

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013

THE

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# REAL TRUTH™

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

10  
YEARS

Answering Life's Greatest Questions

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

# THE REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

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ARTICLES

REALTRUTH.ORG



■ **STRUGGLING FIELD:** A corn crop fails to mature in a field near Perryton, Texas (July 28, 2011).

PHOTO: SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

## Solving the Global Food Crisis

### *Agriculture's Amazing Future!*

What the next generation will eat is one of the biggest unanswered questions facing mankind.

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**FRONT COVER:** Photo illustration by Darnitra D. Jackson

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#### **A Record-breaking Decade**

Over the past 10 years, *The Real Truth* has explained the *why* behind the news—and helped you put the pieces of events together to better understand the world.

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#### **The Crumbling Wall of Separation**

Religion is increasingly finding its way into global politics, and vice versa.

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#### **What Man *Can* Learn from History**

Throughout millennia, mankind has lived out a conundrum that persists today: incredible advancement while being plagued by the same problems of war, famine and disease. Yet the record of the past contains a reason for hope.

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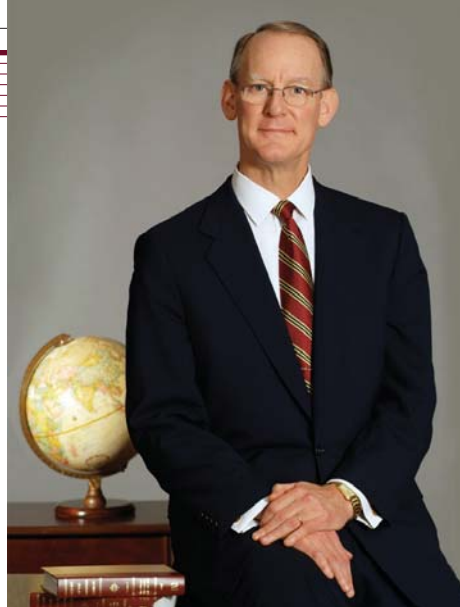
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## PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



# Inside a Unique Magazine

**A**S *THE REAL TRUTH* reaches its 10-year anniversary, it is fitting to look at the purpose of the publication, as well as its history. A decade ago, in the 2003 inaugural issue of *The Real Truth*, I wrote:

“We welcome you as a reader to the most important magazine you will ever read!

“*The Real Truth* is a truly unique publication. You will never read another like it. It answers the BIG questions in life, those that few others seem willing to address. It will soon fill a vacuum—a dimension missing from today’s world.

“Actually, this magazine is the revival of *The Plain Truth* magazine, started by then editor-in-chief, Herbert W. Armstrong, in 1934. Over the next 52 years, until his death in 1986, the circulation of *The Plain Truth* magazine slowly grew to 8.2 million monthly subscribers, with an estimated 25 million readers worldwide!”

“The idea of a fledgling magazine was born in Mr. Armstrong’s mind. He understood that a hard-hitting monthly magazine, coupled with *The World Tomorrow* radio program, was necessary to reveal the Plain Truth—the *Real Truth*—behind what the media reported. Newspapers, radio and, later, television, only reported WHAT was happening without explaining WHY. He recognized that mankind *does not know* the solutions to

civilization’s greatest problems, troubles, evils and ills—and that those solutions were found in the Bible. He also understood that modern religion had utterly failed in explaining the *real* purpose of life.”

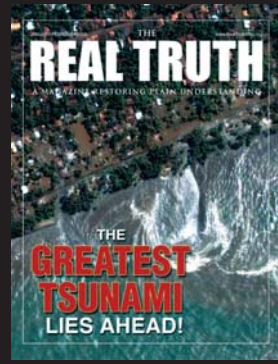
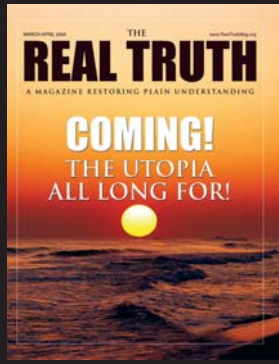
“*The Plain Truth* was never a political magazine—and never a typical *religious* magazine. Neither is *The Real Truth*. *The Plain Truth* spoke out at a level above politics—unlike the endless columnists, commentators, reporters and political analysts of this world who look to humanly devised solutions. It dared to speak with boldness and clarity about the ONLY SOLUTIONS to what are now *insoluble* problems plaguing humanity, and explained that those solutions WILL COME!

“So will *The Real Truth*.”

Ten years later, man’s governments, and their political remedies, have still failed to do anything but make more and more problems—and the existing ones *worse*. Advancing technology has also failed to bring the utopia that all long for. Neither has modern religion brought answers. Like government, it has only brought war, division and more problems, while at the same time failing to explain the *purpose* of human existence.

### Signs of the Times

Look around. Turmoil, fear and confusion now grip all nations of the world. Terrorism, economic upheaval, and resultant widespread uncertainty are everywhere. Many



# AMERICA'S BANKING CRISIS

## A FINANCIAL TSUNAMI APPROACHING!

The intensifying American banking crisis threatens the stability of its economy and the world's. Where is it leading?

BY ROBERT K. FARWELL



Global economic stability has been shaken and America is facing a growing economic crisis that could make the 1930s look like "good times." The U.S. banking system is on the verge of disaster, as banks have recorded over \$100 billion in losses and hundreds of billions more forecasted.

Simply put, America's banks are on the verge of a financial collapse. What started with subprime mortgage-backed securities in late 2006, has now become a full-blown financial crisis. Consider the case of Citigroup. In January 2008, Citigroup's stock price fell 20% in a single day. Citigroup has lost \$20 billion in value since then. Citigroup has lost \$20 billion in value since then. Citigroup has lost \$20 billion in value since then.



**EMERGENCY ACTION:** President George W. Bush speaks during a news conference, announcing the stimulus package on September 8, 2008. He said that the package would provide \$150 billion in new money to help stabilize the financial system.

### The Stimulus Package

- The relief for workers**
  - Up to \$10,000 for reduced tax payments on up to \$1,200 for families, or about \$1,200 for individuals.
  - Extension of 2008 pay rates.
  - Payroll tax for those with taxable income above \$10,000 for wages.
- The relief for businesses**
  - A new credit for research and development.
  - Extension of 2008 pay rates.
  - Payroll tax for those with taxable income above \$10,000 for wages.
- Ending mortgage caps**
  - A new credit for research and development.
  - Extension of 2008 pay rates.
  - Payroll tax for those with taxable income above \$10,000 for wages.



# A DECADE AFTER 9/11

## WHAT SHOULD WE REMEMBER?

While memories of September 11 elicit a flood of emotions, the lessons of that historic day should never be forgotten.

BY SAMUEL S. BAXTER

We watched helplessly as symbols of economic and military power burned. From the United States president, the most powerful man in the world, to the World Trade Center towers, the most powerful man in the world, to the World Trade Center towers, the most powerful man in the world.

On September 11, 2001, the world of banking and other financial institutions, affecting personal, social, and business life, was in a state of shock. The situation is so dire that the Federal Reserve has had to implement unprecedented measures, including interest rate cuts.



# THE RUSSIAN BEAR AWAKENS!

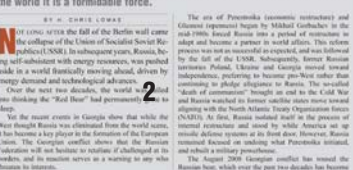
Skirmishes between the Republic of Georgia and two of its break-away provinces resulted in a cross-border conflict with the Russian Federation—an internal dispute that risks reviving the Cold War. After two decades of silence in world affairs, Russia has awakened, showing the world it is a formidable force.

BY S.W. CHANG LOUW

THE END OF THE COLD WAR brought with it the fall of the Berlin wall and the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). In subsequent years, Russia, being self-sufficient with energy resources, was pushed aside in a world dominated by energy demand and technological advances. Over the next two decades, the world has been thinking the "Red Bear" had permanently gone to sleep.

On March 26, 2008, in the midst of the Russian Civil War, Georgia declared its independence from Russia. But their independence was short-lived. Just six years later, Russian rule was re-established.

On August 7, 2008, a conflict developed in which Georgia, the two neighboring states of Abkhaz and South Ossetia, became involved in a dispute that resulted in a civil war. 200,000 Georgians were ethnically cleansed from Abkhaz.



# DEMOCRATIZATION IN GEORGIA

Georgia's general election was a landmark event in the country's history, marking the end of a decade-long period of authoritarian rule.

On August 7, 2008, a conflict developed in which Georgia, the two neighboring states of Abkhaz and South Ossetia, became involved in a dispute that resulted in a civil war. 200,000 Georgians were ethnically cleansed from Abkhaz.



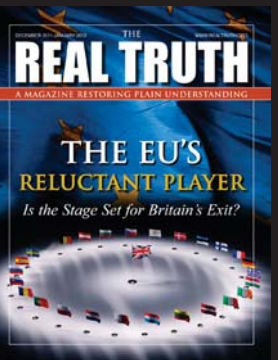
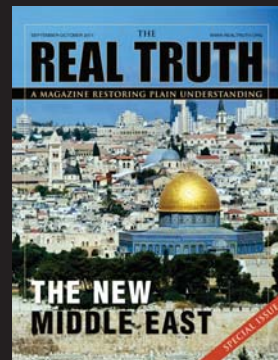
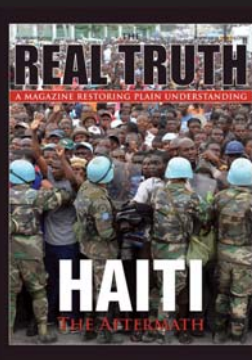
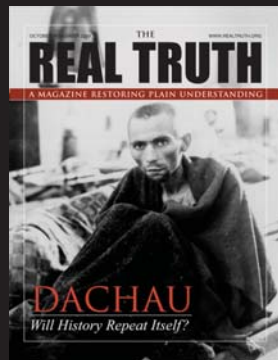
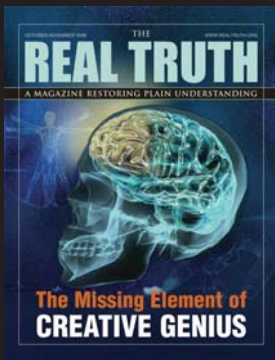
sense that the differences between and within nations are intensifying and threatening to spin out of control. New and different power blocs are forming, with traditional alliances wavering, waning or disappearing.

Ominous signs of grave difficulty in resolving humanity's most fundamental problems abound. Many sense that the world is hurtling toward trouble, even possibly terrible calamity. Disease, famine and war sweep the planet as never before. New diseases are continually emerging and old ones are re-emerging worse than ever. Famine now decimates entire segments of local populations. Weapons of mass destruction, so incomprehensibly lethal and devastating that they boggle the mind, now threaten humanity—also as never before. Many nations are learning to live "on alert" to terrorist cells, which can strike anywhere without notice.

Think of poverty, illiteracy, disasters of every kind, violence, religious division and confusion, governments collapsing or under siege, increasing riots and protests, shortages of food and drinking water, shallow, pleasure-driven, immoral entertainment, breakdown of family values—and of virtually all other values held sacred for generations—that fill the headlines of newspapers and newscasts.

- Here is a snapshot of just a few:
  - "Global Economic Turmoil to Continue Till 2015"
  - "Battling the Bacterial Threat to Modern Medicine"
  - "Mass Rape, Amputations and Killings—Why Families Are Fleeing Terror in Mali"
  - "U.S. Drought Expands, Blankets High Plains"
  - "Vomiting Virus Sweeps Britain"
  - "Elementary School Massacre: 20 Children Among 28 Killed in Connecticut Slaughter"
  - "Typhoon Bopha: Philippines Storm Toll Passes 1,000"
  - "Famine the Final Wake-up Call on Global Warming"
  - "Car Bomb Kills 17 in Crowded Market in Pakistan"
  - "Scotland Battered by 'Worst Storms in 100 Years'"
  - "2012 Breaks Records for Heat, Drought, Weather Extremes"

This world is so obviously in serious trouble! Then there are the stunning events and conditions throughout the financial world that are affecting every nation. One development after another—virtually all of them bad!—are impacting both Wall Street and Main Street. The effects are seen in tight credit, global stock



markets, banks and other lending institutions, rising unemployment, rising inflation, rising fuel prices, declining retirement and pension funds, fallen home values, frozen business and home equity lines, corporate bankruptcies and bailouts—as well as the projected budget deficits of city, state and federal governments in America and many other countries. These also have a rippling effect through all levels of politics in every democratic or Western nation. The entire global economy is being regularly revisited, reviewed and revised, with many acknowledging they simply do not know what to do next.

World conditions, events and trends speak daily in frightening terms about how things could quickly turn in the wrong direction. The future of nations, including the greatest nations, hangs in the balance. History shows that all great civilizations eventually crashed, having become decadent, awash in material prosperity and greed—and educated in wrong knowledge. This can happen again!

## No Solutions

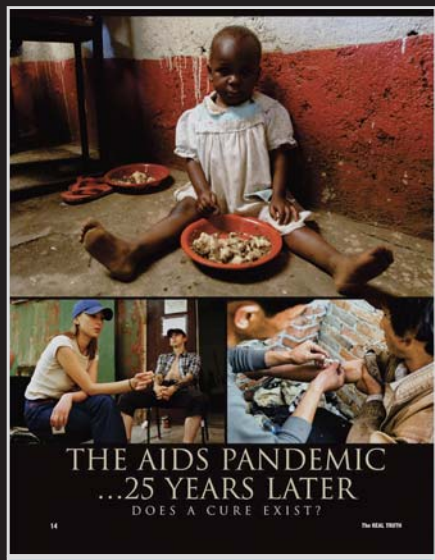
The question of what lies ahead for the whole world has become the very greatest question today. Millions are searching—wondering about the course of events. More and more world leaders are also expressing pessimism about the rise of troubles, evils, ills and woes also both within and between nations, including those that are the most powerful. So are educators, military planners, sociologists and scientists.

With all nations of Earth increasingly overwhelmed by a complicated and worsening array of difficulties confronting and challenging them, the greatest thinkers are being employed to find answers—solutions! The problem? There are *no* solutions to any of the world's biggest problems anywhere on the horizon, but rather only new ideas that never seem to work!

Of course, many are unmoved—not concerned—about the tumultuous events surrounding them, trusting that things will work out in the end “because they always do.” Also believing things will eventually “turn out all right,” others close their eyes, choosing to pursue pleasure and the accumulation of material goods at an even more frantic pace. But for the short term, things will *not* turn out all right. World conditions are and will become far more serious than any imagine.

Please see **PERSONAL**, page 34

## JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013



### GLOBAL WARMING

**Reason for Alarm?**

According to some, humanity is sitting on a volcanic time bomb—one that could send the entire planet into a tailspin of epic destruction, with detonation not far in the future. But is this a realistic scenario?

By DANIEL N. LUDWIG



### MAKING THE MOST OF FAMILY TIME

Time is our greatest resource. Are you spending enough of it with your family?

By SYRIN P. DENNER

Summer has passed, soccer, horseback riding lessons, swimming lessons or other activities.

**The Current Picture**

Recent reports and statistics paint a bleak picture of the family's financial situation. According to Playing for Keeps, a non-profit organization that promotes the importance of constructive play for children, family dinners have decreased by 15% over the past 20 years. Dinner time is extremely important for families. Second to our family's health, it's

### For 25 years, governments, scientists and medical experts have desperately sought a cure for AIDS, yet none has been discovered. Why?

By ROBERT W. JARRELL

In 1981, researchers diagnosed a mysterious virus that was killing homosexual men in the Western United States. They named it “Gay Related Immune Deficiency” (GRID). Due to extensive lobbying efforts by homosexuals and other liberal-interest groups, the name was later changed to Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—AIDS.

AIDS was initially thought of as a homosexual disease. This perception has changed, as the virus has killed millions of heterosexual men and women, with millions more presently living with it. For example, over 17 million women are currently living with the infection.

Most that a generation has passed since the AIDS virus was first diagnosed, its true nature and how it has been redefined, numerous conventional treatments and whole nations shattered. Billions of dollars have been spent to find a cure, but none has been forthcoming. In this day and age, a disease like this. Consider its surprise: its discovery, AIDS had killed more than 65 million people worldwide. Of those infected, it has killed 25 million.

