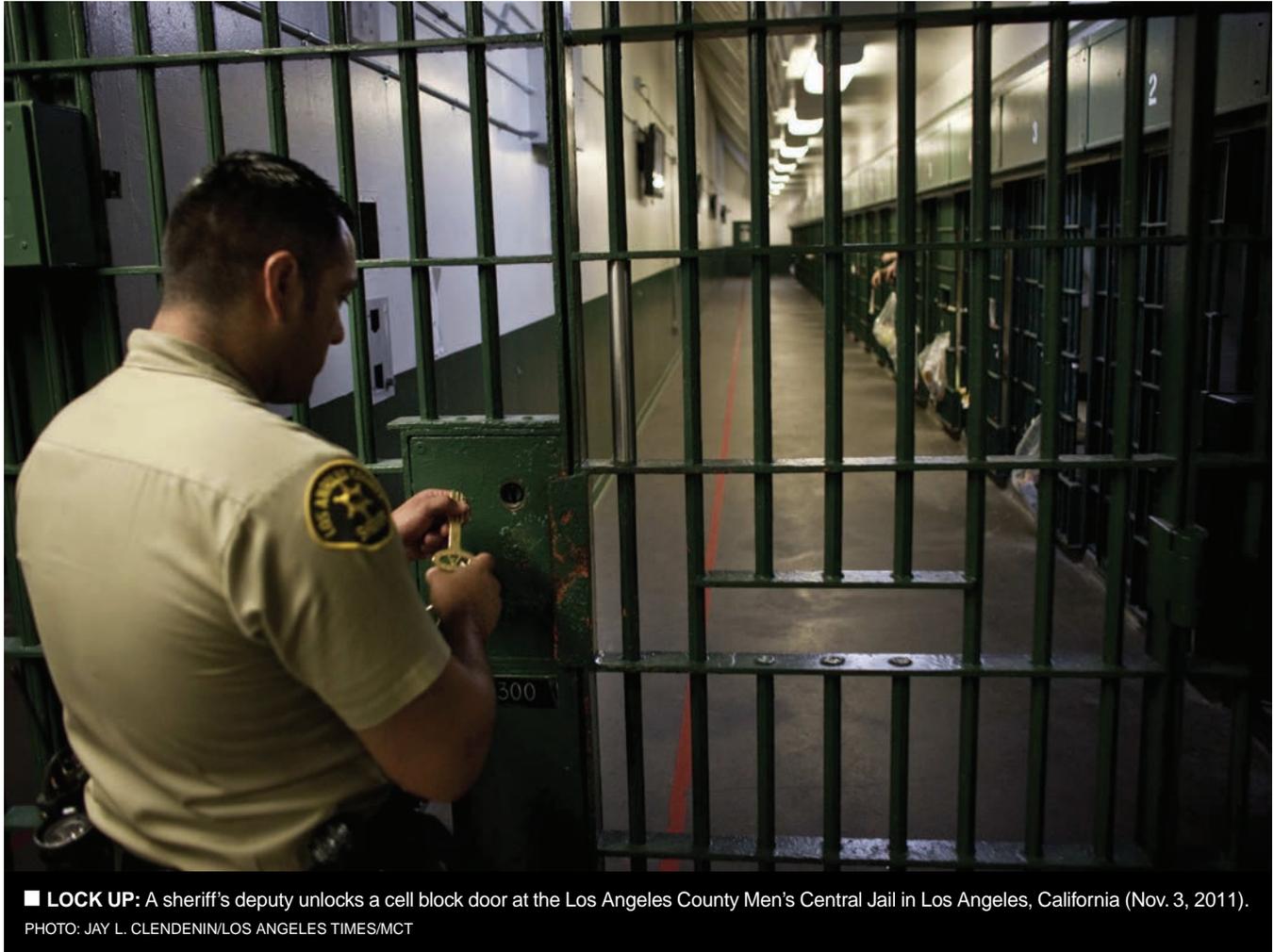
Yet there is a specific reason why God uniquely uses imprisonment for the devil.

Unknown to man, Satan is currently ruling as “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4). He is the one who broadcasts his nature to all mankind, spawn-

ing “children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2). It is he who is the ultimate author of crime. And it is he who has inspired both ancient and current prison systems. Satan, who has deceived the world into following his own twisted form of imprisonment, is himself fac-

of Christ, which is detailed throughout God’s Word. Notice: “...the God of heaven [will] set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people [not left to the ideas of men], but it shall break in pieces and consume all

be able to make right decisions, grow, change and overcome their old ways. This Spirit will allow true repentance—true rehabilitation! Even the darkest glares of the most hardened criminal will be turned into joyful smiles.



■ **LOCK UP:** A sheriff’s deputy unlocks a cell block door at the Los Angeles County Men’s Central Jail in Los Angeles, California (Nov. 3, 2011).
PHOTO: JAY L. CLENDENIN/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

ing a soon-coming prison sentence. God uses this unique prison system because the devil and his fallen angels are immortal beings who cannot be put to death or rehabilitated.

These beings—whose minds are twisted and perverted—are imprisoned (Rev. 20:2) so that they can “deceive the nations no more...” (20:3).

Eventually, the Earth will be free from Satan’s sway!

Establishing a New System

The Bible reveals that all mankind’s systems of government will be wiped away. This will happen at the Return

these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Dan. 2:44).

