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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING



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A R T I C L E S

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**Children's Health Worldwide
Can Man Solve the
Crises Facing the Next
Generation?**
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■ **MALNUTRITION:** A child sleeps with flies covering his face on the floor of the family home in Beit Layha on the outskirts of Gaza City.

PHOTO: MCT

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ABOUT OUR COVER: Chinese paramilitary police officers, who will provide security for the 2008 Olympic Games, line up outside the Olympic Stadium in Beijing in a military parade rehearsal. Thousands of visitors will soon flood the city as the games begin, allowing a never-before-seen look into the Chinese nation.

PHOTO: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Published 10 times per year, with online news updates throughout the week.

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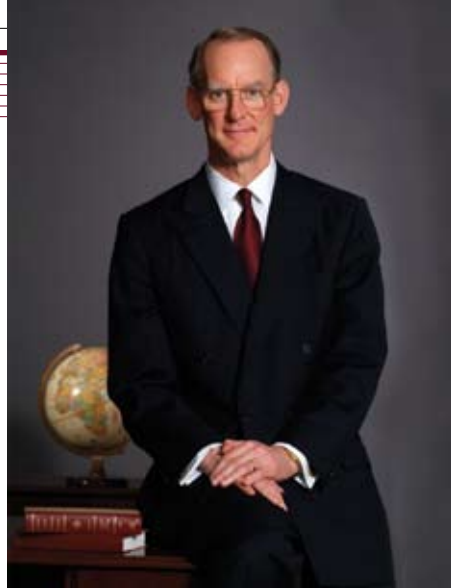
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Pack



Why Marriage Goes Wrong Before It Even Begins

MOST PEOPLE LIVE their entire existence completely unaware of WHY things either “go right” or “go wrong.” They seem unable to grasp that what they do, or do not do, has a direct effect on their lives. Most do not recognize that for every CAUSE there is an EFFECT—or, conversely, for every effect there is a cause. Nor do they know that this is a *law*. Scientists recognize this in physics, but society is unaware that the same is true in life—that the law of cause and effect is no less immutable than any law of science.

Let’s reason together, considering a few basic points. How does the law of cause and effect work in one’s life? Some simple examples:

If you routinely eat too much, what happens? You will become sick or overweight—or both! There is no mystery to this.

If you drink too much alcohol, you will become intoxicated. This could lead to a long list of bad effects: A next-day headache, being arrested, or even an auto accident resulting in injury or death to yourself or others. Again, there is no mystery here.

If you break society’s laws, the effect is that you might go to jail or prison. This will hurt your family, your career opportunities and your entire future. Once

again, no mystery to this.

In this fashion, the law of CAUSE and EFFECT directly impacts your life—and the life of everyone on earth. The ways that this happens are endless.

Let’s go further. If industry pollutes the environment, the result is contaminated air or water, or even the much-debated problem of global warming. If countries go to war, the results—the effects—are economic upheaval, disease, famine and general misery for all involved. If parents neglect the proper rearing of their children, or if children do not obey their parents, the effects could be poor performance in school, drug addiction, criminal conduct or worse.

Of course, none of this is hard to understand.

God’s way of life—including the principles of right dating, courtship and engagement—is also based on the law of CAUSE and EFFECT. The Bible contains hundreds of laws and principles, each carrying the power of cause and effect for those who KEEP—or BREAK—them!

Whether one identifies and knows all the laws and principles of the Bible is not relevant to whether breaking them will bring *certain* punishment. Just as speeding can result in a ticket, whether the driver knew the speed limit or not, so those who break the laws of God reap penalties, whether they know they are violating specific laws or not.

Look at the world around you. It is littered with broken families, unhappy marriages, single-parent homes, STDs, astonishing ignorance and widespread misery. Have you ever asked *why*? WHY has mankind never been able to

solve these and other great problems? Why do they only grow worse with the passing of time? The answer: because the laws and principles of God are being routinely broken by earth's billions of human inhabitants.

The Author of the Bible states that His great Law, the Ten Commandments, is "holy, and just, and good" and "spiritual" (Rom. 7:12, 14). Again, consider the basic understanding of cause and effect. When *God's* laws and principles are obeyed, they bring countless blessings, benefits and good things into the lives of those who obey them. But mankind has routinely rejected—and even lampooned—the INSTRUCTION BOOK that reveals the cause of all its problems, evils and ills.

The Effects

So how does the LAW of cause and effect apply to dating and courtship? Where do these practices *lead*? The answer is simple. Dating, and the courtship that may ensue, are the precursors to relationships—and ultimately marriages. The effect—successful or failed marriages—is what *results from* either right or wrong forms of dating and courtship.

The cause-and-effect principle goes both ways. For every cause, there is a resulting effect, and for every *effect*, there is a traceable *cause*! So, let's look at the effects of modern dating. We could ask: Are they good?

To determine whether the dating practiced today is correct, we should first examine its fruits. In other words, we must analyze the *effects* of dating today. If the effects are bad or rotten, then we should be able to admit that something is wrong, possibly very wrong, with the cause—the ways that people in society practice dating, courtship and even engagement.

Therefore, it is essential to examine the *overall state* of the marriage institution. If dating and courtship are being done properly, we should expect the general condition of mar-

riage throughout society today to be healthy.

Today's Marriages

Greater numbers of people are questioning the institution of marriage every day. Many are concerned with the direction of current trends. Some ponder whether marriage can even survive. Still others get married on their own terms or only on a "trial basis." Millions simply live together, unmarried—and ever-greater numbers now cohabitate in "same-sex" partnerships.

All of this would have been unthinkable just 50 years ago. Virtually everyone back then planned and expected to "grow up, get married and have children." And marriage was for life! Entire *communities*—and *NATIONS*—functioned on this premise!

If dating and courtship were practiced correctly today, they would form the foundation of a beautiful relationship between a husband and wife as God ordained it. The two would spend a lifetime together enjoying much happiness and joy. This God-plane relationship would include expanding the family to children who would experience more productive and abundant lives, because their home and family would provide a strong, positive environment, capable of nurturing them to adulthood and into their own successful marriages with children. Parents would teach children all they need to know, and the process would continue through successive generations.

Does this sound like a fairytale—a children's bedtime story? Today it does! This is because modern society is shot full of wrong education, misinformation, hollow opinions, pop psychology, ignorance, bad advice—or no advice—all of which virtually prevents young people from having any hope for true happiness in marriage.

The following are revealing statistics, trends and facts derived from census data, and what sociologists, psychologists, marriage planners/

counselors and others report. While shocking, this is only the briefest thumbnail—a very tiny sampling—of all that could have been included.

Take the time to consider the enormous implications of these statistics. Make them personal, and imagine the individual lives behind them:

- 50% of married women and 66% of married men in the U.S. commit adultery (combined, these statistics indicate that five out of six marriages—over 80%—involve at least one adulterous partner).

- Divorces per 1,000 marriages: 1969—140; 1990—380 (up 171%); 1996—451 (up 222% since 1969).

- Compared to first marriages, *remarriages* are 50% more likely to end in divorce during the first five years, and tend to be unstable, break up more often, and more quickly (*Statistics Canada*).

- Divorced status in America is the fastest growing marital category. Between 1970 and 1996, the number of divorcees more than quadrupled, going from 4.3 million to 18.3 million.

- The National Institute for Healthcare Research says that divorce now ranks as the number one factor linked with suicide in major U.S. cities, ranking above all other physical, financial, and psychological factors.

- More than 50% of people in their 20s, interviewed in a Gallup survey, agreed to the statement, "One sees so few good or happy marriages today that one questions it as a way of life." Among single young adults, more than half stated that one of their biggest concerns about marriage is "the possibility that it will end in divorce." Incredible!

About half of all marriages fail! How can this be? Try to imagine the pain, suffering and frustration that so many experience. Is there a reason for all of this? Is it merely because many people just cannot get along? Most have no idea—no realization—that

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 11

R I S E O F T H E MILLENNIALS

Why They Know So Much...



...Yet Understand So Little

BY BRUCE A. RITTER

YOU STAND IN the “12 Items or Less” cash register line at the local supermarket, waiting to pay for a loaf of bread.

The man in front of you is buying a bottle of wine, which he presents to the cashier—a pimply blonde with streaks of orange, lime and other unnatural colors swirling through her hair, a butterfly tattoo on the inside of her left wrist, and body piercings on parts of the flesh that should never be pierced. Too young to legally ring up alcohol purchases, she signals for help from an older cashier.

A pleasant, personable middle-aged woman suddenly appears. She smiles at the customer and asks, “Hello, how are you today, sir?” as she enters a code into the register. The transaction is made. The older woman thanks the customer for his purchase, and then returns to her other duties.

You are next in line. The young blonde stands at the register and stares at you, saying nothing—not a “hello” or “how are you?” Nothing.

You step forward and present your loaf of bread. She rings it up, bags it, tells you the price, which you pay, and she hands back your change. Your transaction is complete. You pause for

a moment, expecting her to say, “Thank you. Come again.”

Nothing, not even a smile. It’s as though she’s a mannequin that happens to breathe.

You smile and offer words of appreciation for her prompt service—to which she grunts, “Yep” or “Uh-huh” or something similar, anything except, “You’re welcome.”

Welcome to the age of Millennials.

They run supermarket registers and department store counters. They loiter in malls in large groups barely saying a word to each other, “too busy” text-messaging other friends. Many graduate from college and take on entry-level

positions in office complexes where ties, dress shoes and general business attire are extinct—white collar work environments where young employees freely call their gray-haired supervisors by their first names and the expression “Pay your dues” falls on deaf ears.

They are smart, resourceful, talented, highly educated, team-oriented and well-traveled. Yet the average Millennial does not know how to pro-

“Echo Boomers,” “Generation Next,” and others—a poll revealed that most preferred to be called “Millennials.”

Theirs is the first generation to grow up surrounded by the modern, “instant gratification” technology of digital media. They have no memory of a world without cellphones, digital cameras, email, text-messaging, instant messaging, personal digital assistants, mp3 players, handheld video game

used for a blueprint to unleash their own school massacres.

■ **The 9/11 attacks:** Not since Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, had the United States suffered a devastating surprise assault on American soil. As Millennials came of age, they saw the appearance of multiple and convoluted conspiracy theories. They also witnessed a sudden surge in national patriotism, as military men, firefighters, emergency workers, the police and others were hailed as heroes. America’s view of itself and its role as a world superpower changed overnight: Instead of waiting to be attacked, the nation began to employ preemptive strikes.

■ **Corporate corruption scandals:** Business entities such as Enron, WorldCom and others—once titans in their fields—fell to widespread scandal, and the average office worker who had his or her future retirement banking on stocks of these companies suffered the greatest.

■ **War on Terrorism:** What began as a popular campaign devolved into virtual civil war in Iraq. With the rising tally of dying and injured soldiers and the U.S. military losing support back home, any romantic illusions of war were forever smashed.

