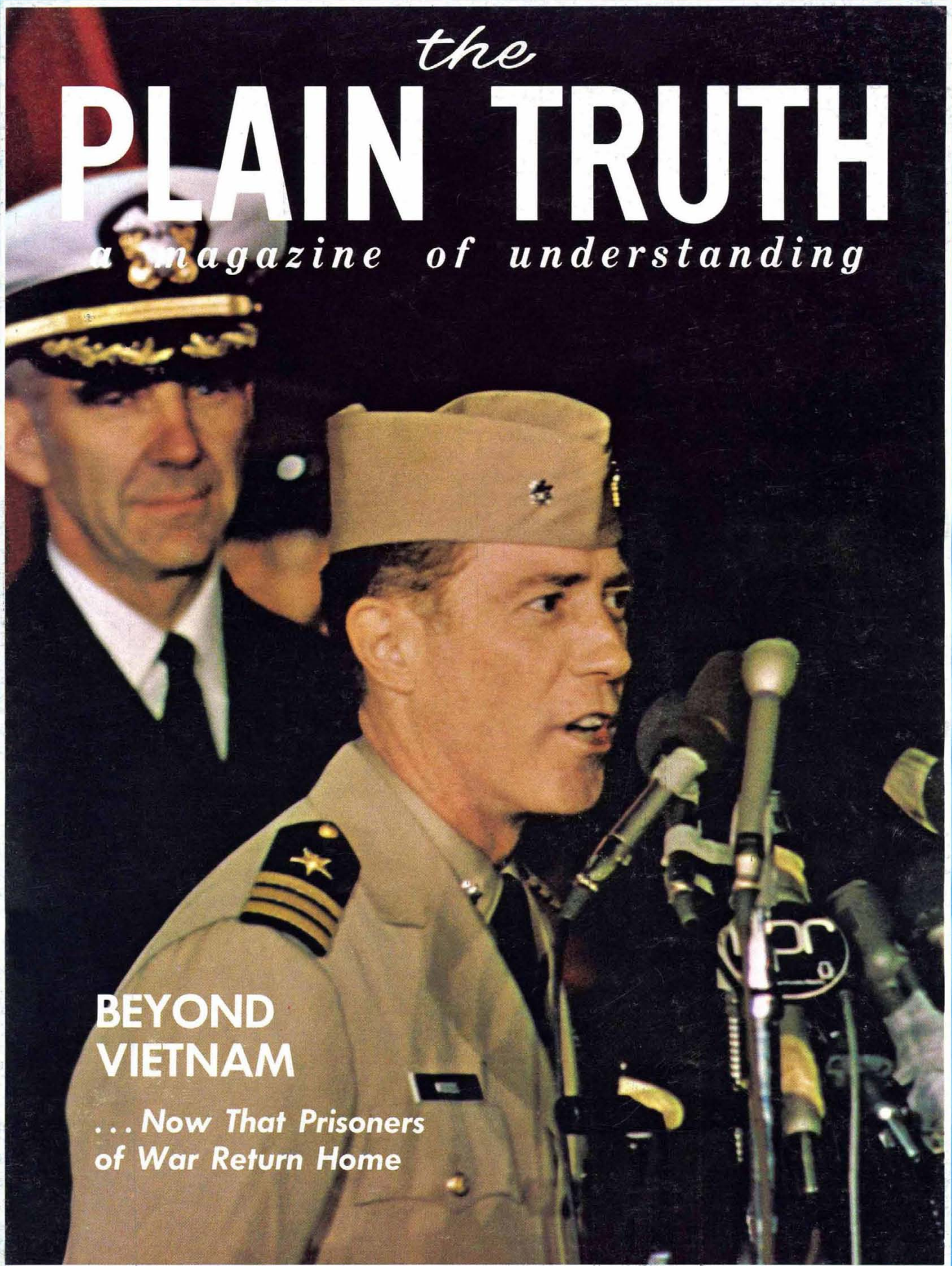


*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*



**BEYOND  
VIETNAM**

*... Now That Prisoners  
of War Return Home*



## About Our Cover

U. S. Navy Commander Brian D. Woods, 40, the first American prisoner of war to come home following the Vietnam cease-fire. Commander Woods addressed the crowd at the airport with the words, "We are grateful and overwhelmed. We are proud to be Americans. We are proud to have served our country and our Commander in Chief."

Don Lorton — Plain Truth

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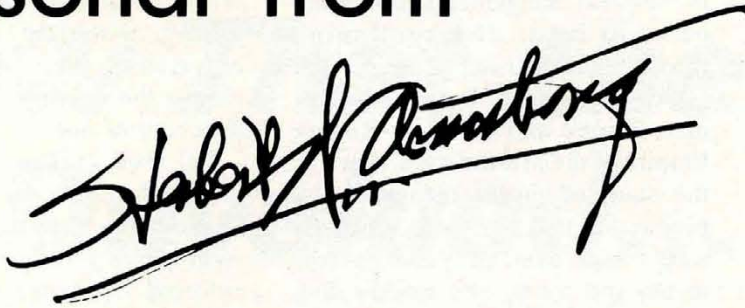
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# Personal from



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## Beyond Vietnam

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**O**NCE AGAIN let's take a quick look at what lies beyond the Vietnam war.

I have explained many times before that the Communists are dedicated to a struggle for *world domination*. That struggle has gone on since 1917 — more than 55 years. They have not relaxed in their struggle to achieve their goal after 55 years — and they won't. Communists are committed to the goal of world domination, even if it requires another generation or ten more generations. From early childhood, a sense of sacrifice and dedication to go on to accomplish that goal is instilled within them. It is their life.

But in the United States and in Britain, there is no national purpose — no goal instilled into our youth from babyhood, toward which to strive. That's one reason it seems we just can't understand Communism. When the United States was coming into serious involvement in Vietnam, the Communists were making big inroads in Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia in the days of President Sukarno. But then Prime Minister Lee of Singapore outwitted them, and General Suharto drove them out of Indonesia, setting up his new military government over Indonesia, with himself as President. But the Communists didn't quit. They continued fighting in Vietnam. And although a cease-fire has been signed, it is merely a recess — a tem-

porary time-out for North Vietnam to regroup its forces. In their own due time, they will attack again in South Vietnam. Don't think that a cease-fire means a permanent peace.

In my meeting with President Suharto in Djakarta a few months ago, he went to some length to tell me of the battle he still has on his hands to avoid being taken over by the Communists. He said he thought it might take five years before Red China would be in a position to try to attack Indonesia with a heavy military force — but he fears far *more* the Communist activity *WITHIN* his country. He emphasized the danger of having 1½ million citizens of Chinese descent — another 1½ million of Chinese descent who are *STATELESS* but living in Indonesia — and a quarter million who identify themselves mostly with Communist China. Suharto told me what a task he faces in preventing subversion and checking Communist propaganda in his country — which, incidentally, is the third largest country in population in the *free* world. Only India and the United States have a larger population. And in India, Mrs. Gandhi has virtually placed herself in the Russian orbit by going to the Kremlin for aid and accepting it.

The United States forces fighting in Vietnam did not have the goal of *WINNING* the war — but only of holding the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces back. U. S. with-

drawal from South Vietnam does not in any sense mean real *PEACE* in Vietnam. It only means that U. S. forces will not be there to *STOP* the next Communist attack — whenever the North Vietnamese decide to attack again — as they *will!*

The Communists occasionally suffer setbacks. When President Sadat of Egypt expelled the Russian military advisers, the Soviets suffered a setback — a certain loss of face. But they never *QUIT!*

### What's Soon to Happen

Now here is something that may surprise you. If you want to know what's *going* to happen, *after* Vietnam, all you have to do is look into the prophecies of the Bible. Approximately a third of all the Bible is devoted to prophecy! And *almost no one has understood* that entire third of the Bible!

These prophecies, mostly, reveal future events — that is, future from the time they were written — events concerning nations, governments, wars — events of national and international concern. For example, Biblical prophecy tells us about Russia and what the Soviet bloc is going to do in the very near future. And when you understand it, the prophecies also foretold the rise to economic and national greatness and power of the United States and of the British Commonwealth. They describe graphically what is sure to

happen soon to the United States and the British Commonwealth.

Many smaller nations are mentioned in Biblical prophecy — Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, Syria, Israel.

Again, WHY these prophecies? Why should the Bible be concerned about international events involving the United States, Britain, Germany, Russia, Turkey, the Arab nations, Israel?

Incredible though it may sound, if the religions that profess to get their beliefs from the Bible knew what IS the *gospel* that Jesus brought from God, the gospel that He taught His disciples, the gospel that the apostle Paul preached to the Gentiles, they would KNOW why the prophecies are concerned with the world's nations — and why a third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy!

No book ever written is as RELEVANT to the traumatic WORLD EVENTS of this latter half of the 20th century as is the Bible.

Scientists of world fame today say that the only hope for human survival on earth now is a single WORLD GOVERNMENT with ONE supreme military force over all nations. But in the same breath, they tell us how impossible it is — so far as THEY can see.

#### Jesus' Message Was About Government

Yet that very thing was the heart and core of Jesus' Gospel. He announced the Kingdom of God — a worldwide government that He, the living Christ, is going to set up here on earth. He said he would be crucified. He said he would be resurrected from the dead. He said He would then go to the very throne of God in heaven — the throne of the universe — but that if He went, He would COME AGAIN, in all the supreme, supernatural POWER and GLORY of the Creator God! (Write for our free booklet titled *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?*)

The prophet Daniel gave a panorama of the great empires of this

world, starting with the empire of the ancient Babylonians, 600 years before Christ, and continuing through the Persian Empire, the Greco-Macedonian Empire, the Roman Empire and the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages, down to the state of things today. Daniel prophesied that the God of heaven would take over all these governments and set up the world-ruling Kingdom of God, which shall bring in PEACE and last forever!

A whole third of the Bible is prophecy because the true Gospel is prophecy. Men have not understood the prophecies because they haven't known what the true Gospel is. Men and churches have preached Christ — they have preached about His PERSON — they have said they were His ministers — they have pleaded with people to ACCEPT Christ as a person — they have pleaded with people to believe *on* Him — but they have not taught people to believe *Him* — to believe what He taught — to believe the message God sent to mankind by and through Him. So, of course, they could not understand Bible prophecy!

#### How Communism Will Be Stopped

But back to the question: What lies on beyond the Vietnam war?

The Communists will keep trying. For a while they may resort to guerilla warfare, but sooner or later, they'll start another real war. I'm not saying they are ultimately going to achieve their goal, because they are not. The Bible shows that they will not. But they'll keep trying until they are stopped by a superior power. And that's the only thing — the only language — that Communists understand. You've got to talk to them from a position of strength. You've got to talk to them with power equal to or greater than theirs.

They don't want a war right now with the United States, that is, a hydrogen bomb war, because the United States has the power to deal

from a superior position. World War III will come, but it will be a coming, militarized, united Europe, not Russia, that will ultimately plunge the world into nuclear war, believe it or not!

Yet, God, in His mercy, will intervene and cut this war short — before all humanity is destroyed. Then *universal peace* will be established and enforced by divine world government — with the living Jesus Christ at the head!

Notice Luke 1:30-33 in your Bible. An angel is quoted, saying to Mary, the Mary who was to become the mother of Jesus, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David [that was the David of ancient Israel, who ruled in Jerusalem]; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom [government] there shall be no end."

That's why Jesus was born. That's why Jesus was resurrected from the dead after the crucifixion — to receive a kingdom! Now turn to John's gospel, the 18th chapter and verse 37. Jesus was on trial for His life before Pilate. "Pilate therefore said unto him [Jesus], "Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest I am a king. To this end was I born [He was born to be a king], and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." But in the verse just prior to that, verse 36, Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world."

Here the word "world" is translated from the Greek word *kosmos* meaning "this present order or society." His kingdom is not of this present society, not of this time. He wasn't going to take over the government then. He wasn't going to

(Continued on page 48)

# Now That the Dollar Is Devalued...

**T**WICE IN 14 months, the U. S. government has been forced to take emergency action to safeguard the dollar. And, as we rush to press, a new crisis over the dollar has developed on the European money markets.

The new crisis came less than one month after the dramatic move of February 12 when West Germany and other European nations won a clear economic victory.

"It's the weak dollar that's the problem, not our strong mark," said the West Germans, in effect. To be sure, Bonn paid a heavy price in February. After devaluation, the German horde of U. S. dollars was suddenly worth 10% less. But as a result of Bonn's defense of the *mark*, Germany's exports will cost more only in the United States and those countries realigning with the deflated dollar. If the West Germans had revalued the *mark* upward instead, their goods would have cost more worldwide.

## How Permanent?

Did the action the U.S. was forced to take in February solve the world's monetary ills? Not at all. President Nixon gave the answer when he said the devaluation "is at best only a temporary solution to the problem." And temporary indeed it was — for in less than one month the leading monetary nations were forced to pursue a new common action to safeguard their currencies.

Jeffrey Bucher, governor of the U. S. Federal Reserve Board, shrewdly observed: "Devaluation is

just like an aspirin — it takes care of the temperature for a while."

But not the cause of the fever!

In fact, devaluation could have even less effect than hoped for on the immediate fever that triggered the dollar crisis — America's balance of trade deficit.

The future of the U. S. balance of trade is not promising. The United States is hemorrhaging from an unchecked outflow of dollars. Many Americans are buying imports regardless of price and are traveling abroad in record numbers. The United States is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign oil. Deep barriers against U. S. exports still remain in Europe and especially Japan.

Devaluation of the dollar, however, does open the way to a much tougher American trade stance. Mr. Nixon has stressed that America's next monetary move will be to reduce the foreign restrictions on American goods abroad.

Goods which the United States can produce cheaply (foodstuffs are the prime example) are still, in many cases, walled out of Europe and Japan by import restrictions.

Then there is the Congressional threat of higher tariffs and quotas. Since the jobs of many European and Asian workers depend on exports to America, such a threat could be a powerful negotiating weapon.

All over Europe, Canada, and Japan, industries that sell heavily to the U. S. will be closely watching coming battles in the U. S. Congress

over tariffs and quotas. The threat of legislating stern protectionist measures has never been higher. The buds of a world trade battle have already sprouted!

During the February crisis, the West German Bundesbank had to create about *eighteen billion* new Deutschmarks in order to buy up an influx of \$6,400,000,000 pre-devaluation dollars. Most of those marks have continued to "float around" West Germany, bidding up prices.

America's inflation rate, lowest now among the industrial powers, will also intensify. The price of imports into the U. S. has gone up. But U. S. goods sold at home, facing less competition, will have a tendency to rise in price.

## Confidence Lacking

Most importantly, devaluation, while it no longer carries the stigma it once did, still does not inspire confidence in the currency of the nation taking the cut. To most European money men, the latest crisis only confirms the belief that the United States cannot effectively manage its financial affairs. Even an "austere" American federal budget of 268 billion dollars will spill ten billion dollars in red ink in the upcoming fiscal year.

The illness of American economic profligacy, combined with protectionism on the part of its major trading partners, won't be cured by a simple devaluation. Look for much rougher weather ahead on the world monetary front. Storm clouds are certain to gather again. □



# AIRBORNE TERROR

## It CAN Be Stopped!

*What was once a joyride to Cuba has turned into political blackmail and airport gun battles. The next escalation could trigger a grave international crisis.*

by William R. Whitehart

**W**AVING A gun and a hand grenade, a passenger suddenly shouted, "This is a hijacking! Stay in your seats!" The words were barely out of his mouth when a security agent on board opened fire. Bullets ripped into the hijacker, who pulled the pin on the hand grenade and tossed it down the aisle. A quick-thinking passenger quickly snatched it up and threw it into a seat in front of him.

The exploding grenade knocked out the rudder and one of the plane's engines. As the jetliner careened out of control, a savage gun battle between terrorists and security guards erupted in the smoke-filled interior. Said one passenger, "Guns were erupting everywhere. There was blood all over the place, and the plane was dropping. We thought it was the end."

And it almost was — but somehow, the crippled airliner managed to make it back safely to Addis Ababa. That's where the drama had begun just minutes earlier when, after takeoff from Ethiopia's capital, a group of terrorists had tried to force their way into the cockpit. When it was all over, six persons lay dead — all of them hijackers.

### **New Form of Global Terror**

This recent incident of airborne terror is but one of a growing number of incidents which reflect a problem of global proportions. Terrorists





the world over have now escalated their violence in the skies to the point that no passenger from any nation is safe from attack.

For example, I recently interviewed an American college co-ed who was nearly the victim of an airport massacre in another country. Last summer, she arrived at Lod airport, en route to Jerusalem, only hours after 26 people, many of whom were from Puerto Rico, had been gunned down in a bloody shoot-out. She had tried to get on an earlier flight — the one involved in the tragedy. Fortunately for her, she was unsuccessful.

Air terrorism is the major thrust of this new form of international conflict which threatens to spread out of control. Aircraft have been commandeered from every part of the world — from Mexico, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, Japan, the Middle East, and Russia, as well as from the United States. Skyjackings, airline bombings, and airport assassinations have become chief weapons in the terrorist's political arsenal.

Political groups everywhere now employ airborne terror as a "legitimate instrument of war." Their daring escapades have transformed airports in major parts of the world into virtual armed camps. Armored cars often line airport runways where arriving flights land. The planes are then sometimes accompanied by armed outriders as they taxi to their terminals.

Airborne desperados have cost the world's airlines millions, jeopardized the lives of thousands, and cost the lives of hundreds. They've outraged whole governments by the

audacity of their bold demands.

#### How the Terrorists See It

Most people find it difficult to understand why air pirates skyjack, bomb, and kill. Such acts to them seem to accomplish little or nothing and only result in the loss of lives.

But terrorists themselves don't view it this way. To them, their acts are vital. Political skyjackers hold strong grievances against governments they regard as corrupt and oppressive. Yet, lacking the military or political means to carry out their objectives through conventional routes, they feel they must resort to skyjacking and aerial terrorism as their main tools. They view it as any other military operation.