The planet will soon be a clean slate! But unlike the early years of America, the government will not be “left to the people”—it will not be based upon the ideas of Satan or men. This government—the kingdom of God—will be built upon God’s Law, which will be administered perfectly.

With Satan’s nature removed, God will pour out His Spirit upon humanity (Joel 2:28)—enabling the whole of mankind to change and overcome selfish desires. Minds that were once ruled by the power of the devil will

This newly established kingdom will teach man to solve his most persistent problems, which stem from his flawed systems and governments. Read *What Is the Kingdom of God?* available at rcg.org/witkog to learn the incredible truth about this coming time.

No longer will anyone live out their days without human contact, or move in and out of prison cells, unable to break free of a life of crime. With this kingdom’s establishment, the problems of correctional facilities will be forever removed.

Mankind will then be freed from the ineffective system of prisons! □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 3

In addition to (1) carrying the name “Church of God,” we have seen the true Church has (2) come out of the world, (3) is small, and (4) is persecuted. This Church is then also (5) set apart by its BELIEFS and PRACTICES—which are in complete agreement with the TRUTH of the Bible!

But we are still only beginning with proofs.

Unified Through God’s Word

Let’s go further on this last point by asking an all-important question. What is the *Bible definition* of the true Church? Have you ever wondered? The answer has everything to do with why this Church is *unified*. Men have their own differing definitions of what the Church is—and these could be listed almost without end—but only *God’s* definition matters.

The apostle Paul also wrote this: “...that you may know how you ought to behave yourself in the *house of God*, which is the *church of the living God*, the pillar and ground of the TRUTH” (I Tim. 3:15). Note the words “the truth.”

In the end, no other definition devised by men is acceptable. This description of the Church *Christ* built

will guide us. So then, God’s Church has and teaches THE TRUTH!

This world’s churches are split by endless disagreement over doctrine and practice. Amos 3:3, in the Old Testament, asks, “Can two *walk together*, except they be *agreed*?” The answer is an obvious NO! Just ask any divorced couple what caused their split. They did not agree!

The problem is these churches do not practice the principle of “...man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*” (Luke 4:4), meaning, exactly as written. Instead—since they follow the many differing traditions and ideas of men—endless disagreements separate, divide and create more and more churches of *men*. These organizations generally do not “walk together” because they do not “agree”—either with each other or with *God*! (And this starts with how they define the New Testament Church.)

God’s Church is different. Many verses show that the Church *Christ* built is *unified*—with all its members and congregations walking *together* in complete agreement with each other—and with God and Christ.

Picture of Complete Unity

A crucial point, revealing the kind of unity to be seen in the true Church,

emerges from Jesus’ earlier-referenced prayer of John 17. Notice: “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be *sanctified* [again, set apart] *through the truth*...That they *all* may be ONE; as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be ONE *in Us*: that the world may believe that You have sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them; that they may be ONE, *even as We are ONE*: I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made *perfect in ONE*...” (vs. 19, 21-23).

These are powerful statements! Christ intended that His Church be unified—“one”—bound together—*no less than were He and His Father*!

There is no room for disagreement in a Church that is *this* unified. These verses describe a perfect oneness through the truth—the *same* kind that the Father and Christ enjoy. It is *this* kind of unity that allows true Christians to be “in” them—be *in* Christ and *in* the Father (vs. 21).

Even in the Old Testament, David wrote, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for *brethren to dwell together in UNITY*” (Psa. 133:1).

My thorough book *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!* examines various New Testament passages to see if, in fact, this kind of wonderful unity was taught *after* Christ’s



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DARNITRA D. JACKSON/THE REAL TRUTH

Church came into existence. It shows that God's servants teach and administer *this* level of agreement, and more of *how* that unity is achieved.

Next notice this earliest picture of Christ's Church. In Acts 2, verse 1, on the day of Pentecost in AD 31—the very first day the New Testament Church came into existence—with the disciples reported as gathered in “one accord,” 3,000 converts were baptized. They formed the very beginning of Christ's building of His Church. The description of them was, “And they *continued steadfastly* in the APOSTLES' DOCTRINE and FELLOWSHIP...” (vs. 42) and “*all that believed were together*” (vs. 44), as well as “they, continuing daily with *one accord...did eat their [food] with gladness and singleness of heart*” (vs. 46).

From these verses, we clearly see that the Church Jesus Christ built was unified. It was in agreement over doctrine—and was together. Notice verse 47: “...And the LORD added to the church daily such as should be saved.” In the Church Christ guides and directs, He is the One who adds to it, and builds it!

Think. Reason alone says Jesus would not add to thousands of different churches that cannot agree on His teachings—that cannot agree on what is truth.

Many Vital Truths

We must ask one more question before concluding: How did mankind get into the state of confusion, division, war, competition and disagreement existing all over the Earth today? Of course, this includes religion. God's original command to Adam in the book of Genesis, chapter 2, was, “But of the tree of the *knowledge of good and evil*, you shall *not* eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely *die*” (vs. 17).

In chapter 3, Eve, with Adam following, rebelled and ate of this wrong tree (vs. 6). Notice that this tree represented *knowledge* that was both “good and evil.” In other words, the tree was not entirely evil—it contained a *mixture* of true and false—good and evil—knowledge! It is the same with the churches of this world. Some do have small amounts of true (or “good”) doctrinal knowledge, mixed with much false (or “evil”) doctrinal knowledge.