**A Worldwide Pandemic**

The sheer scope of the disease is mind-boggling. Presently, 40 million people worldwide are living with AIDS-related HIV.

**GLOBAL IMPACT**

Over the past 25 years, AIDS has become a global health crisis. It has killed millions of people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In the United States, it has killed over 400,000 people. In the United Kingdom, it has killed over 60,000 people. In the United Kingdom, it has killed over 60,000 people. In the United Kingdom, it has killed over 60,000 people.



100 years, with accelerated warming in the tropics, with in other words, NASA climatologists state that 2005 was the warmest year since 1850, with 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2004 also in the top five.

I do dispute that the earth is getting warmer, but that there are regions where it is getting warmer, and other regions where it is getting colder. The warming trend is not uniform. It is not uniform. It is not uniform. It is not uniform.

**Greenhouse Gases**

The earth's climate and weather is being changed by greenhouse gases. These are the gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. They are the gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. They are the gases that trap heat in the atmosphere.

**Human Impact**

Human activities are contributing to global warming. We are burning fossil fuels, which releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We are cutting down trees, which reduces the amount of carbon dioxide that is absorbed from the atmosphere. We are releasing other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

**Consequences**

Global warming is causing a variety of problems. It is causing sea levels to rise, which is threatening coastal cities. It is causing more frequent and severe weather events, such as hurricanes and droughts. It is causing a loss of biodiversity, as many species are unable to adapt to the changing climate.

There have been relatively few studies of the availability of an antiviral therapy. However, in one study, it is estimated that a large proportion of HIV infections occur in the United States, and there is increasing evidence of antiretroviral drug resistance among some newly infected individuals in this region.

**Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

Eastern Europe indicates a rapid growing epidemic in Eastern Europe. In 2001, the number of new HIV infections was estimated at 1.5 million. In 2002, it was 1.8 million. In 2003, it was 2.1 million. In 2004, it was 2.4 million. In 2005, it was 2.7 million. In 2006, it was 3.0 million. In 2007, it was 3.3 million. In 2008, it was 3.6 million. In 2009, it was 3.9 million. In 2010, it was 4.2 million. In 2011, it was 4.5 million. In 2012, it was 4.8 million. In 2013, it was 5.1 million. In 2014, it was 5.4 million. In 2015, it was 5.7 million. In 2016, it was 6.0 million. In 2017, it was 6.3 million. In 2018, it was 6.6 million. In 2019, it was 6.9 million. In 2020, it was 7.2 million. In 2021, it was 7.5 million. In 2022, it was 7.8 million. In 2023, it was 8.1 million. In 2024, it was 8.4 million. In 2025, it was 8.7 million. In 2026, it was 9.0 million. In 2027, it was 9.3 million. In 2028, it was 9.6 million. In 2029, it was 9.9 million. In 2030, it was 10.2 million. 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# A Record-breaking Decade



■ **TEN-YEAR SNAPSHOT:** Top left, residents attempt to escape flood waters in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina (Aug. 31, 2005). Bottom left, oil drips from a pelican that was picked up by rescue workers on Grand Terre Island, Louisiana (June 5, 2010). Top middle, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras speak during a press conference at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany (Aug. 24, 2012). Bottom middle, the golden Dome of the Rock appears in the background as Jews pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City (July 27, 2004). Top right, a Palestinian protester uses a slingshot to throw stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes near the occupied West Bank city of Nablus (Dec. 28, 2012). Middle right, an aerial view of the city of Joplin, Missouri, shows the extent of damage caused by a tornado that hit the area (May 24, 2011). Bottom right, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York (Sept. 26, 2012).

PHOTOS: JAMES NIELSEN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (TOP LEFT); CAROLYN COLE/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT (BOTTOM LEFT); ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES (TOP MIDDLE); PEDRO UGARTE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (BOTTOM MIDDLE); JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (TOP RIGHT); KEITH MYERS/KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT (MIDDLE RIGHT); TIMOTHY A. CLARY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (BOTTOM RIGHT)

Over the past 10 years, *The Real Truth* has explained the *why* behind the news—and helped you put the pieces of events together to better understand the world.

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BY NESTOR A. TORO

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**W**HITE AND YELLOW anti-aircraft tracers from Iraqi gunners lit up the sky in the early morning hours of March 19, 2003. Screaming air-raid sirens followed by explosive booms broke through the silence as bombs began falling over Baghdad—just one month and nine days after the first issue of *The Real Truth* was launched online.

“Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly, yet our purpose is sure,” United States President George W. Bush stated during a televised address to the nation.

The deadline for Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein to leave the country had been reached and it was clear he would not step down without a fight.

As thick balls of fire rained on the Iraqi capital and protesters worldwide took to the streets, the president continued, “The people of the United States and our friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder. We will meet that threat now with our army, air force, navy, coastguard and marines so that we do not have to meet it later with armies of fire-fighters and police and doctors on the streets of our cities.”

While watching the explosions back in 2003, you probably could not have imagined that the U.S. would still have a presence in the region 10 years later. Neither would you have conceived that America would be fighting in Afghanistan in 2013 or that al-Qaida terrorist leader Osama bin Laden’s capture would turn into a decade-long manhunt.

Then again, you probably would not have believed that a volcano could paralyze Europe, massive hurricanes and tornado swarms would devastate multiple American cities, or that demonstrators would eventually spark a global protest movement that would overturn governments of four Arab countries—several of which had been in place for at least 20 years.

While you might have hoped oil prices could never reach \$100 a barrel or that the “roadmap to peace” for Israel and Palestine would have led somewhere else other than simply another skirmish in 2012, after 10 years of watching conflict envelop countries and disasters compound in various places, you know better.

It has been a decade like no other.

Starting around the time the Iraq war had its beginnings, one magazine has been there to help you make sense of the madness of current events—*The Real Truth*. Like its forerunner *The Plain Truth* did for more than 50 years, this magazine examines world events from a unique, unbiased perspective and provides global news analysis.

As this one-of-a-kind source has developed, the plain language and common sense it has brought has distinguished it as a voice of clarity crying out in a world of confusion—a publication fit for its time.

On its 10th anniversary, we look back on the highs and lows of the record-breaking decade during which this magazine was born.

### **New Era**

If 1945 was the defining moment of America’s 20th-century prominence, by 2003, it was evident its once unmatched international stature had begun to wane.

Two years had passed since September 11, 2001, cracked the sense of security that most U.S. citizens felt and brought to light the very real danger radical Islam posed to America. Like never before, the term “suicide bomber” became part of everyday speech. The public began to accept more intense security measures as routine.

For the first time, it was apparent that the U.S. was not as immune to the problems in the rest of the world as it had once believed. As author Christoph Reuter stated in *My Life Is a Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing*, “By the summer of 2003, suicide bombers had changed the world. The ‘end of history,’ hailed by winners of the Cold War, now appears in reality to have been merely the end of the old rules.”

“On a personal level, Americans seemed to change after the attacks,” *The Real Truth* reported in 2003. “Of course, the immediate reaction was one of sadness, shock and fear. For many, this soon became anger and a desire to seek retribution.”

In a Personal titled “Appointment with Terror – A Day That Changed America and the World Forever,” Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack stated: “The fact that these enormous buildings could even be destroyed at all has struck a kind of fear in people never known before in this country. In the same way, Americans, like those who rode the Titanic saying, ‘God Himself couldn’t sink this ship,’ probably felt that the failed attempt on the Twin Towers, in 1993, meant that our great buildings were more secure than we now recognize them to be.”

Eventually, though, the renewed patriotism dwindled and the temporary sense of unity that resulted increasingly faded away. Citizens once again forgot the lessons they had learned and returned to focusing on themselves and materialistic pursuits. Making money became the number one goal and the ideals of sacrifice that had for a short time revitalized the nation dissipated.

This mindset was reflected in the country’s economic policies. Reckless banking practices permitted an overall



■ **FINANCIAL CENTER:** Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York City a day after the U.S. Justice Department announced it would begin a criminal investigation of Wall Street (Nov. 30, 2010).  
PHOTO: SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

spurge in high-risk home loans, which had drastic consequences.

As the Internet cemented a major role in society, it also became a tool of escape. Never before in history did people have to work so little to have so much available at their fingertips. Anyone could now see the good, the bad, and the ugly of the entire world without ever leaving the comfort of their own homes.

Soon enough, the last vestiges of “old” morals regarding sex and marriage were shed. A culture of tolerance—of doing anything you please as long as no one else is hurt—arose. *The Real Truth* called it “The Immorality Explosion!”

An article series published in the first issue with the same title stated it this way: “No doubt *you* can see the depth to which sex permeates society. One can no longer turn on the television without finding a program that has sexual undertones. Magazines are

filled with stories, photos and features that would shock those of past generations. There is now also the Internet, offering a veritable buffet of perversions.”

With the Internet, the moral floodgates could no longer hold. Homosexual characters were commonly highlighted on primetime television. Universities opened fields of study about “gay/bisexual/lesbian/transgender” issues. It was not long before such thinking made its way into elementary school textbooks.

When the state of Massachusetts legalized same-sex marriage in 2004, *The Real Truth* asked, “Are these shadows of things to come?”

The question was soon answered: more states and countries followed suit throughout the coming years.

### Changing Mindsets

In the Middle East, the War on Terror was souring: “Iraq is still a long way

from a stable, semi-democratic government by the Iraqi people...Even this will be difficult and possibly even more so, if events dictate further hostilities between the three main ethnic groups—the Kurds, the Sunni-Arabs, and the Shia-Arabs,” *The Real Truth* warned in 2004.

Two months after the article was published, 170 were killed and more than 500 wounded during the Ashoura massacre by al-Qaida in Iraq, followed by bombings by the same group in the subways of Madrid, Spain.

But the war was far from the only problem the United States faced.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina slammed into New Orleans, killing more than 1,800 Americans and inundating 80 percent of the city. Thousands of surviving residents endured some of the worst episodes of rampant violence, and people began to wonder if such events truly were “acts of God.”





■ **SENSELESS VIOLENCE:** Top, mourners hold candles during a vigil in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, after the Virginia Tech shooting rampage (April 18, 2007). Middle, Pakistani security officials scan the site of a car bomb attack in Jamrud (Dec. 17, 2012). Bottom, a London underground train damaged in a terrorist bombing rests on the tracks near Aldgate station (July 9, 2005).  
PHOTOS: ALEX WONG/ (TOP); A. MAJEED/AFP/ (MIDDLE); METROPOLITAN POLICE VIA (BOTTOM) GETTY IMAGES



While America struggled to get back on its feet, it was apparent that as the superpower's role began to diminish, others were trying to seize power. The following month, North Korea joined the “nuclear club” by successfully conducting a nuclear test.

In other areas of the world, socialism was in the air. In 2007, Venezuela's re-elected president, Hugo Chavez, said he would support “socialism or death.” His movement was accompanied by constant rhetoric against *el imperio* (Spanish for “the empire”)—referring to the United States.

Perhaps surprising to those who lived through the Cold War and fought communist ideas in the 1950s, a socialist agenda spread through Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua. Anti-U.S. sentiment was exacerbated by the region's stronger ties with one of America's most outspoken rivals, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Slowly, the American Dream that many once desired turned into one that involved receiving government handouts instead of obtaining success by hard work.

In the meantime, the economic bubble that had grown too large between 2003 and 2007 came close to exploding. By 2008, when it finally burst, the fiscal mess spattered all over the world.

*The Real Truth* warned that the crisis demonstrated “the vulnerability of the global economic system.”

“The world is looking for an alternate, and America will be replaced as the financial engine of the world by a superpower soon to arise in Europe,” a 2008 article stated.

Three years later, the United States underwent a historic Standard and Poor's credit downgrade. A statement by the credit agency was telling: “The political brinksmanship of recent months highlights what we see as America's governance and policymaking becoming less stable, less effective, and less predictable than what we previously believed.”

Please see **DECADE**, page 35



■ **LIGHTS OUT:** A crowd walks out of downtown Manhattan toward the Brooklyn Bridge during a massive blackout in New York City (Aug. 14, 2003).

PHOTO: JONATHAN FICKIES/GETTY IMAGES



■ **REVOLUTION BEGINS:** Tunisian president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali (second from left) visits a fruit vendor who lit himself on fire to protest the government. This self-immolation begins the Arab Spring (Dec. 28, 2010).

PHOTO: AFP PHOTO/TUNISIA PRESIDENCY

# 10 TURBULENT YEARS

## 2003

■ Darfur conflict begins, resulting in 300,000 deaths over 10 years; SARS outbreak occurs; U.S. invades Iraq; blackout in U.S., Britain and Canada shuts down cities; hottest summer in Europe since 1540 blamed for 40,000 deaths; Iran agrees to suspend uranium enrichment program; largest earthquake in 2,000 years strikes Iran—31,000 die; U.S. troops capture Saddam Hussein.

## 2004

■ Bird flu outbreak in Asia; fifth enlargement of European Union takes place; Tropical Storm Jeanne strikes Haiti—3,000 people perish; Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat dies; Israelis and Palestinians resume peace talks; al-Qaida terror attack in Spain kills 191 and injures 1,800; magnitude 9.0 earthquake strikes Indonesia, triggering a massive tsunami resulting in 230,000 deaths across Southeast Asia.

## 2005

■ Mahmoud Abbas becomes new Palestinian leader; North Korea admits to having nuclear weapons; Pope John Paul II dies; Joseph Ratzinger named Pope Benedict XVI; terrorist attacks occur in London—50 dead and 700 injured; Hurricane Katrina strikes New Orleans, killing 1,800 and causing \$41.1 billion in damages; 7.6-magnitude earthquake strikes Pakistan's Kashmir province—75,000

die; civil war between Muslims and Christians erupts in Chad.

## 2006

■ Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalates; landslide in Philippines kills 1,800; Israel-Hezbollah War ignites and lasts 34 days; North Korea carries out first nuclear weapons tests; Saddam Hussein sentenced and executed.

## 2007

■ Virginia Tech shooting spree leaves 33 dead; European Union members sign Treaty of Lisbon; Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations resume; Cyclone Sidr hits Bangladesh, killing 5,000; former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated.

## 2008

■ Cyclone Nargis ravages Myanmar, leaving 138,000 dead or missing; 7.9-magnitude earthquake strikes Sichuan, China, killing 70,000; Georgia launches offensive in South Ossetia, resulting in five days of fighting with Russian forces and 400 deaths; Lehman Brothers goes bankrupt; Western governments inject billions of funds into banks as economies sink into recession; stock market crashes; U.S. Senate passes \$700 billion bailout bill; 164 people killed in Mumbai terrorist attacks by al-Qaida; Israel retaliates against Hamas rocket attacks.



■ **DISCONTENT:** “Occupy” protesters turn violent during a demonstration in downtown Rome, Italy (Oct. 15, 2011).

PHOTO: ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **END OF AN ERA:** North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il dies at age 69 of a heart attack (Dec. 19, 2011).

PHOTO: DMITRY ASTAKHOV/ AFP/GETTY IMAGES



■ **DEVASTATED:** Residents of Meulaboh, Indonesia, survey ruins left by a tsunami (Jan. 01, 2005).

PHOTO: STR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

.....  
**2009**

■ North Korea detonates a nuclear device; swine flu reaches pandemic proportions, with 18,000 dying worldwide by year's end; Greece uncovers excessive borrowing by government; U.S. deploys an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan; the UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates 1.02 billion people are undernourished because of economic crises.

.....  
**2010**

■ Magnitude 7.0 earthquake hits Haiti, killing over 200,000; 8.8-magnitude earthquake strikes Chile, resulting in 300 deaths; Iran declares itself a nuclear state; Greek credit downgraded to junk status; Deepwater Horizon oil rig explodes, leaking 205 million gallons of oil into Gulf of Mexico; 6.9-magnitude earthquake shakes southern Qinghai, China—2,600 people die; record-breaking heatwave in Russia fuels numerous wildfires and kills over 55,000; cholera outbreak in Haiti leaves 6,000 dead by year's end; Tunisian protester immolates himself, triggering Arab Spring across the Middle East.

