

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



**HAS BRITAIN
LOST HER WAY?**

THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. V | NO. 8 | SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

A R T I C L E S

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PHOTO: MCT

Hope for Zimbabwe!

As Zimbabwe teeters on the verge of total collapse, millions of lives are at stake—yet there is still hope for this African nation.

Page 5

End of the Road for the United Kingdom?

Calls in Scotland for independence seem to be growing louder. Could this mean the end of the UK?

Page 3

Two Years After Katrina

Twenty-four months have passed since the powerful storm devastated the Gulf Coast. Will New Orleans and the rest of the region ever recover?

Page 8

Seven Signs of a Falling Nation

No government, kingdom or society lasts forever. Here are seven factors that contributed to ancient Rome's demise—warning signs that exist today within the nations of the American and British peoples.

Page 10

Marine Dead Zones

Pollutants are disrupting the ecology of the world's waterways, creating massive ocean "dead zones" in which animals cannot survive. The economic impact is already being felt in the fishing industry and many forms of marine life are at risk.

Page 13

F E A T U R E S

Personal from David C. Pack	1
Reader Comments	18
World News Desk	20

ABOUT OUR COVER: With Scotland seeking independence, Islamic terrorists bent on destroying the nation, and a rift widening between the American and British peoples, has Britain lost her way?

RCG ILLUSTRATION: PAULA C. RONDEAU

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PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

DAVID C. PACK

SENIOR EDITORS

GEORGE C. ROGERS
JAMES F. TURCK

MANAGING EDITOR

BRUCE A. RITTER

WORLD NEWS DESK

MARK P. DENEEN

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

DAVID C. PACK
JEFFREY R. AMBROSE
JEFFREY D. DAVIS
KEVIN D. DENEEN
MARK P. DENEEN
RYAN P. DENEEN
ROBERT R. FARRELL
GABRIEL N. LISCHAK
LARRY J. MCELROY
ROBERT W. PACK
JUSTIN T. PALM
BRUCE A. RITTER
GEORGE C. ROGERS
BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER
JAMES F. TURCK

COPY EDITORS

SAMUEL C. BAXTER
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STACEY L. CASWELL

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

VERNIA I. ANSTEY
JENNIFER L. DENEEN
JESSICA A. DENEEN
DAVINA L. LISCHAK
ROSLYN D. MCFARLAND
GINGER M. SCHLEIFER
DEBORAH A. TUCKER

ART/GRAPHICS

JAMES T. BOYLE
DARNITRA D. MAIDEN
PAULA C. RONDEAU

INFORMATION SERVICES

BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER
JEFFREY D. DAVIS
ANGELA K. ECHELBERGER

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Contact *The REAL TRUTH*:

P.O. Box 23295
Wadsworth, OH 44282
www.RealTruth.org
info@RealTruth.org

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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



Who Authorized Sunday Worship?

I GREW UP IN a large, respected Protestant church. I can recall sitting on a stool wearing a bow tie in Sunday school at age three, surrounded by other children. As I grew older, Sunday school became Sunday church services, with everyone taking for granted that we were there on the right day. No one remotely suggested otherwise. We all appeared weekly in our “Sunday best.”

In 1966, at age seventeen, I was challenged to look into the Bible to see what it actually says on the matter of Sunday-keeping. I was absolutely shocked by what I found! You will be also.

While the world is geared contrary to Sabbath observance on the seventh day of the week, I realized there was no excuse for breaking the Sabbath. I found the Bible was PLAIN, leaving no room for doubt. The scriptures about the Sabbath and Sunday were most CLEAR. I saw that common objections to Sabbath observance were easily disproven, *if* one had an open mind.

Unless God did not exist, and the Bible was the word of *men*—merely ancient Hebrew and Greek literature—I had no choice but to observe the Sabbath. Since proving that God exists and the Bible is His Word, and since seeing proof of the Sabbath command from the Bible, I have not attended church on Sunday or observed that day. I found that the Fourth Commandment is a LAW. When kept, it brings spiritual blessings, “keeping” those who

obey it. When broken, it brings spiritual curses, “breaking” those who disobey it.

Universal Acceptance

There are approximately two billion professing Christians on earth. They attend over 2,000 different church denominations and organizations in the United States alone. This number continually increases, bringing no end of confusion over beliefs and disagreement between them. However, almost all professing Christians are in agreement about Sunday observance, thinking it to be the “Lord’s Day” of the New Testament.

Are they correct? Does the New Testament establish Sunday in place of the Old Testament seventh-day Sabbath? Did Christ do away with the Sabbath, making Himself “Lord of Sunday”? Vast numbers are told—and believe—that He did. But, if Christ established Sunday to *replace* the seventh-day Sabbath, why did He tell His disciples, “Therefore the Son of man is LORD ALSO OF THE SABBATH” (Mark 2:28)?

Have you ever noticed this verse? Probably not. Yet there it is in the *New Testament*. Most ministers are fond of preaching from the New Testament, almost to the complete exclusion of the Old Testament. But have you ever heard a preacher mention *this* passage? Almost certainly not—and this is just one of *many* plain scriptures about the Sabbath.

Most people never ask *why* they believe what they believe or *why* they do what they do. In a world filled with popular customs and traditions, few try to determine

the real origin of things. Most generally accept common religious practices without question, choosing to do what everyone else does because it is easy, natural and comfortable—because there is a certain “safety in numbers.” The power of peer pressure alone makes most practice what is *acceptable*—and fashionable.

Most follow along as they have been taught, *assuming* what they believe and do is right. They take their beliefs for granted, almost never taking time to PROVE them.

Nowhere is this more true than Sunday observance. Two billion people keep Sunday without knowing *why*—or *where* this practice originated. Most suppose it is found in the Bible because they see so many professing Christians observing it. Surely billions cannot be wrong. Or can they?

Incriminating Honesty

A study of the Bible on almost all doctrines generally accepted by the churches of this world—professing Christianity—reveals that they have almost no biblical basis whatsoever. This statement is shocking, yet true!

But here is an irony: When confronted with the truth of what the Bible *really* says on a matter, most will attempt to deny the facts, however indisputable. They will twist, distort and blur the issues in order to hold to cherished beliefs, preferring what is *familiar* to what is RIGHT—and TRUE!

The Sabbath question is somewhat different. Though, in the end, most people are *unwilling* to observe it, many ministers, theologians and religionists openly *acknowledge* what the Bible says about the Sabbath. When pressed, they admit the Bible authorizes observing the seventh day.

You will be stunned at their honesty!

Roman Catholic Admission

Catholic publications, popes, cardinals, bishops, theologians, histo-

rians, professors, and the Vatican itself, have candidly admitted there is no biblical basis—whatever!—for Sunday observance. This article includes many quotations from them. You will be astonished at the extraordinary candor with which Catholic leaders address this subject.

It is critically important to take the time to read what *those who keep Sunday* say about their authority—or *lack* of authority—for doing this. Using their own words, we must first establish why 1.2 billion Roman Catholics believe they are no longer obligated to observe the seventh-day Sabbath. They tell the whole world openly!

The Bible plainly states that Christ is the Head of the Church (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18). Rome, supposing that Christ, in effect, delegated away His authority over the Church to Peter—who they proclaim was the first pope—speaks plainly of how they have used this “authority.” Just as God’s statements about the Sabbath were shocking to me, so should the following statements be shocking to YOU! (Many are included for emphasis.)

“For example, nowhere in the Bible do we find that Christ or the Apostles ordered that the Sabbath be changed from Saturday to Sunday. We have the commandment of God given to Moses to keep holy the Sabbath day, that is the 7th day of the week, Saturday. Today most Christians keep Sunday because it has been revealed to us by the [Roman Catholic] church outside the Bible” (*Catholic Virginian*, “To Tell You the Truth,” p. 9, Oct. 3, 1947).

“From this same Catholic Church you have accepted your Sunday, and that Sunday, as the Lord’s day, she has handed down as a tradition; and the entire Protestant world has accepted it as tradition, for you have not an iota of Scripture to establish it. Therefore that which

you have accepted as your rule of faith, inadequate as it of course is, as well as your Sunday, you have accepted on the authority of the Roman Catholic Church” (D.B. Ray, *The Papal Controversy*, p. 179, 1892).

“I have repeatedly offered \$1,000 to anyone who can prove to me from the Bible alone that I am bound to keep Sunday holy. There is no such law in the Bible. It is a law of the holy Catholic Church alone. The Bible says, ‘Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.’ The Catholic Church says: ‘No. By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day and command you to keep holy the first day of the week.’ And lo! the *entire civilized world* bows down in a reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church” (Bishop T. Enright, C.S.S.R., in a lecture at Hartford, Kansas, Feb. 18, 1884).

“There is but one church on the face of the earth which has the power, or claims power, to make laws binding on the conscience, binding before God, binding under penalty of hell-fire. For instance, the institution of Sunday. What right has any other church to keep this day? You answer by virtue of the third commandment [the Papacy renamed the fourth commandment, calling it the third], which says, ‘Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath day.’ But Sunday is not the Sabbath. Any schoolboy knows that Sunday is the first day of the week. I have repeatedly offered one thousand dollars to anyone who will prove by the Bible alone that Sunday is the day we are bound to keep, and no one has called for the money. It was the holy Catholic Church that changed the day of rest from Saturday, the seventh day, to Sunday, the first day of the week” (T. Enright, C.S.S.R., in a lecture delivered in 1893).

“The Catholic Church...by virtue

Please see PERSONAL, page 17

END OF THE ROAD FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM?



CALLS IN SCOTLAND FOR INDEPENDENCE SEEM TO BE GROWING LOUDER. COULD THIS MEAN THE END OF THE UK?

BY MARK P. DENEE

FROM A GROUP of islands approximately 100,000 sq. mi. (250,000 sq. km.) in size reigned the world's largest empire: the United Kingdom. Culminating

in the 19th century under Queen Victoria, the British Empire controlled approximately one-quarter of the world's land, resources and population.

