

MAY-JUNE 2004

THE

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REAL TRUTH

A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

THE

PORNOGRAPHY OBSESSION

*Train Your Children
to Succeed!*

*Illegal Immigration
Too Late to Close the Floodgate?*

*Behind the Scenes
of This Magazine*

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A MAGAZINE RESTORING PLAIN UNDERSTANDING

VOL. 2 | NO. 3 | MAY-JUNE 2004

A R T I C L E S

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ABOUT OUR COVER:

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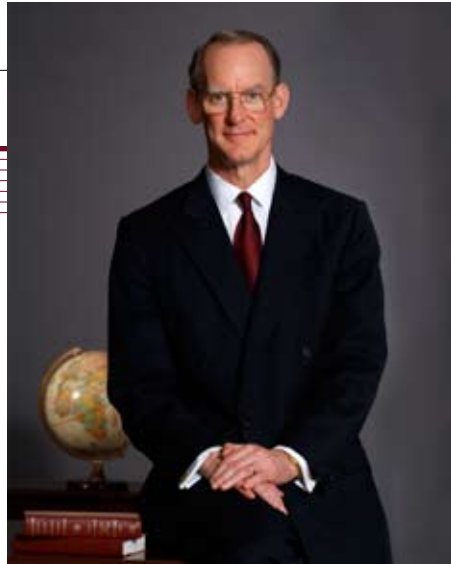
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PERSONAL FROM

David C. Fack



An End to War

TODAY'S WORLD is filled with war. It is a subject dominating headlines daily, with news programs continually reporting how many are killed and wounded in various wars and incidents. The increasing number of casualties is a topic of countless discussions in the media. However, no matter how hard mankind tries, it cannot find an end to war.

War is filled with scenes of terror, destruction, economic upheaval, orphaned children, population displacement, widespread devastation of the land, atrocities, hunger, disease, untold suffering, misery, despair, injuries, death and even genocide. All of this yields greater hatred and revenge, endless retaliation and more war, because nothing is ever permanently resolved through military conflict.

The horror of war has wracked the world for thousands of years. Ever since Cain killed Abel (Gen. 4), human history has been a chronicle of war. What began as family or tribal disagreements later developed into conflicts between nations. The conflict between Cain and Abel was motivated by jealousy and contempt, and so have been the agendas of nations throughout history.

Additionally, long-standing ethnic, tribal and religious differences, coupled with boundary disputes and outright

aggression to seize the land or property of others, have always served to fuel the next war fought between the same peoples or nations.

War has affected all nations in every period of history. Many nations have made war their primary means of livelihood—not just a means of defense or protection. Generally, throughout history, those nations that chose not to actively pursue war had to at least expend much time, money and effort to protect themselves—sometimes having to “buy” peace by paying tribute to powers that could have dominated them.

In the mid-1960s, a Norwegian statistician programmed a computer to count all of the wars through the 6,000 years of mankind's history. It concluded that 14,531 wars had been fought. But this was merely the number that were known and recorded. How many more were not? And consider that this was several decades ago. Countless more have been fought since then. Of course, this does not count the endless stream of individual terrorist acts, such as suicide bombings and other assaults, which occur in undeclared wars.

Incredible new weapons technology has forever altered the face of war. “Smart” bombs, which are laser-guided to bring precision and efficiency to the art of killing, have replaced many types of “dumb” bombs. Military scientists have now developed cluster bombs, called “daisy cutters” because they cut down large numbers of human beings, like a lawnmower cuts grass. Also, there are new bombs called “bunker-busters” that can penetrate deep into the earth in pursuit of enemies hiding in caves before detonating and killing the inhabitants.

Various highly lethal kinds of attack aircraft now exist—helicopters, jets, bombers, gunships—that have brought conventional warfare to a pinnacle of destructive capability never before known. A 2,000 pound, precision, satellite-guided bomb has a “kill zone” radius of 1,300 yards (almost three quarters of a mile). Because it kills and maims indiscriminately, this can sometimes involve “friendly fire” casualties, in which one’s own troops are hit.

Modern military thinkers and strategists are now forced to think and talk in terms of protection from, or delivery of, “weapons of mass destruction.” The killing capability of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and, now, radiological or “dirty bombs,” is almost indescribably horrible. Yet these weapons are now apparently in the hands of unstable countries and regimes, which may not be fully capable of controlling their use or safeguarding their inventory.

This is why the famous American General, Douglas MacArthur, stated, “Men since the beginning of time have sought peace...Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blocks out this alternative. We have had our last chance.

“If we will not devise some greater and more equitable system, our Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence, an improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature, and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh” (April 19, 1951, speech to Congress).

Bear in mind that this speech was given over fifty years ago! Since then, it seems the whole world has become a “killing field.” Men have

sought to justify this state of affairs through rationalizing and moralizing about the “inevitability” and “necessity” of going to war.

How is this done?

The “Just War” Concept

Is it possible for human beings to come together to fight and kill each other and still be noble, just or righteous—even godly—in their cause? Of course not! But there is a greater question: Are human beings even innately capable of making correct judgments about war—or other fundamental matters in life? The answer to these questions has much to do with why the world is filled with turmoil, strife and war.

Let’s look at what God says regarding human nature and judgment. This is vital to understand.

Wise King Solomon recorded several proverbs that, when placed together, present a stunning picture. He wrote that “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weighs the spirits” (16:2) and that “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes; but the Lord ponders the hearts” (21:2). These similar scriptures make a profound statement. Anyone who has ever tried to correct someone who was wrong will have no difficulty believing them.

However, another proverb reveals that this natural tendency of human beings—to believe that all that they do is clean and right—carries an even greater implication: “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes” (12:15).

When put together, these inspired passages reveal that all people are born naturally foolish! If all fools and all men see themselves as right, then human beings are, apart from God’s guidance, naturally one and the same.

Stop and ponder the impact of these verses—and then notice another twice-recorded Proverb: “There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (14:12; 16:25).

War may seem right to puny, foolish men who do not consider that

they have chosen a path that leads to death—both literally now, and eternally, if they do not ultimately repent of it. The natural human mind always deceives itself (Jer. 17:9) into thinking that its ways are clean and right. People do not naturally feel a need to seek God’s view on matters. They believe that they are inherently qualified to correctly make their own judgments.

Invariably, God is not consulted or included in men’s thoughts or plans, even on the most complicated social issues. The human reasoning of “experts” guides policy on abortion, the cloning of human beings, pornography, the definition of immorality, the definition of a family, the acceptability of “alternate lifestyles,” “mercy killing,” political correctness and many other social issues.

Yes, men have devised ways to justify *whatever* they do. The greatest of all “social” problems, war, is no exception! And man’s pattern of not asking God what He thinks is also no exception. When nations have already decided that it is in their best interest to go to war, all that remains is the task of spelling out the human rationale to justify what they have pre-determined to do. Enter the moralists, ethicists, philosophers, politicians and religionists.

Here is an example. Recently, when several soldiers were killed in combat by “friendly fire,” it was said that they died “for a noble and just cause.” This was said to soften the grief of the families they had left behind. But who decided that their deaths were “noble and just”? Certainly not God!

In the same conflict, one high-ranking government official offered his assessment of why that war was being fought in the way that it was. He spoke of the “infinite judgment of the world community” that stood behind the war. He stated that “thoughtful people believe...” such and such. He made other similar

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What Would the World Be Like...?

PART ONE

In the Bible, God promises blessings for obeying His laws and *curses* for disobeying them. What would today's world be like if all people everywhere kept the Ten Commandments?

THE WORLD has been deceived into believing that God's Law—largely embodied in the Ten Commandments (found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5)—was “done away” at Christ's death. Professing Christianity teaches that Jesus kept the Law for us, relieving us of any responsibility to obey God. Yet, they fail to realize that God gave us His laws for our benefit—that keeping them would result in peace, abundance, prosperity and happiness.

Have you ever wondered what the world would be like if people universally kept God's laws? How would society differ from what we see today? What changes would take place?

In this two-part series, we will paint a picture of just some of the many ways in which the world around us would change if people actively strove to obey God's laws—which Christ

summed up as *love toward God* and *love toward fellow man* (Mark 12:30-31).

“You Shall Have No Other Gods Before Me”

What if the entire world kept the **FIRST COMMANDMENT**? To begin with, there would not be any false religion. Consider the fact that many of the world's religions are polytheistic, with their adherents paying homage to numerous “gods.” For example, Hinduism alone claims about 333 million different deities, with their version of the pagan trinity—Shiva, Brahma and Vishnu—at the core of their beliefs and practices.

Further consider that there are hundreds of denominations in *professing Christianity* that, while claiming to worship the same God, espouse different beliefs and practices.

If all humanity put the true God first, seeking His wisdom and guidance, then wrong or incomplete concepts in all areas of life would disappear. Over 99% of religion today is false, so there would be an *immediate* dramatic change. As the world came to know and

fear the true God, it would learn that His system of government and culture—and every aspect of civilization—should be followed. They would look into His Word to seek true wisdom and understanding—and God would grant them these things.

Because all people would be truly worshipping the same God, mankind would see an end to religious-based prejudice, hatred and wars. Also, by knowing and fearing the true God, the world would soon come to appreciate and obey the other nine commandments.

“You Shall Not Make Unto You Any Graven Image”

Because they feel the need for some physical representation of God in order to make His existence and presence a reality, many religions make use of idols as part of their services and rituals. But God is a spiritual Being, and He commands that we worship Him “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). The use of physical objects and images takes the focus off of the *true* God. No man has ever seen God the Father (John 1:18; 6:46), and such representations are based solely on man's concepts of God.

But what if the whole world kept the **SECOND COMMANDMENT**? Not only would image worship disappear, but there would also be a ripple effect. The curses brought upon all humanity for breaking this law would no longer exist. Every faction of false Christianity would cease its worship of pictures and images.

Virtually every other religion in this world would lose its core attraction. For

example, what good would Buddhism be without a statue of Buddha? People would no longer bow down and pray to statues, or put their trust in so-called “good luck charms.” The world would move one giant step closer to God.

“You Shall Not Take the Name of the Lord Your God in Vain”

What if the whole world kept the THIRD COMMANDMENT? When people consider the subject of taking God’s name in vain, they generally associate it with obscene language. While this is correct, it is only *part* of the meaning.

God has revealed, in Scripture, His many names, which define who He is. He expects us to show reverence to Him and all His attributes. When a person uses God’s name in a way that denies His true meaning and character, he is breaking the Third Commandment. In this day and age, many like to talk about God, but they are not in awe of His power and His name.

If everyone universally obeyed this commandment, the most obvious change would be the end of profanity and the misuse of God’s name—including all euphemisms and other vain phrases. Foul language in movies, music and television would disappear. From military drill sergeants to college football coaches, people would find new and better ways to express themselves. Even the wording of legal formalities would be rephrased.

Vain repetitions in prayers would also stop. There would be no more sermons (or “gospel” music) misusing God’s name while preaching contrary to His truth. False messages about God would no longer be aired on television or radio or posted on the Internet. False Christianity and every brand of false religion would be effectively muzzled. God’s name would only be used as taught by His true servants.

Imagine how productive and uplifting everyday conversation would be if everyone revered God’s name.

Avoiding Religious Titles

In many of the world’s religions, ministers and priests assume the title of “Father” or “Reverend.” What does the

Bible say about this?

In Matthew 23:9, Christ commanded, “call no man your father upon the earth: for One is your Father, which is in heaven.” Christ was specifically referring to the Pharisees of His day, who, because of pride and vanity, expected others to address them as “Father” or “Rabbi.” Christ condemned them for their self-righteous attitudes. His words were recorded for all mankind.

God is our only spiritual “Father.” It is blasphemy to bestow this word as a religious title upon any man. Notice Psalm 111:9: “...holy and *reverend* is His name.” *Reverend* means “worthy of worship.” No man is worthy of such high esteem. Paul, who was one of God’s great servants, was inspired to write: “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not” (Rom. 7:18). Even Christ Himself stated, in Matthew 19:17, “there is none good but One, that is, God.” Christ, who was God in the flesh (John 1:14), did not exalt Himself. Any man who dares to take to himself a title belonging to God (thereby also violating the Eighth Commandment—stealing) will one day have to repent before God for this sin!

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to Keep It Holy”

What if the whole world obeyed the FOURTH COMMANDMENT? What would be the benefits of taking one day at the end of every week to rest, rejuvenate and focus on the things of God?

Not only would people have one full day to rest from their labors, but they would also grow close to God as a result of obeying Him. If the entire world kept the weekly Sabbath and annual Holy Days, everyone would know the true God, because keeping these days identifies His people (Ex. 31:13; 6:7; Lev. 26:12).

Keeping the Sabbath would most likely lead to keeping the other laws of God. Using the Sabbath for the purposes He intended would focus people’s minds on His way. This would leave this world’s false religions in shambles, because God’s laws would then replace their own laws. This is why Satan the devil has gone to such great lengths to blind the world from the benefits of keeping the Fourth Commandment.

If Only These Four...

As you can see, if everyone were to obey just these four of God’s commandments, the world would be in much better condition. There would not be the religious confusion that exists today; people would engage in wholesome communication, without resorting to profanity to express themselves; and all would benefit from a weekly respite from their labors and the opportunity to learn more about God and His ways.

These laws *will* be kept during the soon-coming millennium, and all of mankind will benefit as a result. In part two, we will look at how things would be different if the last six commandments were kept. □

COMMON EUPHEMISMS

Here is a list of commonly used euphemisms. The more offensive words or phrases that they replace are not included. By printing them, we would be just as guilty of taking God’s name in vain as we would be by speaking them. This list is by no means exhaustive; it is merely a sample. It could have easily been a few pages in length of and by itself.