Terrorists and skyjackers have found that one of the most vulnerable points in man's technological world is the jetliner cruising at 35,000 feet. The unguarded airport and parked airliner have also proved vulnerable.

The seizure of an aircraft in flight publicizes the terrorist's own cause in a way no other military activity can. It often forces the release of political prisoners or the handing over of huge sums of ransom money.

Terrorists even resort to the slaughter of hapless civilians if, in their eyes, it becomes necessary. They will not spare passengers, even women and children, if they feel their own women and children have not been spared either in violent attacks against them or the groups they represent.

Most terrorists will stop at nothing to further their misguided goals. Many are prone to suicide, murder, or other manifestations of erratic behavior. It only follows that each act of air piracy presents, in the words of one official, "a combat situation. You never know what is going to happen."

#### Far More Dangerous Today

Airborne terrorism could precipitate a chain reaction among nations

which could lead to grave military consequences. Terrorism, before the age of air travel, has started wars. The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand in 1914 sparked World War I. This act was the final culmination of a whole series of terrorist outbursts which led up to the first global conflagration.

In the generation or so before 1914, global terror had begun to skyrocket. Dozens of influential world leaders were cut down in cold blood. That incredible list included the President of the United States, the Czar of Russia, the President of France, the King of Italy, the Prime Minister of Spain, and the Empress of Austria. Terrorists also blew up a worker's cafe in Paris, bombed religious demonstrations in Italy, and attacked the French National Assembly. Then came the killing of the Archduke and World War I.

Today, we are witnessing a flare-up in global violence which poses a far more dangerous problem than anything in the past. The sophisticated weaponry currently in the hands of both governments and protesting groups alike is a much greater threat to world peace than were the weapons in the hands of terrorists and governments before World War I.

One U.N. delegate has gone so far as to warn that future terrorists might procure biological agents or stolen nuclear weapons to blackmail governments.

#### A Vicious Cycle

The effects of airborne terror concern everyone. But have we ever stopped to consider the *real causes* of this growing dilemma?

Most often cited are two surface causes which are held directly responsible. The *first* concerns the fact that each act tends to foster other, more dangerous incidents.

For example, one man decides to divert a plane to Cuba, and soon afterward others begin to follow suit. Another threatens to bomb a jet-



liner, and other terrorists imitate the same strong-arm tactics. A group of airborne commandos force the release of political prisoners, and terrorists everywhere begin attempting similar methods.

So-called "get-tough" methods may even be a factor. Although such measures have undoubtedly served to dissuade some would-be hijackers, the use of force has actually served to encourage others.

Dallas psychiatrist Dr. David G. Hubbard, who has studied a number of sky pirates, contends that many of them have an underlying death wish anyway, so the use of force may provoke them to even more erratic behavior.

### Influence of Media

The *second* surface cause is the influence of the vast global communications network. As Dr. Hubbard explained to *The PLAIN TRUTH*, "Through the study of these men, I repeatedly find in them the fact that the way they did their crime, and even the urge to do it, was largely controlled by media inputs."

He then singled out the example of American skyjacker D. B. Cooper, the first air pirate to parachute from a commandeered plane with ransom money. Says Dr. Hubbard, "Skyjacking had gone on for a number of years, then all of a sudden D. B. Cooper comes along and decides to jump by parachute. Now are we to conclude that there was some sort of emanation from the sun that suddenly modified all mankind, and they just jumped like so much spontaneous generation? Or, does it mean these men read accounts of D. B. Cooper in the papers and followed suit?"

Interestingly enough, the first reported airplane hijacking took place over four decades ago — in South America in 1930. But the impact of the media was then quite limited. The phenomenon didn't really gain notice in the world's eyes until after World War II.

While East and West were hurling epithets back and forth across the Iron Curtain, refugees from the Communist bloc began escaping to the West by digging tunnels, scaling fences, and crashing through gates in cars and trucks. Soon they began commandeering aircraft.

As these airborne "fighters for freedom" began to arrive, the West made their heroic exploits known to the rest of the world by running front-page headlines about them and reporting their escapes via radio and TV. The seeds that aircraft hijacking could be used as an effective political tool had been planted.

Then the phenomenon appeared in the Western Hemisphere. Just 90 miles south of Florida, a man named Fidel Castro had taken over Cuba, and thousands of refugees were fleeing to the U. S. mainland. Included in the exodus were some 25 hijacked aircraft. As in Europe years earlier, the air pirates were lauded as "courageous" and "heroic" in front-page headlines. But the tables were soon to turn the other way.

In 1961, the first U. S. airliner was forced to Cuba. By the late 60's, the number of reported hijackings to Havana began to increase dramatically. Aircraft commandeering began erupting all over the world as well. Only now, the individual air pirate had become the coordinated terrorist group armed with sophisticated weaponry and linked by international contacts. The global community of nations had fully entered the "age of airborne terror."

### Deeper Roots

These two surface causes are indeed chief contributing factors to air piracy. But a closer look proves that the *real causes are much deeper*.

The world today is currently fragmented into about 136 distinct, separate countries. All have differing ideologies, philosophies of life, and policies toward the other 135. No two nations, or parties within na-

tions, think exactly alike! This naturally leads to internal disagreements and to disputes on an international level.

History is replete with such struggles. But today, it's far more serious. Wars were once waged with swords, spears, and guns. Now the airplane is available. And so air piracy becomes a chief means by which one nation, or party in a nation, can exert leverage against other parties or nations. The very political structure of the world is the first real cause of airborne terrorism!

Second, there's the problem of the human heart and mind. People are naturally self-centered and easily swayed by erroneous personal and political causes.

### The Solution to Air Piracy

Solving the problem of airborne terrorism — like clearing up all of man's other dilemmas — hinges upon removing the real causes of the problem.

Increasing the number of baggage searches or magnetometers at passenger boarding areas and signing global treaties designed to extradite skyjackers is not the final solution. Neither is prohibiting the news media from reporting incidents of sky-high terrorism a final solution.

It is obvious that some of these measures are steps in the right direction. But they constitute, when viewed in historic perspective, little more than "stop-gap" attempts to treat the effects.

The real solution is to *remove* the collective and individual *causes* within nations, societies, and human beings.

It's time we quit kidding ourselves. Airborne terrorism will never be stopped until the basic causes are removed. But man has proven incapable of removing those causes. Man has chosen the way of self-rule instead of the rule of God. And the fruits of human self-rule (one of which is air piracy) have been horrendous. The solution to skyjacking

and all other forms of terrorism is the divine government of God.

### World Government Coming

The government of God is based on the laws of God. If these laws were followed, the causes of terrorism at every level of human endeavor would be removed.

Notice Isaiah 2:2: "In the last days Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord will become the world's greatest attraction, and people from many lands will flow there to worship the Lord..." (*The Living Bible*). Continuing on to verse 4: "*The Lord will settle international disputes; all the nations will convert their weapons of war into implements of peace. Then at last all wars will stop and all military training will end.*"

Nations will no longer be allowed to squabble and war. Political terrorist groups will be punished. Criminal behavior will disappear as God's Law becomes written in the minds of men everywhere.

Says God, "This is the agreement I will make with the people of Israel [and ultimately all humankind]... I will write my laws into their minds so that they will always know my will, and I will put my laws in their hearts so that they will want to obey them" (Hebrews 10:16, *The Living Bible*).

Would-be terrorists will learn that God commands, "Thou shalt not kill" (Exodus 20:13). They will learn that kidnapping and stealing are capital sins in the eyes of God — punishable by death. They will be taught that even harboring thoughts of hatred is the same as having murder in one's heart (I John 3:15).

Under God's government, anyone who even contemplates skyjacking will hear a voice behind him warning, "No, this is the way; walk here" (Isaiah 30:21, *The Living Bible*). Air piracy will be stopped before it has a chance to get started!

That is the way to stop airborne terrorism. And it will work! □

# PROFILE OF THE PIRATES

**DAVID G. HUBBARD**, a Dallas psychiatrist whose studies of some 50 sky pirates have made him one of the world's foremost authorities on the character and personality of skyjackers. In a recent interview with *The PLAIN TRUTH*, Hubbard discussed some remarkable conclusions about these highly publicized men.

**Y**OU MIGHT expect the typical airborne terrorist to display about the same characteristics as any bank robber, kidnapper, or extortionist. But according to Dallas psychiatrist David G. Hubbard, it just isn't so.

Dr. Hubbard strongly maintains that most air pirates, particularly those involved in U. S. skyjackings, comprise a unique group of individuals possessing remarkable similarities in background, personality, and character. His conclusions are based on personal interviews over the past four years with some 50 captured skyjackers themselves. (Dr. Hubbard has published his findings in a book entitled *The Skyjacker — His Flights of Fancy*.)

Instead of the brave desperados they are purported to be, Dr. Hubbard found the typical skyjacker to be weak — a loner whose act of piracy was the culmination of a life of failure and frustration.

### Parental Influence

Dr. Hubbard told *The PLAIN TRUTH* in a recent interview that most of the men he talked to had alcoholic fathers who were prone

to fits of violence. Strangely enough, their mothers tended to be very religious. Most skyjackers grew up detesting "the old man" while siding with "Ma." As a result, they usually came to associate their mothers with the forces of "good" and God, whereas they associated their fathers with the forces of evil and the Devil.

Due largely to their mothers' religious influence, most grew up extremely church-oriented. Many lived in hope of heaven and in fear of hell. (For the clear Biblical explanation of these doctrines, write for our free articles "What Is the Reward of the Saved — Heaven?" and "There Is a Real Hell Fire!")

Most skyjackers neither smoked nor drank. Many expressed themselves in religious platitudes. Some recalled earlier aspirations to the ministry.

### Loners

Dr. Hubbard discovered that the air pirates he interviewed, almost to the man, had failed in virtually every aspect of life. Most were loners and extremely shy. Most had unusually slow, plodding personalities.



Mike Hendrickson — Plain Truth

The typical skyjacker he studied generally tended to be passive, even effeminate, and was often afraid of the opposite sex. Practically every one of them told Dr. Hubbard: "I never dated. I didn't know how to ask." Many used effeminate gestures to express themselves. Others spoke with an occasionally feminine choice of words. One sky pirate was discovered to be wearing women's underclothes when arrested.

Dr. Hubbard discovered that the typical skyjacker did poorly in school, being absent a great deal of the time, neither dating nor participating in sports. Most dropped out of school sometime before high school graduation.

Skyjacking appeared to be, for most, a last-ditch attempt to achieve greatness after a miserable lifetime of frustration and failure.

#### Childhood Difficulties

One of the more unusual of Hubbard's discoveries about skyjackers was the almost singular preoccupation each man displayed with the forces of motion and gravity. This neurotic fixation seemed to be directly linked to an

abnormal interest many of them showed in planes and flying. Interestingly enough, Hubbard found that such manifestations could be traced back to their childhoods.

Almost all had an unusually difficult time learning to control their bodies as youngsters. Many remembered having had considerable trouble learning to walk, to ride a bike, to roller skate, etc. Lack of physical coordination seemed to characterize the whole group.

In Dr. Hubbard's opinion, *all* the sky pirates he interviewed appeared to be mentally unstable. Most were either prone to murder or suicide. Many shared dreams of dying a heroic death, but at the hands of another person. (Suicide by their own hand, as their thinking goes, would doom them to everlasting hell fire.)

Many of the men were found to display unusual "visions of grandeur." Last year, an American commandeered a Swissair jetliner to Rome, demanding to see Pope Paul. As he was apprehended by police, he proclaimed: "I want to be elected President of the United States because my current position as General of the Central Intelligence Agency does not satisfy me."

#### Actual Case History

Let's focus in on Ronald (last name omitted), one of the men Dr. Hubbard interviewed. Ronald is typical of the sky pirates.

About all Ronald can remember about his father is that he was drunk most of the time and had a violent temper. His relationship with his dad mainly consisted of receiving an occasional beating or "cussing out." His mother, who was extremely nervous, constantly screamed at the children or her husband for "drinking or running around with other women."

But Ronald also remembers her as being very religious. He recalls

being told about heaven and hell at an early age. As he remembers it, almost anything could earn a person a one-way ticket to hell, such as "jaywalking or picking your nose."

Ronald fared miserably in school, largely due to his social maladjustment. He neither dated nor participated in sports. He finally dropped out of school at age sixteen.

He can't remember ever holding a steady job and was continually running around with promiscuous women. He got two women pregnant without marrying either, married a third woman (their marriage lasted two weeks), and married a fourth (this marriage also eventually broke up).

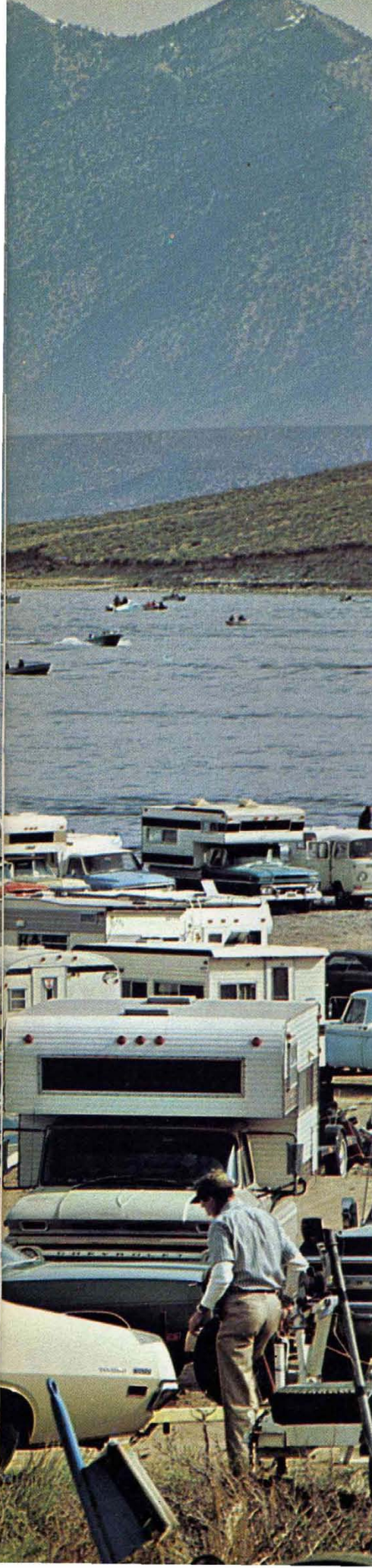
Hubbard admits that very few of the men he studied carried out their acts of piracy for "political" reasons. Yet, he strongly suspects, on the basis of mounting evidence, that all skyjackers — even politically motivated terrorists — fit the general pattern he has discovered, no matter what their religion.

#### Lesson for Us

A substantial portion of the world's population (as high as 8% according to some experts) is said to match the "skyjacker profile." With millions of potential sky pirates around, it should not come as a great surprise to find air piracy a major problem in today's world.

Consequently, the lesson to be learned from Dr. Hubbard's findings is quite clear: The only real way to stop skyjacking is to *eliminate the criminal causes* within the offenders themselves on a human basis. This means nothing less than total change in the mind and character. In the final analysis, it is people who skyjack airplanes. It is people, therefore, who must be made willing to change and be redirected toward concern for others instead of self. Anything less is merely treating the effects, not the cause. □





# Making the Most of Leisure Time

*Never before have so many people in so many countries had so much leisure time to devote to pleasure, fun, and games. But it has not made most of them happier. Why? In this article we explain the vital missing element people overlook.*

by William F. Dankenbring

**T**HE WESTERN world has entered a new age — the Age of Leisure.

From the Aegean isles to the beaches of Sydney, Australia, resorts and pleasure spas are crowded with people who seek escape from humdrum routine. From the shimmering beaches of the Bahamas to Mexico's sun-drenched sands at Acapulco, thousands loll, sport, cavort, or just lie in the sun, sprawl on lounge chairs, or recline in the shade of tiki huts.

From the gambling casinos of Paradise Island in the Bahamas to

those of Monte Carlo or London or Las Vegas, Nevada, millions seek excitement, thrills, and sensual fulfillment.

## **Weekend Neurosis**

Sociologists are concerned. Evidence is now appearing that we are not learning to cope with the increased amounts of leisure time at our disposal. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with pleasure and fun, of themselves. Everybody realizes that human beings need occasional changes of pace, relaxation, rest, and time to recuperate from

the pressures of life, business, or daily routine.

But we are not using our leisure time in a manner that really increases life's enjoyment in the long run. As mechanization and modern technology provide more leisure time and less work time, we find boredom and frustration significantly increasing.

When people become bored with life, lack goals, have nothing to live or sacrifice for, and have no driving purpose for living, they stagnate, become restless and filled with ennui, and are easily irritated or frustrated.

As more free time has become available to youth, "thrill killings" by juvenile gangs have skyrocketed. Young people are seeking new "kicks" to fill a void in their lives. They crave excitement and thrills because there is nothing normally thrilling about modern education, or the ghetto, or their normal home routines.

Another aspect of the problem is the increase in the number of patients who seem to be all right Monday through Friday while at work, but who go to pieces on weekends. Dubbed "weekend neurosis" by psychiatrists, this malady occurs when people are turned loose on weekends with free time on their hands. They often feel guilty, jittery, anxious, frustrated, and just plain miserable.

Of course, many people truly do enjoy their increased leisure activities. Not everybody is frustrated, miserable, or dissatisfied. But millions are. One woman I talked to in the Bahamas told me that since her husband had died, she frequently visited the casino on Paradise Island. To her, gambling was a way to occupy the time and forget her loneliness.

Two men at the same casino, one from Washington, D.C., and one from the West Coast of the United States, were well on their way to getting roaring drunk. Apparently, the



Bahamian resorts were not sufficient to help them forget their troubles.

All too often, the quest for pleasure and thrills becomes a maddening, desperate, futile search. The pot of gold which is supposed to be over the next horizon at the end of the rainbow simply isn't there. Pleasure for pleasure's sake doesn't satisfy or fill the void in people's lives.

What is the problem?