.....  
**2011**

■ Tunisian president overthrown; protests spread to Egypt and Yemen; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak steps down; European Stability Mechanism aids eurozone economies; global food prices reach highest in 20 years; protests escalate in Syria, where government retaliation results in

5,000 dead in nine months; 9.0 earthquake and 30-foot tsunami in Japan take lives of 20,000; al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden killed; UN declares Somalia “worst humanitarian disaster in the world”; Norway massacre claims 140 lives; Hurricane Irene wreaks havoc on U.S. East Coast; Portugal credit downgraded to junk status; Occupy Wall Street movement spreads to 80 countries; Tunisians elect Islamic party leader; North Korean leader Kim Jong Il dies; U.S. withdraws troops from Iraq, where approximately 162,000 people have died since the war's beginning in 2003; the U.S. experiences a record 14 natural disasters costing more than \$1 billion each in damages.

.....  
**2012**

■ Iran enriches uranium in underground nuclear plant—U.S. imposes more sanctions; America's contraceptive healthcare mandate causes religious controversy nationwide; European Central Bank loans \$1.3 trillion to private banks to help credit market; Spanish and Greek unemployment rates reach highs of more than 20 percent; North American heatwave breaks 7,000 temperature records, bringing drought on 80 percent of farmland; Spanish credit downgraded to junk status; Mohammed Morsi elected Egyptian president; U.S. ambassador killed in Libya; Hurricane Sandy strikes Caribbean region and U.S., killing 200 and causing \$50 billion in damages; Palestine recognized as “observer state” by UN; typhoon strikes southern Philippines—1,000 dead; Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre claims 27 lives; North Korea launches long-range missile.

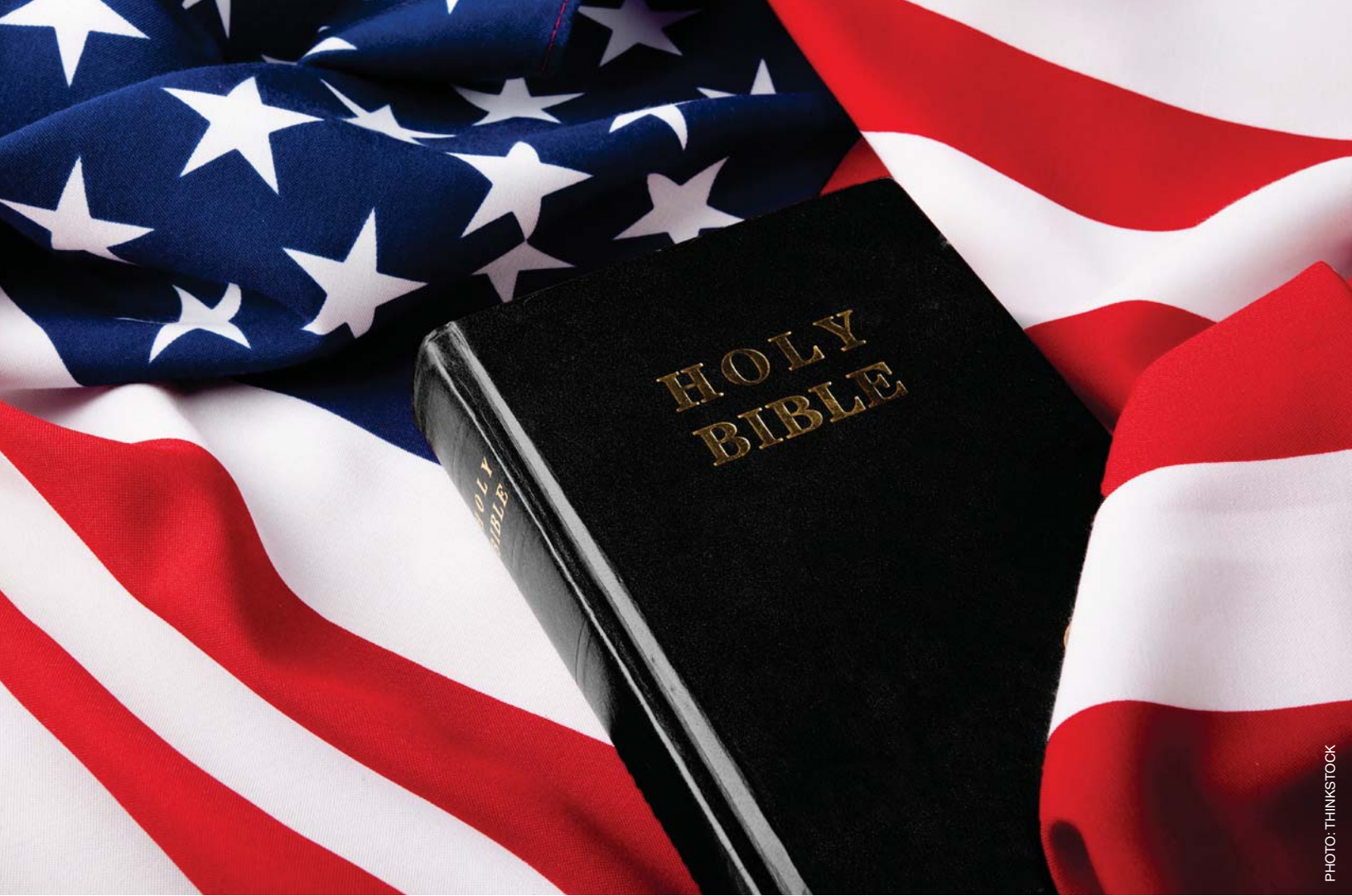


PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

# The CRUMBLING WALL of SEPARATION

Religion is increasingly finding its way into global politics, and vice versa.

BY JEFFREY R. AMBROSE

**T**HE NOTION OF religious freedom—the right to hold and act on spiritual convictions without government interference—played a key role in the establishment of the American colonies, and in the formal beginning of the new nation. Early settlers faced hardships but left behind the

burdens of mandatory state religions and persecution that were so common in the Old World.

Founding father Thomas Jefferson, in an 1802 letter to members of the Danbury (Connecticut) Baptist association, wrote, “...I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their leg-

islature should ‘make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,’ thus building a wall of separation between Church & State.”

This is the closest one will come to finding a common sound bite—“separation of Church and State”—that many mistakenly believe is in the Constitution.

Some argue that Jefferson’s statement advocated a government that, beyond just avoiding any state religion, acknowledged no higher power. Yet scores of biblical quotations and Bible-based artwork found in the nation’s

capital are the tip of the iceberg of evidence to the contrary.

To cite just two illustrations, the east pediment of the Supreme Court building features a marble relief depicting Moses holding the Ten Commandments, and the Library of Congress displays a similar figure in bronze. Many more examples attest to what is called the nation's Judeo-Christian heritage.

*The Real Truth* does not take political positions, nor side with or against men's governments or leaders. Our position is strictly neutral. But it is obvious that this "wall of separation" remains a hotly contested issue, particularly in the United States. Many legal challenges arise each year on grounds that a group has allegedly breached it.

Despite modern attempts to separate church and state in many nations, lines between the two continue to blur.

### American Battles

Lawsuits centered on the First Amendment's religion clause involve a wide variety of belief systems and positions. The following are some examples:

**Virginia:** "...an unwelcome Christmastime tradition has once again turned into a holiday battle royale pitting Loudoun County vs. atheists.

"The town's annual holiday parade put the annual controversy on center stage. Just feet from the parade route a large display on atheism was set up on the Loudoun County Courthouse grounds for all parade-goers to see.

"For years this has been a tense turf fight. The county this year displayed a nativity scene and now a menorah—both on government property at the courthouse.

"But local atheists say that's unconstitutional and are fighting to have a permanent holiday display of their own" (*WJLA*).

**California:** "Just as a California school district prepares to launch the first-ever comprehensive yoga program in public schools, officials also are preparing for something a bit less calming: a lawsuit.

"A group of Christian parents is threatening to sue Encinitas Union

School District for indoctrinating children with Eastern spirituality, fearing that the district's twice-weekly, 30-minute yoga classes could 'nudge their children closer to ancient Hindu beliefs.' The parents say school-sponsored yoga violates the First Amendment" (*Christianity Today*).

**New York:** "Americans United for Separation of Church and State, led by Barry Lynn, has sent a letter to the superintendent of West Point, claiming that the Academy's prayer policy runs afoul of the Constitution and violates the cadets' rights. 'West Point cadets should be able to train for service in our nation's military without having religion forced upon them,' Lynn writes." (Mr. Lynn is also a minister in the United Church of Christ.)

"But Gordon Klingenschmitt, a former Navy chaplain...contends that Lynn and others of his ilk are the ones trying to use government to prevent Christian cadets from exercising their First Amendment rights" (*OneNewsNow*).

Other national stories transcended these local issues.

In May 2012, dozens of Catholic institutions and dioceses, including Notre Dame University, sued the federal government over a new health-care mandate that required them to subsidize contraception, a practice contrary to church dogma.

*The Wall Street Journal* reported, "The government...cannot justify its decision to force Notre Dame to provide, pay for, and/or facilitate access to these services in violation of its sincerely held religious beliefs,' Notre Dame's lawsuit argues. 'If the government can force religious institutions to violate their beliefs in such a manner, there is no apparent limit to the government's power.'

"The Senate voted 51-48 in March against an effort that would have scrapped the contraception requirement. Republicans warned against forcing religious institutions to violate their beliefs, and Democrats accused their rivals of seeking to roll back women's rights."

"The plaintiffs object to a provision that requires most employers to cover all preventive health services including contraception as part of their insurance policies...Sterilization was one of the methods of birth control included, as was the so-called morning-after pill [which induces abortion]."

Partly as a result of this action, ministers across America risked their status as tax-exempt charities and tackled politics from the pulpit: "About 1,600 pastors across the country violated a 58-year-old ban on political endorsements by churches in October by explicitly backing political candidates in their Sunday sermons, according to the Alliance Defending Freedom of Scottsdale, Ariz., a conservative Christian legal organization behind a campaign called Pulpit Freedom Sunday" (*NBC News*).

When the Internal Revenue Service did not take action against these ministers, it was then sued by an atheist group called the Freedom From Religion Foundation!

All of this was expected to impact President Barack Obama's re-election bid, but the electorate itself was divided along religious lines. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that 69 percent of Jewish voters and 50 percent of Catholics voted for Mr. Obama, compared to 42 percent of those classified as "Protestant/other Christian."

### Beyond the U.S.

America has long been viewed as a standard-setter, with many nations following its lead—for better or worse. But in the area of church-state relations, much of the world ignores America's leanings and takes a different approach.

As of the year 2000, about 40 percent of the world's nations had an official state religion. Certain countries are strongly connected to a particular religion, with much less political concern for any wall of separation. Think of Germany and the Lutheran Church, Italy or Ireland and Roman Catholicism, Greece and that nation's particular type of Orthodoxy, and Britain, where the queen holds the title of the Anglican Church's Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor.

In this regard, America appears to be an exception to the rule. In the book *God's Century: Resurgent Religion and Global Politics*, the authors note that “contrary to...predictions, the portion of the world adhering to Catholic Christianity, Protestant Christianity, Islam and Hinduism jumped from 50 percent in 1900 to 64 percent in 2000. Globally speaking, most people—79 percent—believe in God (a slight increase from the late 1980s and early 1990s, which was 73 percent), and although in most countries majorities agree that religion is private and should be kept separate from government, these majorities are increasingly slim in a number of countries and the intensity of support for this separation has declined in over half of the countries polled. In India, for example, the number of people who ‘completely’ agree on the separation of faith and government dropped from 78 percent to 50 percent in just five years, from 2002 to 2007. Thus, over the past four decades, religion’s influence on politics has reversed its decline and become more powerful on every continent and across every major world religion. Earlier confined to the home, the family, the village, the mosque, synagogue, temple and church, religion has come

to exert its influence in parliaments, presidential palaces, lobbyists’ offices, campaigns, militant training camps, negotiation rooms, protest rallies, city squares, and dissident jail cells.”

How does this long-term trend manifest itself today?

### Middle East

In the Mideast, religion and politics merge dramatically in the form of Islamist parties, which gained ground in the aftermath of 2011’s Arab Spring. They can be found in Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Bahrain, Lebanon, the United Arab Emirates, and elsewhere.

Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood has become the most prominent religion-centered party both in name and function. As described by the Council on Foreign Relations, “Establishing an Islamic state based on sharia is at the center of the Muslim Brotherhood’s ideology, both in Egypt and among the group’s many offshoots abroad.”

The group is making progress toward this goal. In late December 2012, a new Egyptian draft constitution passed a popular vote. “Like a previous constitution, the draft states, ‘Principles of Islamic Shariah are the principal source of legislation.’ For the first time, the draft defines those principles, root-

ing them in ‘general evidence, foundational rules’ and other rules from the long tradition of Islamic jurisprudence. Both critics and ultraconservative supporters of the charter say that opens the doors for stricter imposition of Islamic law” (*The Washington Post*).

The shift of the Arab world’s most populous nation from secular to religious has major implications for the region—a ripple effect that will eventually disrupt the global power balance. (To learn more, read our free booklet *The Mid-East in Bible Prophecy* at [rcg.org/tmeibp](http://rcg.org/tmeibp).)

Other nearby nations in which secular-religious shifts are being monitored closely by the West include Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

### Africa

Africa represents a unique dynamic, as tensions rise between two major belief systems. The Pew Research Center reported that since 1900, the “number of Muslims living between the Sahara Desert and the Cape of Good Hope has increased more than 20-fold, rising from an estimated 11 million in 1900 to approximately 234 million in 2010. The number of Christians has grown even faster, soaring almost 70-fold from about 7 million to 470 million. Sub-

■ **NEW LEGISLATION:** Below, Muslim women demonstrate in favor of Shariah law during a protest outside 10 Downing Street in London (March 21, 2011). Right, a crowd shouts slogans during a demonstration in Cairo’s Tahrir Square to demand that Shariah be the basis for legislation in Egypt’s new constitution (Nov. 9, 2012).

PHOTOS: CARL DE SOUZA/AFP/ (BELOW); MAHMUD KHALED/AFP/ (RIGHT) GETTY IMAGES



Saharan Africa now is home to about one-in-five of all the Christians in the world (21%) and more than one-in-seven of the world's Muslims (15%)."

Nigeria is a microcosm of this collision. Its population is 50 percent Muslim and 40 percent Christian. While it endorses no state religion, it is sometimes hard to tell where Nigerian politics end and faith begins: "...sometimes out of faith, sometimes out of desperation, and sometimes merely for survival, Nigerians have taken political problems to the mosques and churches. In the predominantly Muslim North, shari'a law has been in place for a decade, implemented by a region so

In late 2012, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni gave a public prayer at an event marking the nation's Jubilee (50th anniversary of independence) that was unprecedented for a modern civil leader. It called on his nation to repent of sins and dedicate itself to God.

"I stand here today to close the evil past, and especially in the last 50 years of our national leadership history and at the threshold of a new dispensation in the life of this nation," he said. "I stand here on my own behalf and on behalf of my predecessors to repent. We ask for your forgiveness."

"We confess these sins, which have greatly hampered our national cohesion

"We want to dedicate this nation to you so that you will be our God and guide. We want Uganda to be known as a nation that fears God and as a nation whose foundations are firmly rooted in righteousness and justice to fulfill what the Bible says in Psalm 33:12: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. A people you have chosen as your own."

For the average Western politician, this would be unthinkable, at least in the current political climate. International press coverage of this speech was nearly non-existent. But the quoting of Scripture, references to national and individual sins, and a call to repentance are similar to what American presidents such as Abraham Lincoln once did routinely.

## Europe

Of course, the roots of Africa's Christian denominations are found largely in Europe, which was historically called "Christendom." As recently as 1910, two-thirds of professing Christians lived within the Continent's borders, according to the Pew Research Center.

While Europe has taken a secular turn in recent decades, religious connections are never far from the surface.