For 6,000 years, God has told His servants to avoid mixing truth with error. He warned Adam that eating of the wrong tree would result in death. And it did.

The warning is the same for us today!

When I was first learning the truth, I heard an analogy that I had never

considered before—but have never forgotten since: Think of a delicious cake laced with either arsenic, cyanide or any other poison, while otherwise containing nothing but good and healthy ingredients. Eating such a cake would always result in death.

The good ingredients would not be sufficient to overcome the hidden poison. Likewise, God's Church does not and cannot mix truth with error. As with the cake, the result for those who do is fatal!

We have already seen some of the truths taught by the Church that Jesus built. But do not take my word. Prove these things to yourself from the Bible.

One article could scarcely contain a simple *listing* of all the truths taught in God's Word, let alone a detailed scriptural explanation proving each and explaining *why* God teaches it. However, in Part 2, we will begin to look at certain of the doctrines of God taught by His Church. We have much to cover. It is fascinating knowledge—and you will want to read it.

In the meantime, read the informative and eye-opening book titled *Where Is the True Church? – and Its Incredible History!* available at rcg.org/thogtc. In it, you will learn about the amazing 2,000-year journey of the Church that Christ established. □



**Where Has Christ's Church
Been for Nearly Two Millennia?**

Can it be found in history and traced to the present day?
To learn how to identify it, order your free book at rcg.org/thogtc.



AGRICULTURE

Continued from page 7

In the article “Pesticides Poison Us,” “Dr. William Albrecht, [former] chairman of the Department of Soils at Missouri University College of Agriculture, and other investigators have shown that unhealthy plants are more subject to insect attack than are healthy plants. This is nature’s way of eliminating sick plants which should be returned to the earth instead of being eaten by humans.”

We observed the same result in our Ambassador College Agricultural Research Program. Even under the best conditions, insects destroyed a small percentage of the crop. But is this in itself bad? The loss of the weakest part of the crop ensures the food value of the remaining part and that the best seed is saved for the next crop.

You would think that the prospect of growing quality products that resist insects and render pesticides unnecessary would cause great excitement. But not so! This *solution*—the only real solution—runs counter to the greed of human nature and the vested interests of our social and economic systems. And it appears that man would rather perish than change *that*!

Monoculture Upsets Natural Balance

Without interference by man, Earth’s soil always produces varied, diverse crops. Yet in some areas of our modern world, it is a rare sight to see mixed crops growing together.

Monoculture reduces soil quality and will attract abnormal amounts of insects. The greater the area under one crop, and the extent to which that crop is grown exclusively year after year, the greater the potential insect problem. This practice of husbandry extracts the same variety of a host of minerals from the soil year after year, without replenishing them. Thus

the mineral-deficient plants invite the insects.

The Colorado beetle is an example of what happens when man begins to simplify agriculture and farm one crop exclusively. This beetle used to be harmless and fed principally on smartweed, which it hunted out from among many other plants. When huge fields of potatoes were newly introduced to Colorado, however, this insect suddenly found itself in the midst of mile after mile of green potato fields—a beetle’s “paradise.” As a result, the beetle multiplied so rapidly that within little over a decade it literally ate its way over 1,600 miles to the East Coast!

Many similar examples could be cited, and from all parts of the planet. Regrettably, our entire modern farming method is geared toward extensive monoculture. To many it would be unthinkable to even suggest that this practice be changed! There are those, however, who have *successfully* changed of their own free will, and with positive results.

Other sound principles of agriculture that farmers often neglect include rotating crops to minimize insect reproduction, and observing the correct time for planting and growing trees and hedges, which encourage insect-eating birds to visit a farm.

Weeds and Herbicides

According to some estimates, U.S. crop losses from weeds have been equal to the combined losses from insects and diseases, and run second only to those caused by soil erosion.

Alfred H. Krebs recorded in 1964 in his book *Agriculture in Our Lives*, “Some persons who have studied the matter estimate that weeds cause an annual loss of about five billion dollars to farmers in the United States. The average loss per farm is probably over a thousand dollars, most of which is in the form of crop damage. Some experts have placed the losses from

weeds at a minimum of ten dollars per acre. The losses caused by weeds are considerably more than the losses from either crop diseases or insects.” These dollar figures would be multiplied more than seven times by 2012!

As weeds become stronger, heartier and resistant to current herbicides, more toxic compounds are being produced by the giant chemical industry. It is devising ever more powerful methods to kill weeds and beneficial soil life, and never coming to (or perhaps willingly ignoring) the true knowledge of the *cause* of weeds. So we see here the same vicious cycle as with all forms of pesticides.

Purpose of Weeds

As with insect pests, few seem to realize that weeds have a purpose. In the publisher’s preface to Joseph Cocannouer’s book *Weeds, Guardians of the Soil*, the publisher summarizes some of the purposes of weeds:

“1. They bring minerals, especially those which have been depleted, up from the subsoil to the topsoil and make them available to crops. This is particularly important with regard to trace elements.

“2. When used in crop rotation they break up hardpans and allow subsequent crop roots to feed deeply.

“3. They fiberize and condition the soil and provide a good environment for the minute but important animal and plant life that make any soil productive.

“4. They are good indicators of soil condition, both as to variety of weed present and to condition of the individual plant. Certain weeds appear when certain deficiencies occur.

“5. Weeds are deep divers and feeders and through soil capillarity they enable the less hardy, surface feeding crops to withstand drought better than the crop alone could.