A glance at the historical record

of nations which preceded our modern societies down the "pleasure route" is instructive.

### The Philosophy of Hedonism

About 300 B.C., there lived in Greece a philosopher who taught that the supreme purpose of life was to get all the pleasure possible out of it. His name was Epicurus. His followers are Epicureans.

Epicurus said, "We declare pleasure to be the beginning and end of

the blessed life." He did not believe in a life after death. Epicurus wrote to a friend: "But I summon you to continuous pleasures and not to vain and empty virtues which have but disturbing hopes of results."

This ancient philosophy found some of its greatest adherents in Rome.

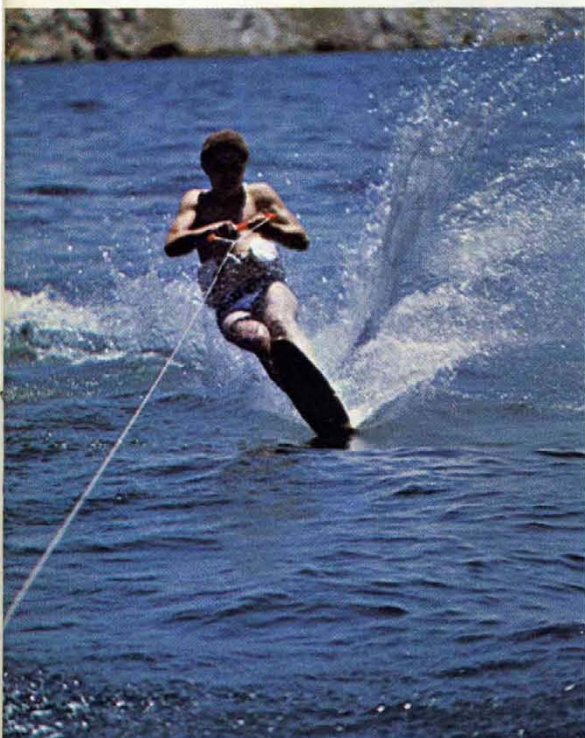
Rome possessed an unequalled empire. Food, goods, and services flowed into Rome, the focal point of the ancient world. Rome basked in affluence and wallowed in unsurpassed luxury and wealth.

The Romans soon lost sight of their national objectives. Fun and games became more important than survival.

Fattened on the produce of the far-reaching empire, the Romans gorged themselves on exotic dainties, indulged their sensuous appetites, and debauched themselves with wild sexual orgies. The main attraction for the Roman masses was the circus. The Circus Maximus in Rome could hold 400,000 spellbound spectators.

We ought to read again what historian Edward Gibbon wrote in *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*: "The most lively and splendid amusement of the idle multitude depended on the frequent exhibition of public games and spectacles. The piety of Christian princes had suppressed the inhuman combats of gladiators; but the Roman people still considered the Circus as their home, their temple, and the seat of the republic. The impatient crowd rushed at the dawn of the day to secure their places, and there were many who passed a sleepless and anxious night in the adjacent porticos" (vol. II, p. 148).

How reminiscent this description is of the thousands who attend American football games. This year, sports commentators caught the parallel when an estimated 75,000,000 people watched the "Super Bowl" football game on television, held, interestingly enough, in



**PLEASURE SEEKERS** in the warm Bahamian sun relax under a palm tree on Lucaya beach at Freeport on Grand Bahama Island (upper left). Parachutist descends to earth, participating in a sport that is growing in popularity (lower left). Athletic youth water skiing at Lake Piru in southern California (upper right). Bahamian Goombay entertainer rattles goatskin drums in a Nassau night club (lower right).

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the "Coliseum" in Los Angeles. An additional 100,000 attended in person.

"The happiness of Rome," declared Gibbon, "appeared to hang on the event of a race."

Today, the happiness of many also seems to hang on the outcome of the Grand Prix, the Indianapolis 500, a soccer or football game, or dog or horse races.

Juvenal, Roman poet and satirist of A.D. 100, wrote: "The public has long since cast off its cares; the people that once bestowed commands, consulships, legions, and all else, now meddles no more and longs eagerly for just two things — bread and circuses."

Today, millions of Australians, Canadians, English and other Europeans, and Americans also seem to have lost their sense of national purpose and destiny. We are more pre-occupied with the latest football or soccer score than with the outcome of international conferences on disarmament or solutions to problems in ecology.

The Romans became obsessed and engrossed with fiction and indecent stage productions. "Almost from the beginning the Roman stage was gross and immoral," wrote Myers in *Rome, Its Rise and Fall*. "It was one of the main agencies to which must be attributed the undermining of the originally sound moral life of Roman society."

"So absorbed did the people become in the indecent representations of the stage that they lost all thought and care of the affairs of real life" (pp. 515-516).

Is it so much different, today?

### The Fun Culture

Our Western world seems addicted to frivolity and fun, obsessed with sensuous pleasures. We have built a new "Fun Culture" in which millions seek escape from reality.

Many modern Europeans, Americans, Canadians, and Australians are addicted to watching television,

or they swarm to the latest bloody motion picture, absorbing the violence, the sadism, the sex, and the horror displayed.

Because Rome became absorbed and obsessed with its own thrills, pleasures, and leisure activities, we

read its historical epitaph: "And so in this dream of the absolute fixity of the Roman system, men went on getting, studying, enjoying, dissipating — doing everything except to prepare for fighting. . . ."

"And so the barbarians at length

**VACATIONERS** sunbathing and swimming in the lavish pool at the Acapulco Hilton (upper right). Deepsea fishermen off the coast of Florida (below). Thousands of avid fans mill around to purchase air race tickets (far right).

Don Lorton — Plain Truth





destroyed a society that was more slowly destroying itself" (Davis, *The Influence of Wealth in Imperial Rome*, pp. 317, 330). Is the 20th century Western world following in Rome's footsteps?

Are modern Epicureans, with their abundance of leisure time, destined to repeat the mistakes and reap the same harvest as the Epicureans of Rome and Greece?

### The Right Use of Leisure

Dr. James C. Charlesworth remarked several years ago that leisure is "growing much faster than our capacity to use it wisely."

How should leisure time be used? How can the affluent Western world avoid the mistakes of the ancient Romans?

There is surely nothing wrong

with good, clean fun. It is, and should be, enjoyable. Leisure time can be spent in a manner which is fulfilling and enjoyable. However, if the long-range effects of a person's use of leisure are detrimental to the well being, health, or future happiness of himself or others, then such activities should be discarded.

Many of the leisure activities available today can be fine forms of recreation and add spice and balance to life. There is nothing wrong, for example, with enjoying a game of chess, water skiing, scuba diving, or vacationing in some far away romantic spot — as long as the individual can afford the expense, has given due concern for others, and as long as the particular form of pleasure doesn't have a boomerang effect.

Attending concerts, wholesome stage plays, or a few special motion pictures which uplift, inspire, and strengthen one's appreciation for life, nature or beauty are excellent forms of recreation. Leisure activities which add to one's understanding and enjoyment of life can also provide an added dimension to one's entire character development, help round out one's personality and teach appreciation for the talents of other people.

But when leisure becomes an end in itself, when millions begin putting fun and games before the serious business of life, when leisure activities become a form of escapism from reality, when the sole purpose for leisure activities becomes hedonism and the gratification of the senses — then a whole society is in trouble.

### A Danger for Today

Human nature has not changed. Our modern affluent world was, amazingly enough, foretold by the apostle Paul. He wrote: "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive,



disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman, implacable, slanderers, profligates, fierce, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*" (II Timothy 3:1-4, RSV).

A warning about making pleasure the paramount aim and purpose of life was also issued by the prophet Amos, who lived over 2,500 years ago. Amos thundered, "Woe to those lounging in luxury" (Amos 6:1, *The Living Bible*). His words, directed to the people of ancient Jerusalem and Samaria, are equally applicable, in principle, to an affluent Western world.

Amos continued, "You lie on ivory beds surrounded with luxury, eating the meat of the tenderest lambs and the choicest calves. You sing idle songs. . . . You drink wine by the bucketful and perfume yourselves with sweet ointments, caring nothing at all that your brothers need your help" (Amos 6:4-6, *The Living Bible*).

Amos detected the real problem. Today, many, in their pursuit of pleasure, ignore the harsh realities of the bitter plights of millions who cannot afford luxuries. But even worse, while pursuing personal pleasure and sensual delight, they begin to ignore and forget God!

While it is not wrong to enjoy pleasures at the right time, in the right place, we should always remember the admonition of an ancient king:

"For if a man lives many years, let him rejoice in them all; but let him remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that comes is vanity.

"Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart and the sight of your eyes. But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment" (Ecclesiastes 11:8-9, RSV).

### The Missing Dimension in Pleasure

Those who have put pleasure first in life, who spend multiple hours watching television, sports, and movies, who while away their time in the reckless pursuit of pleasure, and yet, who never really feel fulfilled, don't realize that they have overlooked the greatest pleasure of all — spiritual pleasure which comes from knowing God and having daily contact with Him.

Only spiritual pleasure can fill the emptiness, the vacuum, the terrible void that exists in the lives of many people. Only contact with God, who seems to be so remote to most moderns, will truly satisfy.

To those who haven't found the spiritual dimension that produces real lasting pleasure and happiness, God says: "Ho, every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1, RSV).

God asks, "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness" (verse 2, RSV).

God is not against pleasure. He is not a stern, strict, humorless tyrant — an austere, morose Victorian prude. God created the beauty of the mountains, seashores, sandy beaches, colorful flowers, gorgeous sunsets, majestic canyons. He created human beings with the senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing, and sight. He meant for them to be used and enjoyed!

But above all, God wants us to enjoy the spiritual pleasures that come from obedience to His way of life. God wants His people to prosper and enjoy life (III John 2). But He wants us to enjoy life throughout all eternity. David wrote: "Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy

presence there is fulness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11, RSV).

These are the pleasures truly worth seeking!

I know, and so do all those who share in the true, spiritual riches. Many years ago, I was a frustrated, sometimes unhappy young man. I didn't know what life was all about. I saw the trauma of divorce occurring to those close to me. Life seemed to be futile, empty. No activity or vacation could long erase the inconsolable yearning for something more meaningful to life.

But then I found the real answer — the true explanations for life's sufferings, trials, and continual problems. I found a source of delight, joy, and happiness which transcended physical pleasures.

My life took on new meaning. Experiences began to have more depth, richness, and significance. Life itself became thrilling and joyful because I learned what it means to have God as a Father, to whom I could speak in prayer, and to have His Holy Spirit, which He offers to all.

God's Holy Spirit is the "living water" that Isaiah and Jesus spoke of (Isaiah 55:1; John 7:37-39). Jesus came so that mankind could have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). And that abundant life comes through partaking of the very Spirit of God, which is the spirit of "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23, RSV).

That Holy Spirit is available to you, if you are willing to obey God and keep the commandments which He ordained for our welfare. Write for our article "This Is the Life — Real Abundant Living," and the booklet *Why Were You Born?* They will show you how you can experience and enjoy the deepest and most meaningful pleasures life has to offer! □

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Position to be filled is  
... mother

# WANTED: FEMALE for exciting lifetime position.

by Paul W. Kroll

**“W**ANTED: FEMALE. Preferably age 23-25. Position to be filled is that of wife and mother. Accepted applicant will have responsible position as fully equal partner. Position requires professional talents: background in child training, home decorating, money management. Experience as first-class chef and seamstress necessary. Must be avid reader with wide variety of interests. Some experience in buying and selling real estate, though not essential, would be useful.”

This, of course, is an idealistic “want ad.” Such an ad might continue: “Position requires positive mental outlook. Employer does not subscribe to the definition of a housewife as ‘one who does not work for a living.’”

“Employer guarantees a balance between romanticism and realism. There will be candle-light dinners and boating by moonlight on occasion. But future responsibilities will include feeding of infant during dinner and possible moonlight diaper changes. All such duties, including dish washing (for which others would be paid), will be re-

garded as part of an overall lifetime responsibility.

“Position is very secure. Lifetime tenure guaranteed by a binding contract which has no legal loopholes. Of course, death of either party terminates contract.”

### By Contrast — Hard Reality

The preceding “want ad” is a description of what a woman might consider as an exciting marriage. Most wives down through the centuries have not been happy. Overworked, undereducated, often regarded as only “near-persons,” many women have seldom considered their role as the next thing to paradise. Even today, in many cultures, most women are still overworked, undereducated and are regarded as hardly more than chattel.

But what about the typical married woman in our affluent Western world? For millions of them, marriage is often one big, soapy dishpan of boredom. Picture some of the real or imagined problems which such a wife often encounters.

Hubby isn’t home very much. At 7:00 a.m., it’s a cup of coffee and a

hurried “good-bye”; at 6 p.m., it’s “Hi, am I tired!” followed by, “Did you say you had a boring day today, dear? Well, let me tell you what happened at the office . . .”

Or maybe he’s the type of husband who drags himself through the front door, plops into his favorite chair, props two hairy legs up on the hassock and guzzles a can of beer while mesmerized by the television.

Switch the scene. She’s nineteen; been married three months. Baby is six months old. The apartment is small and dilapidated. The baby is screaming as usual. And all the postman will bring are bills, bills, bills.

This wife picks up a women’s magazine. “Look at all those gorgeous women. (And with their own cigarette!) That could be me,” she thinks to herself. But it isn’t. It’s rather difficult to even live on the small salary her husband earns.

Scene three. It’s Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, the late Pruitt-Igoe, perhaps Watts or Roxbury, U.S.A. Or it could be the slums outside Paris or London or on the hills overlooking spectacular Rio.

Let’s enter a classic American tenement flat. The smell of urine

from the halls may greet you at the door. You walk around grandma, who was born illegitimate and step across her daughter, who was illegitimate and past her granddaughter, who was also born illegitimate. They all live together in this apartment. Mother, age 34, and daughter, age 17, both have illegitimate toddlers. The several daddies come by on occasion. Sometimes they live there a while. And sometimes, when they can find a job, they contribute to the community coffers.

"We get by," says one of the mothers. "Some of us work, and with some help from AFDC [Aid to Families With Dependent Children, a U. S. federal program to help the poor], we get by."

Obviously, marriage isn't something these women would walk a mile for. And if they lived in Rio, there wouldn't even be any AFDC.

Thank God not all marriages are like the ones above, because we have more than enough social problems, even among the more prosperous. But hundreds of thousands each year find marriage an unbearable drag. They throw in the towel and get a divorce. Whether husband or wife initiates the proceedings doesn't really matter too much. Divorce affects both of them. And the kids are the most victimized of all. Few ever again get a fair shake.

#### The Housewife's Lament

Wives justifiably complain: "I feel as if I don't exist. You wake up one morning and there's nothing to look forward to."

One rather detailed lament was voiced through a woman being interviewed by psychologist Betty Friedan: "I've tried everything women are supposed to do — hobbies, gardening, pickling, canning, being very social with my neighbors, joining committees, running PTA teas. I can do it all, and I like it, but it doesn't leave you anything to think about — any feeling of who

you are. I never had any career ambitions. All I wanted was to get married and have four children. I love the kids and Bob and my home. There's no problem you can even put a name to. But I'm desperate. I begin to feel I have no personality. I'm a server of food and a putter-on of pants and a bed-maker, somebody who can be called on when you want something. *But who am I?*"

Other classic, one-line laments from the not-so-happy hearth are:

"My days are all busy and dull, too."

"Very little of what I've done has been really necessary or important."

"I want something more than my husband and my children and my home."

These are middle-class complaints, though they are certainly not limited to this social and economic group. A lower-class woman, especially a black woman, might put her complaint in these terms:

"Men just think women are work horses. A woman is asked, 'How much do you make?' before she is asked to be married."

Some lower-class women, black and white, express hostile sentiments toward men in general or toward their own husbands. It is hard to put up with broken teeth, bloody noses, black eyes and a cursing husband yelling, "Get to work, you dirty slob."

Bored and unappreciated housewives did not arise with the new feminism of the last ten years. They've been around for a long time, suffering from boredom and lack of fulfillment of basic human desires. (Today, even the term "housewife" sounds stagnant, but "homemaker" doesn't do much more for many women.)

Though great numbers of women do feel they are happily married, the *real* problem of the unhappy wife does exist and has been put into sharp relief, partially due to the

fact that in Western society, we are beyond working for bread.

#### Our Human Needs

If a man is starving, he is not concerned about whether or not his idea for a new cassette recorder has been accepted by his corporation. "Unless the circumstances are unusual," says management expert Douglas McGregor, "his need for love, for status, for recognition are inoperative when his stomach has been empty for a while." But when his basic physical needs are satisfied, other needs and desires surface.

The lack of genuine satisfaction points up a human craving for psychological, intellectual and spiritual satisfaction — a craving which may be expressed in these terms: "I need to do something important." "Who am I?" "I feel incomplete, even though I have everything."

Some say, "Get a career. Get paid for your work. That is what being accepted as a real person means. Find meaning for your life in a career."

For argument's sake, let us examine the concept of career. Can it cure the longing in a woman's soul? Perhaps for some, for a time, it might appear to. But a career isn't the ultimate solution. Consider this, women: Very often, men also feel bored with life *and their career*.

#### The Bored Executive?

In the May 1968 issue of *Psychology Today*, Peter Drucker reported that knowledge workers, people who work with their brains instead of brawn, often want and need to begin different careers after age 40. Discussing the same problem in his recent book, *The Age of Discontinuity*, Drucker said, in short, that men are getting burned out — bored — tired — fed up with their seemingly important jobs.

He received an incredible re-

sponse of letters, besides hundreds of telephone calls from almost every category of successful career men — ministers, university professors, military officers, school principals, accountants, engineers and so forth. They all asked something like this, "Now that I am forty-seven, how can I start doing something new and challenging?"

One can scarcely avoid the parallel between the male response to Drucker's article and the response of females to a 1960 *Redbook* article entitled, "Why Young Mothers Feel Trapped," which floored the magazine's editors. Some 24,000 women deluged *Redbook's* mailing room with tales of woe. How many more readers had problems but didn't write?