In February, shortly after a ban on prayer before British town council meetings was instituted by the High Court (subsequently overturned), Queen Elizabeth gave an ardent defense of the national religion during an interreligious gathering at Lambeth Palace, residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury: "...we should remind ourselves of the significant position of the Church of England in our nation's life. The concept of our established Church is occasionally misunderstood and, I believe, commonly under-appreciated...Woven into the fabric of this country, the Church has helped to build a better society—more and more in active cooperation for the common good with those of other faiths...This occasion is thus an opportunity to reflect on the importance of faith in creating and sustaining communities all over the United Kingdom."

Later in the year and across the Channel, German Chancellor Angela



■ **MILESTONE:** Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni (center) attends celebrations for Uganda's 50-year Golden Jubilee at Uhuru Grounds in Kampala (Oct. 9, 2012).

PHOTO: PETER BUSOMOKE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

tired of lawlessness that Qur'anic law seemed an enlightened answer. In the poor slums of Lagos, churches provide the services that the state would not—could not—ever provide.

"Politicians have been quick to follow their constituents' retreat to religion. They are conspicuously present at churches and mosques, allied with specific pastors and imams. They raise constituencies among their religious peers, and pour patronage on their fellow faithful" (*Religion Dispatches*).

On the Christian end of the spectrum, Africa also sees some of the most fervent calls for what is termed biblical morality, which can exert considerable influence on the lawmaking process.

and delayed our political, social and economic transformation. We confess sins of idolatry and witchcraft which are rampant in our land. We confess sins of shedding innocent blood, sins of political hypocrisy, dishonesty, intrigue and betrayal."

"Forgive us of sins of pride, tribalism and sectarianism; sins of laziness, indifference and irresponsibility; sins of corruption and bribery that have eroded our national resources; sins of sexual immorality, drunkenness and debauchery; sins of unforgiveness, bitterness, hatred and revenge; sins of injustice, oppression and exploitation; sins of rebellion, insubordination, strife and conflict."

Merkel urged the nation’s “Protestant and Roman Catholic churches...to stress their common beliefs at ceremonies marking the 500th anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation,” *Reuters* reported.

“Although still five years away, the date has already prompted debate between Protestants preparing major celebrations and Catholics who rue the rebellion of the German monk Martin Luther in 1517 as the start of a painful split in western Christianity.

“The Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), the country’s largest association of Protestant churches, wants the Catholics to attend its planned ‘Luther Jubilee’, and its annual synod in a Baltic resort near Luebeck is debating how to make it possible for them to do so.

“Merkel, daughter of a Protestant pastor, made a rare visit to the synod and said that, in a secularized world, Christian churches should stress what united them, rather than their enduring theological differences” (*ibid.*).

Elsewhere in Europe, the Catholic Church stands apart in any church-state discussion. It is both church *and* state. The Holy See, the church’s government centered in the sovereign Vatican city-state within Rome, maintains diplomatic ties with 176 other nations. Pope Pius IX once bluntly stated, “It is an error to assert that the Church ought to be separated from the State and the State from the Church” (*Time*).

John Paul II is considered to have been the most politically active pope in history, making a record 104 foreign trips during his 26-year papacy. His 1979 trip to his native Poland, at that time behind the Iron Curtain, was a catalyst for one of the largest geopolitical events of the 20th century—the breakup of the Soviet Union. This was a great victory for the Catholic Church, as it re-opened many nations in which religion had been suppressed under the Soviet regime.

Today, Pope Benedict XVI has been regularly calling for moral ethics in global financial affairs.

One of the theme’s of his papacy has also been “re-evangelizing” Europe, including Germany—fighting the tide of indifference toward religion, and challenging citizens to rediscover their common spiritual heritage.

But *does it matter* whether church and state blur? What does this trend mean, beyond a collection of anecdotes and statistics? And why should you care?

In summary, a lesson of history is that when great power is concentrated in human hands—which are in turn influenced by those who profess to represent a Supreme Being—terrible suffering often follows. Some

*the gospel* to every creature” (Mark 16:15). While billions know the term *gospel*—which simply means “good news”—many are not aware of what the news is about. Yet another verse makes it clear: “...Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of *the kingdom of God*” (Mark 1:14).

Over the centuries, some have equated this kingdom with an existing nation or entity, run by flesh-and-blood human beings. But elsewhere Jesus plainly stated, “My kingdom is not of this world,” with the apostle Paul adding that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (John 18:36; I Cor. 15:50).



“...the Catholic Church stands apart in any church-state discussion. It is both church *and* state.”

of the most appalling examples can be found in the history of Europe—“Christendom”—and adjacent lands.

### Message of the Christian Church

Outside Muslim-majority nations, most church-state issues involve traditional forms of Christianity. This is to be expected, since the various denominations under this umbrella form the largest religion in the world, with over two billion adherents.

These groups (to some extent) acknowledge the Bible as a source of doctrine and practice. So the question must be asked: does this Book have anything to say about “church and state”?

In the Bible’s New Testament, Jesus Christ instructed His followers to go “into all the world, and preach

Others attempt to define God’s kingdom as a vague, invisible spiritual realm, or something that exists “in the hearts of men.” But a true kingdom must have four elements: (1) a king, (2) citizens, (3) territory, and (4) laws.

So the true gospel, the primary message of the Church that Christ founded, is about a state—a kingdom. While this is basic, it is probably very different from what you have assumed is the gospel.

Yet this good news holds the ultimate solution to the ongoing church-state dilemma—and much, much more!

To learn what this message is and *is not*, read the definitive booklet *Which Is the True Gospel?* by Real Truth Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack, available free at [rcg.org/witrg](http://rcg.org/witrg). □





# Solving the Global Food Crisis

## *Agriculture's Amazing Future!*

What the next generation will eat is one of the biggest unanswered questions facing mankind.

BY JUSTIN T. PALM

**S**EVENTY-FOUR DAYS. That is all that stands between mankind and starvation—the length of time the world’s food reserves would feed humanity before disappearing. From 1986 to 2001, the world held an average of *107 days*’ worth of grain in storage. But from 2002 to 2011, the average dropped to just 74. Not even *three months’ worth!*

Shrinking levels of surplus food supplies are signaling that the future of food may not be as secure as most think. The *Guardian* quoted Lester Brown, president

of the Earth Policy Institute and author of *Full Planet, Empty Plates*: “Ever since agriculture began, carry-over stocks of grain have been the most basic indicator of food security.”

If mankind missed one harvest, it would begin to starve.

For thousands of years, man’s existence has been drawn from the soil. Civilizations unable to provide lasting sustenance for their people were invariably lost to history. Healthy, arable land has always been humanity’s most precious commodity. As its total area shrinks to dangerous, never-before-seen levels, and man’s population explodes, the very future of civilization is at stake. Too little food is being grown on too few acres to provide for the roughly 370,000 human beings born *every day*.

Like millions of American families living “paycheck to paycheck,” humanity is living harvest to harvest. Mr. Brown also stated, “An unprecedented period of world food security

has come to an end. The world has lost its safety cushions and is living from year to year..." (ibid.).

Once-bountiful water sources are drying up. Arable land is dwindling. Now more than ever, mankind must address the issue of food security.

### Tiny Fraction of Earth

Regional Workbench, a think-tank composed of university professors, used an apple (representing Earth) to show how much of the planet is made up of arable land. While reading through the directions for this apple-Earth comparison, let this fact sink in: there is very little farmable soil!

(1) Imagine that you slice an apple into four quarters. Three of the quarters represent the amount of Earth's surface made up of oceans. The remaining quarter is equal to the earth's total land surface.

(2) Next, cut the "land" quarter in half and remove one of the remaining halves. This section represents the area of land humans cannot inhabit, such as very high or rocky mountains, deserts and areas around the North and South poles. The leftover half of the quarter—1/8 of the original apple—equals the areas in which humans can actually live.

(3) Take this small section and cut it into four pieces. Remove three of them, representing land where crops cannot be grown, along with urban areas like cities, factories, parks, etc.

(4) At this point, only 1/32 of the apple remains. Peeling the skin off this section gives you an idea of the total land surface available to grow crops—a minuscule fraction of the entire apple!

Realize the point here—only 1/32 of Earth's surface contains arable topsoil. That is just 3 percent!

Even worse, University of Washington geologist David Montgomery told the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, "We're losing more and

more of it every day...The estimate is that we are now losing about 1 percent of our topsoil every year to erosion, most of this caused by agriculture."

■ **LIVESTOCK LOSS:** A cattle carcass decomposes in a drought-stricken area in the northern part of Niger (May 29, 2010).

PHOTO: ISSOUF SANOGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Compounding the problem further, growing acres of this arable land are not being used to produce food, but ecological fuel replacements. While some nations starve, other countries are literally burning their food. *The Telegraph* reported, "Last year, 120 million tons of corn was turned into gasoline—which in turn drove up the price of all kinds of food..."

"In a classic instance of the law of unintended consequences, America's drive to reduce oil dependency and cut carbon emissions has led to huge amounts of farmland being given over to growing crops for petrol rather than human or animal feed..."

Land grabs are another problem. An Oxfam International report revealed, "Demand for land has soared as investors look for places to grow food for export, grow crops for biofuels, or simply buy-up land for profit." Shockingly,

the amount of land sold off by investors and companies in the last decade is so high that it could have fed one billion people. With at least 80 million hectares

of land deals taking place since 2001, land is the new hot commodity.

Arable land is continually pushed beyond its natural production capacity. Once crops stop growing, land is often sprayed with a chemical concoction that forces more productivity. After it has been completely exhausted, the vast acreage is then sold for a profit and plowed, paved and built upon. As cities spring up and more farmland disappears worldwide, so does mankind's ability to feed large numbers of people.

### Population Explosion

With the number of human beings on Earth *doubling* in the last 50 years, population growth has caught up with—and surged past—food production. The U.S. State Department reported, "Global food supplies must increase by an estimated

50 percent to meet expected demand in the next 20 years."

As early as 2030, mankind's population is set to hit 8.3 billion. Yet of today's seven billion people, the Food and Agriculture Organization estimates 870 million are already malnourished.

No one is sure how current food production can increase this dramatically. Lester Brown warned in a *Guardian* piece, "Yields are plateauing in many countries and new better seeds have failed to increase yields very much for some years...New trends such as falling water tables, plateauing grain yields and rising temperatures join soil erosion and climate change to make it difficult, if not impossible, to expand production fast enough."

To understand the problem, picture the world's population as one family, who has a monthly food ration, with relatively little fluctuation in the allot-

ment—one gallon of milk, two loaves of bread, two chickens, two dozen eggs, etc. If the mother and father only had one or two children, everyone would have enough to eat. But as the family expands to three, four, then five children—with the same level of food coming in every month—the amount for each family member would shrink drastically.

Now picture the same family with 20 children, but still living on one gallon of milk, two loaves of bread, two chickens and two dozen eggs—with more children on the way...

The problem is obvious!

Evan Fraser, author of *Empires of Food*, stated, “For six of the last 11 years the world has consumed more food than it has grown. We do not have any buffer and are running down reserves. Our stocks are very low and if we have a dry winter and a poor

rice harvest we could see a major food crisis across the board...Even if things do not boil over this year, by next summer we’ll have used up this buffer...” (ibid.).

### New Gold

The *Guardian* summarized Mr. Brown’s *Empty Planet, Empty Plates*, in which he predicted “ever increasing food prices, leading to political instability, spreading hunger and, unless governments act, a catastrophic breakdown in food.”

Excerpting the book, the newspaper stated: “Food is the new oil and land is the new gold...We saw early signs of the food system unravelling in 2008 following an abrupt doubling of world grain prices. As they climbed, exporting countries [such as Russia] began restricting exports to keep their domestic prices down. In response, importing

countries panicked and turned to buying or leasing land in other countries to produce food for themselves.”

Mr. Brown continued, “The result is that a new geopolitics of food has emerged, where the competition for land and water is intensifying and each country is fending for itself.”

As food becomes more precious, prices will rise. An article from *The Telegraph* reported, “The storm is coming. One of the great dependables of modern life—cheap food—may be about to disappear. If a growing number of economists and scientists are to be believed, we are witnessing a historic transition: from an era when the basics of life have been getting ever more affordable, to a new period when they are ever more expensive.

“Globally, food is still cheap: but new data from the World Bank shows that it may not remain that way for long...”

When food prices surge, already struggling families must find ways to continue putting food on the table. Hard choices must be made. Sadly, children are most affected. Jim Yong Kim, president of World Bank Group, said in a statement, “When food prices rise sharply, families cope by pulling their kids out of school and eating cheaper, less nutritious food, which can have catastrophic life-long effects on the social, physical, and mental well being of millions of young people...”

More expensive food inevitably leads to an insecure world: “In the rich world, it takes a while for food-price inflation to have an effect. But in poorer regions even modest rises can have massive consequences: it was a spike in the price of bread as much as political dissent that sparked the Arab Spring, for example” (*The Telegraph*).

For thousands of years, there has always been a

■ **HUNGER CRISIS:** Tempers flare as supplies run out at a food distribution center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti (April 30, 2008).

PHOTO: ERIC THAYER/GETTY IMAGES



# Picture of World Hunger

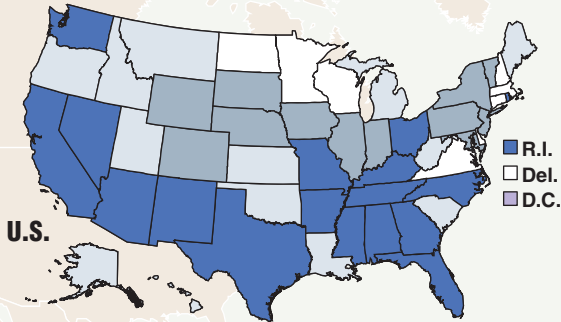
One in eight people still suffer from chronic undernourishment. In the past 20 years, Asia and Pacific region countries saw a 30% increase in undernourished people, while Africa's hungry grew by 36 percent.

## United States

Less than 5 percent of Americans are undernourished, but last year 6.8 million households had very little food security, an increase of 0.3 percent from 2010; low food security is a disruption in a household's normal eating patterns because of limited resources; those most impacted are the poor, families with single parents, and black and Hispanic households

Percent of households with food insecurity; average, 2009-11

Less than 12% 
  12%-13.4% 
  13.5%-14.9% 
  15% or more



## Iraq

Nation with highest proportional change in undernourished persons, from 10.9 percent of the population in 1990-92 to 26 percent in 2010-12; ongoing instability has trapped a significant portion of the population below the poverty line (\$2 per day) and left them without access to food, health care and other basic needs

## Syria

Lack of access to food, water and basic supplies because of civil war, coupled with rising food prices, mean 1.5 million people need urgent food assistance for the next three to six months

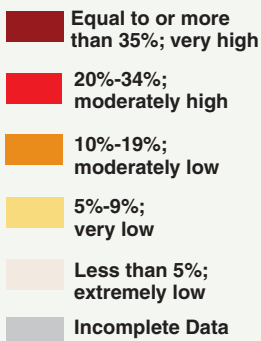
## Haiti

Just under half of the nation's population is undernourished; widespread poverty, yearly hurricane fears, the 2010 earthquake, a cholera epidemic, and a dependence on imported food affects supplies

## India

Contains 25 percent of the world's undernourished population, 217 million people, an improvement from 254 million undernourished in 1990-92; country produces more food than it needs, but corruption and mismanagement lead to large quantities rotting in warehouses

## Undernourished



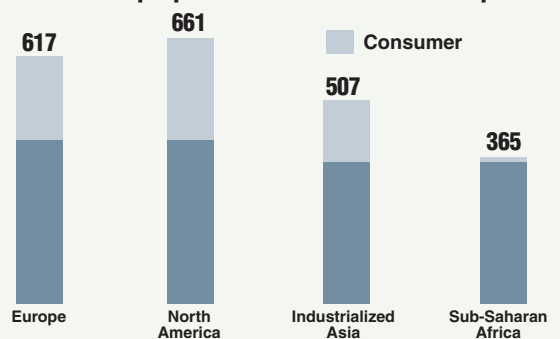
## Developed nations

World's most advanced countries such as the U.S., Japan and nations in northern Europe total 16 million undernourished people—just 1.8 percent of the world's total undernourished

## Food waste

- Recovering just 5 percent of the food wasted in the U.S. could feed 4 million people a day
- Food loss happens during production, processing and distribution of food; these losses are most frequent in developing nations with inadequate technology and infrastructure to protect food resources
- Food waste is when retailers and consumers throw away edible food; retailers usually discard food because of the way it looks, restaurants throw away what they do not use, and consumers throw away food that is unused or past its "best by" date

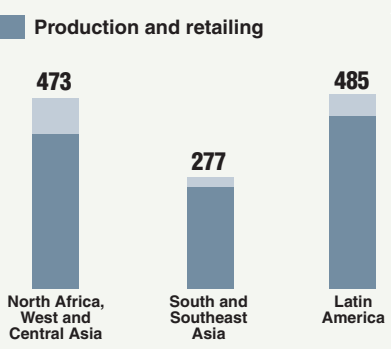
## Total annual per person food losses and waste in pounds



Source: World Food Program, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, CIA World Factbook, United States Department of Agriculture, BBC, United Nations Development Program

Graphic: Sonya Quinlan

percent drop



ck, Molly Zisk, The Orange County Register © 2012 MCT

connection between war and food. Resources—land, food and water—have long been at the heart of nearly all conflicts throughout man’s history. During the last two centuries, much of the world had a respite from fighting over precious and expensive food. But, again, that era is almost over. And desperate, hungry people do desperate things.