■ **Anti-Americanism:** As the War on Terror waged on, the international community’s perspective of the U.S. changed for the worst.

■ **A nuclear North Korea:** The White House described the isolated communist state as being a member of the “Axis of Evil.” Feeling threatened by Western powers, especially by the U.S., North Korea’s totalitarian government has been determined to exist according to its own terms.

■ **Emerging nations:** China and India—the first and second most populated nations of the world—began to gain seats at the global table of international affairs. And they are gaining a “voice” as confidence wanes in the U.S. dollar.



■ **SPECIALIZED HIRING MARKET:** Employees work at a “tech stop” at Google’s new office space in New York City—just one of numerous companies employing Millennials for their multitasking and technological skills.

PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

professionally conduct him or herself in the office. He lacks the training to use proper etiquette at business dinners and other special occasions. He was not taught to value the hands-on experience of older, more seasoned generations. And he does not know how and when to accept “no” for an answer.

The age of Millennials has dawned. Are you prepared?

Who They Are

Born 1980-2000, they are the latest generation of young, bottom rung, entry-level workers in the United States, Britain, Australia and other Westernized nations. Though called by various descriptive names—“Generation Y,”

devices, blogs, do-it-yourself Internet videos, online virtual worlds, web browsing—you name it.

Millennials are experts at multitasking and possess an extraordinary degree of technical savvy in today’s fast-paced, gadget-filled society. They are also the younger siblings of Generation X and the children of baby boomers, as well as Gen-Xers.

Comprised of an estimated 80 million people in the U.S., Millennials are set to replace baby boomers as they retire from the workforce.

Consider the life-defining events that shaped their young lives:

■ **The Columbine shooting:** A horrific tragedy that twisted minds later

■ **The “dot-com boom”:** The typical corporate environment changed from ties, suits and executive chairs to Hawaiian shirts, flip-flops and bean bags. Small and innovative “dot-com” firms popped up offering staggering salaries and bonuses, and casual “come as you are” offices. Employees who worked for the same company for more than three years were considered “old-timers.”

When the “dot-com bust” arrived, workers had grown accustomed to receiving office perks and held on to their “what’s in it for me?” attitudes. Company loyalty became a thing of the past.

■ **Hurricane Katrina:** National news media used a new term: American refugee. The world watched as local, state and federal governments seemed to stumble over each other to help the people of New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast.

Next, consider the sexual antics of congressmen, presidents, religious leaders and educators, who taught Millennials not to “judge”—to tolerate the behavior of nonconventional “lifestyles.” In short, taking a moral stand on any issue is now viewed as “hate speech.”

The prophet Isaiah described this modern age: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” (Isa. 5:20).

From Boomers to Millennials

When Allied soldiers and sailors returned home after fighting in World War II, most immediately resumed civilian life by getting married and starting families. From this came the baby boom, children born from 1945 to 1964. America, Britain and other nations experienced an explosive “boom” rate of healthy, lively, happy (at least on the surface) families. The majority of children grew up in two-parent households. Divorce and illegitimate births were viewed as anomalies in the social fabric of the West. Parents, most educators and politicians taught the importance of maintaining family

values (which, ironically, few actually practiced in their private lives).

Baby boomers enjoyed idyllic and oft romanticized childhoods during the 1950s, and came of age in the 60s, questioning authority and the status quo. The so-called “love generation” ushered in a new era when both parents pursued careers outside the home; couples experimented with “open marriages”; and the traditional roles of father, mother, man and woman were redefined.

While dad and mom were busy climbing the corporate ladder of success or getting divorces to “find themselves,” the children were left home to fend for themselves. They became “latch-key kids,” boys and girls who made their own breakfast, sent themselves off to school, and returned to empty homes, letting themselves in with house keys they wore on strings around their necks.

Television was their daily babysitter; boredom and lack of parental supervision their constant companion. They learned to cook and iron for themselves, and roamed the neighborhoods making their own decisions.

Because they grew up without the direction and proper instruction of adult minds, they became mature *physically*, but no one taught them how to think, feel and behave emotionally, socially and spiritually. Born 1965 to 1980, they entered adulthood with a cynical “seen it, done it, been there” mindset and lived by a do-it-yourself mantra.

This was Generation X.

From baby boomers and Gen-Xers sprang a new generation: Millennials. They learned from their parents to value education. In fact, Millennials have long been used to being students, from daycare and preschool, through grade school onward, all in preparation for college.

Unlike Generation X, Millennials are more likely to have grown up in two-parent households where both father and mother worked. However, the parents—perhaps in reaction to the childhood neglect Gen-X experienced—offered advice to their children and encouraged their little ones to

freely express their opinions and input on matters. Millennials were treated as “little adults,” as regularly depicted in TV sitcoms and Hollywood movies.

Their view of life changed from that of previous generations because the world itself had changed, now smaller, interconnected—truly a global village.

In the book *Connecting to the Net. Generation: What Higher Education Professionals Need to Know About Today’s Students*, a survey of 7,705 college students in the U.S. revealed the following:

- 97% own a computer
- 94% own a cellphone
- 76% use instant messaging
- 15% of IM users are logged on 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- 34% use websites as their primary source of news
- 28% author a blog and 44% read blogs
- 49% download music using peer-to-peer file sharing
- 75% of college students have a Facebook account
- 60% own some type of portable music and/or video device such as an iPod
- 90% have had premarital sex

There was a time when one’s childhood was localized to a neighborhood, a school, a small town. Not today. Millennials shop, research, phone, text-message and write to each other at any time, any place. They’ve come to expect receiving what they want—and they want it NOW!

“Hovered Over” Childhoods

Baby boomers have been called self-absorbed. Gen-Xers have been thought of as cynical and non-motivated. Likewise, Millennials are identified by their extremes, their overall strengths and weaknesses. Of course, all descriptions given to any particular generation cannot paint every person with the same brush. There are exceptions.

Many, if not most, Millennials are hardworking, team-oriented and loyal to their employers—however, they maintain a pragmatic view concerning the modern workplace. Having seen employees laid off after decades of loyal

service to the company, Millennials decide, “I won’t let that happen to me.”

They have grown accustomed to looking ahead to potential employment options elsewhere. Despite America’s current economic downturn, jobs can still be found, which means that fearing to lose one’s position is not the same as it once was.

There is another reason that fear of job loss is almost nonexistent.

From conception, Millennials were pampered by “helicopter” parents—fathers and mothers who closely hovered over their children’s every move and personally interceded in their affairs. They were raised during the 1980s and 90s, when “Baby on Board” signs and “My kid made the honor roll!” bumper stickers were prevalent. Millennials grew up being catered to. The world revolved around them. They joined soccer teams and received trophies just for participating. They were told repeatedly, “Everyone is a winner”—which means the value of winning was drastically lowered.

Their lives were micromanaged from one activity to another: soccer, basketball, dance, martial arts, learning to play an instrument. Millennials were made to feel sought after, needed and indispensable. Helicopter parents did not hesitate to try to convince teachers to change little Johnny’s grade. They negotiated with the soccer coach to give little Suzie more game time.

When Johnny and Suzie went off to college, the hovering continued. College instructors received phone calls and visits from intervening parents trying to get better grades for their children. And when Johnny and Suzie entered the workforce in their chosen profession, Human Resources received phone calls and visits from intervening parents. Some sat in on job interviews! Others told their children’s employers that their salary offer or annual bonus was insufficient.

“Our parents really took from us that opportunity to fall down on our face and learn how to stand up,” said Jason Dorsey, who advises fellow twenty-somethings on how to cope with work (*60 Minutes*). Speaking of

Millennials, he said, “We definitely put lifestyle and friends above work. No question about it.”

Since they were rewarded all their life merely for participating, adult Millennials have been conditioned into believing they should be rewarded “just for showing up.” The real world does not work that way—yet because Millennials will soon outnumber baby boomers and Gen-Xers in the workforce, employers are having to change their tactics in how they relate to their employees. Today’s office environment emphasizes fun over work, creature comforts and freebies (free drinks, free snacks, etc.) over structure and self-discipline.

Expectations

Parents, teachers—even children’s television shows—repeatedly taught Millennials the importance of having self-esteem, to have a can-do attitude, to be confident in themselves. Time and again they were told, “You are special.”

The intentions were good, but the effects were terrible: a generation that expects to be praised for the least bit of effort, yet falls apart at the sound of a raised voice telling young workers where they went wrong and how they can do better.

To be fair, Millennials do respect workplace protocol and corporate structure—IF these are taught to them. The problem is that the “challenge the status quo” mentality of the baby boom generation and the subsequent “slacker” attitude of Generation-X loosened standards that once existed in the workplace. Why should anyone expect more from Millennials when no one taught them the value of striving for excellence and quality in conduct, speech and dress?

Most take work seriously—and balance it with an active social life. Millennials want more than a nine-to-five job—they want flexible work hours, the option to telecommute or have a compressed workweek. They cherish fun time, and expect the workplace to be challenging and creative. Above all, FUN!

Millennials are connected 24/7, from the time they wake up to when they go to bed at night. With email, text-messaging, cellphones and other means of instant communication, the line dividing work from social life has blurred, faded.

Again, Millennials do labor diligently, as long as they know the ground rules and have enough time to “play hard.” Having grown up receiving rewards and praise for every little thing, they expect to move up the ladder of success—QUICKLY!

They “described their ‘dream boss’ as being understanding, caring, flexible and open-minded, as well as someone who is authoritative but respects, values and appreciates his employees” (*Network World*). In other words, they do not want a supervisor who simply tells them what to do and expects results, or a mentor who hands down firsthand knowledge and experience. Millennials want a *coach* who will cheer them on, and tell them, “You can make it!” Someone who will give them free reign to explore new ideas and solutions without close monitoring or correction.

“Although they are better educated, more techno-savvy, and quicker to adapt than those who have come before them, they refuse to blindly conform to traditional standards and time-honored institutions. Instead, they boldly ask, ‘Why?’” (*Employing Generation Why* by Eric Chester).

This is the same generation that craves interaction with their managers and happily receive feedback (which their parents and grade school teachers taught them to seek), especially if it comes with praise and perhaps *slight* calls for improvement. In return, they expect their opinions and ideas to be heard and respected, despite lack of experience.

Their Strengths and Weaknesses

Most Millennials enter the workforce with better technology skills than their supervisors and managers. They spent their childhood instantly getting and sharing information. Their researching skills, via the Internet, are supreme.