If it's any solace, housewives may take comfort in the fact that boredom, frustration and the "Who am I?" syndrome is definitely not limited to females. It plagues men, too. And not only ordinary men, but important men — men who sit at the very pinnacle of power and who can do whatever they desire. There was ancient King Solomon, for example, one of the wealthiest, wisest and most powerful men who ever lived. He complained in words that could just as well have come from a woman in Levittown, Pennsylvania, or in Tapiola, Finland.

"Utterly vain, utterly vain, everything is vain," cried frustrated King Solomon, echoing the lament of the frustrated housewife. "Man [that is, men and women in general] labours at his toil under the sun; what does he gain? The generations come and go, but there the earth is, there shall it remain . . . All things are aweary, weary beyond words: the eye is not satisfied, the ear has never enough."

A very depressed and frustrated King Solomon finally said, "I hated life: for all that goes on under the sun seemed evil to me, all of it vain and futile. I hated all that I had toiled at under the sun." You'll find

these and similar words in the old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, chapters one and two, Moffatt translation.

### Facing Practical Problems

The foregoing may appear rather philosophical and unrelated to the everyday situations bombarding the married woman. Therefore, before examining these basic issues, let's back up to some of the practical problems faced by a housewife. One is the passing of the "full house" plateau when the children have come and gone. The housewife is left with much energy, perhaps some education and skills, and, in an affluent society, with not much to do.

Sociologist Helena Z. Lopata has explained the dilemma in these terms: "Most of the female population of American society is treated as rather valueless once it has produced at least one child and reared it to preadulthood. Thus, most women are left in a situation similar to that of retired men, for 30 or more years of their lives." The same problem is increasingly a fact of life in other affluent nations.

Here's where a job or career might well be a sensible and practical way to help make life meaningful and interesting. Still, will a job or a career really answer the question of "Who am I?" for a woman?

There is also the practical difficulty of being tied down early in marriage to the kids, cleaning and cooking. Here are young women who had been in a full round of social and intellectual pursuits. Then whammo! Marriage and children — perhaps one conceived or born before marriage — strap the newlywed to a very precarious and frustrating relationship.

The wife suddenly finds herself in a greatly restricted, viced-in situation. Her children seem to contract all the childhood illnesses. Soon

comes her complaint, "I'm vegetating" or "I'm tied down" or "Wish I could get out." She faces the "I-talk-to-kids-all-day-long" syndrome.

### What Is to Be Done?

What can you do when your intelligence exceeds your present housewife job requirements or when your bona fide hopes and dreams exceed reality? It's not too much consolation for a housewife if one says, "Part of your problem is the structure of our society. It needs drastic redirection."

It does, of course. But merely saying, "You shouldn't have to live like this," seems like a cloud without rain.

But where do we go from here? Let's stop for a moment and ask ourselves: "Have we been asking too much of marriage?" Consider the following statement from a woman:

"When marriage is the end of your life, because you have no other mission, it becomes a miserable, tawdry thing." A lawyer's wife said that when being interviewed by a psychologist — and she is absolutely right.

*Marriage*, of course, is very sacred, very important and should provide great happiness. Most marriages don't even begin to bring the happiness they could. But man and woman *cannot live by marriage alone!* A woman who has no purpose beyond marriage may well continue to feel desperate.

Helena Lopata, the sociologist quoted earlier, speaking from years of experience and testing, stated: "Women deeply involved in the wife-mother-housewife subculture are prone to have restricted views of the rest of the world."

### Too Involved With Marriage

Of course, a married woman should be interested in home decorating, babies and so forth. These

are very important responsibilities. The point is, zeroing in on physical marriage as the final purpose in life can become a causative factor in producing the bored and frustrated housewife vortex. Marriage is a wonderful institution. But it can only do so much. If we are to grasp the significance of this paradox, we must understand what human beings are and why we have the institution of marriage.

We talked previously about human need levels. Humans are first concerned about filling their physical needs. Next, they want security — protection against threat, deprivation and anger. Then come social needs: the desire to belong and to associate with and be accepted by one's peers and friends. Above that is the desire for self-fulfillment. This has been termed "being creative in the broadest sense of the term." It entails making a contribution of importance.

Many sociologists stop here. They see no level of human need higher than this. Even if it is dimly perceived, this next level is generally sloughed off as beyond the realm of scientific inquiry, which limits itself to that which can be tested in "the laboratory."

#### Unveiling the Ultimate to Happiness

King Solomon clearly recognized this higher level and philosophized on what would really bring happiness. First of all, he never spoke against the good things of life. "I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 8:15).

Solomon was no ascetic. His motto was: enjoy, enjoy, enjoy. (Of course, this enjoyment was to take place within the bounds of God's law.) Yet, he observed that, in the

end, all life was frustrating and boring. It seemed to have no ultimate purpose.

Boredom, of course, arises when one has no compelling reason to do whatever duty is before him. However, necessity or purpose makes even the trivial important. To a teen-ager, studying a foreign language may appear painfully dull. He sees no purpose in it. But the same language study may become excruciatingly urgent to a spy who is to be dropped behind enemy lines in three months. The agent has a purpose for studying; it may help him stay alive a bit longer.

Back to Solomon. For twelve chapters, he discusses the woes of this human life. Then in the 13th verse of the 12th chapter, he opens up a new vista to bored and frustrated humans: "To sum it all up, in conclusion. Stand in awe of God, obey his orders: *that is everything, for every man*" (Moffatt version). The King James Version says, "This is the whole duty of man."

(God's law, as laid down in the Bible, was made for man; not man for the law. The law of God expresses the guiding principles of a way of life. This way is structured so as to bring the greatest happiness to all humans.)

The translation of Ecclesiastes 12:13 by the Jewish Publication Society reads: "This is the *whole man*." The Soncino commentary on this verse explains the intent of the Hebrew in the following terms, "What is meant is that this is the only true answer to that quest of the chief good in which the thinker [Solomon] has been engaged." Solomon's quest, of course, was to find what would really give humans lasting satisfaction.

Solomon had everything and could do everything. Yet he was unfulfilled, frustrated. "Why, why?" he asked himself. His final conclusion led him to the point that only another dimension could possibly give

meaning to life. That extra dimension involves the question "Who am I?" which housewives ask.

#### Yes, Who Are We?

Why do humans exist? Is there some purpose in life to shape it, mold it, give it meaning? Solomon said there had to be. Otherwise life simply did not make sense.

Humans, male and female, think. They have needs. They know they exist. Humans want to live long lives — living *forever* wouldn't be turned down — in an ordered, happy and productive manner. Why? How did this realization of life living itself get into their minds?

And why, in spite of these desires for a happy and orderly life, is the world so crazy? All these questions have an answer.

The publication for which Solomon wrote, the Holy Bible, claims that human beings were born for a purpose and that this purpose transcends the wisp of smoke we call human life. This purpose gives meaning to human life.

Every human, male and female, can come to experience a meaning to life. That purpose, in a paragraph, is the following: This present physical life is not an end in itself. Our three score and ten years are merely a preparation for being born again and living forever as a spirit being.

You can find out about these incredible opportunities by writing for our booklet on this subject, *Why Were You Born?*

Also, get a copy of our booklet, *The New Feminism: Have Women Ever Really Had Their Rights? A third booklet, Why Marriage!... Soon Obsolete?* explains the great purpose and meaning of the marriage institution. All three booklets will be sent to you on request without any charge or obligation if you write to the editor. See the staff box on inside front cover for the address nearest you and send in for your copies immediately. □

# *Just What Do You Mean—* **“FORGIVENESS OF SIN”?**

*There are many counterfeits — but only one genuine way for man to be at peace with God and with himself. You need to understand what that way is.*

by Roderick C. Meredith

**H**IS LARGE, muscular shoulders shook, and his chest heaved with sobbing as Roy told us about himself. Now a rancher in the American Southwest, Roy recounted his past life in the cow towns, the bars, the red light districts — and the wretchedness he had gotten himself into in the military service in World War II.

He had certainly had more than his share of “fun” — of sleazy nightclubs, drunkenness, prostitutes and venereal disease, of hangovers, headaches, run-ins with the military police, jail, bail bondsmen and doctors.

## **What Roy Did**

We were standing on the bank of a small river just after we had baptized Roy. We were dripping wet, secluded by trees, ready to ask the great God who made the beauty around us to give this man His Spirit — His very nature, character and spiritual strength.

We later said our good-byes, got back into the car and waved a final good-bye to this tall American Westerner. In the years that followed, we saw him change and grow from a tough-talking, whiskey-drinking, chain-smoking, hard-headed but very empty and frustrated individual into one of the kindest, most dependable husbands and fathers in the American Southwest. He was still hardworking and resourceful, but now he knew where he was going, and he knew the way. He no longer blustered and bristled with impatience, tension and inner restlessness. He had a quiet confidence and peace of mind that was noticeable to those who had known him before.

Through months of listening carefully to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast, reading *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and finally learning to study the Bible and meditate on its principles, this man was changed.

He had come to prove the existence of and know the true God — the Creator and Ruler of all that is, the One who even now is intervening in world affairs according to His own master plan. Roy had proved that the Bible is the inspired revelation of that God. He had come to know and accept the true Messiah of the Bible, Jesus Christ, who not only died for our sins, but who also now sits at the right hand of the Great Governor of the Universe and who is ready to return soon to earth as King of kings to rule the nations of this earth.

Roy had proved these fundamental points and had surrendered his life and will to the Creator God. And what Roy did, every living man and woman must do — in God’s time and according to His calling.

## **Is Your Mind Open?**

Roy, of course, is not the typical or average person. His life was more

varied than most. Nevertheless, all people must eventually come to the same momentous point in their lives that Roy did.

Are you willing to face this same momentous decision? Are you willing to change if God shows you through His written Word — the Bible — that you may not have really known Him, nor have been properly baptized, nor have had His Holy Spirit living within you? Your own personal vanity will, in many cases, prevent you from admitting, in this most important of all areas, that you have been wrong and in ignorance of God's way.

Your Bible says: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9). In plain language, one has to have Christ's Spirit, or he is not a Christian — *not converted!*

A truly converted person is filled with and led by the Holy Spirit of God (Romans 8:14). God lives His very life within us through His Holy Spirit. By this means, we are begotten of Him as children and thus partake of His very nature.

Through His Spirit, God gives us His love. We read in Romans 5:5, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us." Thus we partake of His nature — His character — which is love. And God's character is expressed in the spiritual principles contained in the Ten Commandments.

And how is this love of God expressed? Your Bible answers: "For this is the *love of God*, that we *keep his commandments*: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

God's Spirit leads us to obey Him as our Maker and Ruler.

The apostle Peter was inspired to write of the Holy Spirit, "whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32).

True conversion involves repentance and the surrendering of our lives to obey God and His laws. You

repent of sin. But what is the Bible definition of sin? "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). That is the Bible definition of sin — the breaking of God's law.

So to be truly converted, you must repent of breaking God's law. You must be so sorry that you are willing to quit breaking it and turn around and go the other way. You must be willing, therefore, to begin obeying God's law and to begin literally living by all ten of the Ten Commandments! Is this a great "burden" to perform?

What is so burdensome about having no other gods before the true God, about not taking God's name in vain, about not breaking His day of rest? What is so hard about honoring your parents?

Why do people think they must fight, kill, lie, cheat, steal, and curse in order to be happy?

Don't reason that it is "too hard" to obey. God's love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit enables us to keep God's spiritual law.

But what are the conditions for receiving God's Spirit? In Acts 2:38, the inspired Peter tells how: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Christ's righteousness is put within us through His Spirit. His Spirit enables us to have the love that fulfills the law, and joy and peace with God and our fellow man — to the extent that we yield obediently to Him and to the extent that we are growing and overcoming our human nature throughout this life, preparatory to eternal life in the world tomorrow.

#### **Baptism — Burial of Your Old Self**

In the New Testament, the commandments of God are magnified to their full spiritual intent by Jesus Christ — particularly in Matthew 5 in the sermon on the mount. New Testament Christians are to keep

not merely the letter of the law, but also the very spirit and intent of God's law in every phase of their lives.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

In repenting and being converted, then, you must repent of *disobeying* God's law — disobeying His word and His rule over your life. You must be willing to honestly see and acknowledge that you have been wrong. You must then be willing to surrender your will to obey your God and your Maker. You must be willing to accept the shed blood of Jesus Christ in full payment for your sins. Jesus died for you to pay for your sins because "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Then, you are ready to be baptized as an outward sign of your willingness to completely bury your old self — to literally give your very life to God as your Father and to Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, High Priest, and coming King.

Notice the description of the meaning of baptism in Romans 6:3-4: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Baptism symbolizes the death and burial of the old self — the old human nature which has been contrary to God and His laws. It symbolizes our faith in, and acceptance of, the death of Jesus Christ on our behalf. It symbolizes our acceptance of and faith in His resurrection — which our coming up out of the watery grave also pictures. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Romans 6:5).

Also, baptism is an outward acknowledgment that our old self —



selfish, vain, and sinful — must die in order that we might rise again to live, really live, by God's laws and commandments and quit sinning. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (verse 6). As we have seen, sin is the transgression of the law. So Romans 6:6 certainly shows that we should *not continue in lawlessness*. Rather, we must repent of breaking God's laws and begin to let Jesus Christ — through his Spirit and His love — live within us a life of obedience to God's laws and of service to our fellow man.

#### Be Sure You Do Your Part

Are you absolutely sure that you have come to this kind of real repentance and surrender to the God of the Bible? Have you come to abhor yourself — to realize that your natural spirit of lust, competition and vanity is simply not bringing you real peace, happiness and eternal life? The people of this world, as a whole, simply do not know this way to peace and righteousness (Romans 3:10, 17).

The greatest stumbling block that prevents most people from accepting God's truth and being converted is their own vanity. Most people have grown up with some religious teaching from grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts or friends. But they hate to admit that they — and perhaps friends and loved ones — have been wrong. They fear to admit that they may never have been converted. Human nature makes them want to maintain their own righteousness.

But God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. . . . For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Our own human ways and reasonings are nearly always wrong!

#### Why Total Surrender?

It is almost certain that most of you reading this article still have what the Bible describes as a "car-

nal" mind. You probably never really surrendered your will to God and began obeying all of His commandments. Do you still argue, reason and justify self? Do you say: "This is the way I look at it"?

Although many religious people think they have already been what they call "saved," the sad truth of the matter is that they do not know what it means to be saved! They have never come to the place of even beginning to truly surrender their wills to really obey the God of the Bible. They have never received God's Holy Spirit or become His begotten sons.

Such people are not overcoming human nature, nor do they understand and live by the words of the Bible more and more every month and year of their lives. Why?

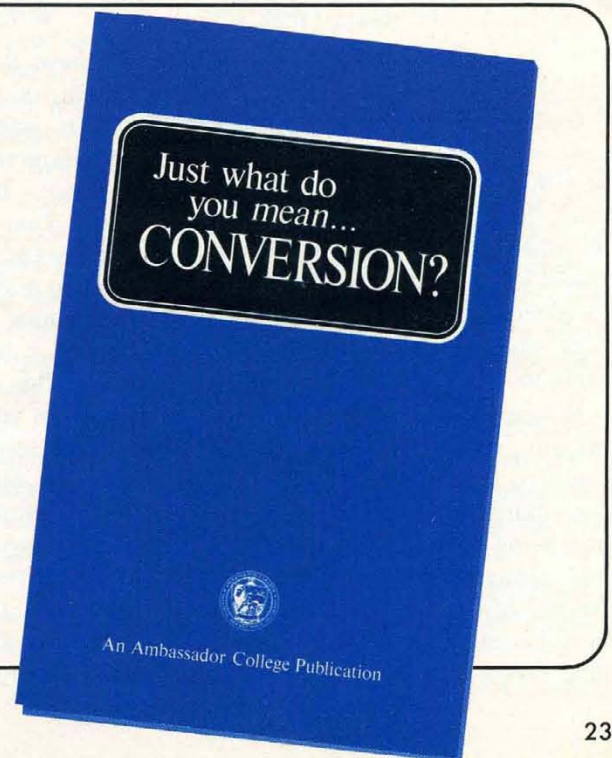
"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

You see, God describes the "carnal" mind — the natural, fleshly mind of man — as a mind that is disobedient to His laws. The carnal mind tries to "reason around" those laws and go its own way. Through a

# What Is REAL Conversion?

WHAT IS A REAL CHRISTIAN? Just what is this experience called "conversion"? Millions think that a Christian is already perfect — never does anything wrong. Is it possible for one to actually SIN and still remain a truly converted Christian? This booklet provides the Biblical answers.

See inside front cover for address of PLAIN TRUTH office nearest you.



process of "reasoning" it refuses to worship God *His way!*

That is why such people have never really understood the great purpose being worked out here below and why God has always seemed so far away to them — so unreal.

### What About You?

Be honest with yourself. Have you, personally, gone through a really heartrending repentance as the first step toward conversion? Have you continually changed and grown in spiritual understanding, knowledge and character ever since?

Never forget that prior to real conversion is real repentance. You must humble yourself — quit being self-willed — so that you sincerely repent, as David did in Psalm 51 — one of the best examples of repentance in all the Bible. "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin [RSV]," David cried. "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

Notice that David did not try to justify himself. Rather, he acknowledged his sin freely and asked forgiveness.

He continued: "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight."

God didn't have to argue, brow-beat, or "reason" David into admitting that his sin was against God when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered Uriah. David was willing to see his sin and to bitterly repent of and acknowledge what he had done. He really came to abhor himself.

Notice: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (verse 5). David was not talking about the act of conception being a sin but the fact that he had always been, so to speak, a "thing" of sin — literally filled with lustful, vain, and sinful human nature. David came to repent not only

of what he had done — but of what he was!

Have you?

Have you been led by God to see that your very nature is wrong? Have you come to sincerely want to get rid of your own rotten, selfish, carnal, human nature? Are you ready to repent not only of what you have done, but also of what you are?