“6. As companion crops they enable our domesticated plants to get their roots to otherwise unavailable food.



“7. Weeds store up minerals and nutrients that would be washed, blown or leached away from bare ground and keep them readily available.”

Obviously, these purposes and benefits are listed only as general guidelines and do not apply to all weeds under all conditions.

F.C. King, in his book *The Weed Problem: A New Approach*, also revealed that weeds build up and protect the soil and, coexisting with domestic crops, help make soil nutrients more available. The author stated that “we are hopelessly wrong in believing weeds to be useless plants and in devoting our energy to their suppression, instead of studying to employ them.”

In England, it has been reported that when lawns become deficient in lime, daisies appear. The daisies are found to be rich in lime, which they manufacture in their tissues. The lime goes into the soil when the daisies die and decay. When the soil becomes sufficiently enriched with lime, the daisy “problem” disappears.

When weeds become so abundant that they interfere with crop production, it ought to be recognized that the cause of the problem is not the weeds, but the *depleted soil* that the weeds were created and designed to protect and build up! Instead of destroying such weeds wholesale with herbicides while our soil continues to be degraded, we need to get busy building up the soil so weeds will naturally reduce themselves.

Solving the Problem

Here, then, is where we stand in regard to the pollution problem caused by

pesticides such as herbicides and related chemicals.

Is it possible to survive if we continue to use ever-stronger chemicals in ever-greater quantities? *No!*

Is it possible to survive if we quit using pesticides? *Yes!* Many farms—large and small—are successfully doing it!

Will this be easy? For many, *no!* This is because the solution to the problem is to restore balanced fertility to the soil. And as professor

Too often the farmer fails to make a go of his soil building because he doesn’t acquaint himself thoroughly, before starting, with all the adverse factors he is going to have to fight. He gets discouraged because he does not see the size of the job of remaking land that has been weakened for fifty or a hundred years. He has more than likely been schooled to expect the quick response that land makes to stimulants. He forgets that now he is *building* for permanency, not merely *stimulating*”



■ **WINTER VEGETABLES:** Collard greens and kale grow in a raised bed in Wadsworth, Ohio. The organic garden is a local extension of the Agriculture Education and Research Institute.
PHOTO: PAULA C. RONDEAU/THE REAL TRUTH

Cocannouer well stated in *Farming with Nature*, “The trouble is that most people refuse to learn just what farming [within the guidelines of nature] really is. Anything or any operation which *enhances* the activities in the soil’s workshop is farming with Nature. But merely speeding up those activities is not necessarily enhancing them.”

“Bringing a piece of land back to permanent fertility is probably the most difficult of all farm operations.

(*Weeds, Guardians of the Soil*, emphasis added).

But it *can* be done and is being accomplished on an expanding number of farms, orchards and vineyards. This includes through Ambassador Center’s Agriculture Education and Research Institute (AERI) and its extension programs.

Obviously the biggest hurdle will be changing our attitudes and accepting that the way to success is to *work*



with natural laws rather than defying them.

A crash program in research and education on restoration methods—dealing with *cause*, not effect—needs to be carried out on a grand scale immediately, and administered by the highest-level governmental agencies, in order to make a significant and successful transition on a national level. (The reader should ask: is this likely to happen?) Again, however, *each* of us *individually* is responsible for the choices we make and actions we take.

Through years of eye-opening education, research and production in the Agriculture Division of Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas—without using *any* toxic chemical herbicides, GMOs, etc.—we proved beyond the shadow of a doubt it *can* be done, and with rewarding success. And we continue to do so through the AERI. Healthier soil, healthier plants, and healthier animals equal healthier people!

I, my co-workers, and many of the program's graduates have personally taught and continue to teach these methods. All have their underpinnings in the principles of the Bible and are backed up by the laws of biogenesis, physics and chemistry. These programs focus on *carefully following the instructions and guidelines* of Scripture, and then practicing them.

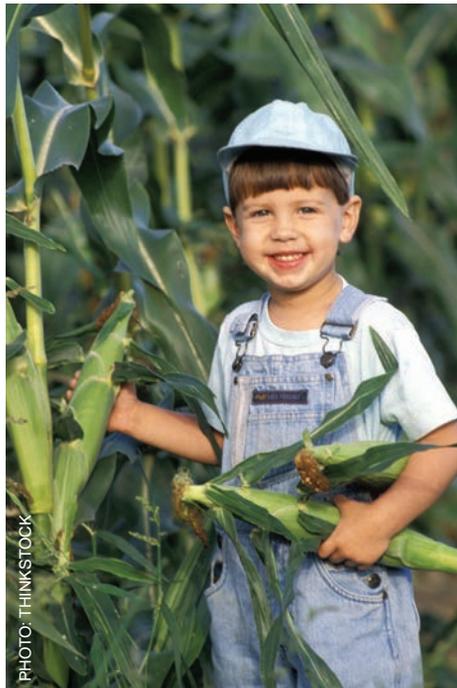
In doing so, we have proven the Bible's way works and is best...*every* time.

A Preview of Agriculture in Tomorrow's World

What about the future? What about tomorrow? Will man's achievements in agricultural science and technology really be able to bail out humanity—to genuinely solve our growing agricultural problems? Let's see what he has planned for the future of agriculture, *despite* the negative side effects we are experiencing today—and then see how

it compares with future events detailed in the Bible.