- › Bloody
- › Darn
- › Doggone
- › For goodness’ sake
- › For heaven’s sake
- › For land’s sake
- › For mercy’s sake
- › For Pete’s sake
- › Gee or Gee whiz
- › Glory be
- › Golly
- › Good golly
- › Good gracious
- › Good grief
- › Good heavens
- › Gosh
- › Heck
- › Holy (anything)
- › Jeez
- › Judas Priest
- › My goodness
- › Not on your life
- › Sakes alive
- › Son of a gun
- › Speaking of the devil
- › What in the Sam Hill
- › What in tarnation

THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS



Parents want the best for their children. They want them to succeed and prosper. But do you know how to train your children for success? Now you can know!

BY BRADFORD G. SCHLEIFER

YOU LOOK ACROSS the dinner table and see your child looking back at you. No doubt, he or she has expressed an interest in a certain job or career. Usually, such ideas are fanciful, and are either related to something seen on television or the same job held by you or your spouse.

Your son may want to grow up to be a firefighter, lawyer or doctor. Your daughter may hope to be a teacher, veterinarian or a ballerina. Such youthful dreams will likely change over time, but whatever their aspirations, you naturally want success—and happiness—for your children. You want them to experience a fulfilling life and a rewarding career.

But have you ever realized that *you* actually hold the key to their success? *You* can offer them knowledge that, unlike the suggestions of pop psychology, will lead them to true and lasting success.

If you instill this knowledge deep within them, creating the basis for their thinking, you *will* have happy and well-developed children!

What Is Success?

People often link *success* to wealth, power or fame. But *is* this success? Famous people, who often have both power and wealth, are usually the same ones who are miserable. Their problems, addictions and struggles are covered by television and entertainment magazines. A once popular song said, “Money can’t buy me love.” And judging by the lives of the rich and famous, neither can it buy happiness.

Such people are not a reflection of **TRUE** success. One who is *truly* successful will be fulfilled and happy. So, if the world’s concept of success is wrong, then what *is* success?

The main reason most do not understand success is that they *assume* it is a quality or trait that one already has—is *born* with. But success is not a “talent” that one is born with. Rather, it is directly related to a desire to produce, grow, learn and achieve.

If success is not an innate ability, then how does one “get” it? Is there a formula?

Amazingly, there is! There are definite LAWS to achieving—and instilling—success! If you instill a desire—and the LAWS to success—in your children, they *will* succeed!

Applying these laws, as found in our booklet *The Laws to SUCCESS*, and teaching them to your children will ensure that they will become happy, fulfilled and successful adults.

What Do You Want?

The first great law to success is SETTING THE RIGHT GOAL.

Thousands of self-help books exist describing how to set and reach one's goals. Many times, they discuss different levels of goals—short, medium and long-term—yet often miss the all-important step of setting the *correct* goal. Even the few books that attempt this never mention the role of morality or the God of the Bible in goal-setting.

You must teach your children about different kinds of goals. Some are harmful to them; others are greatly beneficial. For instance, they would naturally want to “get” things in life. This is human nature, and you must help your children to overcome this attitude.

The goals of human nature must be replaced with right and proper—and godly—goals. Teach your children to set attainable goals. They should want to help those around them. Teach them that God will bless them if their goal is to give! Children do not naturally know this—it must be taught to them! It has been said that the four most important lessons in childrearing are: (1) Teach, (2) teach, (3) teach and (4) teach.

It is important that you do not give your children everything on a “silver platter.” This will make them believe that they do not need goals or need to actually work. By having to set goals—and working to achieve them—children will develop a proper work ethic and confidence.

Exercising the Mind

Having first *set* the right goal, one is then able to focus on how to *achieve* that goal. And one of the main keys to doing so is embodied in the second law of success: EDUCATION.

Like any muscle in the body, the human mind needs to be exercised. In fact, research shows that those who continue to exercise their mind when they are older are far less likely to develop diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

God's Word states, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6). If you teach your children when they are young, they will exercise their minds throughout life.

Teaching them to think can be done in a variety of ways. Teach them to reflect on what they say and do. Teach them to analyze questions and thoughtfully respond.

Encourage your children to enjoy learning. Make it fun! If, at a very young age, you seed their minds with a craving for understanding and knowledge, your children will look at any problem and *learn* how to solve it.

It has been said that knowledge is power. By encouraging a desire to learn, you are giving your children the ability to harness that power.

Maintaining the Body

But it is important to realize that knowledge is power only if it is used. And this requires taking care of the *body* as well as the mind. This introduces the third law of success: GOOD HEALTH.

The role of parents in their children's health is often overlooked. Like instilling a desire to learn, you must also instill the knowledge of how—and what—to eat. No matter what excuses may be put forth, your children's health is *YOUR* responsibility. You control what they eat and, in turn, their health!

If one has set the correct goal, and even becomes educated about that goal, he is still stopped in his tracks if he becomes sick. If a person is tired, weak or always sick, he cannot accomplish anything. With children, health also directly affects the second law. If they are not healthy, they will not be able to attend school, and will miss out on receiving a full education.

Think about what you feed your children. Do you follow the principle of staying on the outside of the supermarket—raw fruits, vegetables, meats and grains? Or do you often shop in the aisles—where much of the processed, sugary and unhealthy foods are generally located? Do you reward your children with healthy treats—or with sugar? An entire article could be written showing the myriad of childhood health problems relating to a bad diet. Do you want your children to have attention problems or type-2 diabetes? *You* can prevent such things by monitoring what your children eat.

Remember this principle: Grains sustain, vegetables build, fruits cleanse and herbs help to heal! If your children's diet is not full of grains and vegetables, how are they going to grow and develop?

Pushing the Body and Mind

The fourth law springs from the previous one. When your children are healthy, they have more energy. When properly focused, this energy is *DRIVE*. Drive is the desire to work and achieve.

Are you beginning to see why teaching your children the right goals builds the framework for success? Having a good work ethic—wanting to *work* for success—is the basis behind drive.

A world-record-breaking swimmer once stated that the reason he succeeded was not because of natural talent, but because he was willing to work harder than his opponents. This is drive! Train your children to start early (not procrastinate) and to work hard. This will enable them to do things that they would have otherwise viewed as impossible—and they will be thrilled by what they accomplish!

Wise King Solomon once said, “The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul” (Prov. 13:19). Teach this to your children. When they accomplish a goal, they will feel a satisfaction that is “sweet to the soul.” Once understood, they will then always be *driven* to accomplish any task set before them.

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The Television Addiction

PART ONE

In today's world, television is the main source of entertainment. What effect is this having on society, especially for children and young people? And what will it mean when they become adults?

BY JAMES F. TURCK

IF YOU HAVE EVER driven through a neighborhood at night, you have probably noticed a familiar blue glow emanating from the windows of houses. You can picture the scene inside: As the centerpiece of the room, the television has captured the complete attention of those assembled before it. Whether it is an individual, a couple or an entire family, all eyes are fixed on this modern invention with its endless barrage of images.

The Radio Corporation of America started manufacturing color television sets on March 25, 1954, at its Bloomington, Indiana plant, helping to usher in “the wonderful world of color.” Since that time, the number of households with TVs has steadily risen. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of homes with television sets increased from 87% in 1960 to over 98% in 2001. Most homes have more than one (2.4 per home on average), totaling 248 million in the U.S. alone—and most today do not remember a time without television.

The Plug-in Drug

For some, watching television consumes their entire day. This is especially true of older Americans, who watch more TV (97%) than any other age group. Those living alone or who are shut-ins often find this activity the only way to endure long lonely days.

In fact, it is projected that in 2004, the average adult will spend 1,669 hours watching television. That is the equivalent of 70 days a year—well over 4,900 days in the average lifespan! Put another way, over 13 years of the average person's life will be spent in front of the television. No wonder it is often referred to as the “plug-in drug.”

“All media are extensions of some human faculty—psychic or physical. The wheel...is an extension of the foot...the book is an extension of the eye...clothing, an extension of the skin...electric circuitry, an extension of the central nervous system. Media, by altering the environment, evoke in us unique ratios of sense perceptions. The extension of any one sense alters the way we think and act—the way we perceive the world. When these ratios change, men change.”

– Marshall McLuhan and Quentin Fiore, *The Medium is the Message*, 1967, pp. 26-41

Is “TV addiction” a real phenomenon? It may well be. Notice this February 23, 2002 article published by *SCIENTIFICAMERICAN.com*: “Among life’s more embarrassing moments have been countless occasions when I am engaged in conversation in a room while a TV set is on, and I cannot for the life of me stop from periodically glancing over to the screen. This occurs not only during dull conversations but during reasonably interesting ones just as well” (“Television Addiction Is No Mere Metaphor”).

Indeed, many have experienced this exact sensation of being drawn to the TV. Turn a TV on and conversation and physical activities stop. Before you know it, the entire day has disappeared.

According to the same article, “The term ‘TV addiction’ is imprecise and laden with value judgments, but it captures the essence of a very real phenomenon. Psychologists and psychiatrists formally define substance dependence as a disorder characterized by criteria that include spending a great deal of time using the substance;

using it more often than one intends; thinking about reducing use or making repeated unsuccessful efforts to reduce use; giving up important social, family or occupational activities to use it; and reporting withdrawal symptoms when one stops using it.

“All these criteria can apply to people who watch a lot of television. That does not mean that watching television, per se, is problematic. Television can teach and amuse; it can reach aesthetic heights; it can provide much needed distraction and escape. The difficulty arises when people strongly sense that they ought not to watch as much as they do and yet find themselves strangely unable to reduce their viewing. Some knowledge of how the medium exerts its pull may help heavy viewers gain better control over their lives.”

But does this really mean that people are addicted to television? The article continues: “To some researchers, the most convincing parallel between TV and addictive drugs is that people experience withdrawal symptoms when they cut back on viewing. Nearly 40 years ago, Gary A. Steiner of the

University of Chicago collected fascinating individual accounts of families whose set had broken—this back in the days when households generally had only one set: ‘The family walked around like a chicken without a head.’ ‘It was terrible. We did nothing... Children bothered me, and my nerves were on edge. Tried to interest them in games, but impossible. TV is part of them.’”

For some, life without television is truly unbearable. How important is it? A story out of the southwestern Florida city of Fort Myers relates how a 17-year-old boy was charged by police with soliciting to commit murder. The boy was willing to pay \$2,000 to have his mother killed, but with one stipulation: “Make it look like a robbery, but don’t damage the TV!”

The Babysitter

In this hectic world, in which it seems there are always a million things that need to be done, many desperate parents resort to television as a babysitter. After all, it’s always available any time of the day or night. It never complains and never needs to be paid. And best of all, it

BY THE NUMBERS: A BRIEF LOOK AT THE TV INDUSTRY

92%

The percentage of children ages 6 to 11 whose parents in 2000 imposed at least one rule for watching TV, such as types of programs watched, how early or late the children could watch and the number of hours watched. The percentage dropped to 73 percent for children ages 12 to 17.

87.3%

The percentage of households with at least one TV in 1960.

94.3%

The percentage of people age 18 and over who said they watched television in the spring of 2002. Older Americans (age 65 and over) were more likely to be glued to the tube (97 percent) than any other age group.

98.2%

The percentage of households with at least one TV in 2001.

\$10.7 billion

The payments by television broadcasting firms for broadcast rights and music license fees in 2001. Such payments constitute the biggest expense of TV broadcasters. The next highest expense was the annual payroll, \$6.5 billion.

\$34.71

The estimated average monthly rate for cable TV in 2002.

\$41.8 billion

Amount spent on television advertising in 2002, up from \$38.9 billion in 2001.

\$11.7 billion

The annual payroll for the 245,000 employees of 6,692 cable TV networks and program distribution firms in the United States in 2001.

keeps the child amused and completely engrossed.

But is this “babysitter” a harmless electronic device? What effect does it have on children? And what kind of patterns are developing in them?

A recently released study holds some answers. *Zero to Six: Electronic Media in the Lives of Infants, Toddlers and Preschoolers*, published by the Kaiser Family Foundation, provides a look into the use of media among the very young and their parents. Some of its findings include:

- 80% of children use screen media, whether TV, movies or video games.
- 77% turn the television on by themselves.
- Two-thirds request a particular program or surf channels using a remote.
- 65% live in homes in which the TV is on half the time or more.
- 36% live in homes in which the TV is *always* on (considered a “heavy” TV household).
- In “heavy” TV households, 77% of children watch it every day.
- They are also less likely to read (59% vs. 68%).
- They are less likely to be able to read at all (34% of children ages 4-6 from heavy TV households can read, compared to 56% of others the same age).
- The majority of parents (59%) say their 4-to 6-year-old boys imitate aggressive behavior seen on TV.
- 30% of children under 2 have a TV in their bedroom.

Remember, these statistics are merely for infants to six-year-olds!

The Effects on Kids

There is much debate on whether and how viewing television influences children in their formative years. But the mounting evidence from numerous studies indicates that there are real adverse affects. For example: There is a direct correlation between time in front of a TV and the rise of obesity in children. This sedentary time, often accompanied with consuming high-calorie and high-fat junk foods, replaces time that could have been spent engaging in energy-burning activities.