King David knew that this was what God required. He said, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Psalm 51:17). Before anyone — and this does mean anyone — is really and truly converted, he has to be humbled, often beaten down through circumstances, and made to realize his own NOTHINGNESS. He has to begin a life-long process of abhorring himself, acknowledging his sins to God and repenting of them — turning around in his heart, mind and will and determining to go the other way.

When that time comes, a person will quit arguing with God or His ministers doing His Work. He will quit trying to reason around obedience to God's commandments. He will seek correction from God's servants.

### A Time for Action

Perhaps the God of heaven has brought you to understand His reality, His immutable spiritual laws and His great purpose for human existence. Through hearing *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, you may have come to see that God is now intervening in human affairs in a definite and specific way all over this earth.

Perhaps you are beginning to see that God's way of life is good — that it teaches the way to live, how to have a happy home, how to rear well-balanced children, how to keep in good physical health, how to have real peace of mind, and how to know and fulfill the purpose for which you were born.

If this be the case, many hundreds or thousands of you may wish to write to us and request a visit from one of God's own ordained ministers. These men — nearly all Ambassador College graduates — are sent to counsel and interview people all over the world, people who are interested in changing their lives and perhaps in being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ after real repentance. These men will be able to answer questions you may have about your spiritual life, about baptism and about the Bible. They will help you learn more regarding this Work of God and of the possibility of fellowship with others who are living God's way.

So if you want to make the decision to act on the truths you have been learning — perhaps to sincerely bury your old self in baptism and give your very life to God — send us your name and address and request to be counseled.

And while you are writing, be sure to ask for our vital booklet, *All About Water Baptism*. It is sent absolutely free and will give you additional understanding of the real meaning of repentance and water baptism.

If you have really understood this article as you read it, then it is high time you acted on the vital truths you have been receiving!

Roy, whom I described at the beginning of this article, was never able to overcome his restlessness, emptiness and sense of guilt — never, that is, until a fellow associate and I baptized him and stood there under a wide Texas sky and asked the great God to fill him with His Spirit as He has promised to do upon true repentance and baptism.

Now Roy's craggy, outdoorsman's face beams with quiet assurance and a deep and abiding peace. For he has been truly forgiven by his God and Father — and he now deeply understands the goal of life and the way to achieve it.

How about you? □

# advance news

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*in the wake of today's* **WORLD EVENTS**

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## ● World Refugee Problem

The U. S. Committee for Refugees reports that there are nearly sixteen million homeless persons scattered throughout the world. Uprooted from homes by war, by political, religious, and racial persecution and oppression, and by natural disaster, these people united in suffering comprise a group greater in number than the entire population of the continent of Australia, or the combined population of the cities of London, Paris, and Rome.

Refugees are to be found nearly everywhere around the world: Bangladesh, India, Southeast Asia, Hong Kong, the Middle East, throughout Africa — and even in Western Europe, Great Britain, and the United States. Their numbers and locations change constantly, making it almost impossible to accurately keep track of them.

Half of the over four million population of Hong Kong is made up of escapees from mainland China. In the Middle East, the protracted Arab-Israeli confrontation has produced its share of refugees. Tens of thousands of Asians were ejected from Uganda last year, many finding their way to a reluctant Great Britain. War has displaced millions of Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Laotians in Southeast Asia.

The refugee situation in today's overpopulated world is possibly the worst in man's history. The Pakistani civil war, for example, resulted in the greatest displacement of people in a single year that the world has known — outweighing in numbers the waves of refugees who fled Nazi Europe before and during World War II, or who escaped Communism's westward rush after the war. Between March 1971 and January 1972, 10 million people fled to India from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The majority have since returned — many to destroyed or pillaged home sites — causing extreme resettlement problems for the fledgling nation.

The problem is not likely to abate. As long as natural disasters, wars, and persecutions continue to afflict the world, the refugee problem will remain and very

likely intensify — a grim and tragic commentary on the world of the 20th century.

## ● Nuclear Terrorism?

Could shipments of nuclear materials be stolen and fashioned by terrorists into crude, do-it-yourself atomic bombs capable of devastating large cities? Nuclear scientists are beginning to worry about such an eventuality.

Professor Mason Willrich, director of the Center for the Study of Science, Technology, and Public Policy, of the University of Virginia, is one expert who voices this very concern. "Most experts," he says, "consider the design and manufacture of a crude nuclear explosive device without previous access to classified data to be no longer an extremely difficult task technically." Willrich points out that "a very small amount of [nuclear] material — for example, a few kilograms [several pounds] of plutonium — is enough for a nuclear explosive capable of mass destruction, and the manufacture of such an explosive is *within the capability of many groups.*" Five kilograms (eleven pounds) of plutonium could make a bomb comparable to the one used on Nagasaki.

Willrich's fear echoes a similar warning issued by Professor Bernard Feld at the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in Oxford last year. According to Feld, as nuclear power plants come into increasing use, large stockpiles of atomic fuel and spent nuclear fuel elements will be created — from which people with a certain amount of scientific knowledge could make crude nuclear bombs.

Highlighting the threat, an underground pamphlet published last year in London and syndicated in the United States gave details of how to extract plutonium from spent nuclear fuel and included a diagram of a crude atomic bomb.

Nuclear hijackings and nuclear terrorism are now a potential new threat to the thin fabric of the existing world social order.

— Gene Hogberg

# "But I'm too YOUNG to be an alcoholic!"

*While millions are concerned about growing drug abuse, another age-old menace is stalking the lives of untold thousands.*

by William F. Dankenbring

LISA HAD her first drink when she was 15. She had been unhappy, lonely, and scared most of her life. When she first encountered alcohol, it seemed like the solution to all her problems — a way to escape her emotional pain. Lisa became a virtual "instant alcoholic" — a type of alcoholic which researchers are just beginning to recognize.

"I never drank socially," said Lisa. "I drank as often and as much as I could. My eventual goal was to drink myself to death."

## **Waking Up to Reality**

Soon after Lisa began abusing alcohol, she discovered that she was having repeated hangovers, blackouts, and trouble. One night, she blacked out and drove her parents' car down an embankment, ramming a steel yard fence.

The next morning, Lisa could hardly recall what had happened. She recounted, "I do recall lying on a cold cement floor and shredding into little bits several pieces of stolen identification cards, and washing

my face in the toilet bowl trying to sober up, and screaming hysterically . . . ."

But this experience didn't stop her. Lisa continued to get into trouble because of her drinking. Her driver's license was revoked, she was made a ward of the court, and when she found out that her schooling was interfering with her drinking, she did what seemed the only logical thing — she quit school and ran away from home.

Lisa's problems seemed to increase dramatically. The more she





Mike Hendrickson — Plain Truth

drank, the worse her problems became.

She began to take a long, searching look at herself. She then turned to the only help she knew — Alcoholics Anonymous.

#### **A Growing Epidemic**

Lisa's drinking problem began when she was only 15. Most people today have never heard of teen-age alcoholics. Many parents, when confronted with a teen-age son or daughter who is making his or her life a "hell" because of alcohol

abuse, simply can't believe it is possible. Young people themselves also have a hard time facing up to the facts.

Contrary to common assumptions, you don't have to be middle-aged or elderly to become an alcoholic. Alcoholism strikes men and women of *any* age. More and more high school teen-agers and young people in their twenties are finding themselves slaves to alcohol, unable to cope with or face life without it.

All you have to do is talk with professionals working in the field of

alcoholic rehabilitation. One of these is Mrs. Jean Vandervoort, director of the Pasadena Council of Alcoholism in California. Mrs. Vandervoort and her colleagues are dealing with the problem of juvenile alcoholism on a daily basis. Many young people, she said, abuse both alcohol and strong drugs such as barbiturates, amphetamines or heroin. When one drug is not available, they easily switch to whatever they can get. And, she added, the "drug of choice" increasingly seems to be alcohol, because it is usually easier

to obtain and has a "quasi-legal" basis (at least for those of age).

### The Tip of the Iceberg

How serious is the problem? Nobody really knows the exact proportions of the problem at this stage. But it is getting worse. Jean Vandervoort says we have only seen the "tip of the iceberg."

Another authority dealing actively with youthful alcoholism is Mr. Norm Southerby. He is chairman of the Youth Committee on Alcohol Abuse and is also consultant to the Los Angeles County Alcohol Safety Action Project. He personally estimates that there may be as many as 560,000 teen-agers in the United States in the 14 to 17 age group who may develop or be in the process of developing a serious problem with alcohol.

Youthful alcoholism is only part of a much larger problem. In a recent report to the U. S. Congress, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse estimated that there are over nine million alcoholics in the United States, costing the nation \$15 billion annually.

Men in their late thirties who are married, steadily employed and regular churchgoers are the largest group of alcoholics. Alcoholics are men and women "whose dependence on alcohol has attained such a degree that they show a noticeable mental disturbance or an interference with their mental and bodily health, their interpersonal relations and their smooth social and economic functioning," says the World Health Organization.

Although eighty million Americans drink alcoholic beverages with no obvious deleterious results, over nine million — about one out of every ten — have become enslaved to alcohol. Nine million alcoholics means that alcoholism is a serious epidemic, ranking with heart disease and cancer as a major health menace.

Every third suicide in the United

States involves an alcoholic. Every third arrest in the United States involves public drunkenness. Half of all homicides and half of all fatal traffic accidents are alcohol-related.

These facts become even more ominous when we consider the growing scope of juvenile drinking problems.

### Not a New Problem

Drinking is an ancient custom. It has existed for thousands of years in all civilizations. The ancient Egyptians and Germans drank beer. The Aztecs of Mexico drank a fermented beverage called *pulche*, obtained from a small cactus plant. But no matter what the beverage, the harmful effects of its excessive use were much the same. And since the time the first alcoholic drink was taken by man, there has been concern about youthful drinking practices. As far back as the time of Plato, the subject of alcohol and youth has been a matter of public concern. Thus, the problem today is not a new one at all — although its dimensions may be growing because of the circumstances of our modern age.

Studies have been made to determine why young people drink. Many reasons have been suggested, but the fact is that there is no single reason. There are many factors at work. But when all the evidence is analyzed, it becomes obvious that teen-agers drink primarily because drinking is a widespread adult custom, today. As Bacon and Jones have written in *Teen-Age Drinking*: "Drinkers outnumber nondrinkers among adults by about two to one. When teen-agers drink, the best explanation of their behavior is that they are adopting the pattern set by the majority of adults" (p. 47).

### How It Begins

Teen-agers start to drink for three common reasons — because it seems appropriate for a special occasion or holiday, because of curiosity, or because they were served drinks by

their parents. They continue drinking for other reasons, such as to be sociable or because they simply "like it."

Home is the most likely place for youths to begin drinking, and they generally begin in the presence of parents and relatives. However, fifty-two percent of the teen-agers in one study reported having their first drink of whiskey with friends, not relatives. This study indicates that drinking with friends is a way of further experimentation with alcohol — of going beyond the limits set at home.



The fact that alcoholic beverages are being consumed by young people is not, of itself, the reason young people are becoming "addicted" to alcohol. The major factor seems to be how the parent or parents drink. Statistics show a direct relationship between youthful alcoholics and parental alcoholics. The children of an alcoholic parent stand a far greater risk of becoming alcoholics than children of nonalcoholic parents.

True, there may be pressures at school or peer pressure at parties; true, loneliness, anxiety over grades,

or feelings of inadequacy may contribute to the problem; but the most important single factor underlying teen-age alcoholism seems to be *parental example*. The method a teenager uses to "escape" is most often the method of his or her own parents!

Declare Bacon and Jones: "... teen-age drinking patterns imitate adult drinking patterns." They add: "Parents' drinking behavior, on the other hand, is certainly very important in determining whether their children will or will not drink. It is probably the most important

single influence" (*ibid.*, p. 59).

Take the example of Jan, a lovely brunette of 23. Jan became an alcoholic at age 16. She became drunk the same night she took her first drink. Alcohol, she related, made her feel good, comfortable, and able to meet people.

She also has a younger brother, age 16, who has been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for three months.

How did Jan become an alcoholic? Her parents separated when she was 15, and she lived with her mother, who was a heavy drinker.



**"I drank as often  
and as much as  
I could.  
My eventual goal  
was to drink  
myself to death."**

Similar cases have indicated that, if one or both parents abuse alcohol, there is a very good chance that the children will follow the same route. It happened in Jan's case and in that of her younger brother.

When Jan was depressed, she would go on a binge and drink a gallon of wine at a time. "I was searching for love and happiness," she declared. "I thought alcohol was it. But it wasn't."

Parental example is not the only factor in youthful alcoholism. For instance, Joyce had her first beer at age 13. She graduated from high school with honors, married at 17 and intended to go to college while her husband was overseas in the navy. But eight months later, her marriage broke up.

Although she had drunk off and on for five years, it had never become a problem. But now she was so lonely, confused and mixed up that she got drunk for the first time in her life. Intoxication made her feel ten feet tall and removed all her fears and tensions. The effect seemed wonderful, so she began drinking as often as she could, always seeking an alcoholic "high." By the tender age of 18, her drinking had led to several hangovers, lapses of memory, and on some occasions, uncontrollable shaking. She tried to hide her fears in a faster pace of drinking.

Eventually, Joyce went to live with her father in Missouri and signed up for college. But the drinking took up too much time, so she gave up school for a semester. During this time, her drunk binges turned into "suicidal depressions." After trying several psychiatrists, she decided she was going crazy. She didn't have the courage to commit suicide, but she kept drinking, hoping death would intervene.

Although Joyce was obviously an alcoholic, she couldn't bring herself to believe it. Finally, drunk and sprawled out in a cheap motel room with pills, wine, vodka, and gin all

around her, she threw up in a shoe box in the middle of the floor. She then decided seriously to try Alcoholics Anonymous.

Joyce's example shows that severe marital problems or emotional upheavals can also lead to alcoholism. The death of a loved one has triggered many a lapse into uncontrolled drinking. The times in which we live, the pressures of society, the constant aching loneliness in many lives, the feelings of inferiority, the strain to make good grades, or to excel at sports — all these items are contributing factors in juvenile alcoholism. The problem has not been fully realized, though.

Authorities have long recognized definite risks to teen-agers in drinking.

Herman E. Krimmel, director of the Cleveland Center on Alcoholism, pointed out in 1965 that adolescents may be physiologically affected more quickly and more severely than adults. Also, teen-agers are more susceptible to psychological intoxication. Young people, he warned, should not learn to meet personal problems by escape devices such as alcohol.

#### At Ever Earlier Ages

A significant factor in the incidence of teen-age alcoholism is the increasingly early age at which teen-agers begin to drink. Just a few years ago, the average beginning age was 15. Today, states the National Council of Alcoholism, the average beginning age is 12. And the earlier the beginning age of drinking, the heavier a drinker the teen-ager tends to become.

A study of illicit drug use among adolescents from 1968 to 1970 for grades 7 to 12 indicated that "alcohol, by far the most widely used drug, was consumed by approximately one third more students in 1970 than in 1968," and that "heavy users of alcohol increased by 41%."

The pattern emerging from many studies is becoming clear. At the be-

ginning of the adolescent period, most of the population is abstinent. But as one passes through the early teen-age years, chances are that he or she will begin to drink. By late adolescence, the proportion of drinkers equals or exceeds the overall adult rate of 70 percent.

#### What Can Be Done?

A few years ago, teen-age alcoholism was generally supposed to be practically nonexistent. But the picture has changed. Today, teen-age alcoholics are part and parcel of the youthful drug culture. As one study put it, "Kids who smoke dope together, drink together." And essentially for the same purpose — to get "high."

What can be done about the problem of abuse of alcohol by youths? First, we must recognize that the worst thing authorities or adults can do is to try to "scare them" with lurid and often false stories about "demon rum" or "booze."

Modern youths are sophisticated and more knowledgeable than many adults give them credit for. They know that alcoholic beverages have been around for thousands of years and that many people can drink them with no ill effects. They probably know several people who drink but have never been drunk.

Then, too, they themselves have had drinks and know that one drink does not necessarily lead to another. They have drunk a beer or two with no adverse effects. So if parents or adults lie to them about the awful consequences of taking just one drink, etc., young people won't listen to them.

The thing which parents and adults ought to do is simply tell young people the truth. Explain to them that there is a right and proper use of alcoholic beverages as well as a wrong use. Even the Bible shows that the apostle Paul told Timothy to take "a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities" (I Timothy 5:23). The



# Alcoholism— Worldwide Tragedy

Alcoholism among youths is a growing, worldwide problem.

**England:** Dr. Max Glatt, Vice-Chairman of the Medical Council of Alcoholism and consultant psychiatrist at England's largest alcoholics' hospital unit, points out that convictions for drunkenness against people under 21 have risen from 5,000 in 1958 to 12,000 in 1968. If drunkenness has more than doubled in 10 years, it is implied that alcoholism among youths has also significantly increased.

**Scotland:** Alcoholism among teenage Scots is reported in "chronic proportions" by authorities. The worst areas for heavy drinking among youths are Glasgow, Greenock, Dundee, Paisley and Oban, said John Gray, Director of the Glasgow Council on Alcoholism. "There has been a tremendous explosion of heavy drinking among youngsters," he added.

**Poland:** A Warsaw study in 1971 reported that alcoholism is a more serious threat to adolescents than it is to adults, as young people have a greater sensitivity to alcohol, and they have a greater portion of their lives to lose. The study reported that Alcoholics Anonymous groups in the country have

no effective way of reaching the young. The best method is through youth clubs operating throughout the country. The 12,000 clubs have half a million members.

**France:** In France, alcoholism annually claims 35,000 lives and is the third leading cause of death. Alcoholism is responsible for 30 percent of the traffic accidents in Paris, reported *Le Figaro*, and many of these are caused by young people. *Le Monde* reported that among French youth, alcohol was responsible for 9 percent of the road accidents during 1971. One French alcoholic said his parents died when he was three, and he was reared by an aunt who owned a pub. "I was just glutted with wine; my aunt got drunk on white wine, and I got stoned for the first time at age 12."