Sugarbeet Update Magazine highlighted a dazzling report titled "Agriculture 2000" that was written by the Ford Motor Company in the late 1960s and later reprinted in *Holly Agricultural News*. The report predicted what some experts thought agri-



cultural conditions would be like at the turn of the millennium.

"The efficient farmer of the year 2000 is a super breed of farmer with super skills and super tools,' [said] the report. 'The heart of his operation will be a control center equipped with a wide array of electronic wizardry to help him produce crops two to five times as abundant as today.'"

The magazine continued, "The unmanned tractors would be controlled by computer tape, buried wires, or sensing devices, and courses would be plotted on headquarter units similar to radar sets which follow today's airplane flights.

"Cows, which will have quadrupled their own milk production, will

be backed up by the manufacture of identical milk from carrot tops and pea pods. Fertile eggs will be transplanted from superior cows into common incubator cows, allowing a superior cow to mother as many as 1,000 calves in her lifetime, compared with today's average of only ten.

"To completely control environment and growing conditions, huge plastic or glass domes, covering ten acres or more, will be erected. Plant growth will be automatically recorded so the farmer can provide proper light, water and nutrients simply by turning a dial.

"Today's tall corn fields will give way to new, squatty plants shaped like pine trees to lap up extra energy from the sun and the ears will be attached to the top for easier harvesting. Corn yields will zoom to 500 or more bushels per acre, compared with today's national average of about 75 bushels."

"Staggering production figures will be achieved, states the report. It projects yields of 300 bushels of wheat per acre, compared with today's 27; 175 bushels of soybeans, compared with today's 25; 30 tons of forage compared with three; 30,000 pounds of milk per cow, compared with 8,000, and 1,000 pounds of beef at 10 months of age, compared with 750 today."

And how would these staggering production figures be achieved? By the three magic wonders of modern agriculture: greater mechanization and automation, greater use of chemistry, and man-manipulated genetics!

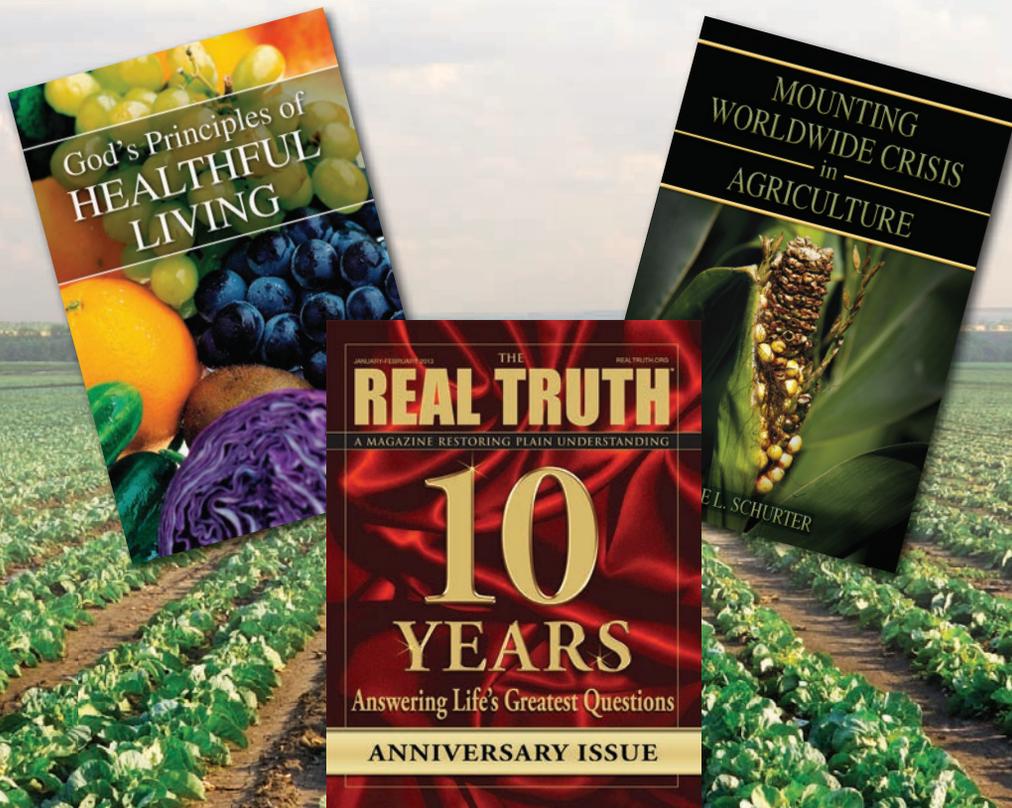
All of the above "improvements" were predicted in 1967 to be in place by the year 2000. *Many* have not materialized, but some of what *has* been employed is far worse!

Part 5 of the series will appear in next month's *The Real Truth*. To read the complete book online, visit *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* available at rcg.org/mwcia. □

Today's agriculture faces a crisis that affects the cost and quality of food in every corner of the world.

Learn what you can do! Read the eye-opening books *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* and *God's Principles of Healthful Living*, and subscribe to *The Real Truth* magazine. These informative publications restore plain understanding of the problems, symptoms and causes behind the bad *effects* reflected in today's headlines—and point to the GOOD NEWS of the only possible solution, now just over the horizon!

Visit rcg.org to order your free books or visit realtruth.org for a free subscription to the magazine.



REVOLUTION

Continued from page 15

Nations at his earliest convenience” (*National Catholic Reporter*).