Consider the following:

- Number of medical studies since 1985 linking excessive television watching to increasing rates of obesity: 12
 - Percentage of American children ages 6 to 11 who were seriously overweight in 1963: 4.5; in 1993: 14
 - Number of ads aired for “junk-food” during four hours of Saturday morning cartoons: 202 (Source: *TV STATISTICS* compiled by TV Free America.)
- One study, published in the June 2002 issue of *Pediatrics*, stated, “Almost 40% of children had a TV set in their bedroom; [and] they were more likely to be overweight and spent more time (4.6 hours per week) watching TV/video than children without a TV in their bedroom.”

It concluded, “This study extends the association between TV viewing

and risk of being overweight to younger, preschool-aged children. A TV in the child’s bedroom is an even stronger marker of increased risk of being overweight. Because most children watch TV by age 2, educational efforts about limiting child TV/video viewing and keeping the TV out of the child’s bedroom need to begin before then.”

There is also evidence suggesting that early exposure to this media can perhaps “rewire” a child’s developing brain patterns. With commercials interrupting programming approximately every seven minutes, it can produce the same seven-minute attention span. This seems to be confirmed in the experiences of Odds Bodkin, a professional storyteller, who reads mostly to children. He observed that children began to be restless after about seven minutes, in anticipation of a commercial break.

An article titled “Toddler TV Time May Shorten Attention” points to a link between time spent watching TV and attention problems in children. It states, “Experts know too much TV is bad for older kids, but it may also harm the attention spans of children as young as 1 year old, a new study suggests” (*HealthDay Reporter*).

“We found that watching television before the age of 3 increases the chances that children will develop attentional problems at age 7,” said study author Dr. Dimitri Christakis, of the University of Washington, Seattle.

Please see **TELEVISION**, page 23

21,724

The number of stores that primarily sold televisions and other electronic equipment in 2001.

1,937

The number of television broadcasting networks and stations in the United States in 2001.

248 million

The number of television sets in U.S. households in 2001.

\$255.18

The projected spending per person for cable and satellite TV in 2004.

1,669

The projected number of hours that adults (age 18 and older) will watch television in 2004. This is the equivalent of about 70 days nonstop.

2.4

The average number of TVs per home in 2001.

154,000

The number of people employed in the manufacture of television, radio and wireless communications equipment in the United States in 2001.

31,235

The number of people working behind the lens as television, video and motion picture camera operators and editors, according to Census 2000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TOO LATE TO CLOSE THE FLOODGATE?

The opening of U.S. borders to a never-ending tide of illegal aliens is a relatively new phenomenon. Though most “illegals” are laborers, others are hardened criminals, including a small army of terrorists. What does this mean for America?

BY GEORGE C. ROGERS

RECENTLY, ILLEGAL ALIENS have been entering the United States at an alarming rate. For the most part, this issue has been addressed by ignoring the law. This approach has failed, while public officials are helpless to arrive at any alternative solution. The purpose of this article is not to cover every conceivable aspect of this complex issue, but to provide a brief overview and to point to the ultimate solution.

In the early 1990s, government policies were established that were to have far-reaching effects on immi-

gration trends. At that time, the Clinton administration recognized the political benefits of enticing illegal aliens to apply for citizenship. As their numbers swelled to over seven million during the course of the 1990s, they became a formidable political force in their own right. Now, this floodgate has been left open because, for instance, no politician dares to curtail or offend the mushrooming numbers of Latino voting blocs.

Beginning in the late 1980s, bureaucrats began to revamp the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in a radical departure from its intended purpose—the enforcement of federal law. The agency’s new direction became the administering of benefits for illegal immigrants. The INS now specialized in the offering of assistance in procuring permanent residency, citizenship and work permits. The depleted segment of the INS devoted to law enforcement became quickly overwhelmed by the sheer number of backlogged cases. As illegal aliens grew over fivefold in the 1990s, ironically, the enforcement capability of the INS was significantly curtailed.

The Plight of Major Cities

Unfortunately, local law enforcement in the major cities with the largest illegal immigrant populations had become just as paralyzed and unwilling as the federal government to act in any decisive way. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles,

San Diego, Austin and Houston have led the way in adopting policies to protect illegal aliens from being reported to the INS. In spite of a number of weak excuses, the truth of the matter is simple: Large city officials fear any hint of action that would be offensive to the mushrooming numbers of immigrants. "The immigrant population has grown so large that public officials are terrified of alienating it, even at the expense of ignoring the law and tolerating violence" (Heather MacDonald, "The Illegal Alien Crime Wave," *City Journal* (NYC), Winter 2004).

Various sanctuary policies adopted by major cities are quite similar—they all attempt to shield their local illegal aliens from the INS. This is primarily done out of fear of backlash by powerful ethnic lobbyists. These very sanctuary laws unwittingly served to facilitate the anonymity of the terrorists involved in the 9/11 attack. Even in the wake of 9/11, rare is the call for repeal of such laws.

Consider the current impact of illegal aliens upon major cities. A case in point: 95 percent of all outstanding warrants for homicide (up to 1,500 warrants) are attributed to illegal aliens in Los Angeles. In addition, about 65 percent of all fugitive felony warrants are for illegal aliens—that is over 11,000 of the outstanding 17,000 warrants!

In spite of such statistics, the Los Angeles sanctuary law "Special Order 40" prohibits police from seeking to discover the alien status of anyone. Only after filing criminal charges are the police even allowed to ask about one's status. Even then, the police are prohibited from notifying the INS. This impassible barrier between local law enforcement and any immigration authorities creates a de facto safe haven for such criminals (Ibid.).

The Mexican mafia and other organized crime rings from Central and South America flourish under this sanctuary umbrella. Yet, the previously established population of *legal* immigrants from the same countries have been victimized by their illegal counterparts, as much as any other

population segment. Many of these have been successful business owners. These independent-minded, self-supporting immigrants are ignored by big-city, liberal politicians who much prefer people who vote in blocs, dependant on government and ever-willing to trade votes for favors.

So scarce are the resources of the INS, that a three-pronged strategy had been adopted in deciding where to direct their limited capability to intercept only the most desperate alien criminals: "Criminal aliens also interpret the triage as indifference. John Mullaly, a former NYPD homicide detective, estimates that 70 percent of the drug dealers and other criminals in Manhattan's Washington Heights were illegal. Were Mullaly to threaten an illegal-alien thug in custody that his next stop would be El Salvador unless he cooperated, the criminal would just laugh, knowing that the INS would never show up. The message could not be clearer: This is a culture that can't enforce its most basic law of entry. If policing's broken-windows theory is correct, the failure to enforce one set of rules breeds overall contempt for the law" (Ibid.).

An interesting example is the status of the INS in New York City where 15 officers in the early 1990s were in charge of the deportation of 85,000 illegal aliens: "The agency's actual response to final orders of removal [deportation] was what is known as a 'run letter'—a notice asking the deportable alien kindly to show up in a month or two to be deported, when the agency might be able to process him. Results: in 2001, 87 percent of deportable aliens who received run letters disappeared, a number that was even higher—94 percent—if they were from terror-sponsoring countries" (Ibid.).

It is known that well over 100,000 illegal aliens from the Middle East currently reside in the U.S. Immigration specialists insist that the illegal alien issue has to be addressed objectively across the board without favoring any one culture while scrutinizing for potential terrorists. One spokesman for a Washington-based think tank on

immigration stated this so succinctly and simply: "We can't protect ourselves from terrorism without dealing with illegal immigration" (Steven A. Camarota, Director of Research, The Center for Immigrations Studies).

Lawyers and Laborers

Another complicating factor is the immigration bar association, whose interest is not necessarily in sync with the public. The goal of these attorneys has been to establish as many due-process channels as possible for criminal aliens fighting deportation. They have won a substantial set of due-process rights in order to keep criminal aliens in the country indefinitely. As the saying goes among criminal aliens, "A regular immigration attorney can keep you in the country for three years, a high-priced one for ten [years]." When immigration officials do manage to deport a criminal alien, the reality, says a former federal gang prosecutor, is that "they all come back" ("The Illegal Alien Crime Wave," *City Journal*, Winter 2004, MacDonald).

Day laborers, who theoretically constitute the majority of illegals, have little fear of being apprehended. Many express no anxiety of even being questioned about their illegal status: "'There is no chance of getting caught,' cheerfully explained Rafael, an Ecuadorian. Like the dozen Ecuadorians and Mexicans on his particular corner, Rafael is hoping that an SUV seeking carpenters for \$100 a day will show up soon. 'We don't worry, because we're not doing anything wrong. I know it's illegal; I need the papers, but here, nobody asks you for papers'" (Ibid.).

One irony concerning migrant laborers and farm workers is that their services are depended upon by many sectors of the economy. The nature of the work often involves vigorous labor, which many American citizens shun. The work ethic of the more recent generations of Americans is sadly lacking, while the migrant workers are conditioned to hard labor as a means of survival!

Border Patrol Vs. the Lure of Benefits

Besides taking positive steps to help restore some capability to the INS, the Bush administration has also doubled the size of its border patrol. Yet, better patrol of the Mexican border amounts to little more than an inconvenience to those determined to pass through. The odds are decidedly in favor of the illegal aliens who decide to come north. When only five officers try to apprehend twenty aliens, only five are usually apprehended. Of course, they are soon freed to try again. They eventually succeed. Professional border crossers (known as “coyotes”), who sneak their clients across the border for a fee, are quite successful at their business. The higher their fee, the better the chances of safe passage and remaining undetected.

But even increased border patrols have not addressed the primary appeal to illegal aliens—jobs. According to the *Associated Press*, in 2001, only 124 agents were used across the entire nation to prosecute hundreds of thousands of employers who hired millions of illegals. These employers simply disregard law. Even worse, the federal and local governments have not adequately enforced immigration laws.

Incentives for illegals to come to America are quite appealing: “Everywhere, illegal aliens receive free public education and free medical care at taxpayer expense; 13 states offer them drivers licenses. States everywhere have been pushed to grant illegal aliens college scholarships and reduced in-state tuition. One hundred banks, over 800 law-enforcement agencies, and dozens of cities accept an identification card created by Mexico to credentialize illegal Mexican aliens in the U.S. The Bush administration has given its blessing to this *matricula consular* card, over the strong protest of the FBI, which warns that the gaping security loopholes that the card creates makes it a boon to money launderers, immigrant smugglers, and terrorists. Border authorities have already caught an Iranian man sneaking across the bor-

der this year, Mexican *matricula* card in hand” (Ibid.).

Some insist that the solution is an impenetrable militarized border. Yet, as long as the job magnet, combined with government benefits, continues to remain, migrant workers and criminals will find a way to reach them. The problems reside at all levels of government. The liberal mindset that elevates inclusiveness and tolerance would have to be recognized as impractical and utterly unworkable! Amnesty for all illegal aliens has never been the answer. It must be recognized that the real solution is unattainable in this age, given the reluctance of public officials to take any measures that could generate protest.

As the floodgates remain open, the flow continues to build momentum. At the current rate of illegal immigration, the Hispanic population in the U.S. will surpass the number of white Americans by the year 2050. The Hispanic population has already surpassed the black population, which, until the late 1990s, was the largest minority group in the U.S.

The liberal mentality, which has tended to dominate the political landscape for the past few decades, fails to make the connection between CAUSE and EFFECT—especially while cashing in on the windfall of political opportunity. Having capitalized on the Hispanic vote for nearly two decades, they have been content to tolerate some of the social turbulence that has accompanied this influx of immigrants. However, at this point, any attempt to “put the genie back in the bottle” would certainly prove futile.

The Rule of Law: Upheld or Ignored?

If government leaders have no respect for law, how can the citizens be expected to have higher standards? The first impression that immigrants are given about U.S. laws is that the authorities do not enforce them! This mindset has existed for nearly two decades, and few have the courage to acknowledge that our politically correct course is a recipe for escalating crime, lawlessness and terrorism!

Under the direction of mankind, government is fast approaching a critical threshold. The immigration policies of the U.S. are quite similar to that of other western nations, especially the English-speaking nations who have been recipients of the birthright of Israel. Biblical prophecies were written millennia ago concerning the fate of the nations of modern Israel. God charged the inheritors of this birthright, “If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase...” (Lev. 26:3-4). God later stated, “But if you will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments...” (vs. 14), showing a series of curses that will beset these peoples for disobedience, stating, “And I will break the pride of your power...” (vs. 19).

When the leaders of any nation are afraid to enforce its laws, the pride of that nation’s power is close to being broken. Not only do modern politicians reject the laws of God, they also appear to reject *any* law, viewing it as a restriction to freedom. God also shows further curses for disobedience to His laws, eventually leading to the military invasion and slavery of modern-day nations descended from ancient Israel. Notice: “You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities” (Amos 3:2). This is followed by another amazing passage: “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but [until] He reveals His secret unto His servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

During the millennium, God’s laws will be held in great esteem by the people dwelling on earth. Israel will be an instrument used by God in serving all mankind. Only then, under the government of God, will the many social fiascoes of man be corrected. No one will seek to return to this time of chaos and confusion, but will rejoice in the way of life that is far more fulfilling.

How wonderful and exciting that the dawn of this new age of harmonious abundance is only a short time away! □

CHILDREN

Continued from page 6

All Problems Have Solutions

In working toward any important goal, your children must understand that obstacles and setbacks may arise. RESOURCEFULNESS—the fifth important law to success—keeps one from feeling that there is no solution. He will *think*—INVESTIGATE—and FIND a solution!