The Union Flag ("Union Jack") and the empire that it represented is considered controversial in today's politically correct society.

On one hand, its legacy is widespread in legal, military, education and government systems, and in economic practice. Its image dominates sports (cricket, rugby, and football/soccer), and symbolizes the global spread of the English language.

On the other hand, to some, its effigy reflects an empire of slavery and racism, brutality and aggression, pride and arrogance.

But, thousands of years earlier, the empire was foretold. In the book of Genesis, God told Jacob, whom He renamed Israel, to "be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall be of you, and kings shall come out of your loins..." (35:10-12).

Many have understood that this "company of nations" refers to the British Empire and/or the Commonwealth of Nations (formerly the British Commonwealth).

And yet, God also warned that those blessings would be removed for national disobedience (Read Leviticus 26). Since the two world wars, Britain has been in decline. Despite remaining a significant military power, its armies have lost the prestige they once held.

The United Kingdom—which consists of the British isle states of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland—has undergone its own decline.

In 1922, Ireland split into two states, one declaring independence and becoming the Republic of Ireland; the other remaining a part of the UK, becoming Northern Ireland.

In 1998, Scotland was granted the resumption of its own parliament in Edinburgh.

In recent months, calls for Scottish independence have increased (they were also somewhat popular during the 1970s).

Could this spell the end of the United Kingdom?

A Brief History

The UK’s origins trace back to the early 10th century AD, when the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan (also spelled Aethelstan or Ethelstan) brought together under one rule several neighboring Celtic kingdoms. Crowned at Kingston on September 4, 925, Athelstan’s codes of law decreed stern efforts to suppress theft and corruption, while at the same time intending to comfort the destitute. Both his charters and his silver coins carried the proud title *Rex totius Britanniae* (“King of all Britain”).

During the centuries that followed, the kingdom slowly expanded. Keep in mind that this was interspersed with periods of infighting among the English, Scottish and Irish peoples, and various clans within each. In addition, Scandinavian peoples, or Vikings, continued to invade and ultimately gained control for a time (994-1042), followed by the Normans, whose most famous ruler was William the Conqueror (William I, 1066-1087).

An interesting common element during these various early periods of UK history is not only the almost constant power struggle between various peoples and countries but the UK’s resistance to the religious authority

of Rome, despite strengthening economic ties with continental Europe.

For example, King William I and Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, worked together and resisted Pope Gregory VII’s claim to papal supremacy. The king even decreed that no pope was to be recognized in England without his consent, no papal letter was to be received, no Roman church council was to legislate, and no English baron or royal official was to be excommunicated.

King John (1199-1216) also fought with Rome over the choice of archbishop, which eventually resulted in the king’s excommunication, and allowed his administration to confiscate all revenues of sees that had been vacated by bishops in exile.

The most famous account of England opposing Rome was during King Henry VIII’s reign (1509-1547). When he was denied a marriage annulment, Henry eventually enacted the Act of Succession of March 1534, forcing his English subjects to accept his new marriage, and the Act of Supremacy, which formally severed all financial and constitutional ties with Rome. It was also at this time that the Acts of Union of 1536 and 1542 brought Wales, another enclave of Celtic kingdoms in the island’s southwest, to unity with England.

Following the Glorious Revolution (1688-1689), Scotland, which had been ruled by the English monarchy since 1603, was formally joined with England and Wales by the Acts of Union in 1707, under Queen Anne (1702-1714). This marked the beginning of the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

Though Ireland was under English control during the 1600s, it was the Act of Union of 1800 that united Great Britain and Ireland—the United Kingdom was now complete. The timing was near perfect, as economic growth and prosperity quickly increased following the American Revolution. In addition, the effects of the beginnings of the (first) Industrial Revolution were making a significant impact. From 1794 to 1814, annual British exports doubled from £22 million to £44 million. Population growth also exploded: By 1790 it had reached 9.7 million; by 1811, 12.1 million; and by 1821, 14.2 million. By the latter date, an estimated 60% of Britain’s population was 25 years of age or below. By the 1850s, the population was over 20 million. The United Kingdom and the British Empire it ruled was at its peak, possessing “the gate [seagates] of his

Please see UNITED KINGDOM, page 18

BACKGROUND TO SCOTTISH REFERENDUM

At the end of the 20th century substantial powers were transferred from the UK Parliament to the newly created Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh. A look at the historical background of the issue:

The past

11th century
Edinburgh becomes Scottish Kingdom

1707
Unification of Scottish, English parliaments. Scotland retains separate legal, education systems

Recent history

1939
The Scottish Office, the department of the U.K. government handling Scottish affairs, is based in Edinburgh

1960
Serious debate begins about the establishment of new Scottish Parliament

1979
Referendum rejects further devolution

1978
Scotland Bill receives Royal Assent

1998
The Scotland Act passed marking the creation of the Scottish Parliament



SOURCES: The Scottish Office, Harenberg Encyclopedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica MCT

Hope for Zimbabwe!



As Zimbabwe teeters on the verge of total collapse, millions of lives are at stake—yet there is still hope for this African nation.

BY KEVIN D. DENEE

BORDERING Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, Zimbabwe has been a tourist destination for decades. In past years, the African nation of 13 million inhabitants has seen numerous news headlines hailing its growth, economy, education, literacy and development.

During the 1970s the country faced a bloody seven-year civil war, after which Robert Mugabe became the nation's prime minister in 1980. Spirits were high, and the country was proud. That same year, *The Plain Truth*, predecessor of this magazine, stated that "peace in Zimbabwe is but a lull in a gathering storm."

Nearly three decades later, that storm has arrived. Millions in this once-thriving land now live under miserable

conditions: constant food shortages—runaway inflation—AIDS—political persecution—corruption across all levels—a perfect storm of national suffering and despair.

However, this will ultimately be replaced with economic security, universal prosperity and lasting success. But how?

Before taking a glimpse into Zimbabwe's wonderful future, let's first examine the bleak picture of its current condition.

Millions Go Hungry

Once considered the breadbasket of Southern Africa, food shortages are now rampant in Zimbabwe. The World Food Program, the world's largest humanitarian agency, stated, "The poor harvest coupled with the worsening economic crisis will leave 2.1 million people facing food shortages as early as the third quarter of 2007—a figure that will rise

to 4.1 million at the peak of the crisis in the months before the next main harvest in April 2008."

Grocery store shelves throughout the nation are often bare—and when food supplies become available, chaos usually follows. The *Associated Press* reported, "...hordes of shoppers desperate to buy sugar amid severe shortages stampeded at a shopping complex in Zimbabwe's second-largest city, killing a 15-year-old boy and a security guard."

The article added, "A government order slashing prices of all goods and services by about half in June [2007] has led to acute shortages of bread, meat, gasoline and other basic commodities in Zimbabwe, which is in its worst economic crisis since independence in 1980."

In an *Economist* interview, a woman commented that to feed her family, she grows vegetables in her backyard as substitutes for the chicken, eggs and beef she can no longer afford.

A Crumbling Economy

Just a decade ago, Zimbabwe had the second-largest economy in the region.

But today, its economy is collapsing—superinflation has rendered bank notes virtually worthless. For example, toilet paper is more valuable than small Zimbabwean denominations. The government released the new 200,000 Zimbabwe dollar bill—which values one U.S. dollar on the black market—and can only buy one kilogram of sugar! The few who are employed (the national unemployment rate is 80%) earn money that is essentially worthless.

Zimbabwe has the highest inflation in the world. The official rate is 4,500%, but independent estimates are as much as 9,000%-12,000%.

In an attempt to address the problem, the government decided in June 2007 to

slash prices, forcing many storekeepers to sell products at a loss. This has contributed to widespread shortages of basic necessities. In some stores, citizens can no longer find items such as bread or meat.

A July 2007 *Economist* report described Zimbabwe as “an increasingly wretched place and, sadly, [it] will grow more miserable for some time yet... Years of economic collapse, provoked by dreadful misrule, have already taken a huge toll on Zimbabwean lives: The population has been battered by hunger, poverty and AIDS; some three million people are estimated to have fled abroad; life expectancy has dropped to medieval levels.”

Life expectancy among males has decreased from 60 years of age in 1990 to 37 today, with the life expectancy of females now at 34! This is one of the worst rates in the world—it means Zimbabweans live less than half the lifetime of most Westerners!

The Failed States Index, produced by Fund for Peace and *Foreign Policy* magazine, ranks Zimbabwe as the fourth most failed state in the world, only slightly better than Sudan, Iraq and Somalia. This index charts 12 different social, economic and political measures. In three of these categories, Zimbabwe is the most deplorable and unstable.

Millions of Zimbabweans have fled the country to South Africa. Some estimates have the number at three to four million. Some find jobs in South Africa that pay \$142 USD on a monthly basis. This may seem like very little, but this is *ten times* a teacher’s salary in Zimbabwe!

Because only 20% of the populace is employed, four in five Zimbabweans are jobless.

One must wonder about those who are too poor to leave the country. Where can they go to find enough food for their families? What can they do to survive?

In a native dialect, *Zimbabwe* means “the great or big house built of stone boulders.” Today, that big house of stone has crumbled to its foundation.

Yet the nation will one day be sup-

ported by a greater “house,” with incorruptible foundations—a world-ruling government that will bring economic stability and give all Zimbabweans the tools they need to excel.

Persecution and Human Rights Violations

Political persecution in Zimbabwe is reportedly widespread. The leader of the opposition party was badly beaten in early 2007, sparking anger from the international community. Various human rights organizations report that political opponents are often imprisoned and punished without proper court procedures.

The Human Rights Forum stated that “legal and medical experts documented that cases of state-orchestrated torture on individuals rose to about four per day in the early part of the year” (*Associated Press*). Other reports, comparing the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2006, claim that gross violations of human rights have doubled.