From the Developing World to the Next Frontier

More than any recent pope, Francis’s focus has been on the developing world, places in which large numbers live in poverty. His credibility has been bolstered by his status as the first pontiff from the Southern Hemisphere, where much of the planet’s extreme poverty can be found. He has made clear his support for large-scale wealth redistribution to address income inequities, in keeping with his ties to the social justice movement popular in his native Latin America.

But he has another large challenge before him in another part of the planet.

A Catholic initiative called “the New Evangelism” has as one of its primary targets the home of Catholicism—Europe.

Benedict had made an attempt at this before Francis, in the summer of 2010 creating “a new office to ‘re-evangelise’ the Western world...a stark reminder of just how far secularization has progressed in an area that was once called Christendom and...a tacit admission that the Church’s recent attempts to reinvigorate Christianity in Europe have not succeeded.

“[Benedict] admitted that while there were many areas of the world that were still ripe for missionaries, Europe and North America have suffered from an ‘eclipse of a sense of God’...” (*The Independent*).

While his tenure ended before much progress was seen, Benedict may have planted some seeds of future success. An article in *The New Republic* noted, “By any reasonable standard, Europeans are already massively over-represented in the College of Cardinals, and any sense of justice would call for more African and Asian appointments. Benedict, however, not

only continued to appoint European cardinals, but chose a striking number of Italians. Europe now notionally accounts for just 24 percent of the world’s Catholics, but 53 percent of the Cardinal electors. In tilting the balance towards a European successor, Benedict was not slighting the rest of the world: Rather, he was declaring his intention to keep up the fight for Europe.”

Francis’s vision and ambition may start in developing nations, but it does not end there, and his energy—reported to already be wearing out his aides, despite missing part of a lung and being in his mid-70s—will inevitably be directed to the lands surrounding the Vatican in due time.

The Genuine Article?

Simply put, the long-range goal of the Roman Catholic Church is to truly reflect the meaning of its name: The word “catholic” comes from the Greek *katholikos*, which means “universal.” Popes have long envisioned the entire world of Christianity being under the Roman Catholic umbrella, and various interfaith and ecumenical schemes are unfolding toward that end.

Catholics believe that their religion is the modern ancestor of what started with Jesus Christ and the 12 disciples in Judea nearly 2,000 years ago, and that by spreading Catholicism, they are spreading “the kingdom of God,” to quote the phrase used by Christ in the Bible.

But *is* the Roman Church the same one described in the New Testament?

Consider some fundamental facts:

■ Christ described Himself as “Lord of *the Sabbath*,” a 24-hour period recognized by His fellow Jews at that time (and even by modern Catholic theologians) as the seventh day of the week (Saturday). Elsewhere, Christ states, “The Sabbath was made for *man*” (for all mankind, not just Jewish people—Mark 2:27). Yet traditional Christian doctrine upholds Sunday—the first day of the week—as “the Lord’s Day,” and enjoins worship on that day.

■ The Roman Church views the apostle Peter as the first pope, or Bishop of Rome. But there is no evidence that Peter was ever stationed at Rome. In fact, in the apostle Paul’s letter to the Roman congregation, he authoritatively instructs Church members there, never so much as referring to Peter.

■ The New Testament makes clear that the Church Jesus founded continued to keep the annual Holy Days (first established in the Old Testament) long after Christ was crucified, supposedly “nailing to the cross” any such observances. (See I Corinthians 5:6-8 and Acts 20:6 for references to the Feast [Days] of Unleavened Bread; Acts 2 and 20:16 regarding the Feast of Pentecost; Acts 27:9 concerning the Day of Atonement, and many more.) Yet the entirety of modern Christianity has traded these days for other observances involving such elements as egg-laying rabbits, old men on flying sleighs, and carved pumpkins.

■ The apostle Paul flatly stated that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor. 15:50). If the Bible is true, how could a church comprised of flesh-and-blood human beings—even one that is 1.2 billion strong—*be* that kingdom?

Are these statements thought-provoking? They should be. There are many, many more, each having clear biblical support. These briefest of plain facts underscore the need for Christians, more than ever before, to prove what they believe. Other scriptures make clear that they will soon face crises of conscience as more denominations begin to partner, cooperate, undertake joint efforts, and ultimately merge with Rome.

To learn about the true origins of modern Christian denominations, read Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack’s free booklet *Where Is God’s Church?* available at rcg.org/wigtc.

Packed with carefully documented research and biblical proofs, it will open your eyes as never before to the many unmistakable identifiers of God’s Church! □

ASIA

Russia Revives Military Ambitions



■ **WAR GAMES:** Top left, Russian military ships take part in exercises in the Pacific Ocean near Sakhalin Island (July 16, 2013). Bottom left, Russian President Vladimir Putin (second from right) watches military exercises (July 16, 2013). Above, Mr. Putin (right) and Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu oversee the war games (July 16, 2013).

PHOTOS: ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Russia continues to emphasize its military might through expansive war games with China, large-scale weapons purchases, and a massive naval buildup set to begin in 2014.

“An armada of Chinese and Russian warships sailed in ceremonial formation in the Sea of Japan, off the port of Vladivostok...in what was the high point of joint naval exercises intended to show the growing unity between two countries with a historically uneasy relationship,” *The New York Times* reported.