In many situations, one's ability to find not just *a* solution—but the BEST solution—can determine success or failure. Consider one example from nature: A stream of water, when encountering various obstructions, does not simply stop flowing. It will naturally go around, over or through the barrier. Likewise, when your children face obstacles, resourcefulness will lead them to seek a way *around*, *over* or *through* them. The human mind is *designed* to learn the most when it is struggling. When setbacks occur, the learning mechanism in the mind kicks in. Teaching your children this will prevent them from getting discouraged. They will come to realize that obstacles and problems are *not* a bad thing, but the *best* possible chance to learn and grow!

Life Is Not Fair

It can be said that the continued application of resourcefulness is applying the critical sixth law of success: PERSEVERANCE—or STICK-TO-IT-IVENESS.

Perseverance is working at a problem even when the solution is not evident. Any goal or thing of worth requires hard work—one must pay the price. However, most today are not willing to pay that price and will settle for second best, or worse.

Teaching your children to persevere will give them the inner strength needed to achieve their goals. This will have implications in not just their goals and desires, but in EVERY aspect of their lives! Teach your children to never give up—even in the face of hardship—and you will virtually ensure their success.

The Source of Success

Although listed last, the seventh law of success—CONTACT WITH, AND GUIDANCE AND CONTINUOUS HELP FROM, GOD—over-arches all previous laws. This law is the FOUNDATION of success! If you teach your children to respect and obey you, you are teaching them to develop a similar relationship with God. As a parent, you must understand that, to your children, you play this vital role.

When you teach your children—when you correct them—when you encourage them—you are creating a basis by which they will respond to their *divine* Parent.

This also applies to you! Look at yourself. Do you consider the success of your children success for yourself? Is having happy and successful children *your* goal? Do you have contact with God and continually seek His guidance and help?

The Real Purpose

Your children's success is actually far more important than you may realize. Of course, a good job, happy marriage and successful future are critical for them. But there is a greater purpose being worked out in your children, and a great potential that they may be able to reach—to one day become leaders, kings and priests in the kingdom of God!

God has left mankind to work out his own way. This is the reason there is so little *true* success in the world. But very soon, Jesus Christ will return to earth to establish the kingdom of God—a government that will rule over all nations.

While we have not yet reached this glorious time, you can claim a promise from God now! The Bible states that *your* obedience to God will place His protection on your children (I Cor. 7:14). With this protection comes an understanding of the proper—successful—way of life. With God's protection and involvement in your life, you too can achieve the role of king and priest—and rule in the kingdom of God. (To learn more about the God-ordained purpose for you and your children, read our book *The AWESOME POTENTIAL of Man*.)

Often-Forgotten Role

Simply learning these laws is only the beginning. There is a vitally important aspect to the development of your children that towers above just knowing about the true God and His laws to success:

Your EXAMPLE!

All small children look up to their parents. You are the center of their growing world, and your example affects them deeper than anything you could teach them. Are YOU applying the laws of success in *your* life? Are you living the way of “give” and following what you are learning from *The REAL TRUTH* magazine about the *true* God of the Bible? The success of your children hinges on your answer!

(To learn more about God's method of childrearing, please read our booklet *Train Up Your CHILDREN*.) □



T H E PORNOGRAPHY OBSESSION

Households across America are becoming further infected by pornography—referred to by some as “harmless entertainment.” But is pornography *really* harmless? How does it affect its viewers?

CHANCES ARE, while watching television, you have come across channels offering some form of pornography. More than likely, you have driven past an adult video store with a number of cars parked out front. You may have seen several newspaper ads offering “phone sex” or escort services. More than likely, your email inbox has been bombarded with smut-filled messages. Chances are, you have accidentally stumbled across websites filled with all sorts of sexual imagery. And, according to statistics, chances are, there is someone in *your* home viewing—possibly even addicted to—such sexually-driven “entertainment.”

Almost as old as written history, pornography, while riding the surge of technology, has reached practically every corner of the globe.

Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia explains, “The ancient Greeks used pornographic themes in songs

in Dionysian festivals, and ancient Romans painted pornographic pictures on walls in the ancient city of Pompeii. Pornography was also prevalent in some ancient Eastern cultures, such as those of India, Japan, and China...It was not until the 1800s, however, that pornography began to become a social problem, primarily because the spread of technology—such as printing, photography, and motor vehicles—made it more readily available and because of the growth of democracy and individual freedom.”

Once seen as one of America’s last taboos, pornography is finding its home in the mainstream. Aside from books, magazines, games and music videos (mainly geared toward teenagers) filled with sexual themes, pornography is portrayed on television and in movies as “not that big of a deal.”

Such an example is the popular movie *The Girl Next Door*. In the film, a young man in suburbia discovers that the fresh-faced, attractive young woman living next door is actually a “porn star.” The movie then proceeds to portray the adult entertainment industry as simply a means for someone to have more fun, break the rules of “the standard” and a great way to get more dates. The movie (practi-

cally a porn-promoting film) presents teenage viewers a sanitized, unrealistic view of pornography, presenting the “positive” reasons for being in that industry.

Another example was at a book signing, where throngs of people waited in line to get an autographed copy of an underage porn star’s autobiography. Even the “star” was amazed at the response, stating, “When I was in porn, it was like a back-alley thing... But now it’s everywhere.”

Far from being one of America’s last taboos, pornography has actually become one of the nation’s top industries. In fact, as society continues to remove its “shackles” of sexual morality and restraint—sexualizing practically everything (clothing, music, jewelry, television, books, comic books, even our children)—it is no surprise that pornography has taken its hold of so many en masse.

But to what extent has this taken place? How many people actually view porn? Many claim that pornography is *harmless entertainment*. Is this correct? How does it affect our children? And how is it affecting society as a whole?

Sex Sells

Most have heard of the “power of advertising.” This power fuels commercialism—driving people to become consumers purchasing everything they can get their hands on. Similarly, it can be said that the “power of pornography”—ranging from partially-nude music videos and fashion shows, to soft-core advertisements, to hard-core pornographic movies—is driving

today's sexualized mentality.

This new *sexual revolution* has established pornography as a multi-billion dollar industry. This not only applies to companies and business ventures, but it is turning up profits for the "average" citizen as well. Many new websites showcasing "amateur porn"—home videos of people engaging in sex—appear each day, charging subscriptions to access such video "collections."

Incredibly, this pornography craze is also helping to pay the tuition of many college-going young women, who are utilizing webcams to webcast themselves on people's computer screens. Countless new sites appear each day, featuring young women parading in front of cameras and charging people to see them in their daily activities (including being naked and engaging in sex). Before the development of the webcam, such a concept would not be feasible—unless one was a "peeping Tom" and/or a sexual deviant. Yet, today's society nonchalantly dismisses such behavior as a means "to pay for college." As the development of technology accelerates and society's moral fibers altogether dissipate, pornography will find its way into the hands of even more people.

The targeted viewers are also becoming younger. This wider target audience is due to the porn industry's utilization of new technologies. It has been said that pornography helped drive early sales and development of most new forms of entertainment technologies. It is also credited as one of the main reasons so many flocked to purchase VCRs and utilize the Internet.

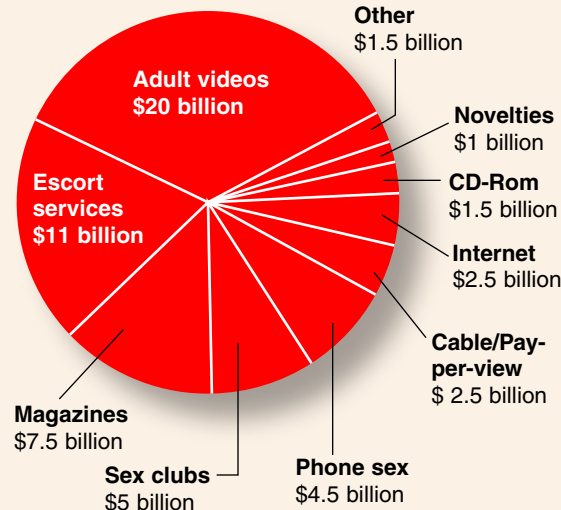
Regarding the union of pornography and technology, Frederick Lane III, lawyer and author of the book *Obscene Profits: The Entrepreneurs of Pornography in the Cyber Age*, explains, "The way I like to put it is that we went from 1,000 adult movie theaters in less than 10 years to 80 million adult movie theaters. And that basically is what happened with the VCR...The computer now, in terms of its penetration into American households—the last figure I saw was some-

FEEDING AN OBSESSION

Derived from sources such as Google, WordTracker, PBS, MSNBC, NRC, Alexa Research and Internet Filter Review, the following reveals that pornography is "pure economic sense." Considering the principle of "supply and demand," most people are spending thousands of dollars to feed their hunger for porn:

The Pornography Industry

\$57 billion worldwide (\$12 billion in the U.S.):



- ▶ Worldwide porn revenue is larger than all revenues of professional football, baseball and basketball franchises combined!
- ▶ U.S. porn revenue exceeds the combined revenues of ABC, CBS and NBC.
- ▶ Child pornography generates \$3 billion annually.

Pornography on the Internet

- ▶ Pornographic websites—4.2 million (12% of total websites)
- ▶ Pornographic pages—372 million
- ▶ Daily pornographic search engine requests—68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
- ▶ Daily pornographic emails—2.5 billion (8% of total emails)
- ▶ Average daily pornographic emails/user—4.5 per internet user
- ▶ Monthly pornographic downloads (Peer-to-peer)—1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
- ▶ Daily downloading "child pornography" requests—116,000
- ▶ Websites offering illegal child pornography—100,000
- ▶ Worldwide visitors to pornographic websites—72 million annually

Children's Internet Porn Statistics:

- ▶ Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography—11
- ▶ Largest consumer of Internet pornography—12-17 age group
- ▶ 15- to 17-year-olds having multiple hard-core exposures—80%
- ▶ 8- to 16-year-olds having viewed porn online—90%

where on the order of 70-80 million households, out of the 100 million in this country?" ("Porn in the USA," *CBSNEWS*).

In describing the porn industry blazing the trail in finding new, efficient media for their product, *USA Today* reports, "They're among the Web's most innovative and profitable entrepreneurs, but pariahs among mainstream business people. Online pornographers have been among the first to exploit new technology for more than a decade—from video-streaming

and fee-based subscriptions to pop-up ads and electronic billing. Their bold experimentation has helped make porn one of the most profitable online industries, and their ideas are staples at Fortune 500 companies" (Jon Swartz, "Online porn often leads high-tech way").

But this utilization of new technologies is not a new trend—it has been this way for decades. Today's new "porn entrepreneurs" are merely carrying the torch of the many pornographers who exploited the development of film, pho-

tography and videotapes to turn “trash into cash”—from early nude portraits and depictions of sex to even silent pornography films from the 1920s! If there was a new way to spread such filth, pornographers were immediately there to expand and develop technological innovations.

In the past, pornography was not as mainstream as it is today—it was something one had to search out in the “back alley.” But today, it is readily available *live, uncut* and *in your face*. This attests to society’s growing obsession and carefree attitude toward the adult film industry, solidifying it as a highly profitable venture.

In business with Hilton, Marriott, Hyatt, Sheraton, Holiday Inn, Comcast, Time Warner and Cablevision (to name a few), there are now several companies traded on the New York Stock Exchange involved in pornography. Even a non-profit medical center (the “Adult Industry Medical HealthCare Foundation”) was formed, dedicated to treating the spread of AIDS and HIV among porn stars.

Pornography is big business! And it will continue to bring in its profits regardless of how, where and when it reaches consumers. Mr. Lane continues, “I think that they [those in the porn industry] get involved in it because of the profit margins that are involved. One of the things about pornography that’s consistently true across the board is that because there’s a social stigma still attached to it, you can charge a premium for these materials. And because you can charge a premium for it, the profit margin is higher. So, it makes pure economic sense.”

Derived from sources such as *Google, WordTracker, PBS, MSNBC, NRC, Alexa Research* and *Internet Filter Review*, the informational graphic on page 15 reveals that pornography is “pure economic sense.” Considering the principle of “supply and demand,” most people are spending thousands of dollars to feed their hunger for porn.

The Effects of Pornography

We have already seen that sexually explicit material has infected millions

of people, desensitizing them to see it as something “everyone watches.” This reasoning has led many to question whether pornography actually harms its viewers. Is it simply harmless entertainment used by people to thrill their senses and enhance their sex lives?

Consider the following:

■ Pornography is meant to increase sexual excitement in its viewers, leaving them wanting to fulfill what they viewed. The “I-want-more” mentality takes hold, instilling a craving for sexual gratification. This can lead to increased sexual encounters (and an increase in unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases and even cervical cancer), to sexual crimes (such as child molestation, sexual assault and battery, and rape). Regardless to which it leads, pornography is a clear-cut case of feeding the “lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes” (I John 2:16).

■ It forever warps one’s view of sexual relations, including the many children and teenagers who happen to come across some type of pornography. It instills in the viewer’s mind that contact with the opposite sex is for the purpose of sexual gratification—not for the sake of having a loving, caring marriage relationship. It corrupts the viewers’ understanding of the proper use of sex, turning it into a guilt-ridden act of selfishness; instead of a form of expression of love between a husband and wife, it is twisted into an act of self-fulfillment, regardless of the other’s needs or wants. Not only does this distortion of the God-ordained reasons for sex affect the present generation, it also corrupts the next generation—creating an endless cycle of further perversions.

