

Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century  
P.O. Box 893909  
Temecula, CA 92589

December 9, 2008

Dear Family,

As we continue to gather up-to-date current events, we will pass them on to you. News happens fast, so we hope to keep you abreast while it is still current.

The title of our newsletter has been changed to "COG-21 WATCHMAN."

Just prior to his death, around 1985, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong admonished us to CARRY ON! In his sermon he said, "Brethren, let's CARRY ON in the Work of God. There's *much* work to be done yet to get this *wonderful* message of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ. The world only *hears* the gospel *about* Jesus Christ, and there's all the difference in the world. One is the gospel from Satan. The other is the gospel from *Jesus Christ and God the Father.*"

Since Mr. Armstrong and Mr. McNair are no longer with us, should we not CARRY ON or *discontinue* keeping in touch with one another? Absolutely not! Under our present unique circumstance in the Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century, and with Mr. Armstrong's admonishment, it is our *intention* to CARRY ON and stay in touch with you, our family. We intend to keep our COG-21 website *interesting* with spiritual materials and "up-to-date" events. We continue to receive contacts from new interests.

Mr. Armstrong and Mr. McNair may no longer be with us, but most *assuredly* God our Father and Jesus Christ our Brother are still with us and have not, nor will ever abandon us! They are still our main *influence*, our *drive* and our *purpose* in this new phase in the Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Since the sudden death of Mr. McNair, perhaps some of you are *contemplating* following a *human* leader in another Church organization. That is your choice. Mr. Armstrong as well as Mr. McNair warned us that a time would come when the Church would be persecuted and God's people will not be able to worship together. This is certain to happen in the not-to-distant future! Thankfully, Jesus Christ promises to



remain with each of us to the end depending on the tests we pass and decisions we make.

As promised, Christ has not, nor will He abandon the Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century. Since Mr. Armstrong and Mr. McNair have been taken to a "resting place," do you question whether Jesus Christ, our Spiritual Leader and Living Head had left as well?

By our fruits we must *continue* as Christ would have us. It is evident that Jesus Christ wishes for us to *continue* this new phase in this Church. Those of us with *like minds, spiritual maturity and stability* have no desire to "shop around." God is the same in His Work, today as yesterday.

We are looking to Jesus Christ, our Living Head in the Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century. For this reason we *intend* to "CARRY ON" by your prayers, your support and your encouragement.

Because some of you have not abandoned COG-21 since Mr. McNair's death, and continue supporting this new phase of His Work, your obedience to God has recently helped needy families in the Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century.

One family had not been able to provide milk for their small children, nor diapers to change their babies, nor gas to run their car. Two other families are in dire financial straits and have been helped, but still desperately need our prayers. Because some of you are remaining loyal by continuing to send your tithes and offerings, these families are shown we care. We reach out to you in humble gratitude.

Pure religion is not only taking care of widows, but it includes taking care of each other! We cannot say, "Be warmed, be filled." Jesus Christ will pour His blessings on those who are not holding back and performing where there is a need.

We will CARRY ON, and *continue* to keep in touch and encourage you through our GOG-21 website and our "COG-21 WATCHMAN" newsletter. Many of you have encouraged us by your actions! May God reach into your lives and show you He is pleased.

We seriously need one another as never before.

Sincerely,

*Frank Olive*

*Eve McNair*



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## LETTER FROM LONDON

No. 226

### THE RIGHT SPIRIT

This present age has been referred to as the "information age" -- doubtless because radio and television channels have proliferated and so much information is disseminated through the internet. And, of course, we are today inundated with newspapers and magazines of all kinds and types, with the newspapers getting thicker, heavier and more expensive with, so it would seem, less information and hard news than ever before. One so-called "quality" Sunday broadsheet newspaper now has such large headings to its articles, that to hold the paper up in both hands and attempt to read it would be like having a 72 inch television set and sitting just a foot from the screen trying to see what was on. So how do you get your information as to what is happening in the nation and in the world in general? Many people give up and instead just prefer to be entertained. A book was published in the United States back in 1985 entitled "Amusing Ourselves to Death" written by Neil Postman. He made a number of excellent points, one was "... because television is a visual medium, whose images are most pleasurably apprehended when they are fast-moving and dynamic, discourse on television takes the form of entertainment. Television has little tolerance for argument, hypothesis, or explanation: it demands a performing art."

Radio, however, although it has changed somewhat over the years remains an excellent source of information. It is also harder for the contributors to hide or to confuse the audience with a lot of colour, shapes, movements and sound bites. I find it interesting that you will find those who are the loudest in preaching evolution, and mocking those who believe in God, are generally to be found on television and hardly ever on radio. One Friday morning recently I listened to a discussion in the "In Our Time" series on BBC, Radio4, conducted by Melvyn Bragg. The subject was advertised as "Neuroscience" -- not exactly a catchy title but it was basically trying to answer the question "What is the human mind?" Melvyn Bragg, or Lord Bragg as he is a peer of the realm, had three professors with him. Specialists in psychology, the philosophy of science and also neuro-imaging. This one, neuro-imaging, was a new one on me! But it seems it is a method of scanning the brain and observing the responses of the brain to external stimuli. Stimuli such as specific words, descriptions, even place names. Slowly the brain is being mapped and note being made as to which bit deals with what!