**Germany:** A Munich magazine has pointed to the large percentage of youths among the 600,000 alcoholics in West Germany. The medical journal mentioned that about 50,000 West German youths — many of them not yet 17 years old — are alcohol addicts, and the number is rising.

**Mexico:** Alcoholics Anonymous in Mexico claims that perhaps one out of five Mexican adults has a

problem with alcohol. Just how many of these are youths was not reported. Thirty percent of all deaths and 25 percent of all divorces in Mexico are attributed, in part, to alcoholism.

**Hungary:** The significance of alcoholism and family conflicts as a cause of suicides has doubled since before World War II. Hungary has one of the world's highest suicide rates, as well as one of the world's highest divorce rates, and a serious problem with alcoholism. Alcoholism among youths is also serious.

**Spain:** Every morning thousands of Spanish men line up at bars and cafes for coffee and slugs of brandy, anise and gin. An estimated two million Spaniards are alcoholics.

**Russia:** The Soviet Union has admitted a serious problem with alcoholism among working men and has launched a determined effort to curtail the problem. But alcoholism shows no signs of diminishing. Russian men and women love their vodka, and Russian teen-agers tend to mimic their parents. Drunkenness is a serious problem in Moscow and other major Soviet cities, and Soviet youths are responsible for a large share of the cases. □

original Greek word translated "wine" meant "fermented wine," as any Greek lexicon will show.

Although some religions attempt to condemn all use of alcoholic beverages and view drinking in exclusively emotional terms, the Bible

itself — if studied objectively and honestly — shows that drinking in moderation is not wrong. But drinking to excess is wrong — a very definite sin.

Wine was a commonly used product in ancient Israel and was used in

celebrating the festivals of God. In the New Testament, Jesus Christ Himself performed His first recorded miracle by turning water into wine at a gala wedding reception (see John, chapter 2).

Viewed from Biblical terms,

# If you decide that getting drunk or smashed is fun, you will pay the consequences. It's as simple as that. But if you determine only to drink in strict moderation, you will save yourself a lot of trouble.

therefore, the question of drinking is *not* a "wet versus dry" controversy or an "either-or" conflict. Wine, in the Bible, is considered one of the blessings God bestows on His people, but drunkenness is condemned as being unworthy of a Christian. No drunkard, said the apostle Paul, will enter the Kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Thus, you should get the facts and communicate those facts to your children. Show them the benefits of moderate drinking and also the dangers of drinking to excess.

But teaching is not enough. The most important thing parents can do for their children is to set a right, balanced example. Show them the proper way to use alcoholic beverages in moderation. Never abuse strong drink yourselves.

Records illustrate that a very low percentage of the Jewish and Italian people become alcoholics, as compared with other ethnic groups. Why? Researchers have concluded that the major factor is that in those two cultures, alcoholic beverages are used as normal, proper, everyday things in a family setting, in the home, along with meals. Immoderate drinking and drunkenness are severely frowned upon.

## Advice to Young People

And what about the young people reading this article? You, too, should get the facts. Learn the truth about alcoholic beverages. Study the dangers of drinking to excess. Then determine to govern your own personal conduct accordingly. You are free moral agents. If you decide

to use alcohol in a wrong way, to escape problems, you will court personal disaster.

If you decide that getting drunk or smashed is fun, you will pay the consequences. It's as simple as that. But if you determine to drink only in strict moderation, you will reap the benefits.

The truth is, and you probably already know it, that a little wine or beer, at the right time or proper social occasion, can be an enjoyable thing. But if you overdo a good thing, it can become a curse.

But what if you are under the legal age for drinking? Obviously, young people living at home are under the authority of their own parents and should abide by the restrictions their parents lay down. If drinking is approved in moderation in your home, follow your parents' example. If it is totally forbidden, obey your parents. The "Kingdom of God is not meat and drink" — doing without alcoholic beverages won't hurt you.

## What Alcoholics Can Do

But what if you are one of those who has abused alcohol and have become enslaved to it? Or what if a member of your family is an alcoholic? What can be done to help such a one?

If you are an alcoholic, first be willing to face up to your problem. Admit it to yourself. Find out what alcoholism is and how it works. Then obtain qualified help.

If you have a relative who is afflicted, don't condemn him or her. Realize that but for the grace of

God, that could be *you*. Love him. Don't coddle him, but bankrupt his alibi system. In other words, don't "baby him," but face the problem squarely and talk it out.

Remember, you can't scare an alcoholic into sobriety. You can't bribe him into it. It is extremely difficult to make an alcoholic face up to his problem and change. But what you can do is help him to help himself — give him the facts, love him, but refuse to listen to any excuses for failure. The best way to help the alcoholic is to offer realistic love.

Jean Vandervoort of the Pasadena Council of Alcoholism says: "Alcoholics are not weak-willed people. They are strong-willed. But they are lonely, depressed, and believe nobody cares. They have a sickness of the soul." She adds that the only effective way to deal with alcoholics is to offer what she calls "tough love."

"Tough love" is a pat on the back and verbal reassurance to an alcoholic that he can make it — but it doesn't condone his problem. It doesn't coddle his weakness or clean up after him, thus making it easier for him to "cope." Tough love faces the facts directly, makes no excuses, and says, "This is the way it is, Joe. You've got to overcome this problem. I'll give you all the help I can, but the final result is up to you."

## The Solution to Alcoholism

The solution to alcoholism is a two-edged sword. It involves both law and love — compassion and firmness. The alcoholic must be

forced to face the seriousness of his conduct — and he must be offered compassionate help to overcome his problem.

Alcoholics Anonymous has been perhaps the single most effective means of helping alcoholics. It provides compassion and understanding for those who seek its help. It provides round-the-clock assistance to a “brother” alcoholic in trouble. And further, it provides a standard — a certain rule of conduct — that alcoholics must seek to live by. That standard is the standard of sobriety, of striving to remain sober.

Love and firmness are the keys to overcoming alcoholism. But as Alcoholics Anonymous itself admits, there is another key: That is the intervention and power of God.

God in heaven loves each one of us. We are His creation, and He desires us to be healthy, whole, and soundminded. He hates drunkenness because He knows it ruins lives. He is always willing to help any victim of alcoholism to escape from the clutches of that slavery and begin a new life. That help God offers on the condition that such a person sincerely repents of sin — lawlessness — and accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour to forgive his sins, to clean up his life, and to give him the spiritual strength he needs to resist sin in the future.

If you desire more information, write for our free literature, “Alcoholism — A Worldwide Curse,” *The Seven Laws of Success*, and *Just What Do You Mean . . . Salvation?* This is a free service in the public interest. □



# Can a Person Be Homosexual and Christian Too?

*Churches are increasingly accepting homosexuals into their folds, even ordaining homosexuals into their ministry. What's the cause behind this modern trend? What does the Bible say about homosexuality?*

by Patrick A. Parnell

**I**T IS time we pulled back the curtain of secrecy and took a look at the upsurge in homosexuality!

Recently, a Protestant denomination ordained a declared homosexual into its ministry. Some shocking questions and answers were asked and received prior to approving the ordination.

The ministerial candidate was asked by one of his examiners: "Do you regard homosexuality as a gift from God and a good gift?"

"I regard ALL sexuality as a gift from God and a good gift," replied the candidate, an admitted homosexual.

In answer to another question, this one concerning his attitude about marriage, he quickly responded: "I think love between any two people is beautiful and should be celebrated. I know that two men

or two women can share such a love."

Following these eyebrow-raising questions and answers, a debate and vote were held. In less than an hour, a final decision was reached. Representatives of 19 San Francisco Bay area churches of the United Church of Christ approved the ordination of an acknowledged homosexual into their ministry.

## A Sign of the Times

Accepting homosexuals into recognized churches and church ministries is not just a localized phenomenon. It is worldwide in scope.

In a 4,000-word report, a commission on Social Principles of the United Methodist Church recommended that their eleven-million-member body accept homosexuals

as "persons of sacred worth" and welcome them "into the fellowship of the church."

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Netherlands recently endorsed a commission report saying that homosexuality should not be a barrier to a person who wishes to become a pastor.

The commission report recommended the acceptance of the "special form of life" practiced by homosexuals. Such persons should be equally eligible for any position in society, concluded the report, provided they have the training and necessary professional qualifications.

The growing attitude among many ministers and lay people alike is that practicing homosexuals should be welcomed into membership in the churches. One minister explained that he already knew of several homosexuals in his congregation, anyway.

An Anglican rector of Bob-

**GAY LIBERATION** Movement members picket the *Los Angeles Times* building in protest. Placard carried by gay minister depicts a trinity of sex — lesbianism, male homosexuality, and heterosexuality.

Dave Conn — Plain Truth



'GAY' IS GOOD  
BUT HOMOSEXUAL  
TELLS IT LIKE IT IS!



HOMOSEXUAL  
IS A DIRTY WORD  
TO THE TIMES!

homosex  
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bingworth, Essex, in England, contemplating solutions to the world's population problem, put forth this shocking question: "If reproduction was somehow to be prevented and love to be retained, may not a homosexual relationship be socially if not morally preferable?"

### "Gay" Denominations

Entire Christian-professing churches now exist, complete with liturgy, choirs, and marriage ceremonies — which are comprised almost exclusively of male and female homosexuals, pastors included.

One such church is a New York City based denomination. Four churches reportedly make up this gay denomination. Another homosexual church, the largest, is based in Los Angeles. It is called the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

Forty other churches, besides the parent church in Los Angeles, make up this "gay" fellowship. They extend from Honolulu, Hawaii, across the United States to New York City, and into Great Britain. Other new churches are being planned. One is to open soon in Sydney, Australia. The total attendance in these congregations is already over 15,000.

For an increasing number of people, especially homosexuals themselves, these recent developments appear to be great strides forward in the homosexual's fight for complete acceptance into Christianity and society.

Said one homosexual who is now preparing for the ministry (summing up this growing attitude toward acceptance of homosexuality): "I am a Christian, a homosexual, and a Baptist, and I do not find anything grotesque, unnatural, and sinful about loving a man and having sexual relations with him."

Society as a whole is approving homosexual behavior. It is a prime reason why acceptance of homosexuality is spreading into the world's churches.

The prevailing attitude in society is that what a person does behind his bedroom door is his business — his "own thing."

Laws against homosexuality are being minimized, even eliminated. England legalized homosexuality between consenting adults in 1967. Denmark did as far back as 1930; and Sweden did so in 1944. West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Luxembourg, and even Italy have also legalized acts of homosexuality between consenting adults. Already in the United States, such states as Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Oregon, and Hawaii allow acts of homosexuality between consenting adults.

Social scientists and educators are increasingly saying that society should have "more understanding for homosexuals." We are asked to accept them as persons and accept their homosexuality as just another life-style.

Homosexuals themselves are openly grouping together in organized societies. They publish newsletters, magazines, books, and publicly demonstrate on behalf of their homosexuality. Some are even militant about it.

What's the pseudo-scientific reasoning behind this trend of accepting homosexuality? Homosexuals, and those on the side of accepting homosexuality, begin their argument with reference to history and noted historical persons who were homosexuals.

### The Historical Perspective

Throughout history homosexuality has been practiced by members of some of the most primitive tribes, as well as by members of some of the most advanced civilizations.

Anciently, the Greeks considered homosexuality normal. Female homosexuality was so widespread on the Aegean island of Lesbos in the sixth century B.C. that lesbianism became the term for female homosexuality!

Look at today. Homosexuality is practiced to some extent in every major country of the world. Most large cities around the world have their "gay" neighborhoods. Some cities have neighborhoods replete with "gay" parks, restaurants, bookstores, laundries, clothing stores, barbers, and even shops with greeting cards for "gay" occasions.

Homosexuals can be found among every class of people: truck drivers, farmers, laborers, factory workers, teachers, executives, artisans, scientists, and political and religious figures.

Some 10 million homosexuals are in the United States alone. (Some figures go as high as 20 million.) Great Britain has at least 3 million homosexuals. In fact most advanced nations have a ratio of at least one homosexual for every twenty persons.

"Homosexuality was common among the ancients. It's common today — millions of people are homosexual! So how could it be wrong?" the homosexual asks.

Amazingly, some professing Christians are caught up in the same arguments on behalf of homosexuals and homosexuality.

Those who defend homosexuality claim a number of famous persons among the ranks of those who were homosexual in the past: Socrates, Plato, Julius Caesar, Whitman, and others.

But whether or not those famous men were homosexual doesn't make any difference. That is not the criterion for judgment. No matter how many were homosexual in the past, are homosexual now, and no matter how widespread it is, how acceptable it may seem, who accepts it, or who says it is permissible, the actions and opinions of men are not the standard.

There is a standard by which men are to be judged. It is time we took a look at THAT standard instead of man's opinions and human reason-

ings. It's time we looked at the Bible.

### The Ultimate Source

The Bible is God's instruction book to mankind. It reveals how man ought to live.

Paul, John, Peter, Moses, and all others who wrote portions of the Bible did not of their own volition decide what to write and what should be part of the Bible as some want to say. They were directly inspired and guided by the Spirit of God to write and canonize what we now call the Bible.

Scripture is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16).

The question is: Are we willing to listen to what Scripture reveals about homosexuality? What the Bible says about the subject is unmistakably clear.

In both the Old and New Testaments, from Genesis to Revelation, male and female homosexuality is condemned as an unnatural, abominable, vile perversion.

Read it yourself! "If a man lies with a male as with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall be put to death" (Leviticus 20:13, RSV).

### Sodom and Gomorrah

Who hasn't heard the story of Sodom and Gomorrah? The entire plain around Sodom and Gomorrah, including the cities, crops and everything that lived, was destroyed by fire because of the grievous sexual sins and other vices of the inhabitants.

The men of Sodom and Gomorrah were so perverse sexually that they would even rape other men. See Genesis 19:4-9. In fact, read the entire detailed account in your own Bible, Genesis 18:20 through Genesis 19:28. See for yourself what God thinks about homosexuality! This account was recorded for our instruction. "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into

# Can Homosexuality Be Prevented?

THE PREPONDERANCE of research already completed lays most of the blame for homosexuality on family upbringing. The cause of homosexuality, particularly in males, is commonly placed on a close-binding, over-protective, excessively intimate, or domineering mother, coupled with a weak, distant, indifferent, withdrawn, or hostile father.

A landmark study, conducted by a number of psychoanalysts, headed by Irving Bieber, M.D., entitled *Homosexuality: A Psychoanalytic Study of Male Homosexuals*, reached this summation concerning the causes and problems of homosexuality: "We have come to the conclusion that a constructive, supportive, warmly related father precludes the possibility of a homosexual son; he acts as a neutralizing, protective agent should the mother make seductive or close-binding attempts."

After much study on the subject of homosexuality, Peter and Barbara Wyden reported in their book, *Growing Up Straight*: "This much is certain; it is just about impossible for a homosexual to be the product of warmly loving, sensible parents and a sexually well-adjusted home atmosphere."

Homosexuality is fundamentally the product of the lack of a warm, loving, father-led marriage and family.

The emphasis on unisex and the disappearance of sex-linked occu-

pations are possible additional contributing factors. When both parents work and share household duties, blurring sexual distinctions, children increasingly are more likely to become homosexual.

The media and the proliferation of pornographic materials depicting homosexual acts undoubtedly play a part too, according to an important paper presented before the American Academy of Psychoanalysis, by Dr. Lawrence J. Hatterer of Cornell University. Dr. Hatterer concluded in his paper that homosexuality can be triggered by environmental influences, chief of which are suggestive homosexual literature, plays, and movies.

Some researchers have studied the effects of genetic aberration and endocrine disorder on homosexuality. But as Dr. Morris Fishbein explains in his book, *Successful Marriage*, though genetic and hormonal factors may contribute to causing homosexuality, the environment which leads to homosexuality would still have to be provided. "In other words," Dr. Fishbein explains, "... the training is the differential in the individual's ultimate behavior."

The best prevention against raising a homosexual child is explained in simple terms in *Your Marriage Can Be Happy* and *The Plain Truth About Child Rearing*. Both are sent free of charge upon request. □

ashes," God, as the context shows, "condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample [example] unto those that after should live ungodly" (II Peter 2:6).

"Gay" churches and homosexuals who profess Christianity ignore this awesome account of Sodom and Gomorrah, of course. They reason that homosexuals should marry and not be promiscuous like the men of Sodom, or like heterosexuals who commit fornication and adultery.

What about so-called homosexual marriages or even a homosexual marriage that stayed intact twenty-six years as claimed by one homosexual couple?

Jesus said about true marriage, "Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" (Matthew 19:4-5.)

Marriage is between a man and a woman, not between two men or two women. Sex belongs in marriage, as the Bible plainly reveals, and should be between a man and his wife, not between two men or two women!

Sex any other way is unnatural, and sinful, bringing on penalties now (a seared mind; often a disorganized, unhappy, lonely, frustrated, empty life; no true mate; no children, no grandchildren; futility; a life often ending in suicide) and a final penalty of eternal death! Read it in Romans 1:24-32.

The apostle Paul was inspired by God to warn: "Do not be deceived (misled); neither the impure and immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, NOR THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN HOMOSEXUALITY, nor cheats — swindlers and thieves; nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foul-mouthed revilers and slanderers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God" (I Corinthians 6:9-10, *The Amplified Bible*).

### Hope for Homosexuals?

God plainly condemns homosexuality as sin! "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (I John 1:10). But does this mean that a homosexual is without hope? No. God makes it very clear that there is hope for the homosexual just as there is hope for the fornicator, the adulterer, the liar — for everyone who repents of his or her sin.

God is "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" (Exodus 34:6-7).

The humiliated woman taken in the very act of adultery — a sinful heterosexual act — was forgiven by Jesus. He told her never to do it again (John 8:3-11, especially verse 11).