■ In addition to changing one’s views of sexual relations, pornography sexualizes the viewer’s mindset, unnaturally elevating the sexual act in the mind. While viewed as a way of enlivening or exciting the sexual relations of a married couple, it actually creates the opposite effect. It causes the porn viewer to compare his or her sex life to those on screen—where all

things appear much more glamorous and arousing. In effect, the person becomes disinterested in his or her spouse, or is driven to further sexual experimentation to keep up with the scintillations provided by porn.

■ Pornography leads to sexual addictions and further sexual perversions. For example, porn sites often link to other websites depicting every type of sexual perversion, such as child porn, homosexuality, bestiality, necrophilia, masochism, rape, sadism and other abominations.

■ Research has proven that since the human impulse is to act out what is often seen, sensations attributed to watching pornography remain as sexual anxiety and tension in the mind.

■ Pornography often leads to divorce and break-up of the family. Oftentimes, married couples who view porn go on to adulterous relationships. A link between porn and cases of incest and child molestation has been made, with police often finding pornography on the offender’s computer or in the home. In addition to breaking up present families, it also contributes in destroying *future* families by instilling in young minds that one can forgo marriage in the pursuit of free and easy sex. In all, it creates a lack of human emotion and feelings.

In light of the above, it should be clear that pornography is anything but “harmless entertainment.” It has many side effects that most simply overlook in pursuit of their own pleasure.

Addicted to Porn

Quite plainly, society has become addicted to pornography and its convenience of always being “one click away.” And this addiction applies not only to hardcore pornography, but also to softcore porn and sexually explicit entertainment. Pornography is no longer just a problem for men; a growing number of *women* are becoming addicted to porn! According to a study by *Nielson NetRatings*, about one in three who visit pornographic websites are women—bringing the number of women who viewed pornography online to 9.3 million (“Pornography:

A Woman's Struggle, Too," March 9, 2004, Jason Collum). This expansion of the viewing audience is creating a more sexually aggressive society of individuals who have opened themselves up to a new interpretation of what sex should be.

Meanwhile, practically all other non-pornographic media are being further sexualized. In essence, this is further blanketing society in a craze for sexual entertainment. *Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia's* definition of pornography is one that sounds much like the average prime-time television line-up: "Films, magazines, writings, photographs, or other materials that are sexually explicit and intended to arouse sexual excitement in their audience. Deriving from the Greek words *pornē* ("prostitute") and *graphein* ("to write"), the word pornography originally referred to any work of art or literature dealing with sex and sexual themes."

American law is trying to crack down on the proliferation of child pornography, how can one truly stop the deteriorating morals of the nation? Examining the sex-crazed society of today reveals that it cannot be done on human effort.

If the profits for pornography were not there, the industry simply would not exist. Notice the following quote from President Richard Nixon: "When indecent books no longer find a market, when pornographic films can no longer draw an audience, when obscene plays open to empty houses, then the tide will turn. Government can maintain against obscenity, but only people can turn back the tide." Unfortunately, people are no longer interested in turning back the tide—so prove statistics!

Is Pornography Sin?

This leads to the all-important question: Is pornography sin?

things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:20-23); "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto *lasciviousness*, to *work all uncleanness with greediness* [an accurate description of the porn industry]" (Eph. 4:19).

Matthew 5:27-29 also reveals that not only is it sin to commit the physical act of adultery, but *lust* is also sin. No doubt, lust is a driving force behind the porn industry.

Harmful Entertainment

As we have seen, pornography is hurting many children, teens, husbands and wives—and only benefits the pornography industry. It is warping and distorting the purpose of sex—turning it into merely a means of satisfying one's lusts.

However, God designed sex as a beautiful act between a married couple, and as a way to draw the couple

**“If the profits for pornography were not there,
the industry simply would not exist.”**

But this slide into the full-scale indecency of today has been a long time in the making. Following the sexual prudery of the Victorian Era blossomed the modern thinking of Sigmund Freud, Austrian physician and neurologist. Freud, the father of psychoanalysis, invented the theory that "...the symptoms of hysteria were ascribed to manifestations of undischarged emotional energy..." and that sexual repression and ignorance led to these psychological disorders.

This led to the sexual revolutions of the late 1960s and the 70s. During these years, moral standards were broken down and the "new morality" was unveiled. An avalanche of pornographic films made its way into movie theaters. This included films depicting such perverted acts as rape, bestiality, homosexuality and pedophilia. All of this was unprecedented in American society at that time, but today, it is practically commonplace. Although

I John 3:4 explains that "sin is the transgression of the law." The Law of God includes not only the Ten Commandments, but all of the laws, principles and points found in the Bible—such as "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (I Thes. 5:22); "...when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have *sinned* already, and have not repented of the *uncleanness* and *fornication* and *lasciviousness* which they have committed" (II Cor. 12:21); "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; *Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness* [impurity (the quality), physically or morally]...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:19, 21); "And He said, That which comes out of the man, that defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed *evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications*...All these evil

together. In fact, Genesis 1:28 shows that the first marriage command was for Adam and Eve to "be fruitful, and multiply"—conceive through sexual relations.

Unfortunately, as with almost everything man gets his hands on, sexuality has become twisted and distorted. Instead of following the laws of God and carrying out the sex function in the way that *God* designed, people have continually sought to redefine sex—from being a guilt-ridden pleasure in the Victorian age, to today's new morality, where practically any and every form of sex is accepted (and new forms are always welcome).

But this is not the way that God—the Creator and Designer of all things, including sex—meant it to be. (To learn more about this, read our free book *All About DATING and COURTSHIP* and our booklet *The Purpose of MARRIAGE – Ever Obsolete?* and our free book *SEX – The Unknown Dimension.*) □

THE DOLLAR CRISIS

And Why

The buying power of the American dollar is shrinking. The impact is global. What does the future hold—and how will it affect you?



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PAULA C. RONDEAU

THE U.S. DOLLAR is depreciating in value. Many economists believe that the recent decline of the dollar is only the beginning of an inevitable and serious correction. Some say it will be an “orderly” decline, benefiting the U.S. economy by causing exported products to be less expensive for foreign purchase. Others see a potential rout and collapse as a very real possibility.

What does this decline mean for you?—for the United States?—and for the rest of the world?

To understand what is at stake, we need to examine the history of the American dollar, and the international monetary system, which is underpinned by the U.S. dollar and was constructed in the middle of the last century. We’ll study the reasons the dollar is receding as the world’s currency, and why most Americans appear to be unconcerned. We will also look at the potential fallout if the American dollar continues its slide.

History of the Dollar

The term “dollar” had its roots in the *Joachimsthaler*, first coined in 1519 from the silver mines in Joachimsthal, Bohemia.

Following America’s independence from Great Britain in the late 18th century, the infant country set out to establish enduring, foundational institutions, which would catapult the United States to world power a few short decades later. A medium of monetary exchange was necessary, and in 1792, the “dollar” was created as the fundamental monetary unit in the United States. Its value was set at 24.75 grains of fine gold, with the coinage of silver dollars set to the value of the Spanish milled dollar.

The dollar provided a stable medium of exchange throughout the 19th century—with the amount of equivalent gold per dollar being occasionally adjusted by very small quantities. This stable condition remained until the 1920s, when exchange rates began to fluctuate wildly, and the international gold standard broke down.

In the U.S., the dollar continued to be redeemable in gold until the Gold Reserve

Act of January 30, 1934, prohibited the coinage of gold. Thus began the abandonment of gold as the standard of value for the dollar in the domestic economy.

While domestic redemption of gold for dollars was prohibited during the Roosevelt administration, gold continued as the commodity used to store wealth and balance international accounts. For example, if the value of imports consumed by a nation exceeded the value of goods produced and exported, the country with surplus paper notes could demand its equivalent value in gold as payment to balance accounts. This system forced nations to be fiscally responsible if they wished to retain their gold reserves.

During World War II, in reaction to the wide economic fluctuations and shrinkage in trade of the depressed decade of the 1930s, influential economists, such as John Maynard Keynes in Great Britain and Harry Dexter in the United States, conceived an alternative system. The architecture of this modified system was codified in the draft "Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund", known today as the IMF. These articles, adopted at the historic conference held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire in July, 1944, shaped the international monetary system for the next quarter century.

This system attempted to provide stability in international trade by attaching "pegged" but adjustable values to each unit of currency. As a basis, an ounce of gold was pegged at 35 American dollars. The U. S. government guaranteed this value, agreeing to exchange gold for dollars on demand. Other nations would define their currencies in terms of dollars, thus making the American dollar the world's first true international currency.

The power and wealth of the United States at the end of World War II enabled the American nation to set the rules for the rest of the world. The U.S. at that time possessed an overwhelming military, had a productive

capacity that was supreme, and owned roughly three-quarters of the world's gold reserves.

The Bretton Woods system performed well until the mid-1960s, when world trade began to grow at a pace that outstripped the system's ability to effectively balance payments. Because of this disparity, nations were forced to restrict trade and payments to reduce their deficits.

The dollar had continued to be the linchpin of the system, as the U.S. stood ready to buy and sell gold at the set \$35 per ounce. As foreign holders of dollars began to accumulate more currency than the U.S. could convert to gold, the system began to collapse.

In 1968, major banks determined that they could no longer engage in gold transactions with private individuals and firms. Although central banks continued to trade gold and currency at the established exchange, the price of gold exchanged between private parties would now be determined by the market.

On August 15, 1971, because of its ongoing deficit, the United States announced that it would no longer buy and sell gold with foreign central banks. Without the gold guarantee of the dollar, the international currency of choice would begin to float in value. The dollar's value would be determined by world confidence in the U.S. Government's ability to honor the fiat note, by the U.S. treasury's production of paper dollars, and by central bank currency exchange manipulation.

Finally, in January of 1976, the IMF incorporated a number of changes to the Articles of Agreements, officially altering the international monetary system. The changes provided freedom to each nation to adopt its own preferred exchange rate arrangement with IMF oversight through the central banks. Additionally, the role of gold was downgraded, with the IMF itself selling one-third of its gold holdings. Thus, the ordered system based on a finite supply of gold degenerated to a floating system of accounts based on paper notes or guarantees.

The former system had encouraged savings and national frugality, while also protecting the integrity of the dollar. The latter system encouraged speculation and spending. As radical as this shift was, it was only symptomatic of a more serious and fundamental change in philosophy. At the same time, the war of ideas and policy raged between two distinct economic ideologies—nationalistic protectionist policy and international free trade.

Free Trade and the Gold Standard

Most today assume that the international system of free trade was instrumental, at least in part, in catapulting the United States to superpower status. The historical roots of the modern free trade ideology are rarely discussed.

Free trade in modern times has existed as an ideology since at least the 18th century, when an Englishman named Adam Smith proposed an economic system that would maximize the wealth of the British Empire. Smith's treatise, represented in "The Wealth of Nations," contained within it the logical, nationalistic use of the empire's resources that could contribute to the greatest possible accumulation of wealth and extension of power. However, Smith and other economists of that time never envisioned the disregard for national borders and sovereignty that is espoused today. He wrote of appropriately levied tariffs—occasionally of huge proportions—to be used whenever required, perpetuating and extending British power and influence.

Also usually ignored is recorded history showing that Great Britain did not implement free trade policies outside of its own empire until the early 20th century—during a time of impending decline.

Similarly, the United States became a world power while enforcing protectionist measures, using enormous tariffs (some as much as 400 percent!) until the latter half of the 20th century to protect its industrial base, labor rates, and economic incentives. The system of tariffs insured that foreign governments, using exploit-

ed labor and government subsidies, could not “dump” their commodities on American soil and unfairly impact American industry and labor.

Import tariffs were charged to price foreign goods above the domestically produced commodity or manufactured product. The money paid by the foreign government then found its way into the U.S. treasury, thus serving the purpose of financing government with foreign resources. This funding also contributed to an extremely low tax burden on U.S. citizens.

It was under this system that the American nation flourished. These facts are corroborated by documented percentages that trumpet the relative geographical control, industrial production, and wealth of the United States at her zenith of power. Is it a coincidence that, as the gold standard was abandoned and tariffs were reduced and then eliminated, and as production factories were moved offshore, the nation also experienced a decline in relative wealth, economic influence, and effective use of its military power?

In contrast to Henry Ford’s “fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work,” today’s entrepreneurs largely disregard such an idea, and see no error in the belief that production should occur where the goods can be produced for the least cost and at maximum profit. What he fails to realize is that, at some

point in the not so distant future, the very goods that he is producing will be beyond the reach of the average American worker, and the domestic system will collapse.

This debasement of the dollar would have sounded a national alarm to traditional America. Today, the dollars’ decline generates only modest concern from all but a very few. The powerful America of yesteryear is viewed as a hurdle to eliminate, instead of the beacon and protector of true freedom that it once was. The decline of the dollar in relative value and the transfer of American assets to other nations are viewed with indifference, or worse—as a just redistribution of wealth. The dollar is being redefined.

The divorce of the dollar from a commodity base such as gold was a critical factor in the decline of America. While the fiat currency system has contributed to the international exchange of goods and services, it has also served to reduce the importance of America on the world stage.

A System in Bankruptcy

Some economists are very uneasy about mushrooming debt in the United States, with a growing number concerned that a fiscal “day of reckoning” is imminent. Even as the American economy is touted as the envy of the world, a blind eye is turned toward the overall balance sheet of America, and

its indebted citizenry—who have been throwing a huge hedonistic party, having grown accustomed to consuming more than they produce. All the while, they tell each other that everything is fine. The poverty of the 1930s has receded from national memory, and affluence in America is regarded as an *entitlement* and *basic right*.