I found it so interesting and fascinating that I downloaded it from the BBC's website a little later and now have it on CD. There are, however, a multitude of questions that the professors cannot answer and remain, for them, questions. Where do thoughts come from and to where do they go? No answer. They know the brain has everything needed to control the body but where do the decisions come from and how do they originate. Descartes, the 17th century French philosopher was quoted. He held that there were two systems in operation. One was the physical brain and then there was the mind which operated independently of the brain. It was Descartes who stated the familiar sentence, "I think, therefore I am!" He meant we are beings who are conscious of who we are! No other form of life knows who or what they are! Many people have dogs, over the years we have had 3. I have tried telling each of them that they are dogs. And they just don't understand a word I say. Yet they lived with us for years, one was with us for nearly 16 years. In all that time though she never knew who, or what she was! But we did observe what appeared to be a very limited thought process. It is sometimes held that certain animals are intelligent. But are they? Dolphins are a case in point. But actually, they do what they do because they are dolphins!

The point was made in the radio discussion that we really don't know what consciousness is, although the three highly intelligent individuals had certainly tried hard enough to find out! And still do try. They made the point that human beings have long term goals, animals don't. They felt that there are "bits" of consciousness that we aren't aware of and that the whole issue is far more complicated than they had first thought. I was somewhat impressed that these three professors were not claiming to more knowledge than they had. They were honest enough to say that this, or that, was something they still did not understand. They admitted that we do not know what consciousness is! For example when we make a conscious decision to move a finger

the brain will move the finger one fifth of a second before the conscious decision is made. The mind, a non-physical element, has been operating before the conscious decision is made. Man is entirely different from all other living creatures. He does, however, share with all other living creatures certain basic physical requirements. The evolutionist then grasps at these and tries to turn them into a support for his untenable belief. In fact the shared characteristics are there because we all live in the same environment, except for the water dwelling animals.

And even then there are still a few common factors. Factors such as the need for food and some sort of digestive system. A system to provide mobility. A defensive system to provide protection against various possible threats. Those who believe in evolution actually start at the wrong place. They look at the way the world is today and see the common factors and then assume one species evolved from another. The fact that there are no intermediate species to be found is ignored. This method raises more questions than can possibly be answered. A right place to start is to assume a beginning and then come forward from that point. Everything then makes absolute sense. Planning, design construction and development of life become apparent. The answers to any questions become obvious. The difference between Mankind and all other life also becomes apparent. Mankind has consciousness and awareness. He knows who he is! All other animal life has no knowledge of what it is! A dog does not know it is a dog. It doesn't even understand the words that are spoken to it. It reacts to the sound. If you had trained the animal to "sit" by responding to the word "walk" then every time you said "walk" to it, it would sit! Another point the three professors made was that human beings have long term goals while animals do not! Having long term goals is part of consciousness and awareness.

When we turn to the bible a lot of these questions are cleared up! They are answered. At one particular point where it speaks of the last days it says of people at that time that they would be "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." This is where the three professors who discussed neuroscience on BBC Radio 4 the other day happen to be. It is where so many, otherwise intelligent people, happen to be. The bible speaks of there being a spirit in Man. A spirit which is a non physical element. Science agrees that within human beings there is a non physical element! We have just discussed it briefly. They call it consciousness and awareness and admit they don't understand what these are.

The bible puts it like this: "For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God." In today's language we could put it this way: "Human beings know who they are and who everyone else is because they have a consciousness and awareness that animals don't have!" Additionally, human beings can only begin to really understand God when they receive a second non-physical element - the Spirit of God. To understand what we are saying perhaps a bit better, we would suggest getting a bible and reading the first epistle to the Corinthians, chapter 2. You can then have an understanding denied the three professors of neuroscience who admit they don't understand consciousness and awareness. But we can! And we do!

However, there's always a "however" isn't there! However, it does require a little more. To consciousness and awareness we have to add one further factor. Psalm 111:10 says "The fear, or deep respect, of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all those who do His commandments." If you decide to obey God you will then begin to gain a good understanding. An understanding of what? As the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy put it: "Life, the Universe and everything" In the book of Isaiah chapter 8 we are told very clearly that if we don't understand and speak, or order our life, our thinking and behaviour in accordance with the word of God then there is absolutely no light, no understanding within us.

Human life today in every part of this world has no relevance whatsoever to the word of God. Consequently there is violence, individual violence and State violence. As I begun this letter I mentioned a book, I would like now to mention another one, published in England in 2002 it has the title "Big Questions in Science" - questions such as "What is time?" "What is life about?" "What is consciousness" there are a number of others. One big question is addressed, "Does God Exist" -- reading through this section I am amazed at the totally non-scientific way of addressing the question. It is so obvious the writer has no idea! And doesn't even know where to begin to find out. The bible also has the answer to that question. It tells us that we can come to see God by taking a good long, hard, objective and honest look at the around. God, His power and reality can be clearly seen by the existence of the physical world in which we live. Will you be honest and look at this world objectively? Or are you happy with living a purposeless life, no goal, no sense of reality, the world of the evolutionist, you don't have to.