One must be willing to acknowledge sin, willing to see how evil it is in God's sight, and willing to change, to *stop sinning* — to do what is right. God wants that. He is willing to help when he is asked, if a person really desires to quit sinning and to do what is right before Him. Even as deeply entrenched psychologically as the sin of homosexuality is, it can be forgiven and discontinued. "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Homosexuals practicing homosexuality for years have made this change. It can be done. One man, a confirmed homosexual for twenty years, is now completely heterosexual. He is married and has several children.

As a one-time homosexual explained, giving up homosexuality involves completely giving up the homosexual way of living. There must be a total split away from homosexual friends. Visits to "gay" bars and known "gay" hangouts

have to cease. A whole new set of acquaintances must be developed. Homosexual thoughts have to be rejected and expelled from the mind. In order to make this change, it may be necessary to move to another area or another city to begin life anew.

With the change comes a new-found, guilt-free conscience, a way of life without kickbacks and an upright way of life free of sin.

Christians are commanded by God to make this change, whatever the past sin. It is erroneous to claim, as some do, that "God called me that way" — meaning as a homosexual, a fornicator, an adulterer. According to this falacious reasoning, homosexuality is acceptable, fornication is acceptable, adultery is acceptable. Absolutely not!

Christians are told to put off the "former conversation [conduct] . . . which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24).

Some of the very people that the apostle Paul was writing to in the Corinthian Church had once been homosexuals themselves: "And such were some of you" (I Corinthians 6:11). They had repented of their homosexuality. They had changed, been forgiven through Christ, and had become Christians. They did not continue being homosexuals!

Homosexuals can repent, can change, can STOP practicing homosexuality, and can have their homosexual pasts completely blotted out. Ask for our article "What Is Real Repentance?"

YES! A repentant homosexual can become a Christian, but not a homosexual Christian!

The acceptance of homosexuality is a sign of moral sickness and decay — theologically, nationally, and individually. It is time we called a halt to this toboggan slide into sin and depravity! □





N.A.S.A. Photo

# What Do You Mean...

# The END of

# the WORLD?

*Doomsdayers and false prophets have predicted the "end of the world" for centuries. But never was there an era like the 20th century. Could our generation indeed be witness to the close of an age?*

by William F. Dankenbring

**N**EVER BEFORE have apocalyptic visions and scenarios of future calamities been more rife. Theologians and scientists alike have vividly described what could be "the ultimate holocaust."

Nuclear scientists warn that life could be annihilated in a thermonuclear war. Others cry out that mankind threatens the biosphere with pollution. Global population pressure itself portends dire famine, pestilence, and "food wars."

Could we be living at the end of

an age? Could our generation be in the Biblical "time of the end," the "last days," mentioned so many times by the Biblical prophets?

Could our generation witness an event foretold in the Bible — "the second coming of Jesus Christ"?

### **The Apocalypse Anticipated**

Today, interest in the unknown, the occult, and the future of world events is skyrocketing. A spate of new books have been written purporting to describe the future: *The*

*Beginning of the End, The Late Great Planet Earth, and What To Do Till the Messiah Comes.* Others like *The Return of Christ, End of Days 1971-2001, and Toward a Theology for the Future* further fuel the growing interest of the public in this topic.

Bumper stickers in the United States are proliferating with such messages as "If I'm Raptured, Take the Wheel," and "Guess Who's Coming Again!"

This current resurgence of popu-

lar interest is similar to the general obsession with the "end of the world" which Europeans expected around A.D. 1000 to 1400. Millions lived in fear, expecting the return of Jesus Christ in that age.

In A.D. 1188, Saladin captured Jerusalem. Earthquakes dismayed many. Cyclones appeared to run riot from 1180 to 1223. Storms, lightning, and floods caused havoc. Repeated fires threatened entire cities. And added to these catastrophes were terrible wars accompanied by pillaging, looting, burning of cities, and rapine, followed by pestilential epidemics. All these were looked upon as signs of divine wrath (Achille Luchaire, *Social France at the Time of Philip Augustus*, pp. 1-8).

The times were so depressing that a monk, Rigord, moodily wrote: "The world is ill; it grows so old that it relapses into infancy. Common report has it that Antichrist has been born at Babylon and that the day of judgment is at hand."

During these calamities, religious fervor flourished. Thousands expected the imminent return of Jesus Christ to punish the wicked. In succeeding centuries, anticipation of the return of Christ blazed anew among Protestant reformists and even more among Anabaptist groups. Radicals attempted to arouse populations to usher in the New Age by overthrowing the "Babylonian" tyranny and by slaying the godless. After the revolt and the ensuing time of suffering and privation, they were told that the messianic age would arrive.

At no time since the Middle Ages has the world come to grips with this same question on a similar scale until our modern 20th century. Today, thousands are noting, for the first time, specific statements in the Bible which seem to have particular reference to current world conditions and circumstances.

Could such prophecies indeed be referring to our age? Could we be

living in the "end time"? Just what does the Bible say about the "end of the world" and the return of Jesus Christ?

Consider an event which occurred over 1900 years ago. A few intimate disciples of Jesus came to him and asked Him some very modern questions about the end of the "world," or as the original Greek word *aion* actually means, the end of the "age." Jesus was not asked about the end of the world, or the planet earth, but rather about the end of the *age* of human misrule on the earth. The disciples expected Jesus to set up the Kingdom of God during their own generation. They wanted to know what events would lead up to that messianic hope.

Jesus, however, told them it was not for them to know precisely when He would return or when the Kingdom of God would be established on earth (see Matthew 24:36-44; Acts 1:6-7). Rather, He told them that they should preach the gospel — the good news — about the Kingdom of God to all nations (Acts 1:8). One indication that the end was near, He told them, would be when ALL NATIONS finally heard the good news He had brought (see Matthew 24:14).

But then Jesus described a breathtaking scenario of events leading up to the time when He would actually return.

He told His intent listeners that before He would set up the Kingdom of God — the government of God — on earth, a host of false ministers and prophets would arise, proclaiming themselves to be true representatives of Christ, claiming to have special messages from God. Some, at the very end, would even assert that they were Christ Himself.

Then Jesus spoke of wars, rumors of wars, and vast international conflagrations (see Matthew 24:6-7). These, of course, have been occurring intermittently since nations were first organized. But what do we see today?

There certainly has been an intensification of conflict since World War II. Southeast Asia is only one "hotspot" in the world. Civil strife has been continuously erupting in African states. We live with confrontation between India and Pakistan, rumors of war in the Middle East, and periodic coups in Latin America. War has become a monotonously regular occurrence — just as Jesus indicated it would be before His return. Nations seem to be endlessly girding themselves for some ultimate conflict.

Jesus next mentioned great earthquakes, famines, and disease epidemics. These, of course, have occurred throughout history. But what makes them more significant for our generation are mounting world population and shrinking resources and food supplies. Malnourished and undernourished millions are particularly susceptible to calamitous diseases. Burgeoning populations are vulnerable to natural disasters, droughts, and subsequent famine. Millions could die in India, for example, with the failure of important monsoon rains to water desperately needed food crops.

Jesus also said, "Because wickedness is multiplied, most men's love will grow cold" (Matt. 24:12). (Unless stated otherwise, all scriptures quoted from the Bible are taken from the Revised Standard Version.) He was referring to normal human warmth and affection. He meant that people would be much more self-centered than usual, lacking normal human decency and even natural affection. With declining morals and deteriorating ethics in our Western world, who could deny that human love is being overwhelmed with terrorism, violence, crime, and mayhem?

Wickedness, crime, and senseless violence, Jesus declared, would be a leading cause in the decline of human love during the time of the end (same verse). In our age, crime

is a worldwide problem, and violent crimes are becoming more blatant, common, and customary.

Next in sequence, Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come" (verse 14). That is happening before your very eyes! With global communications, the advent of radio, television, modern printing presses, and sophisticated computers, the gospel of the Kingdom of God is being proclaimed to all the world — to all nations. Never before in all history was this humanly possible. But our age is seeing this remarkable prophecy fulfilled for the first time!

### The Ultimate Catastrophe

What would happen next? Jesus then mentioned armies threatening the Middle East and warfare (Matt. 24:15-20). "For then," said Jesus, "there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been shortened, no human

being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened" (Matthew 24:21-22).

The prophet Jeremiah spoke of the same period, using similar language. He prophesied 2500 years ago: "Thus says the Lord: We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace. Ask now, and see, can a man bear a child? Why then do I see every man with his hands on his loins like a woman in labor? Why has every face turned pale? Alas! that day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob [that is, the modern descendants of Jacob, or "Israel," as he was later called]; yet he shall be saved out of it" (Jeremiah 30:5-7).

Consider. Both Jeremiah and Christ spoke of a future time such as the world has never seen before. Logic impels us to conclude that they must have been speaking of the same future period, because two separate times cannot excel each other in being the greatest. Only one time can be the "greatest," or the "worst."

But another Old Testament

prophet spoke of the very same period. Daniel wrote: "At the time of the end the king of the south shall attack him; but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen [Daniel used terms familiar to him, but was referring to modern soldiers], and with many ships; and he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. He shall come into the glorious land [the land of Judah or modern Israel in the Middle East]. And tens of thousands shall fall..." (Daniel 11:40-41).

Notice that Daniel was speaking of armies in the Middle East, at the "time of the end," (verse 40), just as Jesus Christ spoke of armies threatening Jerusalem and those living in that region.

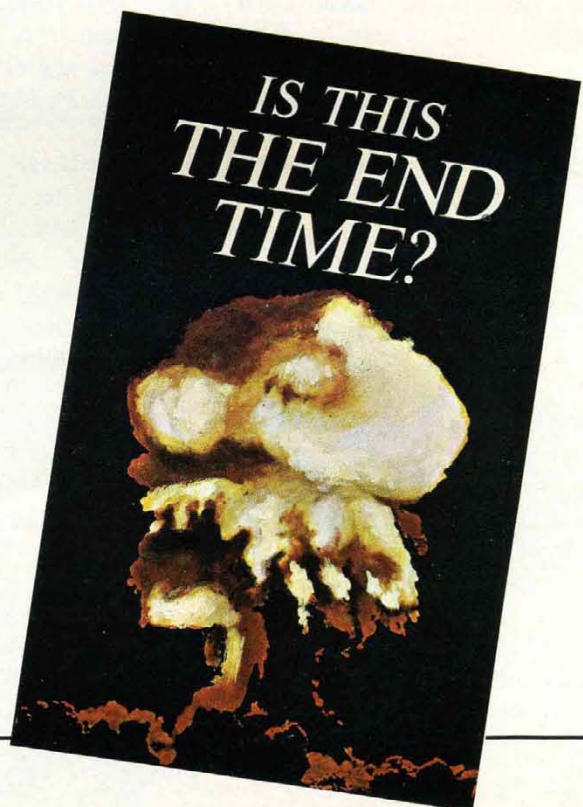
Daniel continues, in chapter twelve: "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every

## THE END-TIME GENERATION?

Never was there a time like our age. The frightening possibility of thermonuclear war, the population explosion, global pollution, and a host of other problems combine to imperil the existence of all mankind.

"But there have always been prophets of doom," say the skeptics. If you would like to prove whether we are living in "the time of the end" — referred to dozens of times by the prophets of the Bible — then write for this new, full-color, free booklet.

See inside front cover for address of PLAIN TRUTH office nearest you.



one whose name shall be found written in the book" (Daniel 12:1).

Now pause for a moment and think about this prophesied time period. All three of the references quoted are clearly referring to the identical time of the end — a time unparalleled in all history.

We can know that these prophecies are referring to our modern world, this present generation, because Jesus said that during this time, global conflict would be so fierce that all life on earth would be threatened. He remarked, "And if those days had not been shortened, *no human being would be saved*" (Matthew 24:22). Moffatt's translation makes it plainer: "not a soul would be saved ALIVE"! *The Living Bible* also clarifies it: "In fact, unless those days are shortened, all mankind will PERISH." Also, *The New English Bible* has it: "No living thing could survive."

At no prior age was it even theoretically possible for all life to be destroyed by human conduct or warfare. But today, in a world of overkill, of nuclear tipped missiles and nuclear bombers, the threat of human oblivion has never been more real or more urgent.

This awesome fact alone is cogent evidence that we are living in the days of which Christ spoke, and that no previous time could possibly have been "the time of the end."

### The Knowledge Explosion

But there is even more evidence that we are living in the "time of the end." In the book of Daniel, chapter twelve, where the time of the end is described (see verses 1-3), Daniel is told to seal the words of the prophecy until the time of the end (verse 4). Then, the angel adds, "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (verse 4).

Consider that statement carefully. Today, in our generation, knowledge is doubling every ten years. We are living amidst a tremendous knowledge explosion. Technical, sci-

entific, engineering, military, industrial, biological, and technological knowledge is growing so rapidly that scientists and educators themselves cannot keep up with it!

Further, just as Daniel was told, thousands are running to and fro in our age of rapid transportation. The invention of the automobile, the diesel engine, the airplane, and advances in the development of these inventions has made it possible for people to "run to and fro" on a scale totally unparalleled in all the span of human history.

Clearly, then, there is overwhelming evidence that we are living in the time of the end!

Jesus declared that unless the days of great strife and global conflict to occur in the future were cut short, all life would be annihilated. But, He added, those days will be cut short — by His second coming to stop mankind's suicidal plunge into all-out global war!

Recapitulating what Jesus said, there will be wars, famines, earthquakes, moral degeneration — all culminating in global war and the greatest holocaust the world has ever seen (Matthew 24:21-22). At that time, many false saviors and messiahs will arise, as predicted in verses 23-26. But what will occur after that?

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days," Jesus announced with authority, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light [very likely reflective of tremendous volcanic activity on earth which darkens the atmosphere with volcanic ash and obscures the light from those heavenly bodies], and the stars [perhaps referring to meteorites] will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken" (Matthew 24:29).

Luke also describes this epochal event: "There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and

the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world..." (Luke 21:25-26).

Such a colossal event sets the stage for an even greater event.

### "The Day of the Lord"

Biblical prophecy says the whole earth will be in an uproar when Jesus is about to return. Tumultuous upheavals of nature, cataclysms caused by earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, and atomic and hydrogen wars will be occurring.

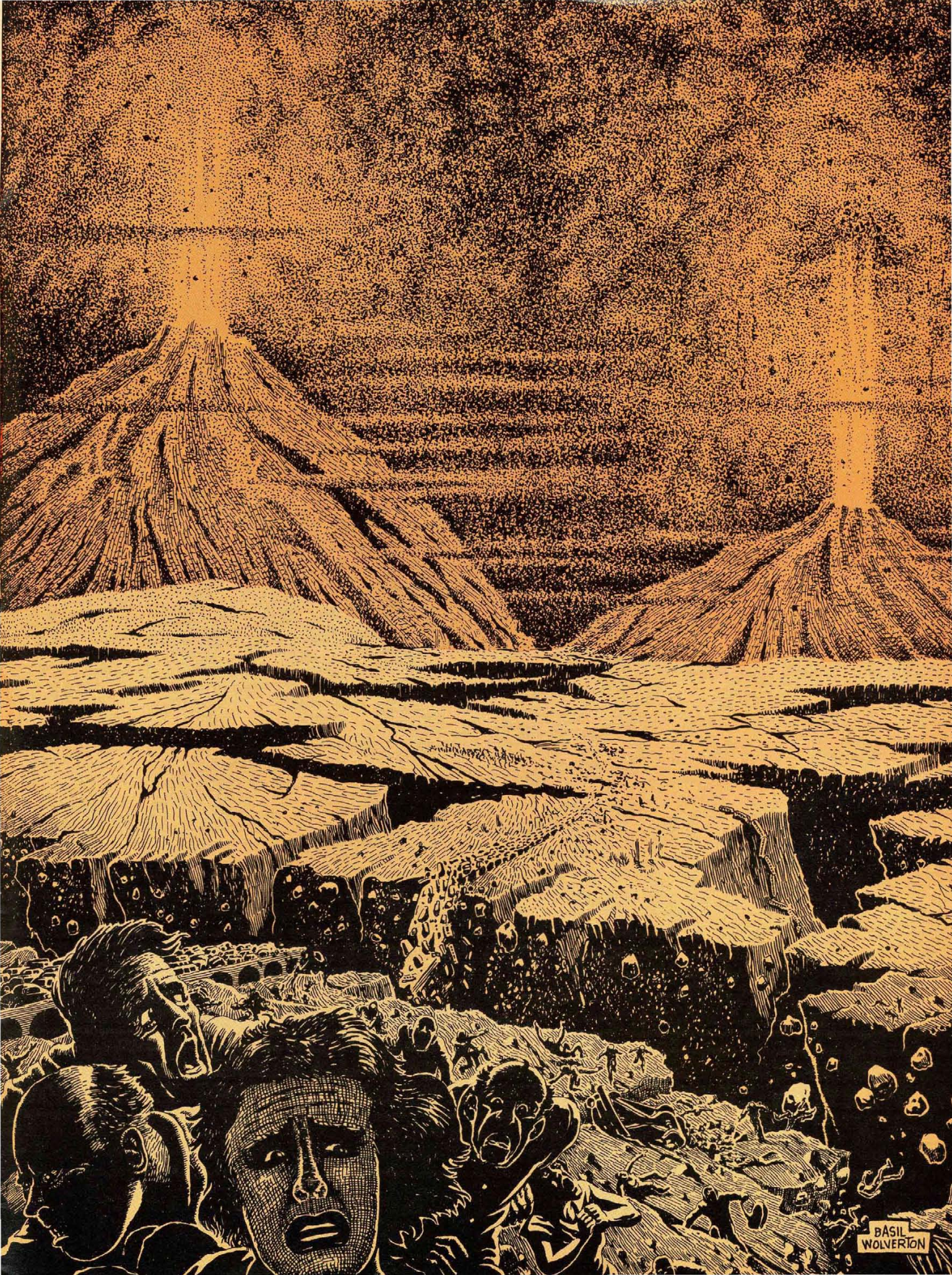
This time of worldwide upheaval and war is termed "the day of the Lord" in many places in Biblical prophecy. The prophet Joel describes it this way: "And I will give portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, *before* the great and terrible day of the Lord comes" (Joel 2:30-31).