The Elite Few

Despite the horrific conditions in which the average Zimbabwean lives, the nation’s upper class lives quite comfortably—allegedly “bleeding the economy dry,” according to some in an *Economist* report.

The elite few—especially those attached to government bureaucracy—enjoy luxurious lives. As one opposition member stated, “The platinum mines can keep the core of the elite living in the manner they’re accustomed to—just in a sea of poverty” (*New York Times*).

Reportedly, many well-paid legislators think nothing is wrong in their country. There is no need for political change, they claim, because Zimbabwe is a democracy.

Meanwhile, millions of their fellow countrymen continue to suffer, subsisting in abject poverty and fearful uncertainty of what tomorrow will bring.

Why Does God Allow This?

Regarding the establishment of governments and their leaders, the Bible states that “the powers that be are ordained

[appointed] of God” (Rom. 13:1). It also states that God “changes the times and the seasons: He removes kings, and sets up kings: He gives wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding” (Dan. 2:21; see also 4:17, 25).

Why would the Creator allow such governments of men—monarchies, totalitarian states, brutal religious regimes, lascivious democracies—to rise to power? Why would He permit suffering to run rampant among innocent civilians and children? Why doesn’t God intervene?

The answer—which millions of professing believers fail to grasp—is simple: *This is not God’s world*. For the last 6,000 years of human existence, our Creator has allowed men to do “that which was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25). The lasting peace, joy, security, prosperity and sense of purpose that all long for continue to be an unattainable dream because human beings do not know how to govern themselves. Governments of communism, socialism, monarchies, dictatorships and democracies have all failed under the guidance of human hands.

Zimbabwe is no different. In some ways, it is a study in failure.

Widespread Despair

The world today is grim—and the trends, ills and conditions will grow worse. The Bible states that man’s governments, economies, religious and educational systems, and everything that constitutes civilization, belong to “the god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4), who “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). Called the “prince of the power of the air” (Eph. 2:2), this great being influences the thoughts, attitudes and inner motives of humanity, steering mankind away from the awesome potential the true God intends for all people to achieve.

But the Bible also speaks of a “world to come”—a future age when humanity will no longer be enslaved to misery, hunger and suffering.

Just after Zimbabwe’s current leader was elected, *Time* magazine reported, “The long election lines at polling stations were filled with proud, deter-

mined voters whose sentiments were not hard to guess. ‘They have walked miles to come here,’ said a Rhodesian voting officer in one midlands village. ‘They’re all ages, disabled, crippled, blind. They say straight away who they want.’”

These people had hope, but it was dashed—destroyed. As one journalist in Zimbabwe said, “[The nation] has now become a monumental museum of failure. The air is fraught with frustration, with anger, with despair, and some people have just given up” (*Frontline*).

A Renewed Purpose

An awesome future lies just ahead for Zimbabwe—and for all nations. The following excerpts are from the book

Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View!, written by David C. Pack, publisher and editor-in-chief of *The REAL TRUTH*:

■ **Perfect Government:** “The Bible is almost entirely a message about a coming world government. Everywhere Christ went, He preached—*announced*—the coming of the kingdom of God. He explained that it would be a world-ruling government that would smash and replace all the governments of men. He brought exciting, thrilling good news, in *advance* of its arrival. He spoke of a utopian, wonderful world tomorrow—now *imminent*—explaining how many would qualify to rule with Him.”

■ **Economy:** “To survive in today’s hostile world, governments must col-

lect exorbitant rates of taxation to finance military forces and expanded law enforcement personnel. Of course, greed on the part of many government leaders accounts for much of the excess taxation that is now so burdensome to so many. As governments expand, they tend to extract more in taxes as a means to redistribute wealth, pursuing the socialistic philosophies that predominate in this world. Outrageous tax rates will be eliminated.

“The administration of God’s government has costs, however. Rather than tax rates ranging from 30 to 90 percent, a tithe—just 10 percent!—will be required. That 10 percent belongs to God (Lev. 27:30). God views this command most seriously: ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, Wherein have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse: for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring you all the *tithes* into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it’ (Mal. 3:8-10).

“Most nations have a variety of heavy, burdensome, hidden taxes, and national health and social security services. Ever-mounting taxes become overwhelming to many now struggling to survive. These burdens will be lifted in tomorrow’s world.”

■ **Health:** “In tomorrow’s world, people will be universally taught that ‘sin is the transgression of the law’ (I John 3:4). We have discussed God’s great spiritual laws, but He has numerous *physical* laws as well. Mankind has specialized in how to break them all. He is surrounded, therefore, by every kind of bad physical effect. Rampant disease and illness are among the greatest.

“Savor God’s promise regarding the disappearance of disease and sickness in the world tomorrow and what makes this possible: ‘But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad

TROUBLED ZIMBABWE

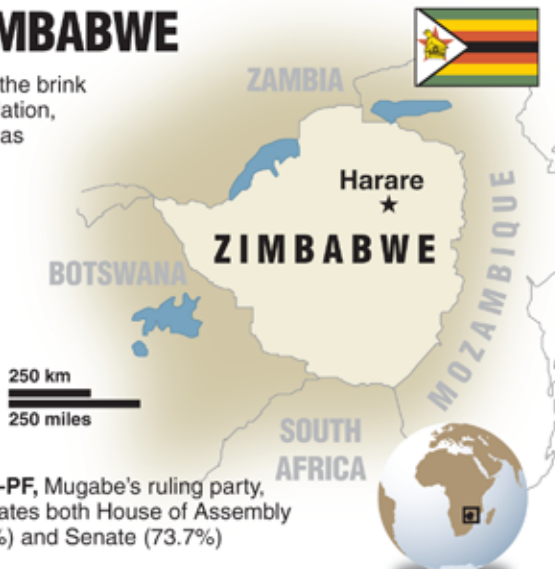
Zimbabwe’s economy is on the brink of collapse with rampant inflation, high unemployment as well as shortages of fuel and food.

Government

Chief of state
Head of government
President Robert Mugabe (since 1987)



ZANU-PF, Mugabe’s ruling party, dominates both House of Assembly (59.6%) and Senate (73.7%)



Economy

GDP growth -4.4% (2006 est.) **Unemployment** 80% (2005 est.) **Population below poverty line** 80% (2004 est.)

- **Public debt** 108.4% of GDP (2006 est.)
- **Agriculture** Mugabe’s land reform program in 2000 has led to sharp drops in production

• **Independence** April 18, 1980 (from U.K.)

• **Area** 150,804 sq. mi. (390,580 sq. km)

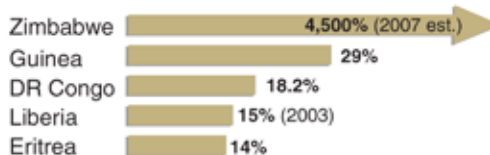
• **Population** 12.9 million

• **Life expectancy at birth** 39.5 years

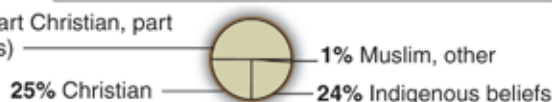
• **Religion** 50% Syncretic (part Christian, part indigenous beliefs)

Inflation in Africa

Current inflation rates in African countries:



NOTE: 2006 estimates if not mentioned otherwise



Source: AP, Reuters, CIA World Factbook, ESRI MCT

Please see **ZIMBABWE**, page 16

TWO YEARS AFTER KATRINA

Twenty-four months have passed since the powerful storm devastated the Gulf Coast. Will New Orleans and the rest of the region ever recover?

BY ROBERT W. PACK

IN AUGUST 2005, Hurricane Katrina barreled across the Gulf of Mexico, ripping into the United States Gulf Coast. The storm resulted in 1,577 deaths in Louisiana, as well as insured losses in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana totaling more than \$40 billion dollars.

After the skies cleared and the floodwaters receded, hundreds of thousands of residents were left homeless. Businesses were lost, levees were destroyed and crime escalated to record levels.

A question loomed: *Would the region—particularly New Orleans—ever recover?*

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin has focused single-mindedly on the devastation Katrina left in its wake, and local politicians have campaigned on virtually nothing else. Yet a myriad of challenges still face “The City That Care Forgot.”

U.S. President George W. Bush recently visited the Gulf Coast for the 15th time, calling the storm-ravaged region a “place of hope.” He then renewed his efforts in pushing for aid and initiatives to assist in recovery.

On August 29, 2007—the two-year anniversary of Katrina’s landfall—U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi conveyed the need for continued support for those affected by the hurricane.

“It says in the Bible,” she stated, “that when there is injustice in the world, the poorest and those with the least power are injured the most. It has been the responsibility of people of conscience—particularly elected officials—to help right that injustice...In

just seven months we have sent more than \$6.4 billion to the region...for significant initiatives such as helping schools recover, bolstering levees, and maintaining health facilities. We have created a new partnership between Congress and the region to keep hope alive with real progress on behalf of Katrina’s survivors.”

In the two years following Hurricane Katrina, billions have been spent and the focus of the government is firmly fixed on the problems facing the city. But what is the current state of affairs in New Orleans?

Reconstruction Efforts

The cost of rebuilding and sufficiently protecting the city from another “100-year storm” was originally estimated at \$7 billion. However, it quickly became evident that more funds were needed. A new budget of \$15 billion was approved for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with a timeline that targets completion in 2011.

Under intense political pressure and local scrutiny, the Corps and over 3,300 workers are feverishly building enormous floodgates to secure the hundreds of “finger-like” canals that failed after being overcome by the destructive force of the sea, crippling the city.

According to a recent Corps of Engineers investigation, even though breached levee walls and many miles of floodgates have been repaired, the city’s entire flood system still provides insufficient protection, and the antiquated “patchwork” of levees, flood walls and gates is “a system in name only” (*Der Spiegel*).

Experts concur that it is a mistake to simply rebuild the previous sys-

tem. For instance, the failure of just one canal during Katrina led to the destruction of over 40,000 acres of marshland. Robert G. Bea, professor of engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, said, “We have spent a lot of money and gotten some very good patches, but we’re putting them on this decayed old quilt” (*ibid.*).