The newspaper further stated, “The diversity of vessels and the more sophisticated exercises illustrated a sudden deepening of the military cooperation between Russia and China, said Nan Li, associate professor in the strategic research department at the United States Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

“In a joint naval exercise last year between the two countries, maneuvers were restricted to counterterrorism and piracy, he said. This time the exercises included fleet air defense, antisubmarine warfare and surface warfare.”

Along with the exercises, earlier this year, President Vladimir Putin announced additional Russian military games at a scale not seen “since the Soviet era or perhaps even during that period,” *United Press International* reported.

The Washington Times described the games, which simulated an attack from the United States and Japan. “On the march across Siberia: 160,000 troops [are] accompanied by 5,000 tanks and 320 tons of equipment. And in the Pacific, there are 70 ships at sea, and 130 combat aircraft overhead, including nuclear bombers.”

Regarding the military buildup, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu was quoted by *RIA Novosti* as stating, “As a result of the implementation of the state rearmament program to 2020, the navy should receive eight nuclear-powered strategic submarines, 16 multirole submarines and 54 warships of various classes.”

In the last few years, Russia has continued to raise its military profile by building strategic ties with other nations, with the more recent war games just another step in this process.

“This shows unprecedented good relations between China and Russia,” professor Wang Ning, director of the Center for Russian Studies at the Shanghai International Studies University told the *The New York Times*. “It shows that the two countries will support each other on the global stage.” □

WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

China Pummeled by Multiple Disasters



■ **DISASTER AREA:** The Tuo River floods Jintang county in southwest China's Sichuan province (July 11, 2013).

PHOTO: AFP/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Floods, droughts, landslides and powerful earthquakes killed hundreds and displaced thousands of Chinese residents in the first seven months of 2013. The disasters brought hardship to areas already known for poverty and poor infrastructure. Food supplies have also been threatened and many fear that the world's largest population may soon face a crisis of considerable magnitude.

"China saw an average of 165.4 millimeters (6.51 inches) of rain between June 1 and July 15," *ABC News* reported. "That was 5 percent more than usual and the most during that period in five years. Central China has been hardest hit, receiving 40.1 percent more rain than usual during that six-week period."

Elsewhere, a severe drought struck Hunan province in the southeastern part of the country, ravaging crops and depleting water supplies.

"Eighty-seven counties of 12 cities and prefectures in the province have been affected by the drought, with about 3.9 million mu (260,000 hectares) of crops damaged and 216,000

heads of livestock short of water, according to the [provincial drought relief] headquarters," *Xinhua News Agency* stated.

The Gansu province in the western section of the country also experienced two separate quakes measuring 5.98 and 5.6 in magnitude within hours of each other that resulted in approximately 100 deaths and more than 500 injuries. This region "has been hit by 371 aftershocks, according to the Earthquake Administration of Gansu province. Tremors were felt in the provincial capital, Lanzhou, and as far away as Xian, 400km (250 miles) to the east," *BBC News* reported.

According to *Xinhua*, approximately 3,000 police and rescue personnel were dispatched to the region, but additional flooding and landslides have continued to frustrate their efforts.

"Gansu abuts Sichuan province, where a 6.6 quake in April killed 164 people and injured more than 6,700, China's worst quake in three years," *Reuters* stated. "That quake hit close to where a devastating 7.9 temblor killed some 70,000 people in May 2008." □

SOCIETY & LIFESTYLES

Study: More Wives Admit to Cheating

Cheating wives are closing the infidelity gap between men and women, according to the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey.

The percentage of wives who admit to indiscretions has jumped 40 percent over the last two decades to 14.7 percent. Husbands hold steady at 21 percent.

Bloomberg reported that the gap, according to Auburn University's director of its Center for Demographic Research, Yanji Djamba, is reflective of two trends: working wives have less to lose financially and social media has made it easier to meet potential partners.

"More women may feel free to cheat because the economic consequences aren't as dire as they were when more women stayed home, said Pepper Schwartz, a University of Washington sociologist... 'They can afford the potential consequences of an affair, with higher incomes and more job prospects...'" (ibid.).

Increasing numbers of wives now outearn their husbands.

"Among married couples with children, the proportion in which the wife's income tops her husband's has increased from about 4 percent in 1960 to 23 percent in 2011," according to a Pew Research study.

While money gives women the means to cheat, social media gives them the opportunity. Ms. Schwartz pointed to a specific website that provides a matchmaking service for those looking to have an affair. According to a *Bloomberg* report, the site serves "3.5 million active users speaking nine languages in 26 countries."

Despite the growing trend among wives, Mr. Djamba told the news outlet, "Men are still more likely to cheat than women. But the gender gap is closing." □

AFRICA

Locusts Devour Half of Madagascar's Crops

Swarms of locusts have been stretching as far as the eye can see across Madagascar in what has been termed the worst plague in over 60 years. About 100 swarms made up of 500 billion locusts have already eaten more than half of the island's crops at a rate of 100,000 tons of vegetation a day.

"It's like you are in a movie, it's incredible," said Alexandre Huynh of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO, from the country's capital of Antananarivo. "You don't see anything except locusts. You turn around, there are locusts everywhere," *CNN* reported.

"The locusts wipe out any natural vegetation in their path, as well [as] rice and maize crops," *Voice of America* stated. "The FAO says rice and maize losses range from 40 to 100 percent on many plots."

The media quoted FAO Locust Control Officer Annie Monard: "The plague will of course have a big impact on the cereal production. [It] will also have an impact on pastures. So that means that—not this year, but probably next year—there will also be an impact on the cattle—on the health of the cattle."