There is absolutely no question! God does exist and is very close now to making that very clear indeed. Where will you stand at that time!

**John Jewell**

# WEEKLY REVIEW OF NEWS AND COMMENT

5th December 2008

## AFRICA

### ZIMBABWE

**The Independent -- 1st December -- Now anthrax takes toll on the starving in Zimbabwe.** To add to the peril of cholera, Zimbabwe's beleaguered population is now facing anthrax. An outbreak of the deadly infection has killed two children and one adult and spread to 32 others. It is threatening to wipe out at least 60,000 livestock in the northern Zambesi Valley, aggravating the food crisis. .... Traders have been seen taking potentially infected carcasses out of the restricted zones to trade in Victoria Falls, which risks the disease spreading across Zimbabwe and over the border into neighbouring Zambia. .... Anthrax can kill when infected meat is touched, or eaten or when infected spores are inhaled. .... Rachel Pounds, country director in Zimbabwe, said "This may be the biggest anthrax outbreak since the 1979-80 civil war and it could have appalling consequences for Zimbabwe. If it is not controlled, this outbreak could wipe out 60,000 cattle, goats, pigs and chickens that thousands of families are depending on to survive."

**Comment:** Anthrax is, as the report says, a deadly disease which kills animals and people. A number of years ago an island off the coast of Scotland was infected with anthrax following government experiments. The island was ruled out of bounds and no one was allowed to land without permission and had to wear protective clothing. For this to now be happening to Zimbabwe on top of everything else, including a serious outbreak of cholera, could indeed see the population virtually wiped out. Mr Mugabe will then be ruling over a very large graveyard. If Britain hadn't been so obsessed with pleasure, dissolute entertainment so called and living off huge loans from other nations to pay for it, led by a Marxist Socialist government which seeks only to perpetuate itself in office, Zimbabwe might just possibly have been saved for the time being.

### NIGERIA

**The Independent -- 1st December -- Death toll hits 400 in Nigerian clashes.** Residents took more bodies to the main mosque in the Nigerian city of Jos yesterday, bringing the death toll from two days of clashes between Muslim and Christian gangs to about 400. Rival ethnic and religious gangs have burned homes, shops, mosques and churches. .... It is the country's worst unrest for years.

**Comment:** Zimbabwe and Nigeria together represent the nightmare which is Africa today. That one continent alone is reason enough to pray even more earnestly for the soon return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the government of God over this planet. Man has shown conclusively that he just cannot run his own village, town, city or country properly for the benefit of the citizen let alone the planet. What makes him think that he would be a positive factor in the Universe? We have already turned near space into a rubbish dump.

### HIV/AIDS

**The Independent -- 1st December -- HIV/Aids.** The toll from the disease is staggering -- an estimated 33 million people infected with HIV and 25 million dead. Even more alarming, however, is that new infections are growing by 2.7 million a year, outnumbering the annual two million deaths. For every two people put on drug treatment, five more become infected.

**Comment:** Drug treatment does not cure the disease, it simply holds it back. There is, in fact, no cure at this point. The newspaper reported that circumcision can reduce the risk of men contracting HIV by about 60%. If introduced right across sub-Saharan Africa would reduce deaths from HIV by 3 million over the next 20 years. However, that still means at present rate 17 million would still die from it. There is only one really effective procedure. That is the one spelled out in God's word! Do not commit adultery and Do not commit fornication. In other words no sexual relationships outside marriage. And sexual relations only to be between a man and a woman. Those are the biblical ground rules. People ignore them at their peril.

### International Herald Tribune -- 2nd December -- HIV infections double in Europe over 7 years

The rate of HIV infection in Europe almost doubled between 2000 and 2007, reaching the highest level ever recorded in Europe, the European Union disease centre and the World Health Organisation said Monday. .... In 2007 48,892 newly diagnosed cases of HIV infection were reported from 49 European countries.

## **HOWEVER , BRITAIN LEADS THE WORLD!**

**Daily Mail -- 1st December -- Britain is leading the world ... in promiscuity.** It is far from an achievement to be proud of -- research suggests that British men and women are the most promiscuous in the Western world. It appears the days when we took a strict moralistic approach towards sex are long gone. Researchers blamed the situation on a decline of religious scruples, the growth of equal rights for women and a highly sexualised popular culture.

**Comment:** At least one part of the world seems to have a little more sense. ....  
from the **Independent of 7th November.** "Thousands of gay couples are in legal limbo after voters in supposedly liberal California shocked pollsters and equality campaigners by voting to reverse same-sex "marriage" legislation. In a massive setback for the gay rights movement, 52.5% of the electorate backed Proposition 8, a ballot measure that adds to the state constitution the words: "only marriage between a man and a woman is valid in California."

## **UPDATE ON THE LARGE HADRON COLLIDER**

**Yorkshire Post (England) -- 18th November -- £14m cost of 'atom smasher' repairs.** The repair bill for Europe's giant atom smasher - which broke down shortly after being switched on for the first time will be about £14 million. ... An electrical failure shut down the LHC on 19th September, nine days after £7bn machine's much heralded start up. ... the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, known as CERN, recently said that the repairs would be completed by May or early June. .... CERN blamed the shutdown on the failure of a single, badly soldered electrical connection.