ONLINE STUDY BY J. WALTER THOMPSON

1,250 Millennials ages 21-29

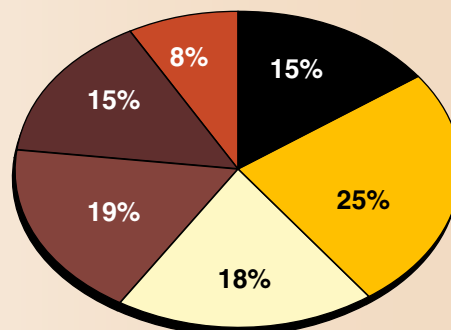
- 94% Respected monogamy and parenthood
- 84% Revered marriage
- 88% Respected the U.S. Constitution
- 84% Respected the military
- More than 75% believed in the “American Dream”
- Less than 25% had any admiration for Hollywood

Employment

- More than 75% worked full-time
- 19% worked part-time
- 67% agreed that a “formal appearance” at work is important
- Another two-thirds agreed that employees owe their company loyalty
- 46% felt obligated to adapt to the workplace environment; most thought it “should adapt to me”
- Most were likely to put “fun and stimulation” in their top five ideal job requirements

Few are “boomerang” kids (those who leave college, yet still live with their parents):

- Lived with parents
- Lived with spouse and children
- Lived with a boy-friend/girlfriend
- Lived with spouse
- Lived alone
- Lived with a roommate



But many Millennials lack discretion—prudence—what was once called common sense. They know that once an image, sound bite or email is posted to the Web, it’s there forever. Yet the Internet has become a dumping ground for recording the most embarrassing, crude and shocking moments of people’s lives. Some years later, when applying for a job or attempting to move up to a higher position, young teachers, emergency workers and others have their hopes dashed.

Because they caroused at a nightclub and “let loose,” a moment captured by a camera phone for the whole world to see.

Because, after drinking alcohol past the limit of common decency, they sang a hateful rant at a bar, recorded and posted to the Internet as an easily downloadable mp3.

Because, instead of thinking it through and understanding the impact of words, they typed a mean-spirited email that was picked up by the world of bloggers. Once online, it can never be deleted. Never.

Of course, Millennials have many strengths. They have a high rate of volunteerism and community service. They are experts at multitasking. They are social, having learned from childhood to be inclusive, to leave “no child

left behind.” They are peer-oriented and enjoy working in teams. They respect authority figures that “walk the talk” (which is becoming rare as each year passes). Unlike past generations, they actually like their parents and are used to including them in their affairs.

Also, Millennials have been raised to be tolerant—of race, religion, even sexual orientation; they were taught “don’t judge.”

But parents and mentors failed to teach them the importance of exercising patience, discretion, prudence. They were not taught to value right from wrong, to understand the difference between one from the other.

Ann Mack, director of trend-spotting for advertising giant J. Walter Thompson, said of Millennials, “Their opinions of monogamy and marriage are products of the era they grew up in, a reaction against a reality-TV world or their unstable childhoods. They are more traditional in their views because they want something better for their own families” (*Washington Times*).

But who will show them the way?

Building a Bad Reputation

A new industry of consultants has emerged to teach companies how to interact with, train, motivate—and, in some cases, essentially babysit—a

generation that does not take “no” for an answer. These consultants teach Millennials (and Gen-Xers, for that matter) how to cover up visible tattoos; how to conduct themselves as professionals in the office; how to exercise proper dining and business etiquette.

The U.S. is not unique in dealing with Millennials. In Australia, a 2007 survey of more than 315 small- and medium-sized businesses revealed that almost 70% reported dissatisfaction with the performance of Millennial employees, particularly in spelling and grammar, and that they did not understand what constituted appropriate corporate behavior (*Australia’s ABC News*).

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that an advertising executive stopped hiring newly college-graduated Millennials altogether, unless they held advanced degrees or had work-related experience. Though the ad exec called them creative and tech-savvy, he said that Millennials-at-large lacked the ability to be responsible, accountable and to deal with setbacks. “They wipe out on life as often as they wipe out on work itself. They get an apartment and a kitty, and they can’t cope. Work becomes an ancillary casualty” (*ibid.*).

A generational expert told the newspaper that Millennials have been

“overparented, overindulged and over-protected. They haven’t experienced that much failure, frustration, pain. We were so obsessed with protecting and promoting their self-esteem that they crumble like cookies when they discover the world doesn’t revolve around them. They get into the real world and they’re shocked” (ibid.).

Marian Salzman, an advertising executive at J. Walter Thompson, told *60 Minutes*, “Some of them are the greatest generation. They’re more hard-working. They have these tools to get things done. They are enormously clever and resourceful. [But] some of the others are absolutely incorrigible. It’s their way or the highway.”

“You do have to speak to them a little bit like a therapist on television might speak to a patient,” Ms. Salzman added. “You can’t be harsh. You cannot tell them you’re disappointed in them. You can’t really ask them to live and breathe the company. Because they’re living and breathing themselves and that keeps them very busy.”

Millennials are the new generation that does not like to be told to “pay your dues,” and overvalue their worth to the company. Ms. Salzman said, “I believe that they actually think of themselves like merchandise on eBay. ‘If you don’t want me, Mr. Employer, I’ll go sell myself down the street. I’ll probably get more money. I’ll definitely get a better experience. And by the way, they’ll adore me. You only like me.’”

60 Minutes also spoke to Mary Crane, a consultant. She said that Millennials “have climbed Mount Everest. They’ve been down to Machu Picchu to help excavate it. But they’ve never punched a time clock. They have no idea what it’s like to actually be in an office at nine o’clock, with people handing them work.” They ooze with talent and abilities, but lack basic day-to-day knowledge of how to professionally conduct themselves—of how to convey elegance and poise—of how to react with grace when under fire.

“You now have a generation,” Ms. Crane continued, “coming into the workplace that has grown up with the

expectation that they will automatically win, and they’ll always be rewarded, even for just showing up.”

“Old Paths”

When looking for guidance and help, people often turn to ancient texts, hoping they will discover some forgotten wisdom they can put into use.

There is one book that offers wisdom, knowledge, understanding, prudence and discretion that is timeless: the Bible. Those who apply its words will “know wisdom and instruction... perceive the words of understanding... receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity,” gaining “subtilty” and “discretion” (Prov. 1:2-4).

In this vastly underrated book, God speaks to the citizens of this modernized age: “Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the *old paths*, where is the good way, and walk therein, and you shall find rest for your souls” (Jer. 6:16).

The “old paths” of true values and right traditions were to be taught within the family unit, the basic building block of any thriving society. If the traditional family institution crumbles, so does civilization.

Millennials are reaching adulthood believing that any group of people can be defined as a family, so long as it exists on “love.” But who has the authority to define “family” or “love”?

Ephesians 5:20-33 shows that the God-ordained roles of husband and wife are to be based on love, each spouse expressing selfless, outgoing concern for the other. It offers no room for “open marriages,” adultery and anything else that attacks the state of marriage.

Ephesians 6:1-4 describes proper parent-child roles—again, based on true love. But what is love? How does *God* define it?

“Charity [love] suffers long, and is kind; [love] envies not; [love] vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, seeks not her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil; rejoices not in iniquity...[love] never fails” (I Cor. 13:4-8).

Love is not some nebulous feeling that millions claim to experience: “for he that loves another has fulfilled the law” (Rom. 13:8)—love is something you DO! “Love works no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law” (vs. 10).

A husband who loves his wife never cheats on her—he protects her, guides her and makes time to listen to her. Together, father and mother follow God’s instruction to “train up a child in the way he should go” (Prov. 22:6).

Just as the family unit is structured by God’s laws and guided by the way of outgoing concern for others, this extends to proper employer-employee roles (Eph. 6:5-9)—and establishes a stable society.

But this is not the case today: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hos. 4:6)—ignorant of the “old paths” that lead to lasting success.

The Bible describes the final generation of a society on the verge of collapse: “There is a generation that curses their father, and does not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men” (Prov. 30:11-14).

In extreme cases, parents have pampered their children to the point of being rotten! Unteachable! Unmanageable! What has been missing is BALANCE: Parents should not “baby” their kids nor ignore them so that they essentially rear themselves.

Millennials are not doomed to remain ignorant of the “old paths.” Knowledge of true values and the timeless pursuit for excellence is available. These CAN be learned again. Literature for singles (*Dating and Courtship – God’s Way*), married couples (*You Can Build a Happy Marriage*) and parents (*Train Your Children God’s Way*) reveal ageless, Scripture-based answers that will benefit the lives of all generations. □



PHOTO: MCT

NICOLAS SARKOZY

PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

Beyond the gossip columns, tabloid drivel, peering paparazzi, unceasing rumors—who is French President Nicolas Sarkozy? Where will his ambitions take France?

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER

MID-MAY 2007. Newly elected Nicolas Sarkozy delivers his inaugural speech to all of France. He vows to “unite the French”—to “rehabilitate the values of work, effort, merit and respect”—defeat intolerance—and “defend the independence of France” while working toward a “Europe that protects.”

Needless to say, Mr. Sarkozy has been labeled a reformist.

With his victory, Nicolas Sarkozy took charge of a France that had been shaped for 12 years by for-

mer President Jacques Chirac. Mr. Sarkozy’s election brought a feeling that change was in the air. He hinted at this in his victory speech, saying that France had “turned a new page of our history” (*BBC*).

Mr. Sarkozy is a dyed-in-the-wool Gaullist, holding to the ideals of the love of France, refusing to accept defeat, and belonging to the Union of Democrats for the Republic party, which he has supported throughout his political career.

The French president is undoubtedly hard-working, even to the point of being referred to as a “human dynamo,” “workaholic,” “forceful” and “overly ambitious.”

With just over a year as president under his belt, Mr. Sarkozy has acquired the rotating post of President of the European Union. It appears he will use every moment of the six-month term to further France and his political ideals.

Through years of diligent work, the hard-line, center-right politician rose from humble beginnings to become the charismatic leader and champion of reforming France, to return the nation to its desired global standing.

Merit and Work Ethic

Rather than being reared in a family that would typically produce a French politician, Nicolas Sarkozy was born to Hungarian and Greek immigrants in 1955. Early in his life, President Sarkozy’s father abandoned his mother and children, leaving the family to fend for themselves.

The young Nicolas did not attend the elite school *Ecole Nationale d’Administration*, generally attended by those on their way to French politics. Instead, he trained to be a lawyer at the University of Paris X Natterre, and by age 22 was elected city councilor for the wealthy Paris suburb Neuilly-sur-Seine. By 28, he was elected the mayor of the same suburb—the youngest mayor of a town of over 50,000 residents—a post he held for 19 years.

Mr. Sarkozy wed twice before becoming president and was divorced from his second wife after entering office. He was married again while in his first term, under the intense scrutiny of the public and tabloid news media. He has three sons, two from his first marriage and one from his second.

Early in his political career, Mr. Sarkozy was befriended by then-Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, who took the budding politician under his wing as his protégé.

However, the two had a dramatic falling out in 1995 when Mr. Sarkozy supported a rival during Mr. Chirac’s reelection campaign for president—a grudge that has still not been forgotten.

Even without Mr. Chirac’s help and guidance, Mr. Sarkozy continued to persevere, rising in popularity and political standing. And despite their differences, Mr.

Chirac appointed him to the post of Interior Minister in 2004.