Adding to the complexity, many believe that the reconstruction has been financially influenced and motivated by factors such as race and the economic standing of certain communities, leading to infighting among local residents and accusations of government corruption.

Economy and Housing

The U.S. Postal service reports that the number of people receiving mail has reached two-thirds of pre-Katrina levels. However, there are still large working class neighborhoods in which fewer than 5% of residents have returned. Though there are visible signs of recovery, for every rebuilt house there are scores that remain abandoned and boarded up. Many still reside in FEMA trailers, with no access to gas or hot water.

More than 4,000 businesses in New Orleans vanished in the year after the disaster. Despite over 3,500 businesses having received financial grants from the state, only 72% of the employer base has returned. The region’s employment base has recovered to 83% of its 2005 levels, yet this is still over 100,000 fewer jobs than before the calamity struck.

To further exacerbate the problem for working class and lower income residents, government subsidies will help rebuild only 25% of the city’s affordable rental housing, making it

difficult for many to return to New Orleans and survive financially.

Stagnant economic recovery has resulted in limited jobs, and significantly reduced levels of available housing have contributed to the sobering fact that there are *still* 40,000 New Orleans families displaced outside of Louisiana. Although employment levels have now returned to over 80% of pre-storm levels, it is clear that many are uncomfortable returning with their families. Only 40% of New Orleans public school students have re-enrolled (ibid.).

Healthcare

A 65-page August 2007 report examined the healthcare status of New Orleanians since the storm. The results were not encouraging: 43% of adults reported problems with access to healthcare in the last two years, and the rate of the uninsured is now 20%, well above the national average.

Mental health and addiction care providers have indicated soaring caseloads and an inability to meet mounting patient demands. Four of five providers are seeing significant surges in new cases of anxiety disorders and severe depression.

The president and CEO of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare stated that despite supposed infusion of funds and federal aid into the system, “We still don’t have adequate staff and resources to meet this overwhelming human need.”

Crime Rate

Crime of all types has inundated an already overwhelmed criminal justice system in New Orleans.

In 2006, there were 161 murders, resulting in a homicide rate of 70 per 100,000 people. As of August, 137 have been murdered in 2007, and the total is expected to pass 200 by year’s end—almost ten times New York City’s homicide rate over the same period.

One of the most poignant examples of the human toll exacted on New Orleans is the “murder board” that lists the names of each victim, publicly displayed by a local church. Every Monday

SLOW RECOVERY

Life in the New Orleans area, two years after the deadly and costly hurricane hit the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005:

	Before Katrina	One year later	Two years later
Apartments Rent for a two-bedroom in metro area	\$676	\$940	\$978
Home sales Orleans East Bank, average price	\$244,793	\$175,126	\$226,761
Hospitals Percentage open	100%	39%	57%
Transport Buses working	100%	17%	19%
City schools Percentage open	100%	29%	45%
Libraries Percentage open	100%	62%	69%
Hotel, motel Sales tax collection	\$768,185	\$409,604	\$948,057
Edu., health jobs Education, health service workers in metro area	78,400	56,300	59,500
Labor force Number in labor force	639,143	495,627	505,000

Source: Brookings Institution Katrina Index MCT

morning, the minister sends a single red rose to both the mayor and the city’s police chief as a grim reminder of each casualty from the previous weekend.

The Future?

Research, expert analysis and billions in financial aid continue to pour into Louisiana. Almost everyone involved recognizes that the situation facing New Orleans is dire. Local civic leaders, the district attorney, the police chief, the mayor, army engineers, business owners, healthcare professionals, judges, ministers and residents are all seeking tangible solutions.

Why do all of these problems con-

tinue to persist when the best and brightest minds, financed with billions, are doing all they can to find immediate solutions?

Can the federal government bring *real* remedies to the region?

If the two-year progress report on the current state of affairs is any indication, the problem will continue to grow worse.

The problems plaguing mankind cannot be solved by the collective efforts of existing local and national governments.

However, there is a government that will ultimately bring real solutions—the kingdom of God! □



FOG PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DARNITRA D. MAIDEN

SEVEN SIGNS OF A FALLING NATION

No government, kingdom or society lasts forever. Here are seven factors that contributed to ancient Rome's demise—warning signs that exist today within the nations of the American and British peoples.

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

IN AN INTERVIEW with the *Financial Times*, U.S. Comptroller General David Walker stated that the United States government “is on a ‘burning platform’ of unsustainable policies

and practices with fiscal deficits, chronic healthcare underfunding, immigration, and overseas military commitments threatening a crisis if action is not taken soon...”

The article added, “Mr. Walker warned that there were ‘striking similarities’ between America’s current situation and the factors that brought down Rome, including ‘declining moral values and political civility at home, an over-confident and over-extended military in foreign lands and fiscal irresponsibility by central government.’”

He added, “I’m trying to sound an alarm and issue a wake-up call.”

History reveals that all governments, empires and kingdoms of men, no matter how grand, no matter how powerful, ultimately fall. It happened to ancient Egypt, Assyria and Babylon. Even Rome was not exempt; though it dominated much of Europe, Northern Africa, the Middle East and parts of the Near East, and lasted for 500 years, the Roman Empire ultimately fell.

There is an old and popular saying: “Rome was not built in a day.” Likewise, the Roman Empire did not fall in one night; its decline was gradual. Not long after it rose to world dominance, several factors were already at work contributing to the empire’s ultimate demise.

Similarly, these factors are at work among the societies of the American and British peoples—and serve as warning signs of a civilization destined to fall.

The Family Unit

Few understand that the family unit is the basic building block of every thriving society. Within the family, young minds are first taught the importance of building character, controlling one’s emotions, setting worthwhile goals, striving for excellence—or at least this *should* be the case, as it was generations ago.

At the start of the Roman Empire, fathers took seriously their role in properly instructing, training and educating their sons, and mothers taught their daughters as well. The example of strong and active parents daily ingrained into children the importance of obedience, deference to civic authority and respect for the laws of the land.

But as new generations came of age, the family weakened and frac-

tured. Husbands and wives gave in to the pulls of human nature to engage in widespread adultery, inevitably leading to increasing rates of broken marriages. Divorce for virtually any reason became legal; wives only had to say to their husbands three times in succession, “I divorce you!” to bring it to pass.

Also, parents came to spoil their children, who then grew up to become lazy adults who were irreverent, disobedient to authority and had little respect for the elderly or the “old paths” of social norms and values.

Likewise, the family unit in America, Britain, Australia, Canada and other sister nations of the West is under constant assault. Broken marriages and fractured households are now the norm.

Few fathers exercise a strong hand in teaching, guiding and correcting their young, often leaving mothers to fill both parental roles.

Children are growing up pampered and catered to, never learning to accept and recover from setbacks—never being taught to “rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man” (Lev. 19:32), which is connected to fearing God—never instructed to think of others before themselves.

They live in a fantasy world in which they “must” have cellphones; they “need” their privacy; they “have rights.”

As with ancient Rome, the British and American peoples (like their forefathers, the ancient Israelites) ignore God’s counsel: “Stand you in the *old ways*, and see, and ask for the *old paths*” (Jer. 6:16).

The birthright nations of today respond the same way as did their forefathers, ancient Israel: “*We will not walk therein*” (same verse).

Modern parents believe they know better than their Creator, and thus ignore important biblical instruction such as, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame” (Prov. 29:15) and “Correct your son, and he shall give you rest; yes, he shall give delight unto your soul” (vs. 17).

The result? A generation of children who oppress and rule over their parents

and show no respect for their elders (Isa. 3:4-5, 12).

Education

The Roman Empire began with an educational system that emphasized developing character, morality, patriotism and social values in young lives. The goal was to develop the whole person.

But this was eventually replaced by an emphasis almost exclusively on academics, with no moral or ethical absolutes defining right and wrong.

Similarly, character development, patriotism and civic duty are seldom taught in the public schools of the West, where God and the Bible are banished, and morally unchecked “creative expression” is encouraged.

Because the modern house of Israel rejects God’s Word, the foundation of all true knowledge, God declares, “My people are *destroyed* for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6). He describes them as blind men groping around in spiritual darkness (Isa. 59:9-10).

Religion

The Romans were pagan idol worshippers who took the gods of the Greeks and gave them Roman names. Accompanying the assortment of false gods was lascivious religious rituals and customs. Temple prostitution, drunkenness and other vices that appealed to the flesh were common across the empire. Similar to the Greeks, the Romans worshipped mythological figures who freely gave in to carnal desires—deceiving, stealing, getting drunk and committing fornication, adultery, even rape!

Today, millions of Americans, Britons and others claim to worship only one deity, the God of the Bible—yet their actions scream something quite different!

The word *worship* means to “regard with great or extravagant respect, honor, or devotion.” Do the British and American peoples *truly* worship the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Or do their actions show they revere manmade “gods”?—celebrities who by word and example influence shallow minds to copy their irresponsible

behavior. Politicians who are forgiven for reckless conduct as long they raise the banner of political correctness and “progressive” (read: permissive, radical) causes, and proudly proclaim that their personal, moral, religious or “spiritual” beliefs will never stand in the way of pleasing the masses.

Millions within America’s religious community are quick to proclaim their religious fervor. But among them are those leading hypocritical lives, speaking out against sexual immorality, yet secretly engaging in it. Among priests, preachers and other prominent religionists are child molesters, closeted homosexuals and serial adulterers.

Pagan worshippers of ancient Rome sought an endless plethora of gods—but their religious beliefs were shallow, lifeless and without true meaning. Followers were left without direction, seeking spiritual purpose but never finding it.