**Comment:** Not much hope for space travel then!!

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

**International Herald Tribune -- 2nd December -- President of Brazil appeals to God for help.** President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil has asked God to halt the devastating rains that have killed at least 114 people in a southern state, while also proposing new plans on Monday to help tens of thousands of people rebuild their homes and business. .... About 80,000 people were forced from their homes when storms brought more water to the region during the weekend of 22nd and 23rd November than it normally sees in months.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**The Independent -- 15th November -- Insecticide! An ecological disaster that will affect us all.** Insects are quietly but rapidly disappearing. .... their loss is bad news for the planet. The population declines among invertebrates in general and insects in particular are now greater than among any other group of living things, greater than declines in mammals, birds and plants..... Insects are fundamental to the fabric of life, and if we start to tear that fabric apart, the consequences for all of the services that are provided from ecosystems will be severe.

## **SOME CLOSING NEWS HEADLINES**

-- International Herald Tribune -- 2nd December -- U.S. space plans spur Russian missile upgrade.

-- Sunday Times -- 30th November -- Any which way: Britons dash for Thai escape. Tourists are fleeing by train, bus and boat as the political violence forces an airport lockdown.

-- International Herald Tribune -- 26th November -- Quota on bluefin worries wildlife groups  
-- it will push the once-bountiful stocks of the fish beyond commercial recovery.

-- International Herald Tribune -- 2nd December -- Recession confirmed in U.S. as shares slide



## Trade, Middle East high on ministerial agenda

By Rikard Jozwiak

08.12.2008 / 09:12 CET

### EU to consider upgrading relationship with Israel; Doha trade talks will be major topic.

EU foreign ministers will meet on 8-9 December for discussions that, while likely to be overshadowed by the financial crisis, climate-change talks and the looming winter summit of EU leaders, will touch on a number of major issues – the resumption of talks on global trade and its first major discussion since mid-year of the Middle East.

A number of EU countries believe that the financial crisis may have created an eleventh-hour opportunity to re-float the floundering Doha round of talks on global trade and ministers are preparing to discuss the foreign-policy dimensions when they meet. Pascal Lamy, the director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), has indicated that there is about "10%" left to conclude the round. The scale of farm tariff cuts is still the big question facing the WTO's EU members.

However, it remains unclear whether Lamy will call WTO ministers together for a meeting in Geneva for 13-15 December. He has said he will do so only "if he thinks the chances are high that the meeting will be a success".

If he decides not to call the meeting, it may be that the enlargement of the EU will occupy the central place on the agenda. In November, the EU published its annual report on the progress that would-be members of the EU had made in the preceding 12 months. Ministers will review the reports, and enlargement-friendly member states will be keen to maintain an ambitious momentum in the process.

### The EU's neighbours

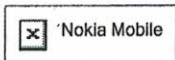
The western Balkans will also come into focus, for two other reasons. The EU's rule-of-law mission to Kosovo, Eulex, which started its deployment this week is another topic likely to be raised during the meeting. In addition, ministers will consider a report by Serge Brammertz, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), on Serbia's co-operation with the UN court. The EU has long viewed Serbia's willingness to work with the ICTY in the hunt for suspected war criminals as a litmus test of its commitment to EU integration. No major developments are expected to be highlighted on this occasion.

For the first time since France assumed the presidency of the EU in July, the EU's engagement with the Middle East will be reviewed, with discussion about upgrading the Union's relationship with Israel to an 'advanced status'. Such a move would be likely to prompt the Palestinian Authorities to ask for a similar treatment, diplomats surmise. The current framework for relations between the EU and Israel – the European Neighbourhood Policy – expires in April.

## World hunger is increasing, UN agency says

AP

Updated:  
Dec. 10, 2008 4:00 pm (Paris)



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The number of hungry people in the world increased by 40 million this year, pushing the total to an estimated 963 million, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported Tuesday. The agency blamed high food prices for the increase. Even though grain prices fell sharply from their peaks earlier this year, they remain high compared with previous years, especially in local markets, the agency said. "This sad reality should not be acceptable at the dawn of the 21st century," Jacques Diouf, the agency's director general, said in Rome. "Not enough has been done to reduce hunger, and not enough is being done to prevent more people becoming hungry."



Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century  
P.O. Box 893909  
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December 1, 2008

Dear Family and Co-workers,

Firstly, our apologies for the mistake which was brought to our attention in the article entitled, "Israel occupies no Arab Territories." The last page was mistakenly omitted. Here is the completion of this article:

Both Israel and the United States will soon have new leadership. Neither Jerusalem nor Washington should be deceived by the so-called "Road Map to Peace in the Middle East," a twisted bit of highway that makes entirely inaccurate claims about "Palestinian Territories" and "Israeli Occupation." For substantially documented reasons of history and national security, it is imperative that a twenty-third Arab state never be carved out of the still-living body of Israel.

If anyone should still have doubts about Palestinian intentions, they need to look only to former Prime Minister Sharon's 'disengagement' from Gaza, an area that is now used by Hamas to stage rocket attacks upon Israel noncombatants, and by al-Qaeda to mount future terrorist operations against American cities.