Given his background, it is no wonder that improving the national work ethic is one of Mr. Sarkozy's top priorities. He is ready to put "France back to work." During a televised debate during the presidential campaign, Mr. Sarkozy emphasized the importance of a strong work ethic. "France's moral crisis has a name. It is a crisis of work," he said. "I want the workers to be respected. I want to protect the French from seeing their jobs going abroad. I don't believe in living on social welfare. I don't believe everyone is the same. I believe in merit, I believe in effort and reward for that effort and I believe in social mobility. But above all, I believe in hard work."

In a nation that prides itself in its 35-hour workweek and 27 national holidays, this has been received as a divisive stance, which critics view as another of Mr. Sarkozy's characteristic traits.

Hard-liner

While Interior Minister, Mr. Sarkozy weathered a series of violent riots in 2005, which broke out after a police chase allegedly led to the deaths of two young Muslim immigrants.

As the violence raged for days, Mr. Sarkozy publicly called the rioting youths *racaille*—rabble, scum. Some thought these were undiplomatic words for an already tense situation. But the interior minister said this was the language of the streets, and maintained that the rioters should be dealt with using force.

Again in 2007, just months after taking office, similar riots erupted after two teenage residents of the Villiers-le-Bel project were killed when their motorcycle struck a police car. The unrest was particularly brutal, with rioters attacking, even firing upon, police officers.

As the violence subsided, President Sarkozy declared, "...we'll find the shooters, and deploy whatever means that requires." He continued, "That's not something we can tolerate. It's got a name: attempted murder" (*BBC*).

France, the EU and the World Stage

During his years in the public eye, Mr. Sarkozy used television to effectively sell himself and his ideas. He is widely recognized as an effective orator. Many attribute his ability to resonate well with the public to his training as a lawyer.

These characteristics, coupled with his seemingly unending drive, became useful when France was called upon for the rotating EU presidency. As his turn neared, it was well-known that Mr. Sarkozy intended to bring the European Union into a new era with the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, which was penned to further unite the multi-national body.

still being negotiated, would allow EU member states to select immigrants according to need, fight to stop illegal immigration, and build up border patrols, as well as unify asylum laws throughout the European Union.

In a matter of days, President Sarkozy attended the Group of Eight summit in Japan, fielded questions of the European parliament for three hours—without notes and while suffering jet lag—and began work on a Europe Mediterranean alliance.

France hosted a meeting of 43 European and Mediterranean leaders to launch what is being called an EU-Med alliance. Both the Israeli and Palestinian leaders met under the same roof for the Paris summit. Though



■ **VILLIERS-LE-BEL RIOTS:** Young residents of Villiers-le-Bel, a northern Paris suburb, in France, vandalize an abandoned police car during clashes, on November 26, 2007. Rampaging youths threw Molotov cocktails and set fire to cars in a troubled neighborhood, the second night of street violence after two local teens were killed in a crash with a police patrol car.

PHOTO: MCT

However, with the June 2008 Irish "No" vote against the treaty, the EU was sent reeling. The presidency rotated to France at this precarious time, forcing a change for Mr. Sarkozy's agenda. He declared that the Irish must vote again, and has since focused his efforts elsewhere.

Another issue of concern for Mr. Sarkozy is immigration, and in early July 2008, he proposed an ambitious immigration package. The pact, while

neither side shook hands or talked with one another, the event was seen as positive and Mr. Sarkozy described as historic. *Voice of America* reported that both Israel and Syria have called for Europe to have a bigger role in the Middle East peace process.

As his presidencies of both the EU and France continue, it remains to be seen what this ambitious politician can do for France, the European Union and the world. □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

if they follow the correct way—God’s way—they could avoid all the misery and unhappiness!

But divorce is not the only sad and shocking effect of wrong dating and courtship. Improper dating and courtship practices carry the side effect of leading the large and growing ranks of wounded, jaded, cynical people to decide to just live together—or, more accurately, share a bed together—instead of committing to marriage.

Consider just these statistics from Britain: In 1972, there were 480,000 couples who chose to marry. By 2001, less than three decades later, only 286,000 weddings took place, even though the population had grown by seven percent. In 2005, the number of UK marriages fell to 244,710, a stunning decrease of ten percent compared to 2004—this drop in just *one year*. Just since 1986, the number of women choosing to cohabit has more than *doubled*, going from 13 to 28 percent. The figures for men are only slightly lower. (Correspondingly, in America, the number of unmarried couples cohabiting *increased tenfold* from 1960 to 2005.)

All of this describes a world in revolt against the institution of marriage!

The Young Victims

Cohabitation is not the only bad side effect resulting from divorce. It is important to stop and look at the children—the *most painful* fruits—of these failed marriages. Again, you will be shocked by the far-reaching

implications of the telling statistics below, describing the United States, and reflecting the disintegrating fabric of what is considered the most powerful nation in the world:

- 75% of children of divorced couples go through divorce.

- The school dropout rate among children from divorced families is twice that of those from intact families.

- Among teenage and adult females, parental divorce is linked to daughters’ lower self-esteem, earlier sexual activity, greater delinquency, and difficulty establishing fulfilling, lasting adult heterosexual relationships. Yet, their parents’ divorce usually occurred years before any difficulties were observed.

- 50% of children today will spend at least part of their childhood in single-parent homes.

- In 2000, 33% of babies were born to unmarried women, compared to only 3.8% in 1940. (More than 1/3 of children never experience a married home!)

- The high divorce rate directly affects one million children *every year*.

- In a recent survey, 62% of men agreed that “while it may not be ideal, it’s okay for an adult woman to have a child on her own if she has not found the right man to marry.”

- Studies show that children from broken families are twice as likely to have emotional and physical health problems. Again, these are also more likely to suffer from low self-esteem, with this leading to difficulties in friendships.

Many children today are victims of their *parents’* ignorance of the correct way to date and court. If their parents had only taken the time to study God’s principles on the subject, these children

would not suffer in the way that they do—both during childhood and later in their own unhappy marriages.

Will *your* children, or future children, become statistics? Will *they* suffer in uncounted ways? Will you wait until you *experience* all the wrong effects of improperly dating, courting and preparing for marriage before addressing the gaping wounds you and your children will experience? Or will you deal with the cause *now*—*before* it is too late?

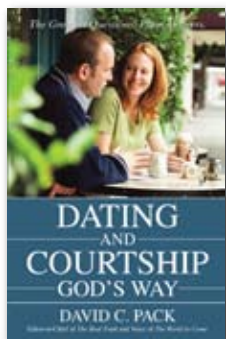
Other Shocking Statistics

Let’s return to the subject of *unmarried* couples who live together. Over half of all first marriages today are *preceded* by cohabitation, compared to virtually none in the early part of the twentieth century, just 100 years ago.

Young adults now so often postpone marriage until their late 20s to early 30s. While most men and women are choosing to establish themselves in jobs and careers before marriage (which can be good), they also most often spend a long period unmarried but sexually active. This newer phenomenon has been described as “sex without strings, relationships without rings.”

Yet, looking at destroyed marriages, wounded children and broken families does not paint the full picture of the effects of wrong dating habits today. Sadly, dating today directly *leads*—almost universally—to premarital sex. “Leads to” is probably not even the right term, because “dates” today often involve sex *on* the first date! Actually, more often than not, sex is the *expected* norm as part of the first date, and most of the “dates” that follow. Millions do this.

(To learn more, read my book *Dating and Courtship – God’s Way*.) □




MARRIAGE AND CHILDREARING

It is time to unlearn wrong principles acquired from society, and learn and apply God’s true principles—leading to happy marriages and families!

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WHEN THE SICHUAN region of southern China was rocked by a 7.9-magnitude earthquake in early May, it brought the world's early focus on a nation preparing for much more attention.

The heart-wrenching footage of collapsed buildings, rescue and recovery efforts and grieving survivors opened a window to a country that has changed more in the span of a generation than others might in a century.

The old China—peasant farmers, traditional *hutong* houses, masses of bicycles on city streets, is giving way to a very different place, and a very different pace.

The Olympic Spotlight

The People's Republic of China now looks ahead to the Summer Olympics, kicking off on August 8, as a chance to bask in international attention. A 20-minute fireworks extravaganza, two years in the making, will begin the unveiling of a new China. Thousands of hours of media coverage will be spread over multiple television channels as well as online and mobile outlets.

The opportunity to host this international event is highly prized,

especially for so-called “developing nations.”

The choice of the capital, Beijing, to host the Olympics is symbolically important. Hong Kong and Shanghai are wealthier and may be considered more cosmopolitan by many, but Beijing has a reason to reinvent and rebrand itself: The city's name is still closely associated with the Tiananmen Square protests in June 1989, which ended with the deaths of hundreds of protesters.

China's citizens have high expectations: “Overwhelming numbers of Chinese say next month's Olympics will help their country's tattered image abroad, and they predict the Beijing Games will be successful, according to a poll released Tuesday.

“Ninety-three percent of those polled said they believe the Olympics will help China's image around the globe. A similar number voiced confidence that the games will go well: 96 percent said their hosting of the Aug. 8-24 competition will be successful.

“In both cases, the optimism was shared by people of all ages and income groups, and men and women alike.

“Eight in 10 Chinese said the Olympics were personally important to them, an enthusiasm that was slightly higher for Beijing residents than for those living elsewhere.

“Highlighting the country's high hopes, 75 percent said they think Chinese athletes will win the most medals” (*Associated Press*).

The government is taking drastic measures to make sure that Beijing sparkles. The city will change its working hours and limit automobile traffic to cut pollution; even industry is contributing to this effort to clean up the hazy air, which has earned the city the nickname “Grayjng.”

“Beijing Shougang Group, one of China's leading steel makers and the city's major polluter, has extinguished the fire in three of its four blast furnaces at its Beijing plants. The plants have slashed monthly production to 200,000 tonnes in the third quarter, said group president Zhu Jimin. “This is about 29 percent of our normal output” (*China Daily*).

Protests will be permitted, but closely regulated and confined to a designated area. Security will be tight, with 100,000 soldiers as well as tens of thousands of police and volunteers keeping watch over the events.

Even forces of nature are being addressed with resolve and massive manpower. An algae bloom that clogged the coastal waters where sailing competitions will be held was cleaned up by 10,000 volunteers. And measures are being taken to divert a possible invasion of locusts from the

CHINA

Unveils Itself to the World

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE



north, with over 30,000 exterminators called from around the country being sent to contain the swarm.

Stunning Growth

The massive efforts to project a world-class image are a condensed picture of China's new status and capabilities. After Beijing finishes the scramble to provide the perfect venue, what will the Olympic spotlight reveal? The curtain will rise on a country that has grown at warp speed.

"After nearly three decades of uninterrupted economic expansion, and five straight years of double-digit-plus increases in output, China has become a motor of growth for the global economy and is on the verge of becoming the largest trading nation in the world" (*Financial Times*).