It is the same in modern times. The hypocrisy of religious leaders has jaded millions, and their message of a God without laws—who does not hold followers to a higher standard of conduct and thinking—a “prosperity gospel” without expectations from believers—is ultimately empty. The result is a spiritual wasteland of human ideas that may sound appealing, but are not of the Bible—and has nothing to do with the true gospel (literally “good news”) that Jesus Christ preached: the kingdom of God (Mark 1:14-15).

The religions of Rome, which encouraged and empowered the people to live a life of excess, contributed to the empire’s death. The religions of the West, especially in the U.S., are no better.

Pleasure-Seeking

The Romans were masters of extreme pleasure-seeking. They entertained themselves with gladiators (rock stars of the day) and gambled on who would live or die. They enjoyed the sight of Christians, Jews and other enemies of the state being eaten alive by wild animals shipped from exotic regions. Residents were proud of their lavish villas, imported cuisine and fine attire.

They thrilled themselves with plays, bathhouses, indoor pools and drunken parties held in the honor of Bacchus, the false god of wine and sensual pleasures.

Similarly, the modern descendants of the “lost” tribes of Israel entertain themselves, with mindless “reality” television programs driven by deception and gratuitous sex. With superstar athletes who proudly show off their tattoos and pride themselves on their multi-million-dollar contracts—yet are void of prudence, judgment and character.

Advertising, news media and Hollywood promotes materialism and covetousness. A society that loves to emulate wanton lifestyles portrayed in movies and pursue sports, gambling, theater, music and other distractions over seeking true values is destined to collapse—as did Rome.

Economy, Government and the Military

Originally, agriculture and land ownership were Rome’s chief sources of wealth—and became the most heavily taxed. Over time, landowners who operated large farms on the backs of slaves eventually undersold smaller farmers, forcing them out of business. In addition, importing foods from both conquered lands and more easily accessible distant foreign ports also began to take its toll. Commercial trade in Rome created a massive consumer economy that focused on services rather than production and growth—just as in modern-day America and Britain.

As the Roman Empire expanded, so did the costs of operating it. Rapidly growing government bureaucracy became expensive to maintain. For instance, it took an army of officials to man and work the increasingly complicated “red tape” filing system, which faced demands from both government services and the military.

To compensate for inflation, Roman emperors in the second and third centuries produced more coins, but these were no longer made of silver and gold alloys, which had become scarce. Roman currency dwindled in value.

The citizenry strained under heavy tax burdens, as the government left

no stone unturned in seeking potential revenue sources.

Today, Americans pay local, municipal, county, state and federal taxes before even receiving their paychecks, and contend with numerous consumer taxes: sales, gasoline, vehicles, property, licenses, pets, luxury items, airline flights—the list seems endless.

Taxes combined with inflation and a desire to maintain an unrealistic standard of living have driven a growing majority to live on credit and practice the materialistic principle of “live for today, forget about tomorrow.” Consumers survive paycheck to paycheck, partly due to wrong financial priorities and living beyond their means. A new car or home suddenly becomes a “necessity” based on the maximum amount of a “pre-qualified” bank loan, rather than *actual* needs.

British, Canadian, Australian and American consumers are strapped with debt, resulting in a staggering number of defaulted home loans and personal bankruptcies.

As in ancient Rome, strong belief in self-determination and self-reliance has been replaced with an attitude of expecting something for nothing. Government-run systems originally intended to assist those in genuine need are now considered an entitlement.

Americans want to have their economic “cake and eat it too”—to work less and play more—to “support the troops,” but have their family members and friends in the military stay home—to fight terrorism, but not raise taxes to support the military (which does the actual fighting)—to obtain better health insurance, but force employers to pay for it—to receive social security when they retire, but not increase how much they pay into it now.

Of course, how can the average consumer be expected to show fiscal responsibility when government leaders fail to do so? For example, when the Pentagon pays a small parts supplier \$998,798 to ship two

19-cent washers to a U.S. Army base! Or when a Korean War veteran has to buy his own Purple Heart at a military surplus store because the Navy informed him the medal was “out of stock”!

And just as the Roman army was overstretched and overextended in foreign lands, so is the American military. Roman soldiers, once known for their precision in battle and rigid obedience to authority, eventually became demoralized. The same can be said of U.S. troops, among whom suicide rates have risen since the start of the war in Iraq—60 in 2003, 67 in 2004, 88 in 2005 and 99 in 2006. Desperate not to return to Iraq, one soldier paid someone \$500 to shoot him in the leg!

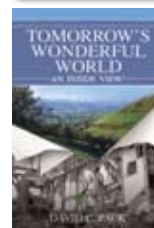
A Kingdom That Will Never Fall

Family, education, religion, the economy, government and the military. The failure of these and other factors have contributed to the death of men’s governments—and are at work in the birthright nations of America and Britain.

However, there *is* a future government that will be established by a perfect Leader, as foretold in Isaiah 9: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the GOVERNMENT shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His GOVERNMENT and peace there shall be no end” (vs. 6-7).

An incorruptible King, Jesus Christ, will direct His government—the kingdom of God—to teach true family values; place educational institutions upon the right foundation; empower true religion to provide guidance and purpose to empty lives; maintain a global economy that will never see a depression—or even a recession; ensure that government on all levels will be free of bureaucracy; and convert all weapons to a greater purpose (Isa. 2:4).

And this world-ruling kingdom will *never* fall! □



OFF THE SHORE of every continent, swaths of bacteria rob oxygen from thousands of miles of ocean, killing sea life.

Pollutants disrupt the ecology of the world's waterways creating massive ocean "dead zones" where animals cannot survive. The economic impact is already being felt in the fishing industry and many forms of marine life are at risk.

The most famous of these dead zones is in the Gulf of Mexico, which spreads from the mouth of the Mississippi to other rivers along the coast where fertilizers and other chemicals are deposited. During the worst seasons, it is said much of the Gulf, from the Mississippi River to the border of Mexico, is robbed of oxygen, destroying marine life in the area.

There is a theory that the problem is merely an annually occurring natural phenomenon—each summer, algae blooms, which causes dead zones, but every winter it recedes.

However, the problem seems to worsen each year, and many fear that the damages may be permanent.

A Natural Process

Many of the chemicals and fertilizers dumped into rivers are high in phosphorous and nitrogen. Phosphorous

is a key ingredient in the formation of certain algae, particularly phytoplankton. These algae are natural stabilizers that help chemically balance the rivers and seas. By feeding on phosphorous and other chemicals, the algae preserve the aquatic environment for other creatures.

In addition to the abundant phosphorous, the growth of algae is stimulated by massive doses of sunlight. This is one of the major reasons colonies of algae are appearing where rivers flow into the oceans—where they can receive plenty of sunlight over a wide area.

After consuming various chemicals, the algae eventually die and drop to the bottom of the waterways. The cleanup then continues through bacteria. Bacteria work to break down and digest algae, releasing carbon dioxide and processing large quantities of oxygen.

However, what is unnatural in the case of the dead zones is the scale in which the process is occurring. The massive doses of phosphorous and nitrogen released into the world's waterways lead to tremendous colonies of feeding algae, which generate large colonies of bacteria that feed on algae. The area filled with bacteria is so gigantic that thousands of miles of ocean become devoid of oxygen, as

all of it is consumed in the process of breaking down the algae.

In the end, animal life suffocates—unable to escape the rolling cloud of dead water. Processing such vast amounts of harmful chemicals causes numerous diseases and deformities in fish, crabs and other marine animals.

A Worldwide Problem

According to a United Nations report, the number of dead zones worldwide is nearly 150—and growing. Many of these areas are subject to a seasonal ebb and flow. During the summer, additional rain spreads the chemicals, and increased sunlight provides ideal conditions for algae to blossom. Affected areas generally have less active currents, restricting the ability of water to circulate and replace oxygen.

The worst affected areas are those with an abundance of runoff from industry and agriculture, mostly in Europe and on the U.S. East Coast.

Dead zones can range in size from a single square mile to 45,000 square miles. In addition to the massive zones at the mouths of great rivers, they are also spreading in large lakes and seas, including Lake Erie, the Baltic Sea, Chesapeake Bay, the Black Sea and the northern Adriatic Sea. Other areas that are affected around the world

RCG PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: DARNITRA D. MAIDEN

MARINE DEAD ZONES

BY JEFFREY D. DAVIS



include South America, Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan.

Interrelated life

Not only is local sea life damaged, but the effects of the mutant local ecologies within the dead zones are spreading throughout the world. Certain less-tolerant fish and creatures are being killed, while those that are able to tolerate poisons, as well as those that feed on algae or resultant bacteria, multiply.

This unbalance has a destabilizing effect on other creatures that rely on the affected life for food. In addition, other life may run rampant—unchecked—when its natural predators are destroyed. This could potentially wreak havoc on global ecosystems since all life is interdependent.

All of this destabilization disrupts the earth's delicate ecosystems. The ability of various interrelated plant and sea life to withstand repeated widespread disruption is unknown. However, it is widely speculated that

once the destruction reaches a certain threshold, the damage will become irreversible, wiping out entire ecosystems—potentially leading to mass extinctions.

Likewise, even if the problem does not reach such a catastrophic magnitude there will still be significant effects. For instance, the economic impact of entire seas being depopulated would doom local fishing industries. Nearby fisheries would find much of their catch damaged and diseased by the unnatural preponderance of chemicals, algae and bacteria. These defective fish could lead to diseases in people and animals, causing health problems and economic and ecological difficulties throughout the planet.

One Symptom

For many, the warnings about mankind destroying the planet seem all too familiar: "Man's overindulgence is damaging the environment" and "The damage may be catastrophic." But the typical reaction is: *None of these things*

have ever affected me. Therefore, none of them ever will. These warnings seem like just another instance of "the boy who cried wolf."

But the problem remains—humanity does not really know how much this planet can take. Most choose to hope for the best, essentially sticking their heads in the sand and pretending nothing is happening. Others do not care, thinking life is too short to worry about such things. Finally, a third group jumps in the other ditch and devotes their entire life to "speaking out" and "making the earth green again."