The food riots of 2008 foreshadow what lies ahead. During that time, *The New York Times* reported of Haiti, “*Hunger* bashed in the front gate of Haiti’s presidential palace. *Hunger* poured onto the streets, burning tires and taking on soldiers and the police. *Hunger* sent the country’s prime minister packing. Haiti’s hunger, that burn in the belly that so many here feel, has become *fiercer than ever* in recent days as global food prices spiral out of reach, spiking as much as 45 percent since the end of 2006 and turning Haitian staples like beans, corn and rice into *closely guarded treasures*” (emphasis added).

With global food reserves running out, the question becomes: *what will we eat?*

### Dinner Plate of Tomorrow

Scientists believe they have a solution to the food crisis, but it may mean changing your taste buds. Some forecast that mankind will be trading beef burgers, steaks and sausages for versions made from insects such as caterpillars, grasshoppers and dung beetles. Morgaine Gaye, a “food futurologist,” proposed changing the term “insects” to “mini-livestock” to make it more palatable for the masses (*BBC*).

This may seem like a foreign concept, but the Netherlands is already beginning to implement it: “The Dutch government is putting serious money into getting insects into mainstream diets. It recently invested one million euros...into research and to prepare legislation governing insect farms” (ibid.). But most throughout Western society are still too squeamish about replacing their cheeseburgers with “beetleburgers” and would not be fooled by the “mini-livestock” label.

Others are developing genetically modified animals for consumption. After a 17-year process, an altered Atlantic salmon was approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for commercial development, meaning it could hit American grocery shelves in the coming years. The salmon was engineered through splicing two extra genes (one from an ocean pout, a bottom-dwelling, eel-like fish) into its genetic makeup. The company responsible for the development claims that the fish grows twice as fast as the standard variety. It is the first genetically modified animal deemed “safe to eat.” However, the long-term effects of eating the “super fish” are unknown.

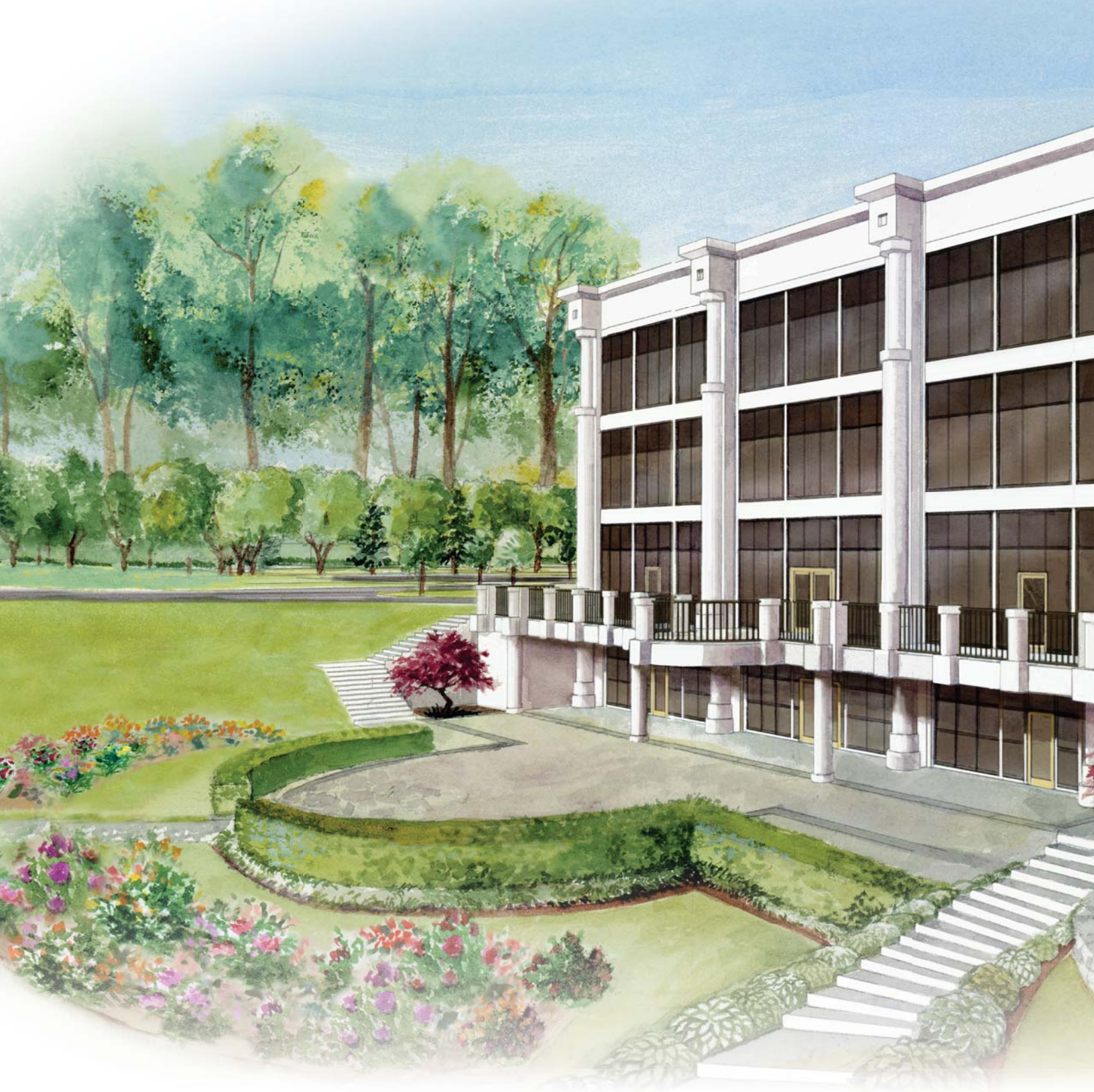
Then there is the still-experimental process of growing meat in laboratories, as reported by the *Guardian*: “In California, Professor Patrick Brown, a molecular biologist at Stanford University, is developing a way to turn plant tissue into fake meat, indistinguishable from the real thing and far cheaper. In the Netherlands, scientists are working on a way to grow real meat in a vat.”

The process involves using stem cells to create pieces of muscle tissue, although scientists are still deciding what this new food source should look like. Currently, it resembles calamari—not the most appealing or marketable consistency and shape.

If you find these ideas outlandish, you are not alone. Not all scientists believe these are viable options.

Finally, one optimistic, albeit unrealistic, proposal suggests that the world should switch to a vegetarian diet. This would dramatically decrease the amount of crops grown for animals raised for human consumption. *The Telegraph* reported, “If we cut meat consumption by 50 per cent, that would release an area of farmland bigger than the United States for extra food production. But that won’t happen...demand for meat is expected to double by 2050.”

Please see **FOOD**, page 38



# World Headquarters

New Chapter Begins for *The Real*



ILLUSTRATION: PAULA C. RONDEAU

# Campus

## Truth

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013

**T**HE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD, which publishes *The Real Truth* magazine, is pleased to announce construction of its magnificent World Headquarters building in Wadsworth, Ohio, USA. (Several more buildings will follow shortly.)

The elegant, state-of-the-art Hall of Administration building (captured in this artist's rendition) will house *The Real Truth* editorial offices and provide a beautiful setting for the Headquarters of the Church. □



# WHAT MAN CAN LEARN FROM HISTORY

Throughout millennia, mankind has lived out a conundrum that persists today: incredible advancement while being plagued by the same problems of war, famine and disease. Yet the record of the past contains a reason for hope.

BY SAMUEL C. BAXTER

**H**OW EASY IT is to forget how far mankind has come! Yes, there was advancement from stone to steel, carriage to car, ox-drawn plow to diesel tractor. But we seem desensitized to humanity's recent rapid-fire record of progress.

Think back to the fledgling days of the space race. There was Sputnik's crackly "ping ping" in 1957, and the first American "astrochimp" in 1961. The public devoured every bit of news, and made heroes out of each man that rocketed into the heavens. Even in the 1980s, long after the first feet pressed into moon powder, most

stopped whatever they were doing to watch a space shuttle launch.

Space exploration's novelty soon wore off, with many in 2009 ignoring a historic rescue mission 350 miles above Earth's surface.

The event marked a crowning achievement in man's creative genius, and shined as a hopeful be-

Pyramids at Giza Constructed  
Circa 2500 BC



Johannes Gutenberg's Movable  
Type Printing Press Invented  
Circa AD 1440



Rome Conquered  
AD 476



The REAL TRUTH





con in the tumultuous first decade of the new millennium. A crew of seven on Space Shuttle Atlantis breathed life into an ailing Hubble Space Telescope, the invaluable device that has helped man better understand his place in the cosmos. This singular instrument has allowed scientists to examine dark energy and black holes, witness the birth and death of stars, and determine the age of the universe for the first time—about 13.75 billion years.

During what was called Servicing Mission 4, astronauts had to brave minus 454-degree Fahrenheit temperatures for five spacewalks to replace a piano-sized camera, loose a stuck bolt, and switch out electronics cards (which had never before been attempted).

When one stops to consider this feat, it is stunning. Not only is man capable of building such a telescope, but he can also upgrade it—while *floating in space*.

Even though there were many triumphant achievements during the first three spacewalks, the fourth turned

herculean. A handrail in the way of the repairs refused to come loose—something that had never happened during years of practice. Immediately, technicians, engineers and the astronauts themselves scrambled to find a workaround solution.

Realize what was at stake. Failure meant not replacing the spectrograph on Hubble, an instrument that deciphers the colors of the telescope's images. A mere handrail stood in the way of any more iconic images of galaxy arms speckled with pinks and blues, ethereal greens of star-nursery pillars, dark magentas of the Horsehead Nebula.

With all this on the line, mission control told the astronauts there was only one choice: brute force. The space-walker gripped the handrail with his bulky glove and yanked hard. The rail gave, and the entire mission ended up a resounding success.

Throughout this arduous adventure, astronauts were often bathed in a pale blue light emanating from below. From the vantage point of space, this glowing

orb appears beautifully—with spiraling clouds, royal blue oceans, and red-clay continents.

Yet in reality, the planet of seven billion inhabitants is fraught with problems: rogue states rushing for nuclear weapons, governments toppling throughout the Middle East, nations teetering on the brink of agricultural and economic collapse.

*How strange!* Man can rescue a space telescope while zipping around the earth at 17,500 mph, yet terrible drug-resistant disease strains continue to worsen. He can replace a jumbo-sized camera able to peer to the edges of the known universe, yet remains on the brink of a global food crisis. He can *travel into space*, yet the planet's economy stands on a razor's edge.

Over the last 10 years, the span of *The Real Truth* magazine's publication, man has made incredible advances in fields of science (the discovery that the universe is teeming with Earth-sized, habitable planets!) and technology (many now carry palm-sized computer smartphones!).



Atomic Bomb Invented  
1945

Man Walks on the Moon  
1969

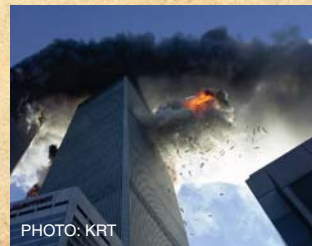


PHOTO: KRT

9/11 Terrorist Attacks  
2001





Yet during the same period, his old foes, long thought eradicated, have been re-emerging with renewed fury—war, famine, disease and environmental catastrophes.

Each of these predicaments now carries a *global* tone. This means GLOBAL consequences.

But the plights of interconnectivity carry a silver lining. For the first time, man can survey the entire planet and see where his practices are detrimental to humankind. In addition, he can comb the pages of history to learn from the trial and error of his ancestors.

Man stands at a crossroads. Civilizations have been down this path before and failed, with George Santayana's famed words landing with a resounding thud: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

What can we learn from the templates of failure throughout history? What *must* we learn?

### Global Village

Before delving into historical examples, the stage must be set for 21st-century problems facing mankind. These demonstrate an emphatic need to closely examine civilizations past,

Disease is a perfect example. After World War II, scientists hoped antibiotics would put an end to deadly bacterial infections (such as *Staphylococcus aureus*) and increase the chances of recovery from invasive surgery. Yet widespread misuse has forced us to

allowing fields to rest, and overdependence on irrigation add to the potential for catastrophe.

*Time* magazine boiled down the problem: "There are two key issues. One is the loss of soil productivity. Under a business as usual scenario

[continued detrimental farming practices], degraded soil will mean that we will produce 30% less food over the next 20-50 years. This is against a background of projected demand requiring us to grow 50% more food, as the population grows and wealthier people in countries like China and India eat more meat, which takes more land to produce weight-for-weight than, say, rice.

"Second, water will reach a crisis point. This issue

is already causing conflicts in India, China, Pakistan and the Middle East and before climate change and food security really hit, the next wars are likely to be fought over unsustainable irrigation. Even moderately degraded soil will hold less than half of the water than healthy soil in the same location. If you're irrigating a crop, you need water to stay in the soil close to the plant roots. However, a staggering paper was published recently indicating that nearly half of the sea level rise since 1960 is due to irrigation



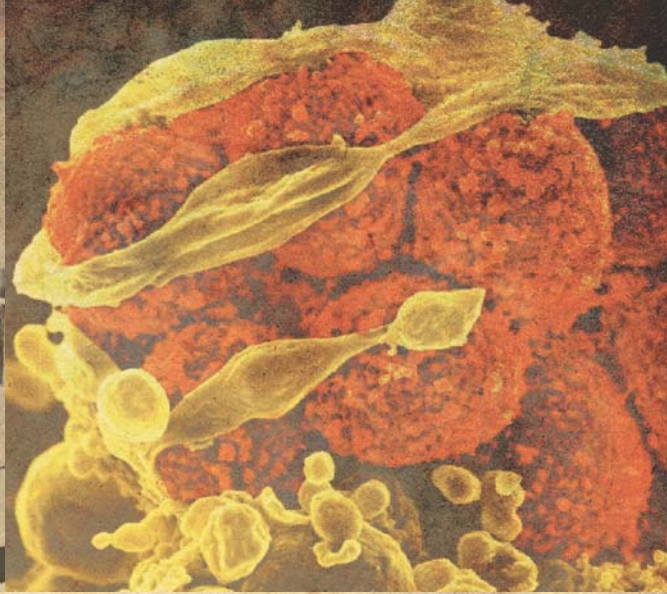
■ **ADAPTING TO DRY CONDITIONS:** A Nigerian woman digs a trench to collect rainwater near the village of Tibiri (May 28, 2012).

PHOTO: ISSOUF SANOGO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

combat even more potent, drug-resistant superbugs, such as MRSA and *C. diff*.

Then there are the new scourges such as swine flu and West Nile virus, and stronger strains of tuberculosis, bubonic plague, and diphtheria. On top of this, air travel makes each new virus a potential pandemic.