We hope all of you enjoyed Thanksgiving Day with your families and loved ones, and that God's blessings were evident in your lives, especially during these critical times.

We wish to express our special appreciation to those who are continuing to support the Church of



God-21<sup>st</sup> Century. Since the death of Mr. Raymond McNair many of you continue to reach out to this Work, knowing that Jesus Christ is still actively in it. Our desire is to keep you posted in world affairs and current events.

We have included an article which Mr. McNair wrote in 2006. We hope it will be informative as well as interesting.

God's servants,  
Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century,

*Frank Olive*

*Eve McNair*

...*"What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"* (John 6:28)



# Can the United States Defeat Terrorism?

By Raymond F. McNair

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Five years have passed since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that roused a complacent United States to lead a fight against terrorism. Will this war be won? The Bible offers a sobering answer, but also gives a message of ultimate hope.

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**In spite of America's great wealth and military might, can it realistically hope to succeed in destroying international terrorism from the earth?**

In just a little more than 200 years—between 1776 and 1996—13 struggling English colonies in America grew into the world's richest, most powerful nation, eventually becoming the world's only superpower. Never before had any nation possessed such wealth and greatness. Yet in less than an hour on September 11, 2001, the United States received a shocking and sobering reminder of its vulnerability, and the fragility of its status as the world's economic and political leader.

## The Mantle of World Leadership

Whether the U.S. has wanted it or not, the mantle of world leadership has again and again been thrust upon its shoulders—and now it leads the peace-loving nations of the world in the fight against international terrorism. The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were a clarion "wake-up call" to millions who had failed to take seriously the repeated threats against America's way of life—and its continued existence as a nation.

Though the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center failed to alert most Americans to the peril of terrorism, the attacks on September 11, 2001 brought home the need for vigilance in defense of the nation's many "soft targets"—its relatively undefended cities, food and water supplies, highways, tunnels, bridges, dams and nuclear power plants—in addition to its military installations!

Does God's Word tell us whether or not America and its allies can succeed in this

titanic struggle to rid the world of the specter of international terrorism? Can President Bush inspire the world's leaders to persevere in destroying malevolent terrorism before it destroys our nations? Many experts believe that if the world is to succeed in the monumental task of "defeating global terrorism," nations cannot concentrate solely on protecting their own interests, but must assist one another in vigorously rooting out terrorist cells and camps in "rogue nations" that have funded and armed terrorists with ever-increasing lethal weapons of mass destruction.

Many Americans now believe that it is their destiny—as citizens of the world's only superpower—to marshal sufficient resources and courage to crush this global malignancy. But will they become complacent and lax in their determination to rid the world of the scourge of international terrorism? If the world shrinks back in fear and timidity, then horrific disasters will surely strike when and where they are least expected! Even though America is building a coalition to confront this threat of international terrorism head-to-head, many believe that in the final analysis only American resolve, material resources and military might can be counted on as a bulwark against the complete destruction of Western civilization, and the sinister dawn of a new "Dark Age"!

## **President Bush's Bold Anti-Terrorist Plan**

Almighty God has given the U.S. a strong President, with the character and the determination to attack international terrorism head-on. He has exhibited both the fortitude and the will to set about his task without flinching or shrinking back! President Bush has a very weighty responsibility on his shoulders, and needs our prayers. God's Word commands: "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers... and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and for all who are in authority.... For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God" (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

Since September 2001, President Bush has clearly spotlighted the grave terrorist threat now facing the U.S. and the entire civilized world. He has repeatedly explained what America and the world must do to successfully confront this sinister terrorist threat to civilization. In his State of the Union address on January 30, 2002, the President said: "Our discoveries in Afghanistan confirmed our worst fears and showed us the true scope of the task ahead. We have seen the depth of our enemies' hatred in videos where they laugh about the loss of innocent life.... We have found diagrams of American nuclear plants and public water facilities, detailed instructions for making chemical weapons, surveillance maps of American cities and landmarks in America and throughout the world."

## **The World's "Ticking Time Bombs"**

According to the President, the "entire world" is our "battlefield." "What we have found in Afghanistan confirms that... our war against terror is only beginning.... Most of the 19 men who hijacked planes on September 11, 2001 were trained in Afghanistan's camps, and so were tens of thousands of others. Thousands of dangerous killers, schooled in the methods of murder, often supported by outlaw



regimes, are now spread throughout the world like ticking time bombs set to go off without warning.... These enemies view the entire world as the battlefield, and we must pursue them wherever they are.... First, we will shut down terrorist camps, disrupt terrorist plans, and bring terrorists to justice. And second, we must prevent the terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the U.S. and the world."

Mr. Bush then added: "Our military has put the terror training camps of Afghanistan out of business, yet camps still exist in at least a dozen countries. A terrorist underworld—including groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Jaish-I-Mohammed—operates in remote jungles and deserts and hides in the centers of large cities.... My hope is that all nations will heed our call and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own. Many nations are acting forcefully.... But some governments will be timid in the face of terror. And make no mistake about it: if they do not act, America will."