China is now considered the world's fourth-largest economy, behind the United States, Japan and Germany. Its steel production outpaces these latter three nations—*combined*. China's exports have grown more than 500% since 1992. According to PriceWaterhouseCoopers, it will be the largest economy on earth by 2025.

On the technological front, the country is now home to more Internet users than any other, including the United States—around 253 million according to government estimates. It is also a huge new market for personal tech items such as cellphones, as many Chinese transition from having no telephones directly to mobiles, skipping the old-fashioned landline step altogether.

It holds some of the fastest-growing urban areas in the world, including Beihai, Wenzhou, Chongqing, Wuhan and Shenzhen.

A vast income gap between city dwellers and the rural poor is driving a massive influx into cities—for example, Chongqing absorbs around half a million new residents each year. High-rise apartment

towers sprout like fast-growing weeds to receive them. By 2030, an estimated two-thirds of China's population will live in cities.

Several unique buildings in Beijing represent the new China—the radically designed China Central Television Headquarters building, the National Olympic Stadium ("The Bird's Nest"), the National Aquatics Center ("The Cube") and the National Grand Theater ("The Egg").

Elsewhere in the realm of outsize-scaled construction, The Three Gorges Dam, which will harness the energy of the Yangtze River and allow oceangoing ships to reach China's interior, is one of the largest engineering projects in history.

Arrival of Middle and Upper Classes

The introduction of free-market policies in 1978 is credited for much of China's progress. Having moved away from the Communist model in economics (but not politics), personal

wealth is now a possibility for growing numbers, almost always those in cities.

Western luxury brands are targeting this new market for their wares. Imports from the United States or Europe are status symbols for China's upper class. Buicks are now the most sought-after vehicle in China, along with BMWs and other European models.

China has, as described in a recent *Discovery Channel* miniseries, "The largest population in the world competing for very limited resources." This translates to intense pressure on children to perform in school and to achieve success equal to or greater than their parents—to join or stay in the middle class, or to move to the upper class. English literacy and computer skills are a focus of education.

China is by no stretch a utopia. The size of China's population is beyond what the government can manage, even with a mandatory one-child-per-family



■ **CHINA PREPARES FOR THE SUMMER OLYMPICS:** A top view of the Olympic Park, commonly known as Beijing's Olympic Green, the core of the Olympic Games and the site of 13 venues, including the National Stadium and the National Aquatics Center.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

policy in place. To govern 1.3 billion human beings, spread unevenly across an area slightly smaller than the United States, is a challenge that would be impossible for even the most efficient and well-funded state to surmount. And the pollution caused by rapid industrial growth is some of the world's worst.

Nonetheless, in another recent Pew Research Center poll, 86% of respondents expressed satisfaction with the direction of the country—a number virtually unheard of in Western nations, despite their higher standard of living.

Meanwhile, in the Western Hemisphere...

Many in North America are only now learning of these historic developments on the other side of the world. After reading the ever-present “Made in China” labels on retail goods for years, many Americans have seen their jobs taken by China. U.S. manufacturers find it nearly impossible to compete in a global economy without outsourcing at least a portion of work there, where a worker's wage may be less than USD \$100 per month.

The nation has become the world's production plant—known for consistent and inexpensive labor. But all those goods must go somewhere. Inflation, energy costs, the housing downturn and other factors mean that the United States can no longer buy so much of what China offers.

Accordingly, the mood of the United States, according to polls, could not be much farther from that of China. Pollsters at Gallup recently determined that 94% of Americans are dissatisfied with “the way things are going” in their country. The two countries now follow opposite trajectories.

If America can no longer be the consumer engine that drives the global economy, another nation or nations must step into this role.

The U.S. would like China to cast itself in a Western image more quickly—moving toward fully democratic elections, and tolerating virtually all forms of dissent.

But China is already looking past Uncle Sam's approval and patronage.



■ **POLLUTION:** A view of the Shougang steelworks spewing pollution in the western suburbs of Beijing. Since Beijing's successful bid for the 2008 Olympic Games, the steelworks have been gradually reduced to less than 30% operating capacity.

PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

The European Union has surpassed the U.S. as a customer for Chinese products, just as the Gross Domestic Product of the EU is moving ahead of America's. And China is not afraid to publicly chastise Washington. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao, responding to a U.S. House of Representatives resolution that criticized China's human rights record, said, “We suggest some US lawmakers immediately stop their wrong words and deeds aimed at disrupting the Beijing Olympic Games by using the human rights issue so as to avoid harming the healthy, stable development of China-US relations” (*Xinhua*).

The recent breakdown of the Doha trade talks, due in large part to an impasse between America and China, are another example of growing fiction.

The Future of the Far East

World power status is not new to China—its largest ethnic group still refers to itself as “the people of Han,” after the Han dynasty's empire, founded around 200 B.C.

Will this nation, whose name in Mandarin translates to “The Middle Kingdom,” see another age of glory? Can this be known in advance?

Few are aware that the headlines now written about great nations such as China have been foretold for millennia. A book written many years

ago predicted that the Western world, particularly America and the nations formerly of the British Empire, would cease to be superpowers. After a long run as the standard bearers of “First World” power and prosperity, they will be overshadowed and dominated by other regions of the world, drastically changing the existing balance of power.

The Bible—though dismissed by many as a collection of fables for the superstitious—speaks of three power blocs at the end of the age that will vie for influence. Two are symbolically known as the “king of the North” and the “king of the South” (Dan. 11). But the West is not mentioned as a major player on the world scene—because it no longer will be!

A third power is described in Revelation: “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the *kings of the east* might be prepared” (Rev. 16:12). This will be a confederation of Asian nations, with China almost certainly among them.

As reality aligns with Bible prophecy in the years ahead, will you remain a skeptic? Can you afford to dismiss history written in advance? The publishers of *The Real Truth* urge you to learn what can be known about the future! □



CHINA'S REGIONAL INFLUENCE

An Emerging Superpower

The rapidly developing Chinese industrial machine is increasingly influencing the Asia-Pacific region, forcing smaller surrounding nations to take notice.

BY RYAN L. CASWELL

AS AN EMERGING SUPERPOWER, China, which plays a tremendous role in Asia and the Eastern Pacific region, has been working to change its image. Over the last few decades, improved relations with neighboring countries have created an abundance of wealth for smaller nations and fostered increased dependence on the growing Chinese economy.

Australia

China and Australia have maintained close ties and reached bilateral agreements in trade and energy. China remains Australia's third-largest trading partner and is the second-largest export market. Since the two economies are extremely compatible, both countries achieved a 30% growth in trade since 2006. In fact, relations are so strong that international energy advisors are encouraging Australia to influence China to reorganize their energy systems and infrastructure.

During a lecture tour in Australia, Professor Jeffrey Sachs of the Earth Institute at Columbia University commented in *The Canberra Times* that Prime Minister Kevin Rudd should be involved in helping China become more "environmentally friendly."

"China is an economic powerhouse right now and the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide," he said. "...And one of the key roles that I think Prime



Minister Rudd can play, especially given his expertise in China as well, is to help broker an understanding with China...that brings China on board in a responsible way.”

India

India and China are mutually developing into two of the most powerful rising world players, rivaling the United States and other Western nations. Yet both nations have impoverished populations.

India still maintains the highest illiteracy rate in the world, making mobilization of their huge workforce difficult.

Similarly, China faces a manpower problem since less than one-fifth of its workforce is employed in manufacturing—the necessary field to sustain a growing economy. More than 50% of the nation’s laborers are peasants, sustained only by farming, and who live just barely above the poverty line.

Both Indian and Chinese markets complement each other, allowing them

to quickly develop as favorable trade partners without significant effort. China is expanding in areas of manufacturing and management, while India is exploding in precision manufacturing and software design—enabling investors to capitalize on quality design and cheap manufacturing in close proximity. In 1990, trade between the two nations totaled \$260 million. By 2003, this was up to nearly \$7.6 billion!

In addition, bilateral talks have continued regarding security and trade since 2000. Both nations have discussed the benefits of cooperative development in these two sectors. Due to their complimentary markets, both nations enjoy rapid growth without having to provide economic stimulus to encourage trade with one another but allow natural development. This has been their largest indicator of future growth.

According to a study by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small and Medium Enterprises, individual economic growth rates for each nation

are around 32% annually, but trading between these two has almost doubled to 50%. This has led many international economists to project that India and China will eclipse the European market by mid-century.

Japan

With the 2008 Olympics approaching, China has been reaching out to surrounding nations with bilateral agreements and peace talks.

Recently, China’s President Hu Jintao visited Japan to express his readiness to work with the Japanese, presenting a five-point proposal aimed at strengthening ties between the nations. Since then, they have agreed to increase national development. However, no binding plans are in place.

With a long adversarial history of competition and aggression, relations have been tense between Japan and China, particularly in the wake of the atrocities committed by Japan during World War II. China claims Japan

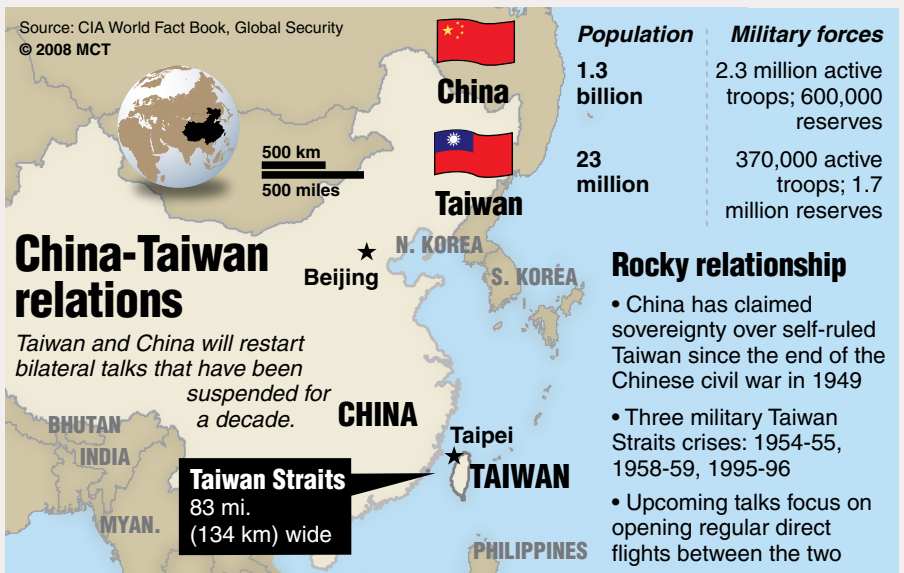
FRIENDLIER TIES BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN?

Despite a long and tumultuous history, China and Taiwan are making progress toward repairing a relationship that once destabilized the Asiatic region. Recent political advancements, which benefit both nations, also play to China’s desire to obtain a starring role on the world stage as a modern superpower.

While China has expressed sentiments of “One China for Asia”—meaning a reconstitution with breakaway peoples—Taiwan struggles for independence and has previously depended on international support to maintain their sovereignty. Involvement by the United States has only served to raise the stakes in an already tense situation with China, but now Taiwan seems to be on the brink of revitalizing its relationship with its much larger neighbor through tourism and trade. Perhaps political reconciliation is in sight.