Americans have sold their means of production to help finance this short-lived fiesta! Foreign governments can now force the United States to be declared insolvent *at a time of their choosing!* Let’s look at some recent developments:

In the past ten years, the U.S. current account (a measure of imported versus exported goods) has gone from an \$80 billion surplus to an incredible and unsustainable \$550 billion deficit! In effect, the world has been flooded with dollars used to pay for the unrestrained consumption of United States citizens. With these billions of surplus dollars, foreign nations have purchased massive amounts of U.S. securities—in effect, financing the continuing slide into financial disaster!

Have these nations acted in such a way because they are predisposed to being generous benefactors forever sponsoring unfettered American consumption? Only the most naive would believe this. These nations have supported the dollar in the currency markets, as well as supported

TAXES, NOT TARIFFS

Americans today accept a huge tax burden as part of living in the modern world. Much of the average American’s income is taken from him and used to fund the many functions of government, infrastructure, military, and the transfer of wealth to favored groups of people. The long debate over taxation of US citizens that occurred in the 19th century has faded from the memory of most Americans.

The income tax as a regular and important source of revenue, for example, was a hotly contested issue until the 16th amendment was

adopted in 1913. The US Supreme Court decision, “Pollack vs. The Farmers’ Loan and Trust Company”, in the 1890’s declared attempts to pass a tax to be in violation of the Constitutional provision requiring direct taxes to be apportioned among the states according to population.

Did you know that the intent of the income tax in the early 20th century was to tax only the very wealthy? Married couples with less than \$4,000 in annual earnings were excluded, at a time when the average annual income in America was only

\$500. As recently as 1948, only two percent of the average wage went to federal tax!

Today, taxes of all shapes have made the effective tax rate of the average American’s wages somewhere near half of his gross income. Families with both father and mother working are now bringing home less discretionary pay on a percentage basis than a hard working father once provided alone!

As the tax burden to Americans has increased, the portion of the U.S. Government financed by foreign nations has almost

ceased. With the implementation of borderless free trade, gone are the tariffs once applied to foreign goods that financed a sizeable portion of the United States Government prior to the latter half of the 20th century.

God warned in type that the nature of human governments was to expand and burden the common man. This can be found in the history of ancient Israel, when God allowed Israel to choose their own king, thus removing themselves from direct rule by God (I Samuel 8:11-18). □

the continuing burgeoning debt of the U.S. government for the same reason any creditor would lend money to a bankrupt opponent—to achieve control of the debtor and profit from his demise!

If this is not bad enough, dollar-rich nations such as Japan, China and Germany have used trade to undermine the productive capacity and technological advancement of the once greatest nation on earth. They have used billions of dollars to purchase assets in the United States, as well as build state of the art productive facilities in their own nations. These foreign facilities employ workers at a fraction of the salary once paid to the American worker. Such frivolity as practiced by the United States has, in effect, financed its own fall from power.

Consider this. We will soon reach a time when foreign nations can demand basic commodities such as food and energy as payment for American dollars they hold in reserve.

Stunning, but true!

Here is just one ominous development on the world scene: China's grain harvest has fallen in four of the last five years. Currently, they are not producing enough food to feed their population, and have been drawing down their reserve. At present rates of production and consumption, China's reserves will be entirely depleted sometime at the end of 2004.

The American consumer could soon find himself competing with foreign nations for his own wheat! God warned of this in Deuteronomy 28:33, when He said, "A strange nation will eat up your crops and all the fruit of your labor, and you shall be utterly crushed and broken continually, till you are driven mad by the sight of it all" (Moffatt translation).

What would prevent the Chinese

government from using its huge trade surplus with America to demand American wheat? To meet future demand for an ever-growing Chinese population, a long line of grain-loaded vessels would stretch across the Pacific, with two or three ships embarking daily. This would come at a time when world grain stocks are at their lowest levels in 30 years and

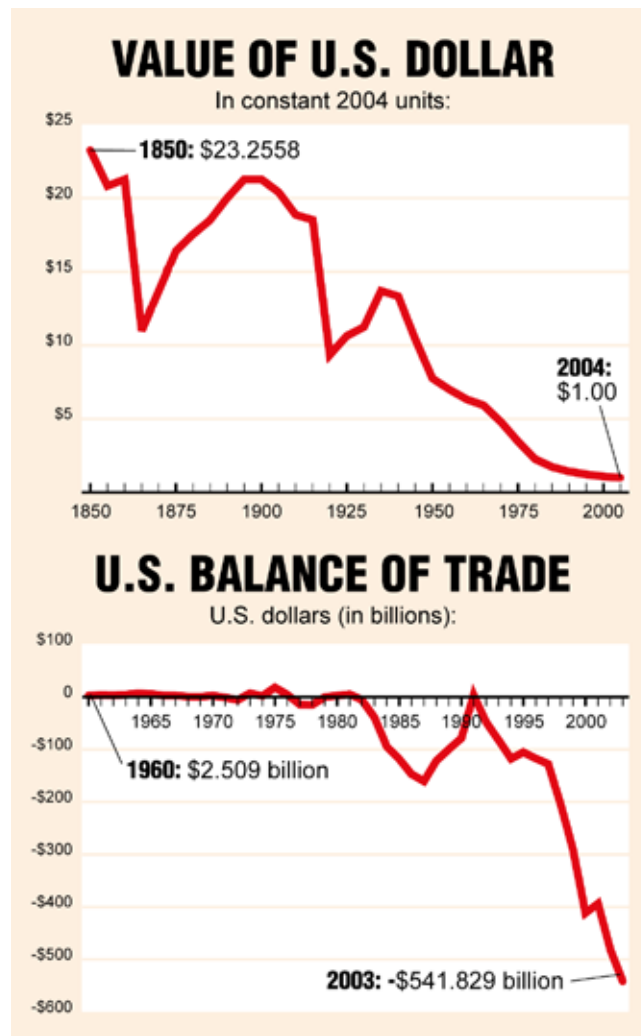
The debtor, prosperous by all *outward* appearances, has suddenly become a pauper! The creditor has become his "head", by assuming rule over him! God warned His people of these curses centuries ago in Deuteronomy 28:43-44. They are now becoming a harsh reality for Israel's modern-day descendants. (You may wish to read our free book *AMERICA AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY*.)

The federal government is also running an unprecedented domestic deficit that many economists view as unsustainable. Total federal debt exceeded an incomprehensible \$7 trillion in February 2004, with the annual deficit a record \$374.25 billion. When the government does not take in enough revenue to finance its expenditures, it can balance accounts by: (1) Increasing taxes (2) printing more money (in effect, causing inflation) (3) borrowing from domestic and foreign sources.

But, the United States cannot finance this debt domestically. It is dependent upon massive foreign intervention to prevent outright insolvency and collapse. Japan has been willing to purchase billions of dollars of securities to date, but only the most unrealistic optimist would contend that they will continue this for much longer. In short, the United States is not *becoming* dependent upon other nations—it already *is*!

While government debt has increased in almost immeasurable fashion, the American consumer has also done his fair share of overspending. The ratio of household liabilities hit an all time high of 22.6 percent in the first quarter of 2003. In the past 25 years, the number of families filing for bankruptcy increased 400 percent—with foreclosures up 350 percent!

Real estate assets have skyrocketed in price, driven by two-income households (having more money to spend,



U.S. farmers are under stress from drought—and the growing demand for water in the cities.

This dismal situation is analogous to a household that lives well beyond its means of production. Creditors may continue to lend this profligate house ever increasing amounts of money until the situation is irreversible. At that time, the creditor will assume control of that household's assets, even evicting the family from its dwelling.

thus driving up the price), easy credit, real estate fees, and the lowest interest rates in decades. This has served to further increase the average American's debt burden. Many use their homes as security to borrow money to pay for consumer items ranging from SUV's to groceries! Economists look for this real estate asset bubble to burst at the first significant move upward in interest rates.

This mindset in government and private enterprise is a recent phenomenon in the U.S. Previous generations understood well that economic independence was a prerequisite to the protection of constitutionally defined freedom. The selfish and irrational disregard for the future could only occur in a generation of Americans that have had their culture destroyed, their achievements maligned, and their pride broken.

Casting Their Gold in the Streets

The above picture does not bode well for the future of the dollar. The trade deficit by itself will likely continue the dollar's decline. Many economists acknowledge a rout would have already taken place were it not for Japan's recent support. In 2003, Japan spent a record 20 trillion yen to buy \$321 billion to support the American currency. Japan then used the acquired dollars to invest in securities of the U.S. government—thus funding further irresponsible spending.

How long will foreign governments be willing to provide such funding? The cold reality is this: At some time in the future, the threat of Asian governments running down their colossal dollar holdings will crystallize, and the dollar's decline will be anything but orderly!

Presently, Japan's government appears to be turning away from the massive intervention used to support the dollar against the yen. In March of 2004, the former Japanese Minister of Finance (MOF) was quoted as saying, "It looks to me that their strategy has changed." The dollar subsequently lost over five percent of its value relative to the yen.

Combine this with a treasury

department that might attempt to print the government out of debt, and a Federal Reserve Bank forced to raise its lending rate to prevent a complete collapse in value. Add the overarching condition of government forced to offer securities at higher rates of interest to attract funding, and you have a recipe for national disaster of unprecedented proportion!

Although we do not pretend to know *when* the dollar will retreat on a massive scale, we do know that its collapse *is certain*. The blessings that God promised to Abraham's descendants (Gen. 12:2; 22:17-18; 35:11) are being withdrawn.

God proclaims that the symbols of wealth—gold and silver—are His (Hag. 2:8)! He mightily warns that He will remove the gold and silver suddenly from His wicked and sinning people (Ezek. 7:19)!

The dollar's ultimate collapse is as sure as the word of God—*unless* a nation now far removed from the true God deeply repents—utterly changes its ways.

The World in Crisis

What effect will the destruction of the U.S. dollar have on the rest of the world? Will the European and Asian economic blocs be able to protect their currencies when the dollar collapses? Bible prophecy indicates that, although foreign markets and currencies will likely experience turmoil and instability while the dollar implodes, the powerful regions of the world will ride through the financial tumult and emerge prepared for economic war—and eventually real war.

Today, the European Union's Euro is providing Europe and the world an alternative to the U.S. dollar as a unit of international currency. While the Euro's acceptance grows, Asian nations are restructuring their regional financial system to become more independent of the U.S. dollar. Additionally, Muslim nations, including the oil-producing nations of OPEC, plan to replace the U.S. dollar with the gold Dinar by 2006 for all international crude oil transactions.

Bible prophecy warns that, as the

modern-day nations that have descended from ancient Israel decline and collapse, two economic and military powers will ascend to the world's center stage. God will soon use a European confederation to correct the sinful and degenerate American and British peoples.

While most of the world desires the destruction of America, Britain and other Israelite nations, they are generally ignorant of the darkness that is prophesied to descend upon the entire earth. At that time, the Gentile nations will turn to war against each other, and their blood will be "poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung" (Zeph. 1:17).

Good Economic News Soon to Come

Ultimately, man's economic system will fail. Greed, corruption, lack of vision, and unrestrained consumption are all contributing to its demise.

However, Christ will soon return to set up a GOVERNMENT and WORLD ECONOMY that will capitalize on the particular productive strengths of nations and peoples in different regions of the world. He will force mankind to remove the spirit of *competition* from this revolutionary economy, and replace it with a spirit of *outgoing concern* for the well being of others—on an individual as well as national scale.

Never again will workers suffer the exploitation they have endured for 6,000 years. Never again will those who have all the gold make the rules for those who do not. Labor unrest, so long exploited by those who rule, will be gone. Truly, a fair day's wage *will* be paid for a fair day's work.

Gone will be the inflation that destroys honestly accumulated wealth. Gone will be debt instruments that allow people and nations to continue to consume the productive efforts of others, without also producing tangible wealth themselves. All nations will prosper as debt-free human citizens ruled by the kingdom of God.

This is the wonderful picture of the world to come. May that day come soon! □

TELEVISION

Continued from page 9

In their study, Christakis and his team examined data on nearly 1,300 children from a major government survey of children and youth. They compared rates of TV watching during the first three years of life to the development of attention problems at age 7.

The researchers found that “for each additional daily hour of television that young children watched on average, the risk of subsequently having attentional problems [by age 7] was increased by almost 10.” This means that 1- to 3-year-olds who watched eight hours of television a day “would have an 80% higher risk of attentional problems compared to a child who watched zero hours.”

Even a cursory look at the world reveals that society has become increasingly violent. Incidences of “adult crimes,” up to and including murder committed by adolescents, have become common in the news. It has long been known that the viewing of violent programs increases the number of violent acts committed—starting at an early age and continuing into adulthood.

In 1972, a U.S. Surgeon General’s committee released a six-volume *Scientific Advisory Report on Television and Social Behavior*, which concluded that viewing TV violence has serious consequences for children. They become more willing to respond with aggression in a conflict situation, more willing to harm others, and more aggressive when playing. Appendix III of the report, “Television and Growing Up: The Impact of Televised Violence,” concludes with the following: “The relation of third-grade television habits to later behavior now appears even more impressive. Not only is the violence of programs preferred in third grade related to peer-rated aggression in the third grade and ten years later, but it is also related positively to self-discipline and anti-social behavior ten years later on.”

Limitless Choices

With over 1,900 television broadcasting networks and stations in the U.S. alone, there is no lack of programming to watch. Gone are the days when TV viewing was limited to what could be received by over-the-air antennas. The introduction of cable and satellite systems is largely responsible for the explosion of growth in broadcasting networks.