### "An Axis of Evil!"

President Bush concluded his remarks with these words: "Our second goal is to prevent regimes that sponsor terror from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction.... North Korea... Iran... [and] Iraq constitute an axis of evil arming to threaten the peace of the world"—with "anthrax and nerve gas and nuclear weapons." He continued: "By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger. They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred. They could attack our allies or attempt to blackmail the U.S. In any of these cases, the price of indifference would be catastrophic. We will work closely with our coalition to deny terrorists—and their state sponsors—the material, technology and expertise to make and deliver weapons of mass destruction. We will develop and deploy effective missile defenses to protect America and our allies from sudden attack. And all nations should know: America will do what is necessary to ensure our nation's security.... America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons.... History has called America and our allies to action."

## **International Terrorism Will Grow Much Worse**

Even though the goal of eradicating international terrorism is a noble undertaking, Bible prophecy clearly reveals that international terrorism will continue, and will become much worse! Regrettably for the United States—the third largest and third most populous nation on Earth—there are two reasons why mankind will not succeed in eliminating international terrorism:

First, although the U.S. is wealthy and powerful, it is not rich enough, powerful enough or wise enough to serve as international policeman to six billion people! How can a nation of only 285 million people spare the manpower and the material resources necessary to police the earth's billions? Even if America secures the

staunch support of such nations as Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Israel, it will not be able to muster enough manpower, money and military muscle to police all of the "rogue nations" and their terrorist allies around the world.

Second, Bible prophecy clearly reveals that global terrorism will increase, eventually culminating in World War III! Jesus Himself said that serious armed global conflicts will continue until the end of this present evil age (Matthew 24:3, 6-7)! But why? Because, this world is under the evil influence of Satan, the invisible "god of this age" (2 Corinthians 4:4; cf. Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9). Christ acknowledged that the devil exercises great sway over the rulers of this world (Luke 4:5-6), and He also said "the devil... was a murderer from the beginning [and] a liar" (John 8:44). Paul also speaks of the devil's powerful influence over world leaders: "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts [demon spirits] in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).

## The Nations Feverishly "Prepare for War"

Many prophecies predict greatly increased violence, terrorism and horrific wars scattered over the earth. The prophet Joel said: "Proclaim this among the nations: 'Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears: let the weak [person or nation] say, "I am strong." Assemble and come, all you nations"' (Joel 3:9-11). The spread of international terrorism is in fulfillment of Joel's prophecy. Countless millions of militant Muslims, and other enemies, are being stirred up and prepared for this battle—to occur in "the Valley of Jehoshaphat" (v. 12), also called the "valley of decision" (v. 14).

Jesus predicted great violence at the close of this age: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars.... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom [i.e. world wars].... For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been... nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved" (Matthew 24:6-7, 21-22).

The Apostle John also prophesied that an enormous army of "200,000,000" will kill "a third of mankind"—that is, about two billion of the world's six billion people (Revelation 9:13-18). God says He will bring together the armies of the blood-thirsty nations—before destroying them in His "great winepress" (Revelation 14:17-19). "And the winepress was trampled outside the city [of Jerusalem], and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles..." (v. 20). That final battle at Jerusalem, by a coalition of hostile armies, is more popularly called "the battle of Armageddon." It is graphically described in Revelation 19:11-21 and Joel 3:13-16.

"Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl [the sixth plague] on the great river Euphrates [in Iraq], and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean [demon] spirits... performing signs,

which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.... And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon [in northern Israel]" (Revelation 16:12–14, 16).

There are, worldwide, about 1.2 billion Muslims—many of whom are right now being stirred up by militant Muslim fundamentalists to hate and slaughter the Jews—and their ally, the U.S. What is their long-range plan? Their oft-stated goal is to seize control of Jerusalem and all of Palestine, and destroy the State of Israel! Their deadly venom of hate has already infected hundreds of millions of Muslim fanatics across North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia and Indonesia. This hatred, eventually shared by "all the nations" surrounding Israel (Zechariah 14:2), will play a key role in setting the stage for the final battle at Jerusalem.

John describes this final battle: "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Christ] who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet.... [were destroyed in] the lake of fire.... And the rest were killed with the sword... of Him [Christ]..." (Revelation 19:11–21).

The prophet Zechariah describes a confederation of mighty armies gathering to fight against Jerusalem: "Behold the day of the Lord is coming... for I [the Lord] will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem.... Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations.... And this shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, and their eyes shall dissolve... and their tongues shall dissolve.... [Then] a great panic from the Lord will be among them. Everyone will... raise his hand against his neighbor's hand; Judah also will fight at Jerusalem" (Zechariah 14:1–3, 12–14). At that climactic battle, the control of Jerusalem and of the whole earth will be decided, when the Lord himself destroys the hate-filled armies that surround Jerusalem as they attempt to make war against Christ.

## At Last: Peace With Security

Will the nations see a dramatic increase in violence, international terrorism and war? We now live in "perilous times"—when many lack "self-control" and exhibit "brutal" behavior toward others (2 Timothy 3:1–3). Christ said that, as in the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37–39), so will it be when He returns to end international terrorism and global wars. Just before Noah's Flood: "The earth also was corrupt [and] was filled with violence..." (Genesis 6:11–12). Jesus Himself predicted that if God did not intervene in this world's affairs, all life would be erased from this planet (Matthew 24:21–22)! Paul says: "Though... Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved. For He will finish the work and cut it short..." (Romans 9:27–28).