Ironically, recent reports have indicated that the dead zone issue is actually being exacerbated by the turn to ethanol, which comes from corn. The increased production of corn is leading to more runoff into the world's waterways. While trying to help in one area, mankind is ruining another.

Daily it becomes more obvious that man is damaging the world around him. If it's not the seas, it's the skies;

if it's not the skies, it's the lands; if it's not the lands, it is even space that is being polluted. Just like any home or vehicle subject to continual abuse, the environment will eventually wear out and no longer function correctly. All together, these things point to a major problem—a problem that no one has been able to solve.

Insoluble?

All kinds of solutions will be offered to try to combat this and other problems. There are, and will continue to be, many quick-fix remedies that will look good, yet fail to deliver—they always have. However, there *is* a solution. But it will not come from where you might think.

Instead, to know the true SOLUTION, you must first recognize the PROBLEM. To understand, read *Why Man Cannot Solve His Problems – Unknown Until Now*. □



ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

Many are familiar with the concept of a “food chain” or a “food web.” These depict the flow of energy, or food, throughout an *ecosystem* or related group of organisms. At the bottom of the food chain are always the *producers*—organisms that receive their energy from the sun (and sometimes thermal vents at the bottom of the ocean). Moving up the chain are different levels of *consumers*—creatures that receive their energy by preying on others. A simplified example of a food chain would be: a plant produces energy from the sun; an ant eats the plant; a spider eats the ant; and a bird eats the spider.

The continued existence of all the related organisms depends on there being neither too few nor too many of the organisms in any tier of the chain. This interdependence among the different organisms within an ecosystem is called *ecological balance*. Generally speaking, any ecosystem will maintain ecological balance, unless something artificially changes the number of creatures at any level of the food chain.

Going back to our example, if some kind of chemical were released that only affected spiders, then there would be too few spiders to keep the population of the ants from exploding. Then, with there being too many ants eating the plants, the ants would eventually consume *all* of the plants. This would then kill off the ants, as they would have nothing to eat. This would then lead to the death of the spiders, with no ants to eat. And finally the birds would perish, without any spiders to prey upon.

The concept of ecological balance applies not only within a single ecosystem, but also among the different ecosystems on the planet. Since creatures are able to feed on more than one food source, an organism whose normal food supply runs out will begin to search elsewhere, thereby encroaching on another ecosystem. If one ecosystem is significantly unbalanced, it can lead to the destruction of other related ecosystems.

Since all life on earth is related in this way, it is possible for significant destruction in one area of life to impact other organisms on the planet. □

DEAD ZONE AREAS AROUND THE WORLD



SOURCE: UNEP

ZIMBABWE

Continued from page 7

rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby. For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us... And the inhabitant shall not say, *I am sick*: the people that dwell therein shall be *forgiven their iniquity*' (Isa. 33:21-22, 24)."

"This is what God wants: 'For I will *restore health* unto you, and I will *heal* you of your wounds' (Jer. 30:17)."

"When fully implemented, the government of God will be a picture of harmony and unity, with all those in administration being the right choice for each job—perfectly qualified for the tasks they face."

"Through proper re-education of the world, God's laws of health will become known—and compliance with them will become practical and affordable."

■ **Cities of Tomorrow:** "City planners of the future will always be certain to allow enough room for people to enjoy their homes and the land around them. But the planning of this world's cities has been much different. Overpopulation has translated into overcrowding, with tenement houses teeming with too many people for the space allotted. Row houses are common in many big cities of the world. God says, 'Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place...' (Isa. 5:8). Many of today's cities are better off temporarily becoming waste places. It will be far easier to rebuild them from scratch."

"The cities of the world to come will present a far different—and infinitely better and more beautiful—picture than the cities of today."

■ **Education:** "Life is a *process* of education—learning to develop character by obedience to God's laws, which in turn yields every good, fulfilling and favorable result. Education in the world tomorrow will explain how to live—and how to learn a productive trade. Of course, all academic subjects, including

wholesome art and music, will produce well-rounded people. Life will become invigorating, exciting and fulfilling.

"Imagine how important world history will be in the classrooms of tomorrow. Everyone will be forced to view the truth of history through the eyes of *God*, instead of through the revisionist propaganda of each nation's historians—including their dishonest version of world history, written according to how they need to portray it. No one will be allowed to forget how, and how long, the world was off track from God's laws and ways.

"All error will be exposed for what it is. The truth of *every* matter—in *every* field of knowledge—will be taught in place of error. This will not be easy to do with everyone. Many will have been steeped in the false knowledge of this world's values. These will be deeply ingrained. Man-made definitions of political correctness, situation ethics, human rights, discrimination, alternative lifestyles and proper education will have to be scrapped and replaced with God's definitions. Some describe the Bible as "violent" or "hate literature." Many believe this—and they will have to unlearn it, forcibly if necessary.

"The facts of *why* things happen a certain way will be taught in a straightforward fashion. No punches will be pulled. For instance, mankind will be taught exactly *why* war occurs, from God's perspective. Consider this from the book of James: 'From where come wars and fightings among you?' (4:1). The question is direct. So is God's answer: 'Come they not hence, even of your *lusts* that war in your members? You *lust*, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your *lusts*' (vs. 1-3). And verse 5 adds, 'Do you think that the scripture says in vain, The spirit that dwells in us *lusts* to envy?'

"Plain, simple answers like these will be given in classrooms around the world. Gone will be vague, blurred, philosophical opinions lacking the

absolutes of God's Law and *His* explanations. But try to tell today's generals, soldiers and military planners such unvarnished truth about why they go to war and kill. They will ridicule your suggestion as so much unrealistic, childish idealism.

"Re-educating the world will be a truly monumental task. The difficult job of teaching people to learn can only be done if teachers are *un*-handcuffed and allowed to bring proper discipline and order to schools and classrooms, now so out of control."

■ **Population and Environment:** "God has a Master Plan! No man could ever think of it, or bring it to pass if he did. Yet it will solve *every* problem related to overpopulation, pollution, and production, procurement and distribution of food and water. It will involve a complete change in entire weather patterns around the earth, including ocean currents, jet streams and flow of arctic air. Beautiful, clear water will be available—and in abundance—in all parts of the world. The nature of mountain ranges, islands and even placement of continents will allow a repopulation of earth simply inconceivable to modern planners of cities and nations."

■ **Internal Peace and Security:** "The streets of cities around the world will soon be safe for all. Look at this description of how Jerusalem, certainly one of the most violent, unsafe cities on earth today, will change: 'There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof' (Zech. 8:4-5). Abandoned buildings, choking traffic, drug dealers, the homeless, street gangs, criminals—and all fear!—will soon only be memories."

Though the current situation for Zimbabweans is dire, hope remains. Man cannot solve his ever-growing problems, but his Creator *can*—and will! Today's governments and their imperfect economies, educational systems and societies will soon be replaced by a perfect world-ruling SUPERGOVERNMENT—the kingdom of God! □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday” (*The Catholic Mirror*, official publication of James Cardinal Gibbons, Sept. 23, 1893).

“Is Saturday the seventh day according to the Bible and the Ten Commandments? I answer yes. Is Sunday the first day of the week and did the Church change the seventh day—Saturday—for Sunday, the first day? I answer yes. Did Christ change the day? I answer no!” (James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore (1877-1921), signed letter).

“Reason and sense demand the acceptance of one or the other of these alternatives: either...the keeping holy of Saturday or Catholicity and the keeping holy of Sunday. Compromise is impossible” (James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Catholic Mirror*, Dec. 23, 1893).

“The Bible everywhere enforces the sanctification of Saturday the seventh day of the week...You Protestants have to admit the authority of the Roman Catholic Church that is branded on you when you observe Sunday because you have no other authority for Sunday but that of the Roman Catholic Church” (James Cardinal Gibbons).

“Some theologians have held that God likewise directly determined the Sunday as the day of worship in the New Law, that He Himself has explicitly substituted the Sunday for the Sabbath. But this theory is now entirely abandoned. It is now commonly held that God simply gave His Church the power to set aside whatever day or days she would deem suitable as Holy Days. The Church chose Sunday, the first day of the week, and in the course of time added other days as holy days” (John Laux, *A Course in Religion for Catholic High Schools and Academies*, vol. 1, p. 51, 1936).

“Nowhere in the Bible is it stated that worship should be changed from Saturday to Sunday...Now the

Church...instituted, by God’s authority, Sunday as the day of worship. This same Church, by the same divine authority, taught the doctrine of Purgatory long before the Bible was made. We have, therefore, the same authority for Purgatory as we have for Sunday” (Martin J. Scott, *Things Catholics Are Asked About*, p. 136, 1927).

“Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

■ That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.

■ We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say, this Church, instituted by Christ to teach and guide man through life, has the right to change the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to Sunday. We frankly say, yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages and a thousand other laws.

“It is always somewhat laughable, to see the Protestant churches, in pulpit and legislation, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in their Bible” (Peter R. Kraemer, *Catholic Church Extension Society*, 1975).

“Only gradually did Christians begin to observe Sunday as a day of rest...In the third century, as we learn from Tertullian, many Christians had begun to keep Sunday as a day of rest to some extent...”

“The real need of Sunday as a day of rest as well as worship came much later...” (“Yes, I Condemned the Catholic Church,” p. 4, Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus).

Worship Christ in Vain?

Here is what Christ said about the popular commandments and traditions of the world—and its churches: “*IN VAIN* do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the *commandments of men*...Full well [these men know exactly what they are doing] you *reject* the commandment of God, that you may keep *your own tradition*” (Mark 7:7, 9).

Let’s plainly frame the question: Do we observe the day that GOD commands—or do we observe the traditional day that the Roman Catholic Church commands, and Protestants endorse? This church and its daughter churches are wrong on virtually every doctrine in the Bible—salvation, heaven, hell, method of baptism, the Law, the definition of sin, the trinity, which annual days should be observed by Christians, prophecy, and many more. Over and over, it has substituted its commands and traditions in place of what God plainly says in His Word. Should you follow *its* authority, believing it to be greater than the authority of God?