A worldwide food crisis has been forestalled for decades due to the use of pesticides and hybrid seeds—but this has taken a devastating toll on soil quality. Monoculture farming, never



water flowing straight past the crops and washing out to sea.”

Worldwide crop failures deliver a one-two punch: they threaten the West’s increasingly globalized food supply and spell a drop in revenue in poorer exporter nations.

In addition, despite billions of dollars in aid, *permanent* pockets of famine persist. Ethiopia, which is worse off in some ways than when it was brought to the world’s attention in the 1980s, is one tragic example.

The worst drought in *60 years* struck the nation in 2011. The year of 2012 was little different for the Horn of Africa region, and 2013 promises more of the same.

Over the last 30 years, farm production in Ethiopia has fallen despite the population doubling. Continual crop failure means it must rely largely on aid groups for survival.

Adding insult to injury, the global climate is changing (whether manmade or not)—with “Frankenstorm” Hurricane Sandy a recent example. The immediate impact of other natural disasters also continues to worsen (think Haiti’s earthquake, an Icelandic volcano shutting down Europe, and Japan’s tsunami turned nuclear meltdown).

Tying everything together is the tight-knit global economy. The prime example of this was the 2008 economic collapse that wiped out roughly 40 percent of Americans’ wealth and upended the global market. Europe perhaps fared the worst from this event, with Greece, Portugal and Spain speeding toward bankruptcy.

The precursors for large-scale war continue to grow. Food is scarce, money tight, and natural resources dwindling—raising the question: how long before a nation uses a nuclear weapon again? Indeed, the end of the Cold War postponed this issue coming to a head, but one misstep could trigger a *manmade* extinction event. Roughly 14 nations currently house nuclear devices.

Today’s global village is like no previous civilization. No one nation or power bloc can collapse in isolation. If China, Europe or the U.S. suffer, so does the rest of the world.

Disease. Crop failures. Weather upsets. Economic depression. War. These are the same factors that have brought down history’s greatest civilizations. Therefore, we **MUST** learn from the track record of mankind.

### Cautionary Tales

One classic example of a society’s collapse is Easter Island. Today, it is a near-treeless, 63-square-mile patch of land in the Pacific Ocean, 2,200 miles west of Chile. It has a single defining characteristic—its towering Moai figures. Most everyone can identify these iconic multi-ton statues cut from stone, with staring eyes and elongated features.

The Polynesian nation of Easter Island has become a metaphor for the crises facing mankind—a microcosm for the era of globalization.

The parallels ring with clarity for us today:

■ Easter Island is all by itself in the Pacific—Earth is a planet all by itself in space.

■ Polynesian settlers must have seen that they were tearing down the last tree—mankind can survey the world through the Internet and satellite communication and see the destruction it is causing.

■ Both Easter Island and modern manmade catastrophes spark the same question: why do we never stop ourselves?

Surprisingly, Easter Island was once a lushly forested subtropical paradise. The nation supported a prosperous and complex society of up to 30,000 people.

The climate was well suited for habitation; three long-dormant volcanoes left rich deposits of fertile soil across the terrain. Open grasslands covered the island in between Easter Palm forests, with trees that grew over 70 feet tall. The volcanic deposit at Rano Raraku to the southeast provided plentiful stores of rock for construction.

The tribes that migrated to the island formed a loose collective government that created a unique culture. Primarily farming and seafaring, these groups had a structured tribal society, with a leading chief and class of priests, along with farmers and tradesmen. The religious pantheon included hundreds of animalistic gods.

Chiefs raised the Moai, each weighing an average of 10 tons, to prove their status with the gods, and exercise power over their followers. The chiefs’ elite status allowed a ruling class to structure society and maintain order among tribes. Under them, vast projects were organized. Trading harvested resources from the small island encouraged construction on a broad scale.



Large plantations produced food surpluses, which aided population growth. Religious worship, fueled by even larger Moai and elaborate funeral services, united the tribes.

But it all came crashing down.

An August 1995 article in *Discover* magazine suggested that the environmental collapse of Easter Island happened “not with a bang but with a whimper.” After several generations, islanders slowly consumed most available resources.

Forests were clear-cut for canoes, ropes and firewood. Farms producing sweet potatoes, taro and sugarcane stripped soils of available nutrients. Bird, fish and porpoise populations dwindled to extinction by overhunting. Blind to the impact that a growing population had on the environment, inhabitants used up the island’s resources until there was nothing left.

A massive migration was impossible due to the great distance from the nearest landmass. The isolated island was unable to draw needed resources from elsewhere; it was forced to continue on its own. Populations, now too large for the island to support, soon began to die out. Easter Island descended into civil war as chiefs-turned-warlords vied for leftover resources.

Internal conflict and violence turned into anarchy, as the only way to survive was to steal food from opposing tribes. The wars hindered communication and made transportation between tribes almost impossible. The island was no longer unified—cooperation between peoples ceased. The greed of individuals nullified any attempt at an

organized solution to the now catastrophic problems.

The islanders’ use of resources was not sustainable. Great amounts of forest were cut for materials to erect the gigantic Moai. While scientists today do not fully understand how these ancient peoples raised the monoliths, most agree that strong lumber and rope were necessary. This, coupled with unchecked growth, eventually led to a food shortage. The tribes sank into a starvation-fueled population decline.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond, who wrote *Collapse: Why Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail* defines the earmarks of collapse as a combination of five broad factors: (1) human environmental impact; (2) natural changes in climate; (3) hostile neighbor nations; (4) loss of allies; and (5) breakdown or shortsightedness of economic and social institutions.

The early civilization of Sumer on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which the Bible defines as near the location of the Garden of Eden, is a clear example of agricultural breakdown. Situated in an area once known as the Fertile Crescent, the region experienced abundant harvests. This led to incredible advancements, including the first written language, cuneiform.

Many archaeologists point to aggressive irrigation tactics (leading to salinization of the soil) as a major cause for the fall of this empire. Look at the Mesopotamia region today, which was home to the Babylonian, Assyrian, Persian and Chaldean empires. Even thousands of years later, the area remains desolate!

Rome is another textbook case of collapse from great heights. A lethal cocktail of problems caused its demise around AD 476.

The Roman Empire followed the formula for collapse: (1) they pushed their soil to its limits, sparking famine and leading to disease pandemics, such as the Black Death, smallpox and measles; (2) a climate shift caused too much rain, which routinely ruined crops; (3) a dwindling Roman army forced emperors to hire Germanic tribes to defend their borders; (4) a band of these mistreated mercenaries, the Visigoths, later conquered the weakened city; (5) even at its lowest point, the citizenry attended extravagant chariot races and gladiator battles.

The Dark Ages followed on the heels of Rome’s fall!

Time and again, the cycle repeats. Incredible advancement, terrible decline.

In his book *A Short History of Progress*, Ronald Wright demonstrated the truth of the anonymous quote, “Each time history repeats itself, the price goes up.”

He wrote, “The collapse of the first civilization on earth, the Sumerian, affected only half a million people. The fall of Rome affected tens of millions. If ours were to fail, it would, of course, bring catastrophe on billions.”

### No Easy Solutions

In all this, there is an elephant in the room—a hulking, belligerent creature with stamping feet and flaring nostrils. Modern economic, environmental and governmental systems have deeply



entrenched themselves over scores of years. This Gordian knot of problems means there is no simple one-step solution.

This is *not* an issue of left versus right on the political spectrum. The negative aspects of capitalism are not solely to blame, as Communist-slanted nations fair no better. Fascism crashed and burned. Pure socialism came and went. We have tried manmade governments of every shape and size—all with mixed results and negative effects.

These governmental experiments have left their deep, problematic roots throughout the globe. Even seemingly “black and white” matters carry an almost impossible complexity. Pick any issue and you will run into a mess of problems.

For example, should Brazil’s Amazon rainforest be cut for lumber and burned for farmland? Almost anyone in the West would immediately reply, “No, rainforests are the ‘lungs’ of the earth!”

Yet putting a halt to logging in that nation would destroy uncounted thousands of Brazilian jobs, leaving families impoverished. Right or wrong, the ban would hurt Western banks (who invest in the region) and likely significantly affect world food prices.

Reducing energy consumption in a major metropolitan area is another thorny issue. New York City was constructed during decades when unchecked electrical/fossil fuel was the norm. This raises a number of questions: Can New York City be retrofitted to be sustainable? Would that be cost effective? Does the government

have the funds to take on such an overhaul? Would New Yorkers be *willing* to change their lifestyles? Most important, could such a shift be made without fatally disrupting the global economy?

Now, what about the areas on Earth with the worst air pollution: Mexico City, Hong Kong, Beijing, New Delhi?

Another example of an entrenched system that thwarts easy solutions is the democratic process. Politicians may honestly promise positive change until they are elected, but they are often quickly stymied by a system steeped in red-tape bureaucracy and bitter partisanship.

Summed up, *all* global problems require tough—seemingly impossible—choices.

### Collision Course?

The lesson of Easter Island bears repeating: how could the person cutting down the last tree, likely knowing it was the final one, go through with it?

In the television special “National Geographic: Collapse,” which was based on Dr. Diamond’s book, Harvard University social psychologist Daniel Gilbert stated, “What’s so curious about human beings is that we can look deeply into the future, foresee disaster, and still do nothing in the present to stop it. The majority of people on this planet, they’re overwhelmed with concerns about their immediate well being.”

Despite the track record of history, many scholars, thinkers and scientists cling to hope.

Dr. Diamond believes there are about a dozen major factors threatening modern man. All 12 of these must

be solved. Even if 11 problems are addressed perfectly, the 12th would still bring utter disaster. Yet seeing certain positive changes across the globe, and having the record of history as a guide, he is cautiously optimistic about humanity’s future.

In 2004’s *A Short History of Progress*, Ronald Wright said, “We are now at the stage when the Easter Islanders could still have halted the senseless cutting and carving, could have gathered the last trees seeds to plant out of reach of the rats. We have the tools and the means to share resources, clean up pollution, dispense basic health care and birth control, set economic limits in line with natural ones.”

Science sees hope in advancements in knowledge and technology. Those in the field of guided evolution hope to take control of the “evolutionary process” through genetic selection and engineer a “new and improved” human being. Similarly, synthetic biology has high hopes.

*Science in Society* defines this area of research: “Synthetic biologists can create new organisms by inserting custom-designed DNA, or genetic information, into living microbial cells. This DNA is tailored by researchers so the organism will perform a specific function. Far from engineering the fearsome, mutant creatures that populate the world of science fiction, however, they plan to construct organisms—for now at the microscopic level—that can do anything from manufacturing

Please see **HISTORY**, page 40

# *The World to Come*

*with David C. Pack*

## Analyzing World News— Explaining Bible Prophecy

**T**HE WORLD TO COME™ with David C. Pack is broadcast to countless millions around the world through television and the Internet. The weekly program features *Real Truth* Editor-in-Chief David C. Pack analyzing world news and explaining Bible prophecy in a way that strips away all mystery from current events

while detailing many other biblical truths.

In this violent age filled with war, famine, pollution, disease, disasters and economic uncertainty, *The World to Come with David C. Pack* answers life's greatest questions straight from the Bible and provides solutions for unsolvable worldwide problems and conditions. Each weekly 30-minute program is recorded in high-defini-

tion and broadcast with closed captions for the hearing impaired.

For those who do not have television access, an Internet simulcast version of the program is featured at [worldtocome.org/tv](http://worldtocome.org/tv).

A dedicated team helps produce the weekly program, which is part of the Church's ongoing commission to preach the gospel—the good news of the only possible solution to the world's troubles and ills. □





# The Restored Church of God

## Purpose and History

**T**HE RESTORED CHURCH of God is an international organization with congregations in over 50 countries across six continents. With its world Headquarters in Wadsworth, Ohio, the Church teaches God's revealed way of life (Matthew 28:19-20) and preaches the good news (the gospel) of the soon-coming kingdom of God (Mark 16:15; Matthew 24:14).

To date, the Church has reached over 220 countries and territories with its programs and materials, and more than 65 million items have been downloaded from its websites. It hosts the largest biblically based websites on Earth and provides an ever-expanding array of published books, booklets and articles—all without cost or obligation—to guide those seeking to live God's Way. The material, available in seven different languages (English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Italian and Afrikaans), brings plain understanding of the insoluble problems overwhelming mankind, and points to the lasting peace of the world to come.

Established in 1999 by Pastor General David C. Pack, The Restored Church of God traces its history back through the Worldwide Church of God, led by

Herbert W. Armstrong, to the original first-century Church established in AD 31 by Jesus Christ.

Members strive to live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4), as revealed in both the Old and New testaments. As did Jesus and the first-century Church, members of The Restored Church of God keep the seventh-day Sabbath (Friday sundown to Saturday sundown) and the annual Holy Days, including Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, and the Feast of Tabernacles (Mark 2:27-28; Leviticus 23; John 7:8, 14; I Corinthians 5:7-8).

Unlike other religious organizations, The Restored Church of God never solicits the general public for financial support. Instead, the Church is dedicated to a mission of outgoing concern for all people worldwide. Following Christ's instruction, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8), it offers everything *absolutely free*.

In addition, the Church is independent and not affiliated with other religious organizations. It does not actively seek new members. Believing that only God Himself can spiritually attract members (John 6:44), it is non-proselytizing and non-political.

In an age of fear, confusion and hopelessness, The Restored Church of God is a voice of truth, helping people find answers to their greatest questions—and learn to make their lives happier and more productive! □









# Ambassador Center

## Recapturing True Values



**A**MBASSADOR CENTER (AC) is the specialized training academy of The Restored Church of God, which publishes *The Real Truth*. Founder and Chancellor David C. Pack, who is also President and Pastor General of The Restored Church of God and *The Real Truth's* Editor-in-Chief, worked with faculty and staff to develop a rigorous two-year educational program with one overarching purpose: the development of the whole person.

The tradition for this institution began more than 60 years earlier in Pasadena, California, with Ambassador College. Founded by Herbert W. Armstrong and supported by the Worldwide Church of God, the college eventually branched into three separate campuses in Pasadena, California; Bricket Wood, England; and Big Sandy, Texas.

This original college operated under the motto, "Recapture True Values." It taught students that "the Word of God is the foundation of knowledge."

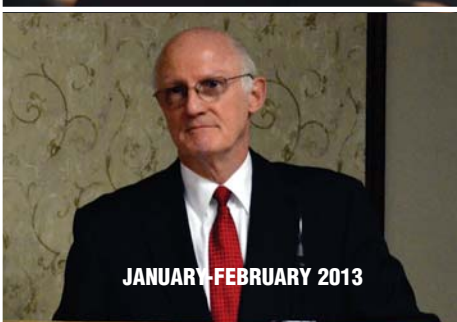
The same standards apply today at Ambassador Center.

AC recognizes the necessity of equipping students not only with thorough knowledge and sound understanding of Scripture and theology, but also with a liberal arts background, providing a well-rounded, balanced education. In addition, every aspect of the educational setting is designed to further character and personality development.

Classes are held at the Church's World Headquarters, and off-site internationally through an intensive audio and video program.

After graduation, students may be hired to work full-time at the Church's World Headquarters in Wadsworth, Ohio, be called into the ministry, or take on roles of service in local congregations.

The wonderful Ambassador way of life—God's Way—is learned and experienced by all who attend. □



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2013



## **PERSONAL**

Continued from page 3

Almighty God will soon have to intervene and save humanity from itself. But before this occurs, world trouble will greatly increase—intensifying to staggering proportions. This will be followed by unexpected and cataclysmic events that will shake the whole world, affecting the life of every human being on Earth! Events are building to a final culmination—a tremendous climax! Nothing that has occurred over the past 6,000 years even remotely compares to what is yet to come upon this world! Civilization, as we know it, will change forever.

### **Facts, Evidence and Proof**

In addressing all that confronts humanity, *The Real Truth* magazine does not offer opinions, suppositions or assumptions. It brings facts, evidence and proof of the issues it addresses. We speak from a position of authority, and never apologize for it. This magazine addresses life's greatest questions. It reveals the plain truth behind what the media merely reports.

Of course, some do not want the facts. They prefer cherished suppositions, or ignorance. *The Real Truth* offers correct understanding—explanations you have never heard before. It brings assurance that you are viewing social trends, world conditions, current events—and the burning issues of the day—from the right perspective!