Will there be a *decrease* in violence and international terrorism in the years ahead? No! God's Word says that violence—which will include international

terrorism—will *increase* until it culminates in a horrendous World War III, in which nuclear, chemical and biological doomsday weapons will be used! Hundreds of millions will be slaughtered by wars, famines and pestilences (Revelation 9:13–18, cf. 6:1–11)! Mankind will be unable to save itself (Matthew 24:21–22). Almighty God will finally step in and put a screeching halt to man's hellish inhumanity against his fellow man. Only He will be able to rescue a doomed humanity from self-imposed annihilation!

But here is good news! Humanity will not be wiped off the face of the earth, as some claim! God's Word assures us that, although billions will die, our Creator will not allow mankind to perish in self-genocide! "Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste... and scatters abroad its inhabitants.... and few men are left" (Isaiah 24:1–6; cf. Revelation 16:8–9)! Then, at last, the "Prince of Peace" will bring real peace and security to the people of Israel, and to all nations (Isaiah 2:1–5; 9:6–7; 11:1–9). "And the Lord shall be King over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9). The Messiah will then teach all nations to obey God and live in peace, love and harmony (cf. Zechariah 8:3–15; 20–23)!

Thank God for His promised intervention to prevent man's annihilation, and establish a beautiful, idyllic Kingdom of God (Micah 4:1–4; Isaiah 35), as Christ rules "all nations with a rod of iron" (Revelation 12:5), assisted by His immortalized saints (2:26–27; 5:10)! The Prince of Peace will end violence, terrorism and warfare among the nations of this earth. "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain." (Isaiah 11:9)!

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Church of God-21<sup>st</sup> Century  
P.O. Box 893909  
Temecula, CA 92589

November 22, 2008

Dear Mr. Cartwright,

Since an error was published on the front page of the Journal news concerning cause of my husband's death, I am requesting that you please publish this article written by my husband's caregiver, Eric Ortmeier, with the correct explanation.

Thank you kindly, Mr. Cartwright.

Sincerely,



Eve McNair



Mr. Cartwright,

My name is Eric Ortmeier. I was Mr. Raymond McNair's caregiver for over two and one half years. Enoch, my aide and I visited the McNair home every day during this time.

I learned a lot from Mr. McNair and came to love him as my brother. I believe he was one of the kindest and most honorable men I have had the pleasure to come in contact with during my twenty-seven years as a caregiver.

Mrs. McNair has confided to me that some brethren believe Mr. McNair died of prostate cancer, as has been published in your Journal newspaper. Mr. Cartwright, this is totally far from truth, and I wish to make clear any uncertainty or questions pertaining to the cause of his death.

I believe God was continually in control of Mr. McNair's life as I witnessed miracles during the time Enoch and I helped to care for him. We enjoyed his sense of humor and appreciated his deep love for God. He was highly respected and loved by many. He taught me things I knew nothing about from the Bible. We both developed a unique bond that I will cherish for as long as I live.

During his illness he continually progressed except for the bedsores, which were difficult to control. But months before his sudden death, he was making good progress, especially with his bedsores. We believed it would not be too much longer before he would be taking therapy in being able to walk again. He was also beginning to have slight movement in his legs. He was enjoying brief drives, and being able to leave his bed for a change. His appetite was very good. His facial and skin coloring was excellent.

When Mr. McNair was examined more than five years ago by three doctors, he was told that he only had three months to live. No tests were taken to verify that he had any cancer in his body, no biopsy, no operations etc. There was a "mass" on his back which indicated inflammation, but this cleared after he was put on a strict diet, eliminating certain foods which we believe caused this. His back pain was mainly due to his immobility, since he lost the use of his legs from his waist downward.

In order to conclude there is any cancer in ones body, various tests must be taken such as biopsy, blood or skin tests to show cancer exists. An enlarged prostate just indicates the prostate is swollen or enlarged, and not cancerous. I am absolutely certain that Mr. McNair did not have one inch of cancer in his body!

Mr. McNair was gaining weight. His skin had a pink, healthy glow which indicates a healthy body. His diet was the best healthful diet I have ever seen given to any patient. Mr. McNair was never on any medication.

About two weeks before Mr. McNair passed away, Mrs. McNair, Enoch and I saw a dramatic change beginning to take place in his bedsores. Instead of the skin continuing to heal upward, covering the sores, we saw an obvious decline as they began to look "angry" and inflamed. We three patiently continued with the same dressing treatment as we had done for so long. Yet, we saw very little progress in healing now.

During the morning of October 11<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. McNair had been up with him continuously due to discomfort which he was having. As daylight began to appear, Mrs. McNair heard a strange breathing sound coming from his direction. She quickly went to





his bedside and saw that he was having difficulty. She immediately called me. I suggested that she use an anointed cloth, which she did. She called on God, "Not my will Father, but yours." I arrived shortly thereafter, since I live just four minutes from their home. It was less than a few minutes, Mr. McNair stopped breathing. His long journey, his test was now over, peace and rest now took their place!