Madagascan authorities have tried to eliminate the insects on their own but a cyclone that hit the country in early 2013 created the perfect breeding grounds for continued infestation. Currently half of the country is pest-ridden and FAO officials estimate that by September, two-thirds of the island will be affected if no funding is available to combat the plague.

"Without concerted and effective action, experts say the crisis could very easily prove deadly in a nation such as Madagascar, where the U.N. estimates more than two-thirds of residents lived in poverty before this crisis," *CNN* confirmed.

According to a statement by the UN, "The agency estimates that losses in rice production could be up to 630,000 tonnes, or about 25 per cent of total



■ **INFESTATION:** Top, a farmer holds two red locusts in his hand after a swarm passes through Ampandrabe in southwest Madagascar (April 25, 2013). Bottom, locusts overtake a road in southwest Madagascar (April 27, 2013).

PHOTOS: BILAL TARABEY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

demand for rice in Madagascar. Rice is the main staple in the country, where 80 per cent of the population lives on less than a dollar per day."

In the same press communique about the situation, FAO Director-

General Jose Graziano da Silva stated: "If we don't act now, the plague could last years and cost hundreds of millions of dollars. This could very well be a last window of opportunity to avert an extended crisis." □

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AFRICA

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 11:30 EAT, 10:30 CAT,
09:30 WAT, 08:30 GMT

ASIA/OCEANIA

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 08:30 GMT

AUSTRALIA

Optus D2: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. EST, 6:00 p.m.
CST, 4:30 p.m. WST

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. EST, 6:00 p.m.
CST, 4:30 p.m. WST

CANADA

Bell Satellite TV: Joytv11
Sunday, 12:00 p.m. NT, 11:30 p.m.
AT, 10:30 a.m. ET, 9:30 a.m. CT,
8:30 a.m. MT, 7:30 a.m. PT

CARIBBEAN

Galaxy 25: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 4:30 a.m. AT, 3:30 a.m. ET

CENTRAL AMERICA

Galaxy 25: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET, 2:30
a.m. CT

CURACAO

RTNS: theWALKtv*
Times Vary, Check Local Listings

EUROPE

Eutelsat 28A:
Gospel Channel – Satellite
Free-to-Air
Monday, 12:30 EET, 11:30 CET,
10:30 WET
Hot Bird 6: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 09:30 CET

FINLAND

IRR-TV: theWALKtv*
Times Vary, Check Local Listings

ICELAND

Eutelsat 28A:
Gospel Channel – Satellite
Free-to-Air
Monday, 10:30 a.m. WET

INDIA

Tata Sky: The Word Network
Thursday, 2:00 p.m. IST
Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 2:00 p.m. IST
Velugu TV: theWALKtv*
Times Vary, Check Local Listings

ITALY

Sky Italia: The Word Network
– Channel 823
Thursday, 09:30 CET

JAMAICA

Flow TV: The Word Network
– Channel 668
Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET

MIDDLE EAST

Arabsat (Eurobird 2):
The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 11:30 EAT, 10:30 CAT,
09:30 WAT, 08:30 GMT

NEW ZEALAND

Optus D2: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 8:30 p.m. NZT
Sky: Prime
Sunday, 7:00 a.m. NZT

NORTH AFRICA

Arabsat (Eurobird 2):
The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 11:30 EAT, 10:30 CAT,
09:30 WAT, 08:30 GMT

NORTH AMERICA

FilmOn: LIFESTYLE
– theWALKtv*
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m.
AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT,
9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT

Galaxy 19:

Satellite Free-to-Air
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m.
AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT,
9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT

Galaxy 25:

Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 5:00 a.m. NT, 4:30 a.m.
AT, 3:30 a.m. ET, 2:30 a.m. CT,
1:30 a.m. MT, 12:30 a.m. PT

ROKU: Omniverse

– theWALKtv*
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. NT, 12:30 p.m.
AT, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m. CT,
9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT

PHILIPPINES

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 4:30 p.m. PHT

SOUTH AFRICA

Thaicom 5: The Word Network
– Satellite Free-to-Air
Thursday, 10:30 SAT

UNITED KINGDOM

Sky UK: The Word Network
– Channel 590
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. GMT
Sky UK: Gospel Channel –
Channel 588
Monday, 10:30 a.m. GMT

UNITED STATES

BROADBAND: Sky Angel Faith
& Family TV – Channel 537

Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET, 2:30 a.m.
CT, 1:30 a.m. MT, 12:30 a.m. PT

DIRECTV: ION Television

– Channel 305
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET, 5:30 a.m.
CT, 4:30 a.m. MT, 3:30 a.m. PT

DIRECTV: The Word Network

– Channel 373
Thursday, 3:30 a.m. ET, 2:30 a.m.
CT, 1:30 a.m. MT, 12:30 a.m. PT

DISH Network: ION Television

– Channel 216
Sunday, 6:30 a.m. ET, 5:30 a.m.
CT, 4:30 a.m. MT, 3:30 a.m. PT

SELECT CITIES: The CW Plus

– Antenna & Cable
Sunday 6:30 a.m. ET/CT/MT/PT

theWALKtv*

– Antenna & Cable
Sunday, 11:30 a.m. ET, 10:30 a.m.
CT, 9:30 a.m. MT, 8:30 a.m. PT

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

WCVI: theWALKtv

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* New station added since last issue