The television industry is big business. It employs over 154,000 in just the manufacturing of television, radio and wireless communications equipment. It has an annual payroll of over \$11.7 billion for the 245,000 employees of the 6,692 cable TV networks and program distribution firms alone. Television broadcasting firms paid out \$10.7 billion for broadcast rights and music license fees, constituting their biggest expense. Their next biggest expense is an annual payroll of \$6.5 billion.

Clearly, they need viewers to support their industry.

There are literally hundreds of channels that can be easily accessed at the press of a button. This year, viewers will spend a projected \$255 *per person* for cable and satellite TV.

But what are they watching? What kinds of images are pouring into the minds of viewers?

The variety of shows available at the viewer’s fingertips covers a broad range—from children’s programs to the afternoon soap operas and talk shows, to the evening newscasts, then moving on to “the family hour” and finally prime-time. There are the big three networks, ABC, NBC and CBS, along with PBS, joined a few years ago by The WB, UPN and, more recently, FOX. These stations (called “free TV”) are readily available simply by pulling them out of the air via a rooftop antenna.

If one has cable or satellite, the choices appear to be limitless. There is the Cartoon Network, Animal Planet, History Channel, Discovery, Discovery Wings, TNN, The Learning Channel, National Geographic Channel, Turner Classic Movies, ESPN, ESPN2, CNN and MSN, just to name a few. Then there is the Home Shopping Network, with the

deal of the hour. For the sports fanatic, an almost endless choice of NFL, NBA, NHL, and MLB channels. Then there are all the premium movie channels like HBO, Showtime, Starz and Encore. And of course all kinds of pay-per-view channels. And for the exploding number of men and women who want pornography, there exists the so-called “adult programming.”

At the other end of the spectrum, a growing number of religious networks are entering the fray. There are even channels for those who are nostalgic for days gone by, such as TV Land, which play reruns of shows from a simpler, more wholesome time. Some of these channels even play old commercials!

This plethora of channels has led to the modern phenomenon of “channel surfing.” With so many channels to choose from, a person has a hard time deciding what to watch. No matter what one is viewing, the possibility of something better or more interesting on another channel is always there. Adding in the endless commercial interruptions every seven minutes only feeds this phenomenon.

Television has changed dramatically in the last few decades. Again, in the early days, the channel choices were very few. It was much easier back then to decide what to watch. The world was different. Society was more wholesome. There was no such thing as the TV rating system. No need for ratings of “TV-PG,” “TV-14” or “TV-MA,” and now with the added designations of: “S” for sex; “V” for violence; “L” for crude language; “D” for dialogue containing sexual themes.

There was no need to worry about the content of a show. The vast majority of programming on television was suitable for the whole family. It was always family hour on TV. Even commercials were more wholesome.

But this has all changed. In part two of this series, we will continue with a look at shows from the past and programming of today. We will see that there has been a constant trend toward more foul language, violence, nudity and sex, and the degradation of families and fathers. And we will show what this means to you and your children! □



“And this Gospel Must First Be Published...”

Is *The REAL TRUTH* just another magazine—or is it something more? What is its purpose? How is it supported? Who publishes it—and why?

BY KEVIN D. DENEÉ

AFTER READING *The REAL TRUTH* (RT), many are led to ask, “What is this magazine about?” They continue, “I want to know more about this unique publication.”

Many realize that the RT is unique when compared to typical news magazines. Not only do we analyze the news, but we also examine it from a biblical perspective. While showing society’s rampant *problems*, the RT explains the *SOLUTIONS*.

Far from being a “gloom and doom” magazine, each issue provides answers to today’s troubles—and points to a time when mankind will enjoy great *peace, abundance and prosperity!*

Here is a brief look behind the scenes of this magazine...

The Big Picture

The REAL TRUTH is a part of something far greater. It plays a role in a far larger purpose.

This Work has a two-fold commission. The Great (or First) Commission is “Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). These are Jesus Christ’s instructions to His servants. Concerning the end of the age, He also told them, “And the gospel must first be published among all nations” (13:10). The Second Commission is to feed the flock of God—to supply each member of God’s Church with spiritual food (John 21:15-17).

The REAL TRUTH plays an important role in fulfilling the First Commission. This magazine, through the publishing power of the Internet and other means, is spreading the gospel at

a rate and efficiency that the world has never before seen. Great numbers of people can now learn as much as they want, when they want. Virtually every nation around the world has access to learning sound, proven principles, helping many to live happier lives and become better citizens.

The basic mission of this magazine is to proclaim and teach the gospel—the GOOD NEWS—of the soon-coming kingdom of God.

The REAL TRUTH magazine is produced by The Restored Church of God (RCG). The Church is devoted to living God’s way of life and dedicated to the First Commission—reaching the world with Christ’s gospel, teaching the RIGHT WAY, which is the opposite of the world’s *get* way.

The RCG understands the need to spread a clear, *plain* and REAL message—to reach out to a struggling, suffering world. This magazine delivers that message.

The RT carries articles that explain the root CAUSE of war, what is wrong with the weather, the meaning of events in Europe, why earthquakes are increasing, why science has failed to bring the utopia that all long for, how



and why racism and bigotry will soon disappear, where the world economy is going, what lies ahead for all nations, the value of right ethics and the definition of true character, the real cause of the moral crisis in the West, what is wrong with modern education, why so many seek escape and pleasure, and the definition of true success.

We explain how the worldwide void of great leaders will be filled and how peace will come in our time—how to build strong families and rear happy, productive children—how to end all your financial worries—why new diseases are appearing and older ones are re-appearing, stronger than before—and whether the *United Nations* is really the ultimate answer to the problems plaguing mankind.

We explain why there are thousands of differing, and disagreeing, forms of “Christianity”—why religion has not yet solved the world’s great problems—how to understand real faith—how to identify the real Christ of the Bible—the way of “give” vs. “get”—the law of CAUSE and EFFECT—the true origin of human nature—the principles of healthful living—and many other vital subjects. The *RT* brings plain understanding to the insoluble problems now overwhelming mankind, and points to the lasting peace of THE WORLD TO COME, just over the horizon.

The REAL TRUTH magazine plays a giant role, but there are other methods we are using to proclaim the gospel.

■ **www.TheRCG.org (along with www.RealTruthMag.org):** The Restored Church of God has—by far—the largest biblically-based website on earth, carrying a vast array of tools to guide people seeking to live God’s way of life. Yet, unlike most other religious organizations, there is nothing to buy or pay for. It is all free of charge!

Already, the Internet has allowed us to reach 200 countries and territories! The potential number of people we can—and *will*—reach is truly staggering. This has been of great encouragement to those who support this Work.

■ **The WORLD TO COME Broadcast:** Broadcast via the Internet, this program answers crucial questions such as: Where is the world going?—Why is it filled with problems, troubles, evils and ills, causing unhappiness, confusion and misery of every kind?—What lies ahead? In an age of fear, confusion and hopelessness, *The WORLD TO COME* is a voice of truth, providing answers, and proclaiming hope for humanity! *And each broadcast* is instantly available around the world!

With all of these tools and more, The Restored Church of God is helping people find *answers*—real solutions—to make their lives happy and productive.

How Can All of This be Free?

The Restored Church of God never solicits the general public for financial support. Here is why:

We are dedicated to this mission of real love, of outgoing concern for all people worldwide. All of our activities are supported by dedicated, giving people. Following Christ’s instruction, “Freely you have received, freely give,” we offer everything free of charge.

The Restored Church of God receives financial support from the voluntary tithes paid by its members. They recognize the abundant blessings promised by God to all who obey His law of tithing (Mal. 3:8-10). One side benefit of practicing just this single law is that it helps people manage their personal finances. In the end, both the Church and its membership prosper from practicing

this proven law of God.

In addition to RCG members, there are many co-workers and donors who regularly contribute in sharing with others the wonderful and precious understanding they have received.

Continual Growth!

While still relatively small, The Restored Church of God is experiencing phenomenal growth and impact around the world. We will continue to grow and to reach out further, helping more people, and affecting positive change in the lives of ever greater numbers.

Christ commanded His disciples to go forth into the entire world (Matt. 28:19-20). We are doing exactly that!—bringing the good news of God’s kingdom even to far-flung countries like Zimbabwe, Iceland, China, Chile, New Zealand and Egypt. This has not stopped—and we will soon be reaching all nations on earth!

Many thousands visit our website every week, and are learning sound, true principles of a productive way of life. They are being armed with knowledge that can help them grow to become better examples—and better citizens—in their local communities.

The Restored Church of God offers a message of hope. Tools such as our broadcasts (webcasts), magazines, books, booklets and other literature are affecting lives around the world. Again, Christ foretold that “the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt. 24:10). Immediately after, the age of competition, greed and strife will at last be replaced by the wonderful world of tomorrow and the rulership of God’s kingdom on earth. (To learn more, read our free booklets *Here is The Restored Church of God* and *Which is the REAL GOSPEL?*) □

PERSONAL

Continued from page 2

references to what world leaders, the United Nations, moralists and military strategists thought or felt.

But he neglected entirely to reference any opinion or instruction that *GOD* might hold in the matter!

During every war, endless television talk shows parade politicians, generals, colonels, war heroes and other “analysts” before the cameras. They offer non-stop “insight” into what it all means, what must be done and why. For instance, they speak of being “bold” and “innovative” in the world’s war on terror, which is deemed a “new kind of war.” Each “expert” seems to have a different opinion on what will, or will not, work. Where God is absent, disagreement abounds!

Again, not once have I heard a single one of these leaders, generals, war heroes or military planners ask what God thinks about war!

I have certainly heard a number of ministers, evangelists, religionists and theologians—usually representing a particular church denomination, ministry or organization—express their own personal view about particular wars. But their views are nothing more than what they think or feel! Without exception, such religious thinkers believe that war can be “just and noble” in purpose. Also, virtually without exception, these same churchmen were part of the country that was attacked. Is it surprising that they chose to agree with the opinion of the overwhelming majority surrounding them, which was already driving the course of the country? Modern religious leaders lack the moral and spiritual strength to reflect what God commands, so they cave to national peer pressure.

However, I have heard nearly all of these same churchmen ask God—after the fact—to bless what men had already decided to do through means of war. In their appalling weakness, they have the gall to ask God to bless their sin—war!

In reference to one particular war, a great conference of religious leaders said that this war was “regrettable but necessary,” and that they felt that military action was appropriate as long as “the principles of morality and human dignity” were followed. Another group of leaders stated the hope that a “wise, just and effective” military response could occur. All of these statements flow from human reasoning. None are based on the Bible—and I did not hear any of these groups or individuals make a pretense that they were.

Asking God to bless the horrific nature of war is like asking Him to work through a Frankenstein monster!

Mankind, in his rebellion against God (Rom. 8:7), likes to present his civilization in the best possible light. But, through the prophet Ezekiel, God states that the false prophets of the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel will declare, “Peace; and there [is] no peace” (Ezek. 13:10). The Bible shows that peace will remain elusive to those who forsake God’s ways.

Similarly, nations at war also see themselves, ultimately, as part of a “peace process.” They depict war as a temporary interlude to the peace that they feel they are working toward in the only way available to them. Yet, since peace is usually followed by more war, “peace processes” inevitably become “war processes.”

No wonder the famous French World War I statesman, Georges Clemenceau, said, “I don’t know whether war is an interlude during peace or peace is an interlude during war.”

The Christian

God is calling people who are citizens of various nations on this earth. Most who are called in this age are privileged to live under the freedoms of a democracy. As such, they are taught that they have a special responsibility to “make the world safe for democracy.”

In free societies, where this belief is common (this is what so many were taught in school), suffering, injuries,

untold atrocities, destruction and death are portrayed as “glorious.” But what is glorious—or just—about any of these things? Those who believe that war is glorious may be sincere, but they are sincerely wrong! Human beings are made in the image of God and are His potential spirit-born children. There is nothing glorious about fighting, maiming or killing them.

Therefore, we must ask some questions: Does God permit His servants to fight in the wars of men? The term “military service” comes from the idea that one who performs this duty is serving his country. Should Christians attack, kill and maim their fellow human beings on behalf of their country? May Christians go to war as long as the general consensus is that it is a “just and noble cause”? Are Christians permitted to bear arms and kill as long as they are “making the world safe for democracy”?

What does God say?

Your Decision

In one’s decision to either fight or not fight, both the individual and the Church of God have a direct responsibility to perform.

The Restored Church of God is determined to teach God’s laws and principles on all matters. God determines what is right and what is wrong—what is righteousness and what is sin. But the individual must decide whether or not he will obey God’s instruction.

This is the Bible’s clear teaching and, therefore, the official teaching and position of The Restored Church of God!

Why Men Cannot Find Peace

It has been said that all nations are either preparing for war, at war or recovering from war. This is partly because men often think they must go to war in search of peace. How ironic! The outcome of war usually involves a temporary truce, but always fails to yield permanent peace. This is because men cannot, and will never, find the way to peace on their own. They literally have *no chance* to solve the problem of achieving world peace.

Here's why.

As part of an extensive prophecy about world conditions in our time, the prophet Isaiah explains this: "The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goes therein shall not know peace" (Isa. 59:8). Men's solutions always lead to more wars, misery, death and destruction. The apostle Paul repeated, "And the way of peace have they not known" (Rom. 3:17). How true!

The governments of men simply do not work. They have *never* succeeded in finding permanent solutions to humanity's problems. They lack the answers to mankind's greatest questions. It has not *yet* been given to men to understand the path to peace—or, for that matter, the path to abundance, happiness, harmony, health and prosperity. No wonder the great thinkers, leaders, educators and scientists have failed miserably in their quest for world peace. God has not yet *revealed* to the vast majority of humanity the solution to its unending wars.