*The Real Truth* magazine is read by vast numbers—in every country and territory of the world—and in every walk of life. Presidents and prime ministers, as well as professors, scientists, musicians, athletes, captains of industry, and other leaders, read it. Yet it speaks directly to the common man—teachers, bricklayers, salesmen, secretaries, housewives, clerks, farmers, factory workers, truck drivers, and construction workers.

This magazine addresses the questions on the minds of millions—and brings plain answers. It explains the causes behind the terrible effects

reflected in today's headlines. Analyzing the issues, trends and troubles that plague mankind, it reveals the true purpose of human life—and points to the good news of the only solution, now soon to come.

This publication is truly different, and in almost every way. It changes lives, brings hope—and a vision of the big picture. It explains the BIGGER VIEW in a world where most are completely

“This magazine brings plain, clear truth, made understandable to any with an open mind.”

blind to the causes behind all the bad effects billions experience every day!

### **Unique Analysis**

We have articles explaining the cause of war, what's wrong with the weather, the meaning of events in Europe, why governments cannot eradicate pollution, why earthquakes are increasing, why science has not brought the utopian world it promised, why new diseases are appearing and older ones re-appearing stronger than before, why racial bigotry only grows worse, what lies ahead for America and Britain, where the world economy is going, and whether the United Nations is really mankind's ultimate answer.

But we also explain the value of right ethics, the definition of true success—and the definition of true character—which are the keys to understanding the moral crisis in the West, what's wrong with modern education, why so many seek escape and pleasure, and why there is abortion, cloning and “alternative lifestyles.”

Almost none are willing to speak up—or OUT—about these problems. They will not cry aloud, pulling no punches about everyday problems that normal human beings face—that YOU

face! The writers of *The Real Truth* and I, as Editor-in-Chief of this magazine and voice of *The World to Come*, will—and we do!

We explain the world's lack of great leaders, where such leaders will come from, as well as how world peace WILL come in our time. We show the way to building strong families, rearing happy, productive children, as well as how to end your financial worries.

We are also not afraid to speak out about what is wrong with modern religion. We explain why there are thousands of different—and disagreeing—forms of Christianity, the real origin of man's supposed “Christian” holidays, why religion cannot solve, or even explain, a single one of the world's great problems. We explain real faith, how to identify the true Jesus Christ of the Bible, the origin of human nature, principles of healthful living, the way of “give” vs. the way of “get,” the Law of God, how to identify the true Church, and many related subjects.

Again, these articles and other regular features do not just describe the effects of today's problems. There is already too much of that, and this approach leaves people uncertain, confused, fearful and depressed, because they see NO WAY OUT! We identify the causes—again, WHY so much is going wrong!

This magazine brings plain, clear truth, made understandable to any with an open mind. Be sure to read every article. Search the facts of what we say. Only be willing to believe us if you see proof. Follow the links within articles on *The Real Truth* website—[realtruth.org](http://realtruth.org). They lead to the vast amount of other literature and materials we offer.

You cannot afford to miss a single issue of *The Real Truth*. And check the website regularly for other news and updates. Also, archived issues and articles carry a timeless message.

You will want to keep up with what is being offered. We will keep you informed—on the cutting edge—of what is happening in a world where huge, cataclysmic changes lie just over the horizon! □

## DECADE

Continued from page 7

### Violence in the Streets

Before the late 2012 school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary left the nation shattered and the world appalled, America had already suffered its deadliest school massacre in 2007 at Virginia Tech University, which resulted in 33 deaths.

According to the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, from 2005 to the present, rage-charged mass killings have been quite common in the nation. The list showed almost 160 incidents in 2009 alone.

Yet it was not only random violence that made the world tremble, as we reported in the article “Nowhere to Hide? – Terrorism’s Universal Threat”: “Enemies once kept outside a nation’s borders are now living among the populace. Citizens who sympathize with the cause of extremists can evolve into homegrown terrorists. Often, they train themselves via the Internet, but many sympathizers also train abroad with groups such as the Taliban or al-Qaida. It has become impossible to keep track of these groups as they form independent covert cells both in cities and rural areas.”

*EUobserver* stated that the number of arrests connected to terrorism in the European Union doubled in 2007. According to the paper, “Out of the total 1044 arrested...the vast majority was EU citizens suspected of membership in a militant organization. In cases of Islamic extremism, the would-be attackers appear to increasingly have been born in the union’s territory and having EU citizenship.”

The thought of terrorist cells operating across the world in random places—known as microterrorism—brought a new feeling of insecurity. For the first time, attacks could occur anywhere, from a small town grocery store to the Capitol building in Washington.

At the same time, the ailing economy began to push some to their breaking point.

The 2010 article “Why the Age of Rage—Has the World Gone Mad?” explicitly answered why this kind of violence is skyrocketing.

“Manmade societies have attempted for millennia to solve the problems of violence—not realizing the ‘way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings...’ (Isa. 59:8). Man will continue fruitlessly trying to manufacture peace, only to bring even worse hatred and cruelty.”

It asked the question: “How can violence end?” and answered it by stating, “It starts with individuals realizing the extent that violence pervades their lives, and beginning to understand there is another way to live.”

Violence also hit an all-time high in Chicago. “By October 27, 2012, the Windy City had registered 436 murders, largely a result of gang violence—surpassing 2011’s homicide total...Today, over 100,000 ‘gang-bangers’ roam Chicago’s streets in 625 different groups. Police report that currently around 223 ongoing gang conflicts exist,” *The Real Truth* stated in the article, “Gangs in America—A Deadly Game.”

Another battle was also occurring along the nation’s southern border: a drug war.

“Approximately 50,000 soldiers and policemen are involved in Mexico’s narcotics war, but even with arrests and huge seizures of drugs and weapons, there is no end in sight to the [violence] problem, which continues to paralyze tourism and business and compromise the safety of those living in the area” (*The Real Truth*).

### Searching for Answers

As the sounds of a world breaking in pieces hit home, a voice spoke of hope. *The Real Truth* attended one of his rallies. At the time, we noted: “Mr. Obama is no miracle worker, to which he probably would be the first to agree. But his inspirational messages of ‘hope’ and ‘change’ are causing the eyes of the nation, Europe and the rest of the world to fall upon him. Can he—or any human being—live up to such towering expectations?”

Just a few months later, another leader also began to call for change, only in bolder, more global terms. In his third encyclical, Pope Benedict XVI wrote of an “urgent need of a true world political authority”—one with “real teeth”—in the wake of the global economic crisis.

In response, *The Real Truth* asked, “Why would the top religious leader of 1.2 billion professing Christians—whose position, vicar of Christ, meaning ‘in place of’ Christ on Earth—call for ‘a true world political authority’—one with ‘real teeth’? And what if a worldwide governing entity did become reality: Would it bring success—or disaster?”

The call was inevitable, as nature abhors a vacuum.

The magazine continued, “The United States used to be the shining knight all looked to for direction and assistance. But the domestic attacks of 9/11 revealed the face of a new nation: America the Vulnerable. The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and news images of ‘American refugees,’ revealed America the Impotent. And the current global economic meltdown, its bankruptcies, rising unemployment rate and increasing debt, reveals America the Ailing Financial Giant.

“The Vatican and other members of the international community seek another to take its place: *Someone* must save the ‘Zimbabwes’ of the world—underdeveloped countries suffering runaway inflation, virtually nonexistent infrastructure, government-wide corruption and social injustice. *Someone* must disarm nations from caches of weapons of mass destruction. *Someone* must intervene in regions facing mass starvation, secure food and medicine, protect refugee camps against civil unrest, and break the chains of abject poverty. *Someone* must balance the scales of economic equity between the ‘haves’ (largely the West) and the ‘have nots’ (the Third World).”

The article showed that a “‘world political authority’ will arise and assume a leading role on the global stage of politics, international trade

and military presence. Today's largely secularized Europe will see a new and unexpected interest in religion, due to the sudden appearance of a religious leader, who will sway the masses and use his influence to endorse a political leader."

Remember these words: such a man, and change, *will* come. This magazine has made that clear time and again.

### Global Status

Today, America finds itself broken: struggling to cope with the aftermath of disaster upon disaster—while constantly fighting internal division, scrambling over unbalanced budgets, and mourning over unthinkable violence. In essence, the old global policeman is still able to speak softly, but it seems it cannot carry a big stick as it once did. Its brother nation, Britain, has fared similarly.

Both have experienced tremendous blows to their economies and seen an overall decline in world influence and respect. Given specific impending prophecies for them and other Western nations, a vast amount of *The Real Truth* analyses has been devoted to warning them about what lies ahead.

In a 2004 *Personal*, "The Greatest Nations in Prophecy," Mr. David Pack stated: "It was only about 200 years ago that America and the British Commonwealth of nations suddenly shot to great prominence and power. Not so long ago, the combined wealth of these nations was over 70 percent of the total wealth and physical resources of the world. All the rest of the nations combined possessed less than 30 percent—considerably less than half of just these two nations...About one-third of the Bible is prophecy, and nearly 90 percent of this remains unfulfilled. Virtually all of it has to do with world events, trends and happenings for our time. How then could the mightiest nations of all time be left out?"

Most do not understand what factors caused America and Britain's rise to greatness. To learn this fascinating truth, and how this knowledge unlocks

many more Bible prophecies, read Mr. Pack's free book *America and Britain in Prophecy* at [rcg.org/aabibp](http://rcg.org/aabibp).

### Uncharted Territory

Another form of record-breaking has been seen in natural disasters. "Three words were at the forefront of 2011's weather reports: worst, largest and deadliest. Australia had the worst flooding in more than 100 years, incurring \$30 billion in damages. Christchurch, New Zealand's 6.3-magnitude earthquake was the city's worst in decades, killing 181. This was topped by Japan's 9.0-magnitude mega temblor—the largest in the nation's history and fourth largest in the world, which prompted a tsunami, leaving [20,000] people dead," we said in the article "2011 and Beyond – Putting the Pieces Together."

A year later, the pattern continued. Conditions not seen since the Dust Bowl days gripped America: "Unable to control the temperature or precipitation levels, farmers are facing a crisis that is as basic as it gets: no water, no crops. No crops, no cattle—no food," *The Real Truth* stated in "Drought Now...Famine Next?"

Shocking headlines such as "2012 was UK's second wettest year on record" and "Beijing chaos after record floods in Chinese capital" or "Earthquakes, The Fuse That Ignites Volcanoes, Have Increased Worldwide" became common.

When Hurricane Sandy raked the East Coast in October 2012, we asked: "Why Another '100-year' Storm?" In the article, we explained the ultimate reason that these catastrophes are becoming so common: "Most do not realize that these conditions are designed to get people's attention. They set the table for events outlined in the Bible that will come to pass in coming years and provide powerful proof of the Book's validity."

### Challenges for Leaders

At the turn of 2013, world leaders were not oblivious to difficult times ahead.



In a statement to the media after a late 2012 EU summit in Brussels, "German Chancellor Angela Merkel rejected suggestions...that the worst was over for the euro zone, saying the currency bloc faced years of painful reforms, slow growth and high unemployment," *Reuters* reported.

British Prime Minister David Cameron echoed similar feelings: "...you can't cure problems that were decades in the making overnight," the *Guardian* quoted from the leader's New Year's message. "There are no quick fixes and I wouldn't claim otherwise. But we can be optimistic too because we are making tangible progress. We are doing what's right for our country and what's best for our children's future. And nothing could be more important than that."

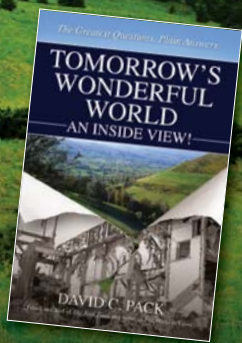
Yet the newspaper added that "an Opinion/Observer poll shows that with the economy teetering on the brink of a 'triple-dip' recession, voters are going into the new year unconvinced that things will improve, expecting 2013 to deliver even more financial hardship."

Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan discussed ongoing challenges in a different light.

*The Associated Press* reported that while speaking at a church on December 30, 2012, he told the congregation "that the violence around the world made him wonder if this is a 'way of telling us that the end times are so close.'"

### Last Days?

Such a barrage of world-changing events has sparked an intense interest in religious theories, prophecy and the "last days." Conspiracy books such as 2003's *The Da Vinci Code* also spread hype among the general public. What were once fringe ideas born out of Evangelical Christianity also entered into the mainstream conversation. The long-running series of *Left Behind* novels came to an end in 2007. The fiction titles, which popularized terms such as "rapture" (a misconception of events tied to the Return of Jesus



# Tomorrow's Wonderful World – *An Inside View!*

Is there hope for a different—and truly better—world?  
To learn what lies ahead, order your free book at [rcg.org/tww](http://rcg.org/tww).

Christ), antichrist and Armageddon, drew little truth from the Bible, yet captured a huge audience.

In 2011, a pair of “Judgment Day” dates were selected by an elderly radio personality—May 21 and October 21. Both were met with a flurry of news reporting and Internet chatter.

Yet the prophecy-frenzy crescendoed to the most anticipated date: December 21, 2012, the “end of all things” supposedly revealed in an ancient calendar of the Maya. This one garnered responses from NASA and the Vatican.

It should come as no surprise that by the end of 2012, the word “apocalypse” was considered “the most popular English word on the planet, at least according to the Global Language Monitor, a Texas-based research group that uses computer tracking technology to follow the frequency of actual word and phrase usage across 275,000 print, online and social media sources on five continents,” *The Washington Times* reported.

Each time such oddball doomsday theories rolled in, *The Real Truth*

deftly cut through the worry with succinct articles that brought simple logic and explained what the Bible *actually* says about the last days. (To learn more, read the free booklet *Are These the Last Days?* at [rcg.org/atld](http://rcg.org/atld).)

### Real Truth Continues...

Notice the words written in the first issue of *The Plain Truth* (predecessor of this magazine), in 1934: “Everybody senses that something is wrong with the world...that some mighty event is about to occur.” The same words opened the cover story of their 50th-anniversary issue in 1984.

As we enter the second decade of publication of *The Real Truth*, expect us to continue on the same path—but with increasing scope, reach, clarity and authority.

The globe’s complex issues can cloud where nations are heading, yet historical examples, the Bible, and in-depth reporting reveal what this coming decade will bring.

In short: the next 10 years will see the same trends intensify. Expect

the records of 2003-2013 to be surpassed—perhaps multiple times.

Wild weather will increase. For some, “last-days mania” will increase, while others will tire from so many failed predictions. Religion will take an increasing role in politics.

Stay focused on the Middle East as Egypt takes center stage in the Muslim world. Watch Russia, China and other Eastern nations grow into an increasingly powerful, tight-knit group. In Europe, witness Germany’s growing central position, with Latin America cozying up to the EU.

As confusion and uncertainty continue, expect *The Real Truth* to deliver spot-on analysis of complex world events.

One thing is certain: for the next 10 years, you can rely on what you read in this magazine and the other materials we produce.

For a “big picture” view of events that will soon affect *every* inhabitant on Earth, read *The Bible’s Greatest Prophecies Unlocked! – A Voice Cries Out* by David C. Pack, available online at [rcg.org/tbgpu](http://rcg.org/tbgpu). □

## FOOD

Continued from page 19

Algae and seaweed (the fastest growing plant on Earth) are among the top candidates to provide extra nutrition to sustain future generations. Many believe these could be food alternatives because they grow plentifully in the vast oceans.

These proposals represent the best solutions science has offered to provide different sources of food! When traditional foods such as grains, corn, meat, fruit and vegetables can no longer be grown, the dinner plate of tomorrow could contain lab-grown meat, modified fish, a side of seaweed and fried insects.

These ideas sound more like plot points in a science-fiction movie, or a crazed school lunch lady's newest concoction. Is this the "bright future" mankind can look forward to—or is there another solution?

### Dramatic Intervention

As more recognize how little time remains to prevent worldwide famine, vast efforts are being organized to ensure food is here for future generations. The population shows no signs of slowing, leading ever greater numbers to call for dramatic intervention.