It *is* possible to worship God in vain. Therefore, you must find out, once and for all, whether Sunday-keeping and worship is what God expects of you—or even permits.

Though there are a few very weak arguments put forth in favor of Sunday, in a sense, there is no further room for argument. If those who keep Sunday will so freely acknowledge that they have no authority from God—in His Word, the Holy Bible—for doing so, and the plain biblical command is seen, observance of the Sabbath has been clearly established!

But God has much to say about the crucial importance of observing *His* Sabbath every seven days. This includes understanding *WHY* Christians must do this.

Read my book *SATURDAY OR SUNDAY – Which is the Sabbath?* to see scriptural *fact*—ABSOLUTE PROOF from God!—indicating which day is the Sabbath, and that its observance was commanded 6,000 years ago! You will see that neither God nor His command has ever changed! □

READER COMMENTS

UNITED KINGDOM

Continued from page 4

From online subscribers of our weekly news updates

ARUBA

■ “Thanks for giving me the opportunity to know more of what is going on in our world.”

COTE D’IVOIRE

■ “Your studies regarding the Bible’s prophecies really help me understand better what is going to take place in the coming days.”

FIJI

■ “Thank you very much for updating us with the latest news around the world.”

INDIA

■ “The *Real Truth* news is astounding; every article in this magazine is a reality.”

■ “Your articles are well researched and thought-provoking.”

■ “Top class global articles.”

MALAYSIA

■ “Formerly the magazine was known to me as *The Plain Truth*. I learnt it from a schoolmate of mine when I was merely 13 years old; that was some 37 years ago.”

■ “Good reading material.”

MEXICO

■ “What I read is very interesting and educational. Thank you.”

NIGERIA

■ “I find it very informative and exciting. Most of the articles are topical issues that relate to happenings in international politics, which gives better understanding from my religious point of view.”

■ “I learned about this magazine from a friend, and I became interested in it as the information contained in it is unique and cannot be found anywhere else. *The Real Truth* is always a unique compilation of the biblical point of view concerning different subject matter.”

SAUDI ARABIA

■ “I am very happy to see the importance of world information that you are giving is good.”

UGANDA

■ “I read your articles and I was impressed, so please send me more.”

UNITED KINGDOM

■ “I attend the Church of England and love my brothers and sisters in Christ. But I do not agree with all my church has to say. I find it hard to believe in the trinity, and I don’t think hell is fair.”

(Editor’s note: These two subjects are thoroughly explained in the books *The TRINITY – Is God three-in-one?* and *The truth about HELL*, respectively.)

UNITED STATES

■ “I am so relieved to have found this website. I have been telling family and friends this stuff for years!! I even got a pastor really angry at me for having a pressing conversation about most of the seven questions.” **(Editor’s note: The reader is referring to our article “Seven Questions Your Minister Doesn’t Want You to Ask!”)**

■ “I brought up this subject at our weekly Bible study. I was met with raised eyebrows. I wanted to do research on my own so I am more informed on the subject.”

■ “I am interested in the role America and Britain play in the end times.”

■ “I like to stay informed on what is going on today. Thanks for your help in seeing more on what I like to stay on top of.”

■ “I’m looking forward to reading your updates.”

■ “I am a Seventh Day Adventist and many of our beliefs are very similar. How do our beliefs differ with yours?” **(Editor’s note: Our article “We are Not Jehovah’s Witnesses or Seventh-Day Adventists” answers this, and is posted on our website.)**

■ “I’m discouraged with all religion and find no comfort in a sugarcoated message each Sunday. I’m *desperately* seeking true Bible teaching and knowledge of Bible doctrine that will make me self-sustaining in these crazy days. I desire to see God’s viewpoint rather than reacting with fear at all I see occurring in this out-of-control world.”

enemies” (Gen. 22:17). This included the Suez Canal, the Straits and Island of Gibraltar, Cape of Good Hope, the Straits of Hormuz, Singapore, Malta and Hong Kong—dominating world commerce and trade.

Ireland

Ireland was the shortest-lasting member state of the United Kingdom, with increasing differences among unionist and republican, as well as Protestant and Catholic, forces during the late 1800s and early 1900s. This culminated with the Anglo-Irish treaty of December 6, 1921, which created the independent Irish Free State. The northeastern area, known as Northern Ireland, remained a part of the UK.

By the late 1940s, Irish politics pushed toward unification and independence, leading to the Republic of Ireland Act of 1949. Britain recognized Ireland’s new status, but unity with Northern Ireland could take place only with mutual political consent. During the 1950s and 60s, the governments faced Irish Republican Army (IRA) attacks on British army outposts along the northeastern border. Various political visits, assassinations and agreements, all in an attempt to secure peace, continued for several decades. Annual Protestant and Catholic marches became typical flashpoints for violence.

In 1993, the Irish and British governments signed a joint peace initiative called the Downing Street Declaration. The next year, the IRA declared a cease-fire, increasing optimism. But by 1996 its bombing campaign resumed. Two years later, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern played a significant role in brokering the Belfast (or Good Friday) Agreement. This included the creation of a Northern Ireland Assembly, established some north-south political structure, and removed the claim to Northern Ireland from Ireland’s 1937 constitution. That same year,

94% of voters in Ireland and 71% in Northern Ireland approved the agreement. Despite intermittent progress, including the IRA's renouncement of armed struggle in 1995, power sharing has become a reality in Northern Ireland. Earlier this year, the British army ended its nearly four-decade long mission there.

Scotland

Scotland has "long refused to consider itself as anything other than a separate country, and has bound itself to historical fact and legend alike in an effort to retain national identity" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*).

With the discovery of oil in the North Sea in the 1970s, the Scottish National Party (SNP) made some political gains. The independent

mindset bore symbolic fruit with the 1996 return of the Stone of Scone (or Stone of Destiny) from London to Edinburgh. Elements of history indicate that this is the same stone that Jacob slept on in Genesis 28; the one that the prophet Jeremiah brought to the British Isles (ca. 700 B.C.). Irish, Scottish and English kings have been coronated upon this stone ever since.

In 1997, the Labour government called for a referendum on the creation of a Scottish Parliament. It passed with support of more than 74% of voters, and in May 1999, its first members were elected. The SNP staged a historic upset in the 2007 elections, winning the most seats (47 of 129). Its leader, Alex Salmond, was subsequently named the First Minister of Scotland.

Mr. Salmond has announced plans for a referendum to be held in 2010, aimed at securing independence for Scotland for the first time in 300 years. The referendum date gives the SNP "plenty of time to demonstrate competence. I'm committed to a new chapter in Scottish politics, one that's written by the people," Mr. Salmond said, launching what he called a "national conversation" on the referendum proposal (*Bloomberg*).

According to Mr. Salmond, the status quo is no longer an option. If he is proven right, this would present UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown (who is also Scottish) with a serious challenge to his opposition to Scottish independence.

Des Browne, the Secretary of State for Scotland, warned against allowing "the cleverness of Alex Salmond and the SNP to dress this up as anything other than what it is—the central theme of the document is about breaking up Britain."

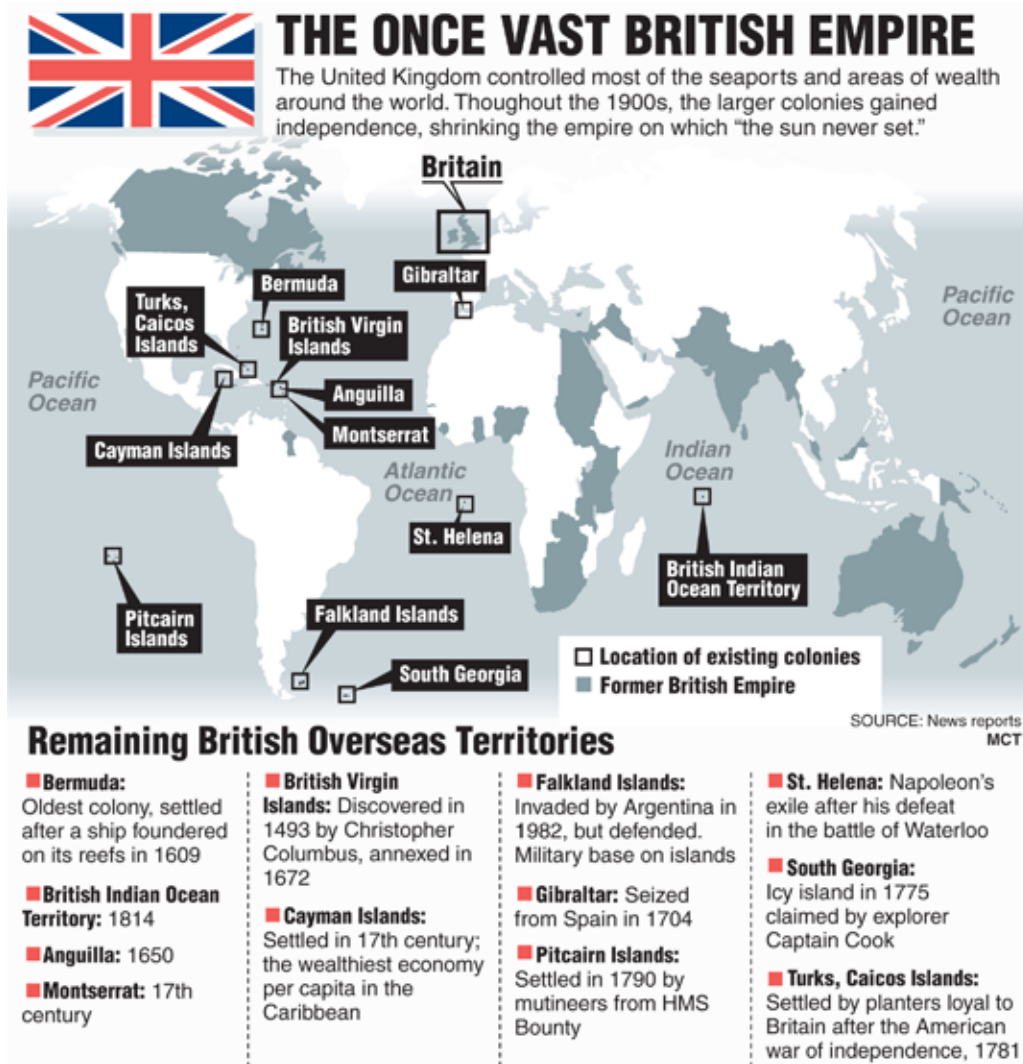
He added, "This is what Alex Salmond is about. People of Scotland identify that and they don't support it. This was tested recently in an election in Scotland and 65% voted for parties who want to preserve a United Kingdom."