Conflict Throughout the Decades

In 1949, the Chinese communist movement drove the Nationalist Party off China’s mainland, where the Nationalists, or Kuomintang (KMT), regrouped to the island of Formosa



and governed what eventually became Taiwan.

The communist movement—the People’s Republic of China (PRC)—saw this as a great victory that ensured economic flexibility and agricultural prosperity for Chinese citizens. Uniting under a banner of modernizing the nation, this

new communist power bloc sought to remove any traces of the previous political party.

As a result, over two million native Chinese who supported the KMT fled to Taiwan, mixing with natives of the island, and reestablished their party. The tiny island, only 14,000 sq. miles



never apologized for committing horrendous war crimes against civilian Chinese. This claim was confirmed in the minds of the Chinese when former Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi attended several ceremonies in Japan honoring fallen Japanese soldiers of the Second World War, including several class-A war criminals at the Yasukuni-jina Shrine.

However, in late June 2008, China agreed to let one of Japan's warships dock at a port in Zhanjiang, in the Guangdong province—the first time a Japanese warship docked in a Chinese port since WWII. This symbolic event was hailed as a monumental step forward in Sino-Japanese relations.

Despite such a well-intentioned maneuver, the Japanese have expressed concern over the last two decades about Chinese military build-up. This alarm became heightened in 2007 when China increased its military budget by 10%. Tokyo has called on Beijing for a formal declaration for the increase.

Ultimately, Japan's overtone toward China is non-aggressive, though Japan continues to look to the United States to bring international pressure on the Chinese military.

Philippines

Despite land disputes in the Nansha Islands over security in the South Sea, relations between these countries have been favorable. The last dispute, in 1985, was shelved by Filipino and Chinese leaders in favor of pursuing options of "peace and security" while recognizing UN international law in governing maritime disputes.

In the last 20 years, the Philippines has invested considerable resources in China's booming economy. In early 2002, Philippine contracted investment reached \$325 million. By the end of that year, this increased to \$3.18 billion. This compares to China's Filipino contractual investment of \$180 million.

With heavy investments in the Chinese economy, the Philippines is

also dependent on the Chinese agricultural market for support. In 2000, the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture agreed to loan the Philippines \$100 million in aid for food. Later in 2003, a large Chinese agricultural project planted across the Philippines massive quantities of fine Chinese hybrid rice to support the growing Filipino population.

Thailand

In 1975, China was the first country on the UN Security Council to establish friendly ties with Thailand. Since then, China and Thailand have enjoyed favorable relations.

Thailand has welcomed Chinese influence in their country through competitive trade and an active role in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, which seeks to align Asiatic sub-regions under one voice. Thailand also supports the "One China for Asia" movement, which seeks to realign breakaway provinces under Chinese control.

would later grow to a major industrial and economic power supporting over 22 million people.

The KMT established a governmental system that loosely resembled the U.S. They began to view themselves as an independent nation able to govern itself, free from Chinese influence, and capable of creating a powerful economic and industrial engine.

After the PRC drove the Kuomintang from the mainland, it refused to recognize the island's independence, insisting that it was a breakaway province. This disagreement built resentment between the peoples—a contention that grew even more when U.S. military aid arrived during North Korea's invasion of South Korea in 1950. American military presence on Taiwan alarmed Beijing. Determined to defend Taiwan's fledgling democracy, the U.S. supported the island with military installments, which were withdrawn only after Taiwan's expulsion from the United Nations in 1971.

International Tensions

Since then, the United States has provided support for Taiwan and as a result, China has actively worked to build a military deterrent from this perceived threat, purchasing weapons and developing a strong military.

Beijing claims that the U.S., by selling and distributing weapons to Taipei, is in violation of the Sino-U.S. communiqué of August 17, which states, "...there is but one China and Taiwan is part of China." Therefore, dealing with Taiwan is a Chinese domestic issue and any outside interference by the United States is disrupting internal affairs and potentially destabilizing the region. Conversely, the U.S. cites the Taiwan Relations Act, which states they have the ability "to provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character," not recognizing the island as a breakaway nation from China but as an autonomous nation.

In March 2008, the tensions worsened when a shipment of nose cone fuses for intercontinental ballistic missiles appeared in a shipping warehouse in Taiwan. The package was supposed to contain helicopter batteries, but instead were components of strategic nuclear "Minutemen" missiles. (Michael Wynne, the U.S. Secretary of the Air Force, discovered the crates and immediately released a statement claiming there were no nuclear or fissile materials in the shipment.)

International interference and an ongoing struggle for independence only serve as a setback to potential reconciliation. While both parties are determined

to achieve their goals, a rigid adherence to past grudges ensures friendly relationships cannot be achieved. It takes someone to offer a solution benefiting both parties before there can be cohesion in the region once again.

Taiwan's Future

Born on the Chinese mainland, Taiwan's newly elected President Ma Ying-jeou, who graduated from Harvard Law School, was once mayor of Taipei. With a culturally diverse background, many believe he is best able to reunite the breakaway island and the mainland. Since becoming president, Mr. Ma has been reinvigorating the travel and tourism industries to promote Taiwanese and Chinese relations, hoping that regional prosperity will ease tensions among the nations and encourage peaceful but separate development.

However, the long record of man's history has proven that despite his best intentions, he is unable to successfully address long-term problems between nations. While situations are temporarily improved, man has never been able to bring the lasting solutions they promise. To find out more regarding why and how these solutions will come, read our booklet *How World Peace Will Come!* □

READER COMMENTS

From online subscribers of our weekly news updates

BAHRAIN

■ "I want to know more about your organisation." **Recommended literature:** *Here Is The Restored Church of God* (thercg.org/books/hitrcog.html).

BELIZE

■ "Very informative and educative magazine."

ECUADOR

■ "Thank you very much for your efforts!"

EGYPT

■ "I am trying to prove God's existence, so please I need your help." **Recommended literature:** *Does God Exist?* (thercg.org/books/dge.html).

GHANA

■ "I was highly delighted to have come across your magazine on the net [realtruth.org]. I take my information on international affairs from reading a lot from journals of this caliber, and I am therefore pleased with your edition. It is my wish that I shall be included in your list of online subscribers."

■ "Fantastic and revealing."

KENYA

■ "It is an eye-opener."

■ "It is fantastic. Keep it up."

■ "When I was growing up, I used to read the magazine called the *Plain Truth* from my neighbour. Is there any relationship?" **Editor's note:** *The Real Truth* magazine continues where *The Plain Truth* left off after the death of its publisher/editor-in-chief, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, in 1986.

NEW ZEALAND

■ "I am interested in learning the truth regarding God's Plan for humanity, and Christian living. I am very happy in receiving your magazine, as it would be most helpful. Also, in finding God's true Church." **Recommended literature:** *Where Is the True Church?* (thercg.org/books/wigtc.html).

NIGERIA

■ "I'm always curious about the event of the end times and want to know more." **Recommended literature:** *Are These the Last Days?* (thercg.org/books/atlld.html).

SOUTH AFRICA

■ "You seem to tackle the interesting subjects on Christianity."

■ "This sounds like an amazing publication."

UNITED KINGDOM

■ "I am currently going through some of the books online [at thercg.org] and they are quite interesting and well explained."

UNITED STATES

■ "Your literature is thought-provoking."

■ "I heard Mr. Armstrong on the radio, years ago. I wanted to find the group which was closest to his original teachings."

■ "I love the way you tell the truth as it is, no matter who might or might not like it. Keep up the good work."

■ "Outstanding site."

■ "Will be interested in your 'take' on the news." **Editor's note:** To fully understand our "take" or position on any topic *The Real Truth* addresses, we recommend reading our articles "Why This Magazine!" (realtruth.org/articles/111-wtm.html) and "Why We Analyze News, Trends, Problems and Conditions From a Biblical Perspective" (realtruth.org/articles/070302-003-wwan.html).

■ "I would like to learn more about the end-times." **Recommended literature:** *Are These the Last Days?* (thercg.org/books/atlld.html).

■ "I want to get close to God, because I don't want to go to hell." **Recommended literature:** *The Truth About Hell* (thercg.org/books/ttah.html).

■ "I have wondered why we [the world's churches] honor and keep all the commandments except the Sabbath. I found it hard to accept the answers given as to why we worship on Sunday." **Editor's note:** We recommend reading our book *Saturday or Sunday – Which Is the Sabbath?* (thercg.org/books/tsosw.html).

■ "I very much appreciated the article about the last Fourth of July. There are some very sobering but quintessential facts brought out there, which all Americans need to closely consider." **Recommended article:** "Ahead! The Final 4th of July" (realtruth.org/articles/070629-006-atffoj.html).

In early July 2008, the prime minister of Thailand, Mr. Samak Sundaravej, visited Beijing to discuss trade and to expand strategic cooperation with President Hu Jintao. Both governments expressed their continued desire to serve as a model for other Asiatic nations.

Vietnam

Economic development has overshadowed a bloody past between the communist governments of China and Vietnam. Chinese military action against the Vietnamese throughout the 1970s and 80s only recently subsided with several normalization acts in 1993. These paved the way for better relations, including settling boundary claims and ancient territorial disputes.

With this groundwork in place, China has been able to become the premier trading partner with Vietnam. Promoting diverse activities within the tourism industry and shared learning programs among academics, both have started transferring interns and students across borders to collaborate on ideas relating to national identity, governmental parties and socialist development. Vietnam exports \$3 billion in goods to China, while importing over \$7 billion in produced goods. Due to bilateral trade agreements, Vietnam's trade volume is up 42% over the previous year. Even in the wake of the worldwide food crisis, this trading is not expected to slow. In conjunction with its strong trade ties to China, Vietnam hopes to raise total trade volume to \$15 billion, over the existing \$10 billion, by 2010.

The economic incentives for cooperation between China and the Eastern Pacific countries are undeniable. While in many cases there were bloody historical conflicts between China and its neighbors, they are finding economic gain by eliminating old grudges. This in turn has helped the Chinese in achieving goals of improving their image and becoming a much greater player on the world stage. □



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Evolution Exposed

Part 3

Deconstructing False Science

The origin of the universe is usually avoided in evolutionary theory. However, if evolution is real, then the arrival of the cosmos cannot be ignored!

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

AS WE HAVE SEEN, the theory of evolution comes in many flavors and forms. But all stories have a beginning, and evolution should be no different. It should be able to explain the beginning of the universe. This is the first step from which every evolutionary change must take place.

Evolutionists quickly state that the universe has nothing to do with evolution. It is dismissed as a different discipline of science.

You cannot jump up the evolution ladder without explaining its first rung. Evolution was supposed to have begun when gas was affected by some unknown catalyst and formed a more complex organized state, leading to life. Explaining this part of the process leaves evolutionists stumped. They are left with no choice but to dismiss cosmic evolution as not pertaining to evolutionary theory.