Mr. Cartwright, and members of the Church, I wish to assure you, and am repeating before the God I serve, that Mr. McNair did not die from Prostate cancer!! Absolutely not!! His death was caused by tremendously large bedsores, of which I have never seen in all my years as a caregiver.



Eric Ortmeier

(November 23, 2008)



# The Journal

## News of the Churches of God

Issue No. 130 (Vol. XII, No. 7)

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- 3 Ellis Stewart and Dave Havir kick off our prophecy series, along with Gary Arvidson's essay on page 4.
- 3 Dennis Diehl notes the same sound can have profoundly different effects
- 8 Alan Knight points to shamanism's point of entry into proto-Christianity
- 24 Don Billingsley gets married!

### Volunteer teachers dedicated to success of Legacy ministry

Volunteer teachers at the school run by Legacy Institute in Thailand recently answered questions asked them by many people. The questioners were curious about what it's like for Westerners to take up residence in Thailand and instruct eager young students in Bible subjects and other topics.

The institute, founded several years ago by Texans Leon and Gloria Sexton, publishes an E-mailed newsletter that ran interviews of the three young teachers.

The rest of this article is based on the interviews.

#### Serious thought

The Church of God Big Sandy, pastored by Dave Havir, sponsored Nathan Kimmons' trip to Thailand and Legacy Institute.

Besides teaching classes, on the Sabbath, Mr. Kimmons delivers sermons and conducts Bible studies.

**Q: Why did you volunteer to be a teacher at Legacy's school?**

**A:** The Church of God Big Sandy mentioned they would like to sponsor me to go [to Thailand] during the

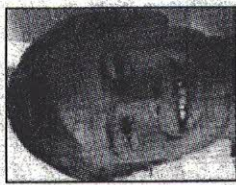
mind, though, and about a year later I started to consider it again.

I talked with some of the previous teachers and people who were affiliated with Legacy, did some research and thinking and asked for a lot of guidance through prayer.

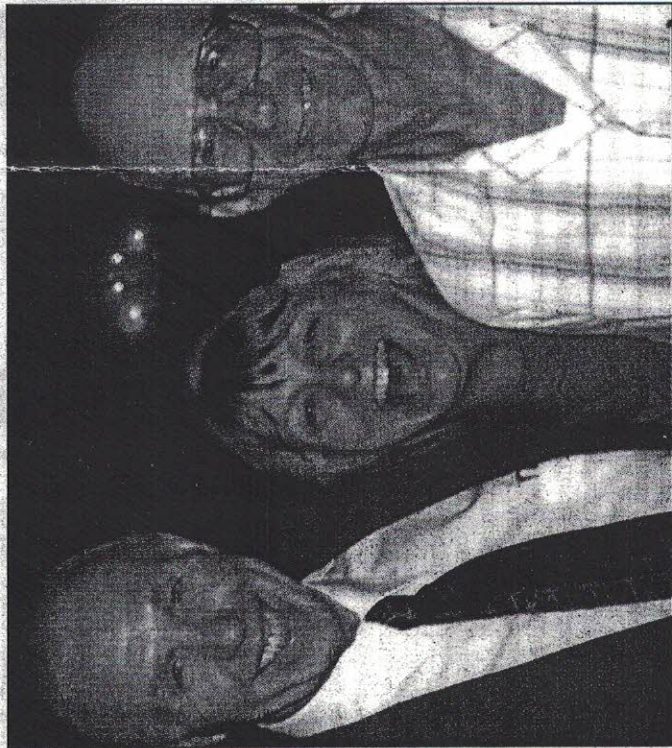
Ultimately I just decided that, if I wanted to do something like this, this would probably be the best time to do it. The timing was right. The support was there. I figured the only regret I would have is if I didn't go. So far I think I was right!"

**Q: Where do you come from and what is your field of training?**

**A:** I am from Mississippi. I just graduated from Mississippi State University in May of 2008 with a bachelor's of business administration. My major was marketing. I have also worked several jobs in the service industry while in college."



Nathan Kimmons



**MICHIGAN MEETING**—Bob Williams (left) of Carsorville, Mich., Karen Tollefson of Croswell, Mich., and Leonard Sowders of Warren, Mich., attend the seminar sponsored by Art Mokarow of Montgomery, Texas, who was in the Detroit area for the seminar and also for a meeting of the board of the new Association for Biblical Research. See the article below based on an interview with Mr. Mokarow and Ron Moseley of North Little Rock, Ark. Both men are active in the ABR, which was founded in 2007 by father and son Al and Tom Carrozzo, both of Southern California. For more photos from the Detroit-area meeting, see this page and page 21. [JOURNAL photo]

### Longtime COG elder Raymond McNair dies

TEMECULA, Calif.—Longtime Church of God member and former Worldwide Church of God evangelist Raymond F. McNair died Oct. 11, 2008.



Mr. McNair, 78, in recent years reportedly battled prostate cancer.

He was founder and president of the Church of God 21st Century (www.cog21.org), headquartered in the San Diego, Calif., area.

Mr. McNair's survivors include his wife, Eve. Write Mrs. McNair at P.O. Box 893909, Temecula, Calif. 92589, U.S.A.