In an effort to develop effective solutions to combat the situation, the United Nations brought together 400 of the world's top scientists and created the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). Having studied global agriculture for years, the experts involved in the project concluded that the real crisis—how mankind will feed itself in the future—has been pushed aside in favor of other pressing issues, such as extreme weather, disease, war and terrorism, creating a now impossible-to-contain situation.

In a controversial 2008 report addressing how to solve man's food-security problems, they stated, "The way the world grows its food will have to change radically to better serve the

poor and hungry if the world is to cope with a growing population and climate change while avoiding social breakdown and environmental collapse."

An IAASTD statement said the authors of the report "conclude we have little time to lose if we are to change course. Continuing with current trends would exhaust our resources and put our children's future in jeopardy."

Scholars, scientists, agriculturists, farmers and world leaders are all failing to find tangible solutions to the food crisis. No significant progress is being made, and the future looks bleak. Even mankind's best attempt to come together—the United Nations—is failing to deliver real solutions. World leaders recognize the urgency of addressing the food crisis, but do not know what to do about it. They are running out of options that they have not already tried.

Ironically, though, the solution has been hiding in plain sight for years.

In front of the United Nations Headquarters building in New York City stands a famous statue of a man using a hammer to beat a sword into a plowshare. Engraved in the statue are the words, "We shall beat our swords into plowshares." The United Nations states that this statue symbolizes "man's desire to put an end to war and convert the means of destruction into creative tools for the benefit of all mankind."

While the UN desperately tries to feed the world, they do not realize they have inadvertently stumbled on the solution to humanity's problems. It lies in the source of the engraving on this statue—the Bible.

### Creator's Plan

Notice the origin of this saying: "... and they shall *beat their swords into plowshares*, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4). This passage is actually emphasized in two other places in Scripture. It reveals the connection between land and violent conflicts that has long existed throughout mankind's history. The verse holds a vital key to how the food crisis will be solved.

Consider. Famine often follows in the wake of war due to the devastation of land resulting from violent conflicts. Land mines destroy once-productive farmlands. Huge bombs desolate crops that were feeding towns and villages. Husbands, brothers and sons are killed in war, leaving widows to fend for themselves and grow their own food.

God's Word reveals a future time when all nations will repurpose their *swords*—instruments of war—into *plowshares*—implements of food production.

Think of just the vast sums of money spent on defense that will be reallocated for food! Mankind's violent nature will also be changed, a nature that robs so many families of the means to produce food. No more food riots or greedy land grabs. A peaceful environment for all peoples on Earth will exist.

Does all of this just sound like a hollow promise from a dusty, old religious book?

God's Word *has* been widely lampooned, ridiculed and outright ignored throughout the halls of academia and science. It has been rejected as a source for real solutions to food insecurity. Yet why is it strange to think that the Creator of Earth, with all that it contains—plants, animals, birds, fish, human beings, and the cycles of times and seasons—would include solutions and instructions relating to agriculture in the Book He authored to help man live an abundant life?

In fact, He has. Notice just a few:

■ "When you come into the land... then shall the land keep a sabbath unto the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in the fruit thereof; but in the seventh year shall be a sabbath of rest unto the land...you shall neither sow your field, nor prune your vineyard" (Lev. 25:2-4).

■ "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow" (Deut. 24:21).

■ "You shall not sow your field with mingled seed..." (Lev. 19:19).



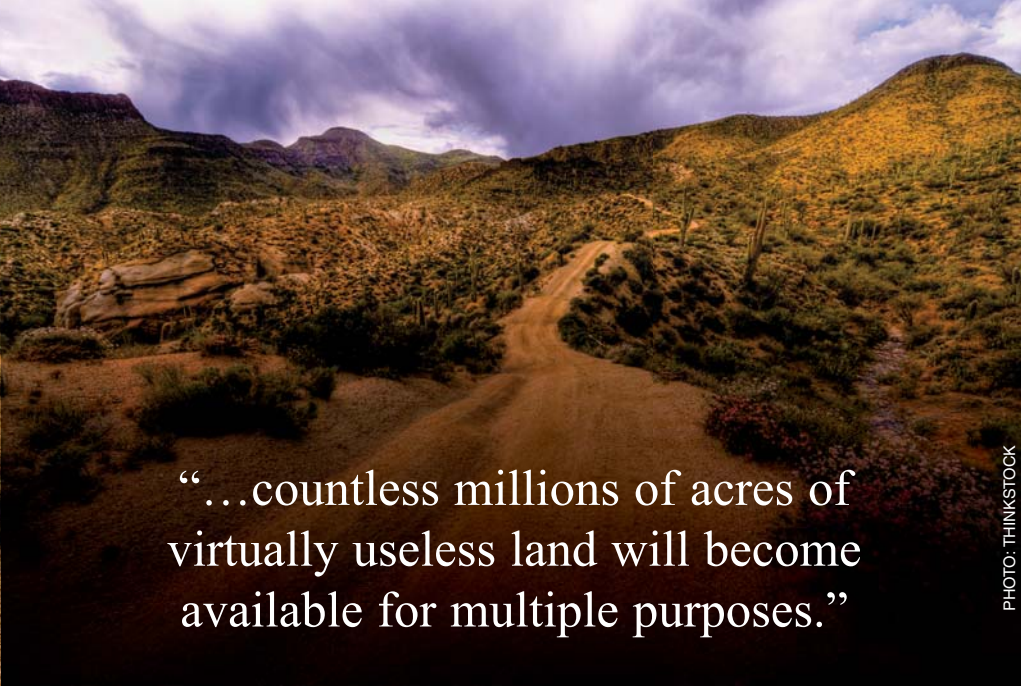


PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

“...countless millions of acres of virtually useless land will become available for multiple purposes.”

Six thousand years ago, God created mankind and provided plants and animals for food. Yet man rejected God’s Way in the Garden of Eden and chose his own path. As a result, God allotted 6,000 years for him to learn that his own ways, systems, values and methods of governance *do not work*. When mankind finally keeps the natural laws of agriculture, it will reap abundant fruits.

But God’s Plan to provide for His Creation involves more than banishing war and teaching right farming methods. He is soon going to take away one of the biggest roadblocks agriculturists and farmers hit when attempting to provide more crops for the world’s growing population—lack of arable land.

**Coming Change**

In his book *Tomorrow’s Wonderful World – An Inside View!* David C. Pack explains the topographical changes that will occur with the establishment of a global SUPERGOVERNMENT led by God—the only Being who can enact such widespread changes: “Take a moment to savor the meaning pictured in this related prophecy, also in Isaiah. Notice what will happen to the mountains:

“Fear not...you men of Israel; I will help you, says the LORD...Behold, I will make you a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: you shall thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shall make the hills as

chaff. You shall fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and you shall rejoice in the LORD, and shall glory in the Holy One of Israel. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue fails for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it’ (Isa. 41:14-20).

“Can you imagine this happening around the world? Mountains and hills being shred like mulch, bubbling springs and new rivers appearing suddenly, and wilderness areas disappearing and being replaced by great forests of diverse trees. God says to ‘see,’ ‘know,’ ‘consider,’ and ‘understand’ the scope of what He promises.”

“This amazing prophecy depicts a world with plenty of room for people—and cities, parks, forests, recreation areas, crops, lakes, and rivers. The biggest challenge might be where to store the gargantuan food reserves that could soon appear. This would be a much better ‘problem’ than the food wars that

numerous experts predict will come, if something does not happen soon.”

“And why should Isaiah’s prophecy seem strange? God’s purpose has always been that people be happy and peaceful, contented and joyful. While this is strange and unusual in *this* world, it is neither strange nor unusual to God. This is what He always intended for His creation. He wanted Adam and Eve to enjoy the garden from which they eventually had to be expelled.

“Since God formed the mountains (Ps. 90:2; Amos 4:13), He can also reform them in any way that He wishes. He apparently will use great earthquakes to do much of the work (Zech. 14:4; Rev. 16:18), because He states, ‘The mountains quake at Him, and the hills melt’ (Nah. 1:5).

“Isaiah 40:4 states, ‘Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain.’

“There are many great mountain ranges on Earth. Imagine the desolate, snow-covered, windswept stretches of the Himalayas, Alps, Rockies, Andes, Hindu Kush, Sierras, Pyrenees, and other great mountain ranges lowered or leveled and made fertile and inhabitable. Then picture the vast icepacks and mountain ranges of Antarctica, Greenland, and Siberia, including immense areas of tundra and permafrost, becoming available. Countless millions of acres will be made available to a mankind that could never do this for itself.”

“Now imagine how *many* great deserts would disappear. Start with much of the Middle East and almost all of Northern Africa. Picture the Sahara in Africa and nearly all of Saudi Arabia becoming lush and verdant. Then picture the Gobi desert in Asia and the Kalahari and Lake Chad basin, also in Africa, suddenly turning green, along with much of the American West and Southwest. More countless millions of acres of virtually useless land will become available for multiple purposes.

“Astonishing, but true—and in your lifetime!”

## Abundance and Prosperity

These changes will almost instantly open up huge untapped areas to grow crops. This will forever put an end to famine and hunger. Notice this prophecy from Ezekiel: "...I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that you shall receive no more reproach of famine...And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden..." (36:29-30, 34-35).

An earlier chapter in Ezekiel brings more detail, revealing that God will provide normal, beneficial weather patterns: "...I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be

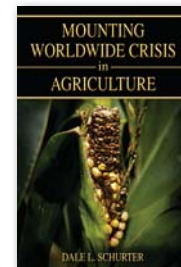
*showers of blessing.* And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the LORD...and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land..." (34:26-27, 29).

All nations will enjoy incredibly abundant harvests. Amos records, "Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that the *plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sows seed...* they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them" (9:13-14).

The end of mankind's era is rapidly approaching. It has taken nearly 6,000 years for the population to outpace food production. But in the face of all the mounting problems confronting man, God has a plan to ensure the

pinnacle of His Creation—the human race—does not become an extinct species. Through His Word, He reveals that all nations will be provided for—finally making hunger and famine a thing of the past. Food security will be permanent!

To learn more about the modern food challenges facing every nation and the amazing agricultural future of mankind, read the thorough free books *Mounting Worldwide Crisis in Agriculture* and *Tomorrow's Wonderful*



*World – An Inside View!* available at [rcg.org](http://rcg.org). They open new vistas of understanding about humanity's ultimate bright future and provide hope for the coming years! □

## HISTORY

*Continued from page 27*

disease-fighting drugs to creating ultra-clean biofuel."

These endeavors have the potential to bring out the worst in human nature. Engineering life could lead to horrific disasters if in the wrong hands.

The 2011 documentary "Surviving Progress," based on Mr. Wright's book, featured cognitive psychologist Gary Marcus: "One of the challenges...that faces the human species is we are more and more in a position of acting like gods...This is [going to] be even more true with genetic technologies, we're [going to] be able to manipulate other species, and eventually ourselves."

Also in "Surviving Progress," award-winning author and scholar Robert Wright stated that man must quickly develop the *moral* side to being a "god": "If we don't develop what you might call the moral perspective of God, then we'll [mishandle] the engineering part of playing God, because the actual engineering solutions depend on seeing things

from the point of view of other people, ensuring that their lives don't get too bad, because if they do it'll come back to haunt us. So you know, kind of half of being God has just been handed to us and then the question is whether we'll master the other half of being God, the moral half."

He continued, "The bad news is that the enlightenment is...sometimes hard to come by because of human nature..."

### Hope for the Future?

In the end, man must learn this stark lesson from history: human nature stands in the way of real peace, abundance and happiness. It blocks man from *true* moral understanding. It is the root cause of humanity's problems.

Many thinkers, scientists and leaders have concluded this, but feel powerless to modify how society thinks and acts.

Amazingly, efforts in fields such as synthetic biology show that man would rather attempt to change *nature itself* than address *his own* human nature!

In his 1860 Cooper Union Address, Abraham Lincoln stated, "Human

action can be modified to some extent, but human nature cannot be changed."

The same is true today. During a lecture for non-profit group TED, British Prime Minister David Cameron stated, "Government is essentially today learning to go with the grain of human nature."

Yet most cannot succinctly define what this nature is.

Unknown to almost all, there is an instruction manual for mankind that succinctly defines human nature. The Bible plainly outlines man's true colors—helping make sense of the modern world. This is just one reason *The Real Truth* uses this Book as the lens through which to view current events.

The Bible begins to define the human condition almost immediately. The first chapter of Genesis reveals why "god-like" aspirations are deep-seated. Notice: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (vs. 26).

The notion of mankind having a mastery over nature is also immediately addressed. Verse 26 continues, "...and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every

creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

Genesis 2 describes the Garden of Eden and two symbolic trees: “the tree of life” and “the tree of knowledge of good and evil” (vs. 9).

These trees represent two opposite ways of life, which can be summed up as GIVE and GET. The “tree of life” describes a life of genuine, outflowing concern for others. The tree of knowledge of good and evil symbolizes a way of experimenting to discern what is “good” and what is “evil.”

In the account, Adam and Eve chose to eat from the tree of GET.

Look at human nature throughout history. Civilizations have regularly implemented seemingly “good” solutions (almost exclusively devised for personal gain), later to reap unintended “evil” consequences.

This way of GET—human nature—can be summarized in four words: vanity, jealousy, lust and greed. All of today’s problems stem from these four characteristics.

Yet does this mean mankind is doomed to fail?

### Ultimate History Lesson

Think back to the awesome advancement over the last 10 years, namely the discoveries of the Hubble Space Telescope. Due to the nature of light, when man peers into the night sky, the stars, nebulas and galaxies he sees appear as they existed in the past—sometimes *millions* or *billions* of years ago. It is a sort of ultimate history lesson!

Throughout time, there has remained a sense that the purpose of mankind is much grander than the here and now. This is never so evident as when gazing at a star-filled sky on a clear night, away from city lights—or when viewing Hubble’s jaw-dropping images. Man looks to the universe for his future, whether to see planets he will one day explore or to understand the basic laws of science governing all things.

Similarly, Theodore Roosevelt used the night sky as a meditative tool. Often he took walks on the grounds of his estate under a starry night sky with longtime friend American naturalist William Beebe. In his *The Book of Naturalists*, Beebe recounted that Roosevelt and he would often search the night sky for the faint spot of light known as the Andromeda Galaxy. When it was found, one of them would recite, “That is the Spiral Galaxy in Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of one hundred million Galaxies. It is 750,000 light-years away. It consists of one hundred billion suns, each larger than our sun.”

After a moment of silence, Roosevelt would grin and say, “Now I think we are small enough! Let’s go to bed.”

gers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man, that You are mindful of him?” (8:3-4).

This question’s answer is the single most exciting theme found within the Bible. It reveals a deeper, hopeful purpose for mankind.

The New Testament book of Hebrews quotes David and then begins to answer his question: “What is man, that You are mindful of him?...You [God] crowned him with glory and honor, and did set him over the works of Your hands: You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him” (2:6-8).

At first these verses may seem to contradict each other. God put “all things in subjection under” man, but “we see not yet all things put under him.” Put another way, in the future, all things will be put under the rulership of man, but this has not yet happened.

The *Moffatt* translation of the Bible renders the Greek word for “all things” as “the universe.” Man is to rule over the entire universe!

Yet to do so, he must first learn the way of GIVE, which can be done by building the character of God, as seen within the Bible and throughout Creation. Human nature must be overcome, and genuine outflowing concern *must* take its place.

Although man has moments of incredible ingenuity, human nature is holding him back. Imagine how much more he could achieve if vanity, jealousy, lust and greed came to an end!

For many more details about mankind’s incredible future and the grand purpose for human existence, read the enlightening and inspiring free book *The Awesome Potential of Man* at [rcg.org/tapom](http://rcg.org/tapom).

Despite the bleak picture seen in headlines today, man is not doomed to fail—he is destined to succeed! □



PHOTO: TNASA, ESA AND THE HUBBLE HERITAGE (STSC/AURA)-ESA/HUBBLE COLLABORATION

Consider how true this is today—a time in which astronomers estimate there are hundreds of billions of galaxies total!

In the Old Testament, Israel’s King David captured this feeling in the book of Psalms: “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fin-

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