Readers should not settle for weak theories that pass themselves as fact. Investigate the facts! Use logic and determine the answer for yourself. When understood, there are only two possibilities.

In Part One, we started an extensive look into evolution. We began to lay the foundation needed to unravel this painfully convoluted theory, which is blurred through a confusing series of explanations, definitions and suppositions.

An Eternal Universe?

The first option is that the universe began—appeared—at a specific point in time. The second is that the universe is eternal—it always existed. Each option requires some investigation.

Since one is unable to travel back in time, the universe's age may seem impossible to determine. However, there are multiple ways for scientists to verify whether it had a beginning or has always existed. This is partly due to an amazing property of matter: decay! Everything, in one way or another, decays. If you clean your house, it will eventually become messy again. Even if the house was vacated, layers of dust would build up and its general state would decline. The human body also evidences this. Keeping oneself in shape requires work. Stop exercising or eating properly and health conditions will deteriorate much faster than one would desire. These examples are a broad application of the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states that the total entropy in any isolated thermodynamic systems tends to increase over time, approaching a maximum value. In laymen's terms: When left alone, everything "burns" its usable energy, eventually reaching a point of no usable energy.

What does this have to do with proving the universe's origin?

With the advent of the Atomic Age, beginning with Madame Curie's discovery of radium in 1898, came the knowledge that all radioactive elements give off radiation. As Uranium decomposes, it releases a helium atom three

There is much more to the story. However, at this point it makes sense to step back and look at what evolution is—and how the theory of evolution is defined. You will be amazed that even among proponents of the theory the definition varies widely.

times. When each is released, the element's nature changes (the first helium atom released results in radium). While this process takes a tremendous amount of time, eventually the final product is the inert element of lead.

This means there was a point in time when the uranium could not have existed! Otherwise, we would only find lead today. Radioactive elements always break down in a highly systematic, controlled manner. This also means there was a specific moment when all radioactive elements came into existence. It is impossible for any of them—uranium, radium, thorium, radon, polonium, francium, protactinium and others—to have existed forever. Each element had a beginning.

This is the Second Law of Thermodynamics at work! As Henry Moore stated, “The Second Law requires the universe to have had a beginning” (*Scientific Creationism*). It represents absolute proof that the universe came into existence—in other words, the universe is *not* eternal! This much is obvious.

Therefore, we can ascertain that something—or someone—*caused* the universe to come into existence. The universe is the *effect*—but what is the *CAUSE*? In other parts of this series, we have seen that every effect must be *less* than the cause. So, as vast as is our universe, something greater must have caused it. This is consistent with the scientific laws already discussed.

Such basic logic and laws of science are not lost on scientists. They understand that the universe had a beginning. To facilitate this, there needs to be what is often called the “first cause.” Ignoring the *TRUE* first cause, other theories have been formulated to explain the origin of the universe. The most common is the “Big Bang” theory.

Big Bang—or Big Hoax?

At its very core, the Big Bang theory states that a particular event caused the formation of matter, with our modern universe expanding from that initial singularity event. After this first cause, another theory takes over. The “infla-

tionary model” (a theory attempting to explain how the universe “inflated” from microscopic to billions of light-years across) was created to explain how a single event caused the expansive universe that exists today. (While the Big Bang appears in tens of millions of text books, the process, details and conclusions are hotly contested, and scientists are far from agreement beyond the initial concept.)

Both the Big Bang and the inflationary model break basic laws of science. We have seen that energy is continually moving into a more chaotic state—with less usable energy (entropy)—not into larger, more complex and organized systems, such as the universe.

For the universe to form in that manner there would have to be a nearly unlimited amount of energy that started the Big Bang. This simple *FACT* is usually ignored!

An even bigger problem is the First Law of Thermodynamics, often called the Law of Conservation of Energy. Memorized by high school students, it is a basic fundamental law of science. Essentially, it states that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but can only *change* form. This flies in the face of the Big Bang theory!

If energy cannot be created, then an incredible amount of it cannot appear from nothingness. Evolutionists understand this problem. Often, focus is directed from how the universe began, to an explanation of how it grew. By burying the initial creation of matter as an irrelevant point, scientists have created a series of “smoke and mirrors,” which, as we have seen before, is often the best—and only way—to explain nearly every facet of evolution.

Many scientists, such as professor of physics Alan Guth, have also raised the issue of ignoring the universe's origin: “First of all, I will say that at the purely technical level, inflation itself does not explain how the universe arose from nothing...Inflation itself takes a very small universe and produces from it a very big universe. But inflation by itself does not explain where that very small universe

came from” (Fred Heerren, *Show Me God*).

Further, a concluding statement by one of the greatest mathematical minds of the modern world, theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking, debunked the inflationary model: “The new inflationary model was a good attempt to explain why the universe is the way it is...In my personal opinion, the new inflationary model is now dead as a scientific theory, although a lot of people do not seem to have heard of its demise and are still writing papers on it as if it were viable” (*A Brief History of Time*).

Strong, clear statements!

However, like so many aspects of evolution, even when evidence demonstrates otherwise, it continues to be purported as fact.

Inadvertent Proof

So how did the universe come into existence? The First Law of Thermodynamics points to God's eternal existence. Remember, this law defines that *something* could not come from *nothing*. Science has effectively proven that if there was not an eternal God-being to create the universe, there would have never been a universe!

Since something can never come from nothing, then a Creator *had* to always exist! Since a cause must be greater than the effect, an eternal Maker—an all-powerful God—*had* to exist! Unwittingly, science has proven God's existence while at the same time debunking evolution!

Nobel Prize-winning physicist Louis Neel stated, “The progress of science, no matter how marvelous it appears to be...leads to dead ends and shows our final ineptitude at producing a rational explanation of the universe”—and, it should be added, any rational explanation for plants, animals and people.

Instead of looking for the truth of creation, science has chosen confusion, suppositions and deceit. Ignoring the evidence, evolutionists and others are forced to conjure illusions—and assumptions. Two more of which you should now be able to dispel. □



Children's Health WORLDWIDE

Can Man Solve the Crises Facing the Next Generation?

WITH THE WORLD'S population nearing 7 billion people, an estimated 2.2 billion are children. But in a world on the brink of collapse, youth have been horribly neglected. In both the First and Third worlds, many of the most important needs, such as health, are nonexistent. As their custodians, parents, leaders and society-at-large have failed to keep children safe and ensure they are equipped to face the future.

Of the billions affected by worldwide turmoil, children suffer the most. The end of World War II ushered in the era of fierce competition between nations, resulting in an increase in the pace of living, as foretold in the Bible: "The time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). In the developed world, the first thing that collapsed was the glue

BY H. CHRIS LOMAS

that kept the society together: the family unit. Adultery, divorce and wanton promiscuity, among other factors, began to break up families, leaving children forced to deal with the stresses of growing up in broken homes, many led by single parents.

Meanwhile, the Third World was left behind in the post-war competition of mass consumerism, greed and "keeping up with the Joneses" at virtually any cost, resulting in irreparable damage to these societies.

In these two worlds separated by culture, religion and race, children face the greatest hardships. It is time to peek behind the veil and take a look at the real issues facing almost a third of the global population. By doing this, we are faced with the reality of a holocaust battering today's children.

Harsh Reality

Children on every continent are exploited at the cost of ongoing "progress." As labor costs soar, the abuse of

cheap child labor increases. The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) reports that 20% of the world's children labor as part of national workforces, depriving them of a sound education. And due to severe working conditions, many are sick and will not live beyond their teens.

With 1.2 billion people in developing countries living in abject poverty, half are children. In their societies, "survival of the fittest" takes precedence over caring for the young. Take for example disease epidemics. UNICEF reported that more than 30,000 youth under the age of five die each day due to *preventable* diseases, and that about half of all child deaths result from malnutrition.

Malaria infects 500 million people per year, resulting in about 3 million deaths worldwide. The UN reports that of those who die of malaria, 3,000 per day are children.

The AIDS epidemic is spinning out of control, with more than 50 million orphans (whose parents died from the disease) living in Sub-Saharan Africa alone. An estimated 8,500 children are

infected with the disease daily—yet this is only the tip of the iceberg.

Abusing National Blessings

Westernized nations are plagued by an onslaught of alcohol abuse, and illegal drug use is escalating among teens. The misuse of prescription drugs by youth has increased in the past decades, with the United States and Britain leading the way.

Increasing stress levels, abnormal eating habits, and a chemically-altered—yet nutritionally deficient—diet are resulting in more and more children becoming ill. Many are being diagnosed with syndromes such as Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), along with Type-2 diabetes. It is estimated that 2.5% of U.S. children under age 18 suffer from severe depression, and that drugs such as Prozac are being prescribed to children as young as three! In other instances, the drug Ritalin is used to calm children affected by ADHD.

Children in the First World are unable to cope with the stresses of modern life. They are given medication and labeled as suffering from some type of condition.

Medical journals report that today's fast-paced world of instant gratification has severely affected the way food crops are cultivated, depriving human beings of much-needed nutrients. A new generation of children is emerging with an immune system resembling that of a lab mouse—minimal, weak and susceptible to future pandemics lurking beyond the horizon.

U.S. food advertising campaigns center on influencing people to believe that a diet consisting of sugar, fat and added chemicals is normal. One need not consult a doctor—common sense *should* tell us that following this type of diet from birth will lead to major complications later in life. But then, common sense is not so common anymore!

Over time, society has been conditioned to accept non-foods and non-

nutritional eating habits as corporations pursue a bigger “bottom line.”

In an age when it has become increasingly difficult to keep up with demands, time has become the deciding factor. When it comes to feeding their families, parents—choosing convenience over health—provide junk food rather than taking time to provide good nutrition such as fresh fruits and vegetables, unprocessed meats, and whole grains. Teens and



■ **OVERMEDICATED:** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that doctors' visits, where Ritalin or its generic form was prescribed, increased from 1.9 million in 1993 to 3.2 million in 2005.

PHOTO: MCT

younger across the planet are living far below their potential due to incorrect diets.

The material blessings of Britain, the U.S. and other sister nations have been abused, turned into national curses. The crumbling of the family institution has led to young minds no longer being shielded from the unending pursuit of carnal appetites. As a result, sexually transmitted diseases are also widespread among teens.

Struggle for Survival

In Africa, Asia and South America the problem is the opposite. Throughout Africa, wars rage that make it difficult to cultivate crops in many countries; people are left to scrounge for whatever they can find to eat.

Throughout the Third World, it is reported that 300,000 children are serving as soldiers in armed conflicts, which are mostly waged for food and natural resources. Many spend their lives hiding in the bush to escape conflict or have been displaced and are living on the street, sometimes performing sexual favors in exchange for food.

How will their childhood experiences affect their future and that of their countries and societies?