Opinion polls have also consistently revealed that Scots want more power for their Parliament, yet are wary of full independence.

The Future

The British Empire no longer exists. Great Britain is no longer "great." And the United Kingdom appears to be no longer united and headed toward its end.

In fact, the UK *will* indeed cease to exist in its current form. To learn more, read the book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY*. □



WEATHER & ENVIRONMENT

Midwest Drenched by Weeks of Rain and Floods

Weeks of continuous thunderstorms dropped inordinate amounts of rain across America's Midwest, causing death and destruction by wind, floods, tornadoes and fires. The death toll currently stands at over two dozen.

Some of the areas hit include:

■ **Wisconsin:** 10 to 12 inches in one weekend flooded the southern part of the state, destroying more than 1,500 homes and causing \$48 million in damages.

■ **Minnesota:** Up to 15 inches of rain fell in 24 hours, causing the Whitewater River to overflow, washing away sections of State Road 74, and causing \$67 million in damages.

■ **Ohio:** Northwestern and north central parts of the state were worst hit, with Findlay perhaps sustaining the worst flooding of all the Midwest. Thousands were forced to evacuate in what was categorized as a "once in a 100 years" flood.

■ **Illinois:** Chicago's Department of Streets and Sanitation detailed the extent of destruction to the area: There were 5,749 reports of trees and limbs being down; 345 traffic signals out; 193 light poles damaged; and 332 wires down.

Other states inundated by the constant thunderstorms and rainfall include Iowa and Michigan.

President George W. Bush made a disaster declaration for Wisconsin,

Minnesota and Ohio, meaning the damage was severe enough to warrant federal aid for cleanup and rebuilding. Total monetary damages are expected to be in the millions.

As the floodwaters recede, citizens who were forced to leave are returning home to find warped wood floors and belongings strewn across lawns, covered in mud or completely swept away and lost altogether. Some houses and other buildings were laid waste by lightning fires or ripped apart by rapid currents.

The amount of rainfall and extended reach of the Midwest floods, as well as the earlier flooding of Texas and Oklahoma, has led some to call 2007 "the summer of the floods." □

Thousands Flee as Fires Rage Across Greece

Massive fires have raged across Greece, killing dozens of people and destroying thousands of acres of countryside. The flames have forced hundreds to evacuate and have left thousands homeless.

The mountainous Peloponnese region in southern Greece and the island of Evia, north of Athens, have suffered the most damage. Billowing smoke blackened the sky of the country's capital as fire threatened historic landmarks, including the birthplace of the Olympics.

In addition, at least two fires burned out of control on the border with Albania.

Several of the victims included a mother and her children who were overcome by the raging fire while trying to evacuate one of the threatened areas by car.

Not only have the scorching fires damaged structures, they have also killed thousands of livestock and destroyed the olive and orange crop that sustains Greece economi-

cally. Authorities worry that piles of charred animal carcasses could lead to disease epidemics.

In addition to paralyzing the nation physically, the fires have aroused anger in many residents, who say the government's response to the crisis has been inadequate, and hold officials responsible for the inability to contain the fires and loss of life.

Authorities estimate the fires have caused over five billion Euros in damage and the government has declared a state of emergency. To combat the fires, 19 countries have sent help to Greece in the form of helicopters, manpower and machinery.

Several investigations are underway to determine the exact cause of the fires. Authorities are uncertain whether they are all a result of arson or natural causes, but one man suspected of setting a blaze that killed six people has been charged with homicide.

Summer forest fires are common in Greece, but this year they have

been more prevalent. A combination of abnormally hot temperatures and drought, including low rainfall levels, has made the country prime breeding ground for wildfires.

Greece is not the only Mediterranean country that has fought out-of-control blazes this summer; Italy and Spain have also been plagued by them.

On Spain's Grand Canary islands off the coast of Northern Africa, 11,000 people evacuated when fire overtook several villages there. In Italy, several people lost their lives as fires spread through the nation's countryside. And in Bulgaria, forest fires were responsible for the deaths of two citizens. Authorities there say the unusually dry weather is responsible for more than 1,000 wildfires across the nation, burning more than 84,000 acres of forests and farmland.

With a heat wave predicted to occur in the coming week, authorities are concerned about how they will control the blazes. □

U.S. Housing Market Riddled With Uncertainty

The U.S. Commerce Department reported that construction of new homes and apartments dropped 6.1% in July 2007, down 21% from July 2006, to the slowest pace since January 1997. This cooling of the market does not appear to be a short-term trend.

In July, the number of applications—perhaps the best indicator of future construction activity—fell by almost 3% nationally. Ironically, two of the regions hit particularly hard by these declines have been symbols of recent economic growth: the American South and West, with construction slumping 11% and 3.7%, respectively.

What have been the consequences of this recent slowdown? Builders across the nation have begun to slash building prices, offering aggressive buying incentives in an effort to induce sales of recently built homes and to stimulate the “pre-sale” of new homes.

Despite these efforts to maintain growth, or at least the status quo, the ripple effect created by lack of sales has been noticeable. The Labor Department reports increases in those filing for unemployment at six times the rate of analysts’ expectations.

New construction is not the only area that has fizzled. The National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing homes from April to June 2007 declined in 41 of 50 states and one-third of the country’s major metropolitan areas experienced price declines in the housing market (*Associated Press*).

Although there are numerous factors contributing to the housing slump, consistent low interest rates for almost a decade have played a significant role in the current crisis. Since the late 1990s, rates have stayed at unprecedented lows, pushing the housing mar-

ket and lending industry to dizzying new heights.

This allowed millions of homeowners to upgrade into “dream homes” at the edge of their financial capabilities. Although this trend created a windfall in the lending industry, it also caused tremendous competition among banks as they maneuvered for new customers and encouraged homeowners to live on credit—regardless of whether they needed bigger, more expensive homes. Buyers were routinely approved for high-risk loans, second and sometimes

from a minuscule 0.08% one year earlier—a delinquency rate of 15 times that of the same period just 12 months ago (*The Arizona Republic*).

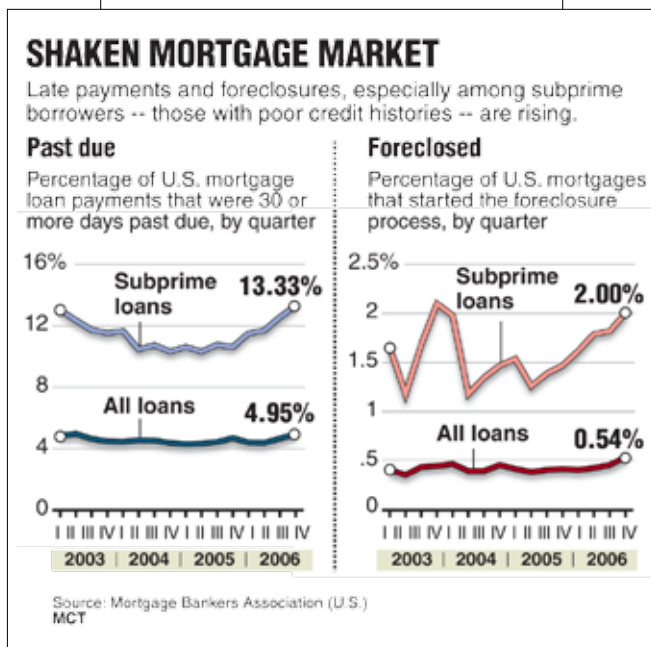
This troubling development has driven scores of smaller lending institutions into bankruptcy and has resulted in industry giant Countrywide Financial, the nation’s largest mortgage lender, borrowing \$11.5 million dollars from a group of 40 banks to remain financially viable. The depths of the growing crisis have led to Wall Street investors and International bankers keeping an increasingly watchful eye on the troubled housing and lending industries.

National Australia Bank CEO John Stewart reported that over the next 12 to 18 months, as short term adjustable rate mortgages (ARMs) expire or reset for millions of borrowers, the \$250 billion of debt given to “subprime” U.S. borrowers with bad credit profiles will be at risk. Millions of borrowers will be forced into default, extending the credit crisis even further (*Business Day*).

A lack of international confidence was manifested when Asian and European markets fell sharply upon the recent news.

What are the implications and what does the future hold? Opinions vary. “Looking over periods of stress that I’ve seen, this is the strongest global economy we’ve had,” said U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson in a Wall Street Journal interview.

However, a perception of a strong global economy does not necessarily translate into universal international confidence in the United States. The faltering U.S. mortgage industry and realization that many millions of Americans are living “close to the edge” financially could be the first visible cracks in a dangerously weakened economy. □



even third and fourth mortgages in the secondary market, largely due to the overwhelming success of the industry as a whole. Encouraged by the housing and lending industries, Americans have built and bought new houses and drained their home equity at unprecedented levels.

The result? Loan delinquencies and mortgage defaults have reached all-time highs in recent months.

A perfect example of the degree of this mounting crisis is the present situation for Arizona’s largest bank, JPMorgan Chase. The bank’s proportion of mortgage delinquencies to all loans surged to 1.19% in the second quarter



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