Men's Efforts Cannot Bring World Peace

True Christians are not activists seeking to "make this world a better place"—thereby bringing the kingdom of God to earth. They have their "*feet shod* with the preparation of the *gospel of peace*" (Eph. 6:15). They walk through life having their feet covered with the knowledge of how the true gospel spells the only way to final world peace. They understand with certainty that the kingdom of God—bringing "government *and peace*" (Isa. 9:6-7)—is coming. They know what lies ahead for this world. They do not go off to serve and kill in the endless, futile wars of men and nations. They do not take matters into their own hands, and try to supposedly "spread the kingdom" now, thereby effectively seeking to neutralize God's purpose, which is to show man that he is not capable of governing himself! (Take time to read our two free booklets *WAR, KILLING and the MILITARY* and *Should Christians VOTE?* to understand why.)

Notice what Paul was inspired to write: "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a *thief in the night*. For when they [leaders and religionists] shall say, *Peace and safety*; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But *you, brethren, are not in darkness*, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (I Thes. 5:2-4).

All who understand the truths of this subject need never again be "in the dark" about God's Plan or their great potential role within it.

Citing Isaiah 52:7, Paul also wrote, "How beautiful are *the feet* of them that preach the *gospel of peace*, and bring glad tidings [the good news of the gospel] of good things" (Rom. 10:15). In verse 16, he went on to cite another passage from Isaiah: "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah said, Lord, *who has believed our report?*" (53:1).

Of course, most people will *not* believe "God's report" of what lies ahead for civilization. They will *not* believe that they are unable to bring world peace through human effort. Many will shout "Peace, peace; *when there is no peace*" (Jer. 6:14; 8:11, 14-15) and most will eagerly believe their false predictions.

The professing Christians of this world will continue desperately striving to bring about the kingdom of God and world peace through human effort. Deceived religious leaders will tell them that this is their "Christian duty." Many will see this as the sole mission of their church. Millions are looking for happiness, abundance, peace and security around every corner—but will be terribly disappointed in the *short term*. This is because world conditions, leading into a final devastating period of calamity, will get far worse before they ultimately get better.

City of Peace, Finally

But in the end, the world will NOT be disappointed! Good news lies ahead.

The capital city of the modern-day Jewish nation of Israel is Jerusalem.

Though this city has known nothing but war throughout its history, its name literally means "CITY OF PEACE." It carries this name because Christ—the PRINCE OF PEACE—will return there to establish His kingdom. The Prince of Peace will *rule* from the City of Peace. Beginning in this single city, peace will quickly spread around the world. Eventually, it *WILL* "break out" everywhere!

Final, true world peace will come in your lifetime. It is as certain as the Word of God!

"Thy Kingdom Come"

Most people are familiar with what is called "The Lord's Prayer." Many can recite it without effort, having practiced it without understanding that it is simply a *model* or *guideline* for how to pray. I learned it at age four. It begins, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. *Thy kingdom come*. Thy will be done in earth..." (Matt. 6:9-10). This short prayer continues for three more verses. But, of the millions who know and use this prayer, how many actually think about the phrase "Thy kingdom come"? For 2,000 years, people may have basically sought to follow Christ's instruction, praying, "Thy kingdom come" without ever really pondering the staggering meaning behind this small phrase.

Have you?

A few verses later, in the same chapter, Christ stated, "But seek you *first* the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (vs. 33). Christians must be continually seeking the kingdom of God *FIRST*—above everything else—in their lives! How can they do this if they do not know *what* it is—or *when* it will come—or how it affects their own salvation?

But now YOU do!

Will you pray, "Thy kingdom come"? Will you make your calling and election sure (II Pet. 1:10)? Will you grow, qualify, and develop in spiritual character? Or will you ignore your opportunity to rule in God's kingdom and teach others the right way of life? □

WORLD NEWS DESK



WEATHER

Locusts Swarm Australia

Australians are bracing for the worst as heavy rains end a drought, but provide ideal breeding conditions for swarms of locusts that first appeared in remote parts of Queensland, but are now spreading to New South Wales. “We were just staggering out of the drought, we are incredibly frustrated,” said farmer Bev Dennis, based 550 km (340 miles) west of Sydney. “A thick haze of them came through over the weekend and chomped their way through our oats crop overnight,” she added. The oats were intended for her lambs, which have had little grass to eat due to the drought. Ironically, the heavy rains also rendered useless the insecticide sprayed to control the bugs. New South Wales farmer Joe Davis said, “In a few days, we will see locusts that will just black the sun out,” he told ABC television. “There won’t be a green thing, they’ll even eat the clothes off the washing line.”

Source: *BBC News*



U.S. Drought

A summary of the current U.S. drought situation:

■ On the plains and in the upper-Midwest, there is a sharp contrast between drought on the high plains and relatively wet conditions on the east-central plains. On the high plains, dry weather, combined with temperatures as high as 15 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, continues to apply stress to agriculture in the area. “In Colorado, USDA/NASS reported as of March 28 that pastures and rangeland rated 58 percent very poor to poor, a slight improvement from last year at this time (77 percent very poor to poor) but significantly worse than the five-year average of 36 percent. Meanwhile, the percentage of winter wheat rated very

poor to poor included 61 percent in Colorado, 30 percent in Texas, and 28 percent in both Kansas and Nebraska.”

■ Despite a reduction of drought in northwestern Missouri, from severe to moderate drought (D2 to D1), there are still serious groundwater shortages and long-term precipitation deficits.

■ The West continues to experience warmer-than-normal weather, with more than 50 daily-record highs recorded in areas from Washington to California and Arizona, from March 23-29. Exceptional drought (D3 to D4) is currently affecting an area from parts of central and western Montana southward through the Great Basin and the Intermountain region into

northern Arizona and much of New Mexico.

■ The National Weather Service is forecasting little or no relief for most of the West.

Most interesting regarding the continued drought in the U.S., is the amount of time it takes for a continued drought to begin to dramatically affect a nation. Many Americans are simply not aware of the severity of the situation. How much longer before the food supply is significantly affected? How many farmers are nearing the brink of economic disaster? If the U.S. economy, and agriculture as a part of it, is in a fragile state, what will happen when the nation faces its next calamity?

Source: *Drought Monitor*

New Survey: World Opinion of U.S. Even Lower

A new survey by the Pew Research Center clearly indicates that many peoples—even those of countries that are allied with the U.S.—continue to hold negative views of America. “The divide between the U.S. and Europe is only getting wider,” says Carroll Doherty, editor for the Pew Research Center. “It’s beyond a question of America’s image, it’s now to the point where people want action based on their

opposition to the U.S.”

French and German opinion remains negative and generally unchanged since a year ago. “Across Europe, we found people supporting the emergence of a European Union that can stand up and be an equal power to the U.S.,” says Mr. Doherty. Even British support for the war in Iraq fell from 61 percent last year to 43 percent now.

One of the more disturbing

trends identified in the survey:

“Overwhelming majorities in Jordan and Morocco believe suicide attacks against Americans and other Westerners in Iraq are justifiable.”

For those countries allied with the U.S. in the war on terror (e.g., Pakistan, Jordan), how much longer can their politicians hold out against the will of their people?

Source: *The Christian Science Monitor*

RELIGION

Pope: Sunday Mass is Key Witness to World

The Pope has indicated that the Catholic Church must respond to the world’s tendency toward secularism, with a “strong witness of faith, particularly through Sunday Mass.” Parts of his recent address to Australian bishops include:

“The Church’s witness to the hope that she holds is especially powerful when she gathers together for worship. Sunday Mass, because of its special solemnity, the obligatory presence of the faithful, and its celebration on the day when Christ conquered death, expresses with great emphasis

the Eucharist’s inherent ecclesial dimension,” he said. “The mystery of the Church is made present in a most tangible way. Consequently Sunday is the supreme day of faith, an indispensable day, the day of Christian hope,” the Pope added. “Any weakening in the Sunday observance of holy Mass weakens Christian discipleship and dims the light of witness to Christ’s presence in our world,” he cautioned.

In addition to Sunday observance, the Pope indicated a need to further expand the “witnessing” to the world. “Sent by the Lord himself into the

vineyard—the home, the workplace, schools, civic organizations—disciples of Christ find no room for ‘standing idle in the marketplace’ nor can they be so deeply immersed in the internal organization of parish life, that they are distracted from the command to evangelize others actively,” the Pope said. Finally, he added, “Renewed by the strength of the risen Lord and his Spirit, Christ’s followers must return to their vineyard burning with a desire to speak of Christ and to show him to the world.”

Source: *Zenit News Agency*

Anti-Semitism in Europe

A recent report by the European Union’s anti-Semitism body (EUMC) indicates a marked rise in anti-Semitic acts over the last few years, in five significant European countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and the UK.

Beate Winkler, the EUMC head, had this to say as he presented his report to the European Parliament last week: “Europe has a problem with anti-Semitism,” adding that “it has been getting worse over the past two to three years. Although it is not easy to generalize, the largest group of perpetrators... appears to be young, disaffected white Europeans. A further source of anti-Semitism in some countries was young Muslims of North African or Asian extraction. Traditionally anti-Semitic



groups on the extreme right played a part in stirring opinion.”

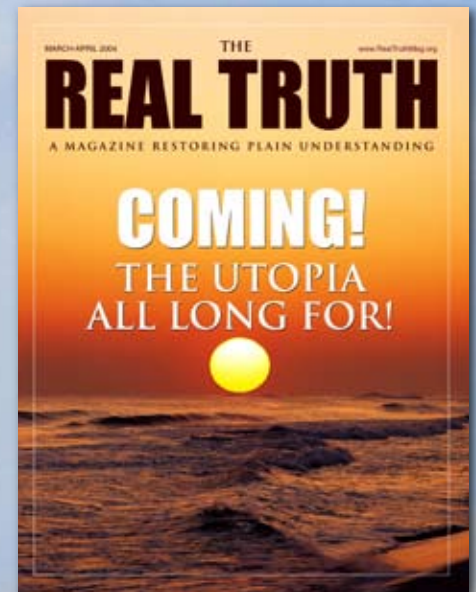
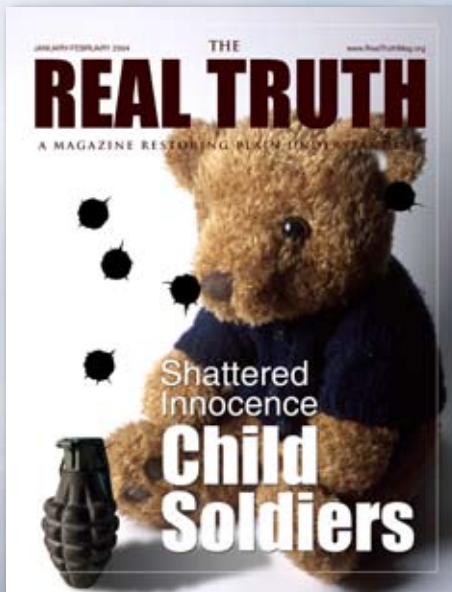
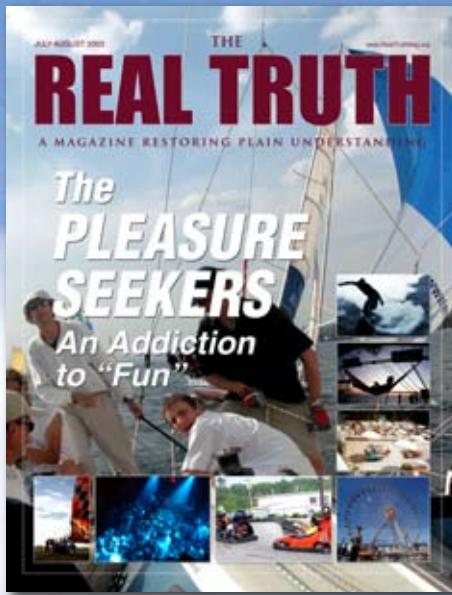
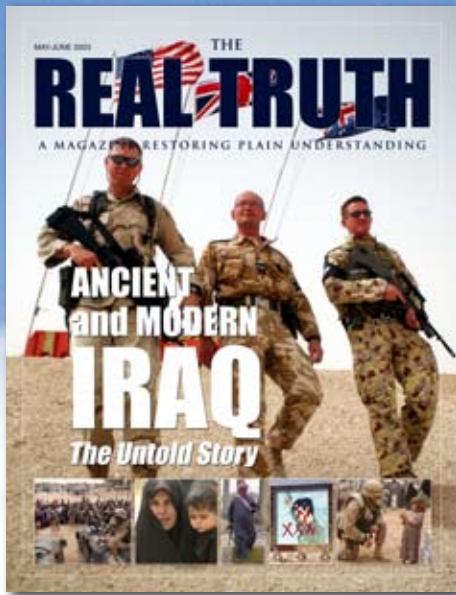
The official European response to the report was provided by European Parliament President Pat Cox: “The evidence presented today indicates that incidents of anti-Semitism in Europe are on the increase and suggests that events in the Middle East are disturbing the social fabric of European society.” Typically, Europe is referring to the Israeli situation. How much longer before they do something about it?

Cobi Benatoff, head of the European Jewish Congress, decried the fact that anti-Semitism was even an issue today, and that it has not been “relegated to history.”

“The old cancer is back,” he said.

Source: *EU Observer*

Have you missed out on previous issues?



You can read them online at your convenience!