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 30-50% of those under the age of five weigh less than 80% of the standard weight for age! UN food programs supporting these starving nations can only provide what is needed to exist—they cannot deal with nutritional issues. A human tragedy affecting millions.

Natural disasters have compounded the problems. In the past year, cyclones, earthquakes, fires and adverse weather conditions have sped up the depletion of many of the world's food reserves. As conditions become worse, more children face lack of care, and starvation.

From Physical to Virtual

Many millions of children have been left behind in the scramble to survive these difficult times. Due to the neglect of education and strong values, the only examples children of the West witness are that of a broken society. To them the future (along with planning for it) has lost its reality. They have lost their drive to live productive lives. They have become inactive.

Through technology, children are finding new ways to escape. Leisure has changed from being active outside the house, and taking part in physical projects, to virtual worlds of television, computers and chat rooms. They live

in an electronic dreamworld built on artificial experiences, from virtual wars to driving a Ferrari.

The Western nations that have experienced blessing upon blessing for hundreds of years are on the brink of collapse. Their young suffer due to the abuse of these blessings, to the point where new epidemics are emerging.

Obesity in the United States affects 13% of children ages 6-11 and 14% in age group 12-19—resulting in diabetes, heart diseases and other illnesses, the effects of which will be fully realized in the years to come.

Being extremely overweight takes years off one's life. With 300 million people affected worldwide, we are entering an era when parents could outlive their children.

What Does the Future Hold?

With all that man is trying to do to alleviate the plight of the poor and the starving, he remains unsuccessful. Images of a mother feeding her child—which looks more like a skeleton than a living being—are still being displayed around the world, via television, news media and the Internet. No matter how hard



■ **STRUGGLING WITH OBESITY:** A 10-year-old girl, right, checks the scale during her weekly weigh-in with the executive director of the Austin Foundation, which promotes fitness in Seattle's Central District, in Washington.

PHOTO: MCT

Science has been unable to provide the answer.

Secular and religious organizations, with their roots in worldly institutions and traditions, cannot agree on a course of action. They believe they can repair the damage through charities and "Live Aid" concerts.

The global rush to acquire more wealth at the expense of others will come to an end. Scripture reveals, "They shall cast their silver in the streets, and their gold shall be removed: their silver and their gold shall not be able to deliver them in the day of the wrath of the LORD" (Ezek. 7:19).

Proverbs 22:6 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." But with so many parents, educators and governments ignorant of how to rear and provide the moral, ethical and *spiritual* needs of our children, how can human beings apply this verse—especially in an age when few agree on what is the "way he should go"?

God's Word gives the answer: "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD" (Isa. 11:2). Upon Jesus Christ's triumphant Return, He will establish a world-ruling SUPER-GOVERNMENT that will teach all nations how to live—how to reap the countless benefits of obeying God's Law.

The only hope for the children, and all of humanity, is the soon-coming kingdom of God. It is the only hope for a sick generation. □

“Many millions of children have been left behind in the scramble to survive these difficult times.”

the UN and other institutions try, they cannot rid the world of these images.

The Millennium Development Goals, set by the UN to combat these problems, will not be achieved by 2015 as planned: (1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality and empower women; (4) reduce child mortality; (5) improve maternal health; (6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) develop a global partnership for development.

While these goals are noble, will they—can they—be attained?

Governments and institutions, in an attempt to address problems, have made them worse.

As problems continue to mount, the solution does not lay with human reasoning.

The answers to the immense problems threatening all life are found in the pages of the Bible. Long before mankind's troubles developed, the living God foretold through His servants what would be the result of man's own doings: "There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). Sadly, children suffer because of the poor choices made by adults.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Bosnian War Criminal Captured

After nearly 13 years of eluding capture, Radovan Karadzic—called the chief architect of the Bosnian war—was finally captured inside a bus in Belgrade on July 18, 2008. He had been under close watch for weeks on a tip from foreign intelligence. Accused of genocide and other crimes against humanity, he will be brought to The Hague to face trial.

Richard Holbrooke, a U.S. diplomat who brokered the “Dayton Accords” to end the Bosnia war, said, “This is a historic day. One of the worst men in the world, the Osama Bin Laden of Europe, has finally been captured. It is significant that NATO continued to fail and the Serbs captured him... a major, major thug has been removed from the public scene” (BBC).

While the arrest made Muslim Bosnians and Croats jubilant, many Serbs hailed Radovan Karadzic as a patriot.

Mr. Karadzic—who is accused of atrocities described as “scenes from hell” and the “darkest page of UN history”—is alleged to have been responsible for numerous bloody crimes committed during the 1992-95 Bosnian War:

- The 1995 massacre of 6,000 Muslim Bosnians in Srebrenica, the worst human slaughter since World War II

- The 44-month shelling of Sarajevo, killing more than 10,000 people

- Holding hostage more than 200 UN peacekeepers and military observers May and June 1995

Rezak Hukanovic, a survivor, described the suffering of victims in his book *The Tenth Circle of Hell*: “Thirst, hunger, gang rapes, exhaustion, skulls shattered, sexual organs torn

out, stomachs ripped open by the soldier assassins of Radovan Karadzic.”

Radovan Karadzic was born in 1945 in Montenegro. He studied medicine, practiced psychiatry and later wrote poetry. The influence of Dobrica Cosic—a Serbian writer and the first

president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1992-93)—led him to enter politics. Mr. Karadzic helped form the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) to stop the rise of Croats in Bosnian politics. When Bosnia wanted to secede from Yugoslavia, he objected strongly.

Dreaming of uniting Bosnia and Serbia to form Greater Serbia, he expelled the Croats and Muslims killing hundreds of thousands. When the Dayton Accord was finalized, he was removed from office in 1995. In 1996, he stepped down as SDS leader and went into hiding. By this time, it is estimated more than 250,000 fell victim to his distorted view of nationalism.

With Radovan Karadzic in custody, only three top Bosnian war fugitives remain at large: Ratko Mladic (considered a ruthless military commander during the war), Goran Hadzic and Radovan Stankovic, who was convicted in 1996, but escaped in 2007. Stojan Zupljani, a former Bosnian war police chief, was arrested a week prior to Mr. Karadzic’s capture.

While Mr. Karadzic masterfully used disguises during his time in hiding, he also received protection from the army and loyal Serbs to help him evade authorities for years.

Justice Minister Snezana Malovic said the arrests of war crimes suspects was a priority for the new Serbian government. The latest capture came as a major concession to Serbia’s entry into the European Union. Under the leadership of President Boris Tadic’s pro-Western government, it is expected that Ratko Mladic will soon be put behind bars. □



■ **HIDING FROM CAPTURE:** A combination of two pictures shows (left) war crime suspect Radovan Karadzic on the phone in Banja Luka in 1995, and (right) a recent picture of him in Belgrade.

PHOTO: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Karadzic War Crimes

Srebrenica massacre and Sarajevo siege stand out as the most terrible war crimes of which the former Bosnian Serb political leader is accused.

The Charges

15 counts of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, other atrocities:

- **Srebrenica massacre**

July 1995; killing of an estimated 8,000 Bosnian men and boys

- **Siege of Sarajevo**

April 5, 1992, to Feb. 29, 1996; some 12,000 civilians killed

- **Leading figures targeted**

Bosnian Muslim and Croat political leaders, intellectuals

- **Unlawfully deported persons**

Civilians transferred because of national or religious identity

- **Destroyed**

Homes, businesses, religious sites

Source: UN International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Office of the High Representative and EU Special Representative, ESRI
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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Under Dayton Peace Agreement; front lines at end of 1995

Controlled territory

■ Serb ■ Bosnian □ Croat

----- Dayton Peace Line



MIDDLE EAST

Hezbollah-Israeli POW Exchange Brings “Tears of Joy, Pain”

In a prisoner-of-war exchange, Israel released five Lebanese prisoners just hours after terrorist group Hezbollah delivered the remains of two Israel Defense Forces reservists.

The International Committee of the Red Cross mediated the exchange, an agreement that came about after two years of Germany and the United Nations mediating between the opposing parties.

On July 12, 2006, Lebanese militants captured Israeli servicemen Eldad Regev and Ehud Goldwasser to demand the release of Samir Kuntar, the longest-serving Arab prisoner in Israel—triggering the 34-day Second Lebanon War, which killed more than 1,200 people in Lebanon and 160 Israelis.

Due to their deteriorating state, it took hours to identify the bodies of the Israeli reservists. A Hezbollah official said the soldiers died sometime later of the injuries they received during the cross-border raid that led to their capture.

Among the five prisoners Israel handed over was Samir Kuntar, a Palestine Liberation Front militant who had been in prison since 1979 for the brutal murders of three Israelis—including a four-year-old girl who was battered to death with a rifle butt—during a terrorist raid. The other prisoners released in the swap—Khaled Zidan,



■ **PRISONER EXCHANGE:** Lebanese militant prisoner Samir Kuntar (second from left), with three other prisoners from Hezbollah, were escorted by border policemen before leaving the Hadarim prison near the Israeli coastal city of Netanya early Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

PHOTO: ISRAEL PRISON AUTHORITY VIA FLASH 90/MCT

Maher Kurani, Mohammed Sarur and Hussein Suleiman—were captured during the 2006 Second Lebanon War.

Hezbollah claimed the exchange as a victory, and Lebanon declared a national holiday to mark the event, including a red carpet ceremony, jubilant crowds, patriotic songs, speeches, flag waving and banners. “Lebanon is shedding tears of joy,” one banner read. “Israel is shedding tears of pain” (*BBC*).

“I cannot understand what the Lebanese are so glad about and happy about,” said Shlomo Goldwasser, father of Ehud Goldwasser. “They sacrificed over 700 of their best warriors and all their economy, and what they get for what they did is a murderer, a bloody murderer of a [four-year-old girl] and her father—and for this they are making all this glory, for this they sacrificed so much. So I feel only pity for them” (*BBC*). □

ECONOMY & PERSONAL FINANCE

GM, Ford “On Verge of Bankruptcy”?

U.S. automotive giants General Motors and Ford Motor Company are facing record losses as they work to restructure under a threat of bankruptcy.

Professor Robert Altman of NYU’s Stern School of Business said that “both are in very serious shape and the markets reflect that.” According to Prof. Altman’s mathematical formula for measuring risk, both companies are “on the verge of bankruptcy” (*Bloomberg*).

Looking at the bond rating—an investor’s guide to the viability and stability of a publicly traded company—both companies hold B ratings, which are expected to go lower. With an AAA rating being the highest and most reliable of scores, moving down from a B rating would bring Ford and GM closer to default.

Posting a \$38.7 billion loss in 2007, GM’s troubles appear to stem from circumstances in the market. With the

high cost of fuel, the company was slow to react to the higher demand for fuel efficient vehicles, and instead continued producing larger SUVs, trucks, and commercial vehicles.

This large loss and the bankruptcy of a major part supplier—combined with the fact that GM has not turned a profit since 2004—place the company in what appears to be a real threat of bankruptcy, according to Prof. Altman. □



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