Thus the amazing signs in the heavens, also mentioned in Matthew 24:29, occur just before the day of the Lord — the time of God's direct intervention in world affairs to save mankind.

Zechariah also speaks of this frightful day. He declares: "Behold, a day of the Lord is coming... For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city shall be taken and the houses plundered and the women ravished..." (Zechariah 14:1-2).

Notice! Here again we see nations sending armies to the Middle East at the time of the end. This massive military attack is described in the book of Revelation: "The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw, issuing from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast

**A TERRIFYING** earthquake — one of many traumatic events to occur in the prophesied "day of the Lord" — is depicted in this graphic illustration by noted artist Basil Wolverton.



BASIL  
WOLVERTON

and from the mouth of the false prophet, three foul spirits like frogs; for they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. . . . And they assembled them at the place which is called in Hebrew Armageddon" (Revelation 16:12-16).

Armageddon refers to the broad valley of Megiddo north of Jerusalem, where historically, armies have gathered and fought on the plain of Esdraelon. The term "Armageddon" signifies a place of great slaughter. Zechariah warns, "Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives which lies before Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley. . . . Then the Lord your God will come, and all the holy ones with him" (Zechariah 14:3-5).

### The Seventh Plague

Here, the second coming of Jesus Christ is vividly described, and it is stated that it occurs during the "day of the Lord." This is the time period mentioned in Revelation. But what is prophesied to occur next?

Notice once again, Revelation 16, this time verse 17, describing what happens after armies gather in Megiddo: "The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a great voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!' And there were flashes of lightning, loud noises, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as had never been since men were on the earth, so great was that earthquake . . . and great hailstones, heavy as a hundredweight, dropped on men from heaven . . ." (verses 17-21).

### If You Were There

Imagine that you are living near Jerusalem when this happens. Your

mind is in turmoil, your life has been greatly affected by the calamity of the times, but somehow you have survived — you have come through it all mentally and psychologically sound, and you are wondering what all these things mean.

You notice the armies gathering around Jerusalem and in the valley of Megiddo to the north. You hear that they are rapidly approaching the city.

Suddenly a tremendous blast rends the air. You see a bright flash, like a surging bolt of lightning, you clap your hands to your ears because of the roar of pealing thunder, and you try to hide.

You look — and there He is — Jesus, setting foot on the Mount of Olives to the east of Jerusalem. At that moment, a seismic temblor shakes the ground beneath your feet. You cannot run — but you try.

You slowly realize that you have witnessed an epochal event — the very second coming of Jesus Christ!

The Bible describes it, in the words of the apostle John: "Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed which no one knows but himself. He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God."

John continues: "And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, followed him on white horses. From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty" (Revelation 19:11-15).

So we ask again: Are we really living in the end time — the period which will culminate in this awesome event?

### Is This the End Time?

Jesus warned, "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates" (Matthew 24:32-33).

Jesus also said, "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only" (Matthew 24:36). He warned against trying to pinpoint precisely the close of this age. In fact, He went so far as to say, "Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Matt. 24:44).

Jesus compared His coming to that of a thief in the night. A thief comes unexpectedly; nobody is aware of his intentions; the household is usually asleep or away. Even so will be the coming of Christ. He will come and catch the world by surprise! Nobody will be able to anticipate exactly when He will return.

But we can know whether the signs Jesus said would precede His coming are unfolding in the world, today. Unlike the Middle Ages, we live in an age in which global life could be extinguished in thermonuclear war. Unlike those who predicted and prognosticated that Jesus would return in the Middle Ages, or 1844, or 1914, we can look at the very words of Jesus in the gospel accounts and see for the first time that we stand on the brink of total annihilation by the hand of man.

Scoffers will always deny it. Skeptics will point to the previous centuries when theologians misunderstood the Bible and thought Jesus would return in their day. They can scoff at any thought of His returning in our generation.

But examine the prophecies of the Bible and judge for yourself. Study the evidence. And then decide what you ought to do about it. □

# The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**I**T WAS late in 1933 — the very depth of the great depression. Ed Smith was a well-driller by profession, but nobody seemed able to afford to have wells drilled.

Ed and his wife, Emma, attended services I was then holding in a one-room country schoolhouse twelve miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Ed made no profession of Christianity until later. But he attended services and went up and down the countryside discussing Bible doctrines with his professing Christian neighbors.

"You've got to pay tithes and obey God," he insisted. "The Bible says so. It's PLAIN!"

One of his neighbors became irritated.

"Look here, Ed," the neighbor exploded, "why do you come around here trying to talk me into these things, when you don't obey the Bible or pay tithes yourself?"

"Because," came Ed's quick and ready answer, "I don't profess to be a Christian, and you do. Besides," he added, "I can't afford to tithe, anyway."

## Thousands Like Him

There are thousands who, like Ed Smith, reason in their own minds that they can't afford to tithe, even though, like Ed Smith, they realize the Bible commands it.

I heard about the above conversation and preached a sermon on the

question of whether the unconverted should obey the Ten Commandments and pay tithes, or whether, as Ed had reasoned, these things were only for Christians. I pointed out that God's Law was put in motion for man's *good*. It is the WAY of life that brings peace, happiness, prosperity; the full, abundant, interesting life; success, joy here and now, as well as eternal life through Christ for the saved.

I showed that it PAYS and is the only sensible way of life, entirely apart from the matter of salvation — and that he who sins little shall be punished with *few* stripes, but he who sins much, with *many* stripes (Luke 12:47-48). I pointed out God's promises to prosper the tithepayer, and that this is a definite law God has set in motion, which operates inexorably and automatically, on the just and the unjust alike.

Ed began to obey the Bible. At the very next service (we were holding services at this little schoolhouse three times a week, and three other nights a week in a hall in downtown Eugene at the time), Mrs. Smith smilingly handed me a one dollar bill.

"That's Ed's first tithe," she said triumphantly. "We are now down to \$10, and Ed decided to start tithing with what we have on hand."

The very next service she came to me with another happy smile.

"Here's a five-dollar bill," she said. "The very next day after Ed gave God's Work a tenth of all he had, a customer who had owed him \$50 for a year came and paid up. So here's the tithe of that \$50. After paying the total \$6 tithe, we now have \$54 on hand instead of the \$10 we had the other day."

It was beginning to *pay* — but only *beginning*. By the next service, as I remember it, Ed had received his first order in one or two years to drill a new well, for which he received cash payment. Before he finished that job, another one was contracted. Soon he had three or four jobs coming in at once and was forced to begin employing men to work for him.

Ed Smith was only one of *many* I have known who learned by *experience* that one cannot afford *not* to pay God the tithe that belongs to Him! I remember Ed Smith did encounter some troubles of a different nature later when his wife and son were sent to the state tuberculosis hospital, and he finally broke down in real repentance, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. He came to me, according to the command of James 5:14, and both his wife and son were completely healed and returned home.

This is a true story, and the name is not fictitious. Ed Smith died several years ago, but I'm happy to re-

member these incidents in his life in the hope that they may start many others on the right and profitable, as well as on the Christian, way of life.

Why did God ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? Let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really needs your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His Work. But to have done so would have robbed us of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in tithes and offerings!

The tither is invariably a prosperous man. I do not mean necessarily wealthy — but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Eternal, are not often found in want. "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to *your* account" (Philippians 4:17).

God promises that His children will always have something to give (Deuteronomy 16:16, 17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate tithes and offerings that

He fails to prosper them. For through John He tells us, "I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health" (III John 2).

"Honour the Lord [Eternal] with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9-10). Try it! "Prove me now herewith," challenges the Eternal to us, in a prophecy for our day (Malachi 3:10), "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" — financial blessings! Are you behind financially? In debt? Your unfaithfulness in tithing and offerings may be the reason!

#### Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, it is right, and the other way is **WRONG**. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). God's Word tells us what is right, and God tells us to pay to His Work the firstfruits of all our income (Proverbs 3:9-10). Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The tithe is the debt that you *owe* God. This debt is first in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your partner in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your **ALL** belongs to Him, not to you (Deuteronomy 10:14). You are in the position of a steward handling that which belongs to another. He is your silent

partner, and the first tenth, in addition to offerings, is His share. The rest he gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself His share, you are stealing, and robbing God (Malachi 3:8). Would you pay your debts with money another man had left in your trust? If a man working in a bank does that, we call it embezzlement!

The only sure way to know you have God as a partner and that He is taking care of your interests is to obey Him in tithing.

When God receives His portion of all your income, God becomes your partner, sharing in your profits. He causes His partners to prosper, so if you are in debt, take God into partnership first, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes **FIRST**.

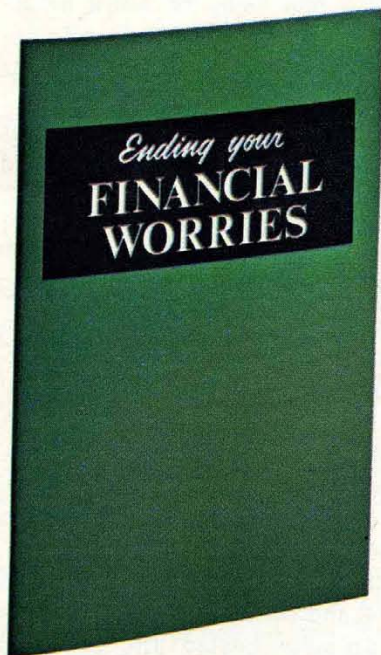
#### Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, "I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the feeling in my heart that I am His child without having to tithe."

God has blessed you according to how you have yielded to Him, according to the light He has revealed to you from His Word! While you have the light, **WALK** in it, lest darkness come upon you! (John 12:35-36.) "Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord" (II Peter 3:18). See also Romans 11:22.

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring Him instead of themselves with their substance, the Work of the Eternal would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!

Seek ye first the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be added. Try it! Take God at His Word! **PROVE HIM!** (Malachi 3:10.) See how you begin to prosper! Be a faithful steward; make God your **PARTNER!** Receive His blessing! God's Work is waiting on you! □



**THIS BOOKLET** reveals a little understood principle that can end your financial worries. See inside front cover for address.



# what you can do...

## TIMELY Tips and Helpful Suggestions for YOU and YOUR FAMILY

### ● Buckle Up When Driving

Most of today's automobiles are seatbelt equipped. Tragically though, less than 40% of all drivers use their seatbelts. This is a gross mistake. Here's why.

Seatbelts keep auto occupants from being thrown into the windshield or smashing into the dashboard in an accident (the cause of 48% of auto fatalities). They also prevent one from being thrown out of a car in an accident (the cause of 27% of auto fatalities). Some car accidents are so bad that nothing could save the occupants. But overall, studies show seatbelts reduce serious and fatal accidents in all crashes at all speeds by 43%.

Don't forget the children. Depending on their age and size, children need special safety restraints. Acceptable examples are the Swedish Klippan Cradle Seat (birth to 4 years) and the Ford Tot Guard (children 1 to 5 years). Others are also available.

### ● Another Kind of Addiction

Drug addiction is a continuing worldwide concern. Its destructive effect on individuals and families is well documented. But there is another kind of addiction which is also destructive to individuals and families — addiction to television.

Some individuals "turn on" to television like others do to drugs. It becomes a way of escape from their problems and the real world. They "hallucinate" on the fast moving violence and drama on the TV screen to replace and escape the dull void they've allowed to creep into their own lives and perhaps to forget a job they can't stand. They lose their spark of life as persons.

Prominent psychiatrists and other social scientists are alarmed, too, at finding how some families are literally split apart from too much television viewing. These families' conversations are stifled, their activities become almost nonexistent, and their children fail to learn how to communicate and relate to others. Hence family members become almost total strangers.

What about you and your family? Are you or your family watching too much television?

Psychiatrist Jean Rosenbaum prepared an inter-

esting test to show television viewers where they stand in relationship to television addiction. Take the following test and score yourself:

1. Do you eat your meals watching television? (Always 10) (Sometimes 5) (Never 0)
2. Are you selective about your television programs? (Selective 5) (Non-selective 10)
3. Do you leave your set on in order to go to sleep? (Always 10) (Occasionally 5) (Never 0)
4. Do you leave your television on when you are not actually watching it? (Yes 20) (No 0)
5. Do television personalities and characters seem closer and of more interest to you than do members of your family and friends? (Yes 25) (No 0)
6. Do you prefer staying home and watching television to going out and socializing? (Yes 25) (No 0)
7. Do you really believe in soap operas? (Yes 10) (No 0)
8. Do you become irritated when your favorite program is preempted by a public service program or a news bulletin? (Very irritated 10) (Mildly irritated 5) (Not irritated 0)
9. Do you become upset and feel at a loss if your TV set is broken? (Very upset 10) (Slightly upset 5) (Not upset 0)
10. (a) How many hours in a 24-hour period do you spend watching TV on weekdays? (b) How many hours do you spend watching TV on Saturday and Sunday combined? (Count 1 for each hour; combine the score for a and b. A score of 30 is maximum for this question.)
11. Would you rather see the news on television instead of reading it? (Yes 10) (No 0)
12. Are you worried about how much TV you watch? (No 10) (If Yes, subtract 5 from your total score.)

Conclusions: A score of 0 to 75 is an indication that you can take or leave television. (If your score is 50 or above, you are too much on the "take" side. If it's 76 to 149, that's a sign of introversion and shows a need to have more outside interests and activities and to reduce your television watching. A score of 150 to 180 indicates TV addiction. You have a desperate need to drastically reduce television viewing, and to have more outside interests.

— Patrick A. Parnell



(Continued from page 2)

overthrow Caesar, as they thought. "My kingdom," he said, "is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence," that is, not from "here," or from "this time."

Read what the prophet Isaiah wrote about the birth and purpose of the Messiah: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." That's talking of Christ. "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7). That was a prophecy recorded in the Old Testament.

Now, notice Revelation 11:15: "And the seventh angel sounded [blew a trumpet]; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world [all the governments of this world — Russia, China, the United States, Japan, Indonesia, the governments of Europe, etc.] are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." This great event climaxes the *end of an age* — the end of man's rule, and the beginning of divine rule on this earth by Jesus Christ!

Christ's actual return is pictured in symbol in Revelation 19:11. "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat

## Plain Truth Circulation Increases

Having received the fourth copy of this excellent publication, I am not surprised to note a circulation increase of nearly 80,000 in such a short span. *The PLAIN TRUTH* arouses an awareness to the vital importance of the true purpose in life, thereby imparting meaning to the existence of mankind. If this means of global communication had been available centuries ago, we must surely have achieved a different world today.

R. W. B.,  
London

## A Human Experience Magazine

After the Civil War in my country of Nigeria, and having suffered all sorts of losses — including most members of my family and my property — I became depressed and almost lost all reason for existence.

But by constantly reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* and some of your booklets, I can now say that life means a lot to me!

L. C. Agbakoba,  
Ministry of Information  
& Home Affairs,  
Onitsha, Nigeria

Your publication *The PLAIN TRUTH* is really inspiring reading. The title itself tells all. I was surprised at the straight-forward way the writers dealt with each subject and the real understanding they have of the problems of our world — without leaving out such important things as morals and God, as is so often the case today.

E. E.,  
Gosport, Hants.

## Condescending?

I think it is a fair comment to say that if your articles were somewhat less condescending towards young people the tone and quality of your magazine would be improved.

D. Z.,  
Newcastle, Staffs.

## World Government

I no longer wish to be sent *The PLAIN TRUTH* monthly. Thank you very much for sending me what is a very well-produced

upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." Continue with verse 15, "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron."

The sharp sword is the Word of God which cuts us because it cor-

magazine. Whilst I have found myself very much in sympathy with your articles on many important moral and social issues, your views on issues of vital political importance and your acceptance of the heinous implications of World Government, I find totally unacceptable.

M. J. S.,  
Hereford

• "Heinous" only if imposed on men by men. Humanity has historically proved incapable of equitable and just government. The coming world government will be a divine — not a human — administration. Please read the "Personal from the Editor," page 1 of this issue.

## Why No Peace?

I have just read through my first copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. I congratulate you on every article in it, but I have to ask some questions on the article "Why No Peace on Earth." You said we will never achieve peace internationally, nationally, ecologically, collectively or personally, until we first establish peace with God. . . . And on His terms, not ours. But what about us Communists who do not believe in God and do not accept the Bible?

Samuel J. U.,  
U.S.S.R.

• Would you believe in God if His existence could be demonstrated? Write for our booklet *Does God Exist?*

Your article titled "Why No Peace on Earth?" in the December, 1972, issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* is the essence of human integrity. As a graduate of Boston University, 1954, it is truly the best article I have ever read in my life.

Since World War Two, I have seen my own family and relatives torn by separation, divorce, suicide, and countless episodes of internal and external strife in our precocious degenerating society.

I wish everyone in the world could read and understand your article. Then the masses of people would slowly, but eventually, head in one direction — World Peace! Please send me your free booklet, *Does God Exist?*

Edward W.,  
Coventry, Rhode Island

rects and shows us the mistakes all humanity has been making, and gives us the truth. It's not a sword of steel. He's not coming to hurt or injure people. He's coming with this sword out of his mouth to rule all nations and to point the way to universal happiness and peace, and to give us eternal life and abundance forever and ever. □

### Still Growing

It is hard to understand that *Life* and others are folding and you are still going strong with no charge.

Robert S.,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

*Life* magazine has finally died after losing ten million dollars a year for about the last seven years. But *The PLAIN TRUTH* goes marching onward and upward!

John Paul I.,  
Walpole, Massachusetts

### Makes the Bible Plain

I have been a *PLAIN TRUTH* subscriber for several years. It has cleared up many personal things for me. . . . The way you explain the Bible in *The PLAIN TRUTH* makes it so simple anyone can understand. We want the word of God used in our daily lives, and you explain it so that we can.

Andrew and Bonnie L.,  
Sparta, Tennessee

### General Comments

I am an Indiana State Policeman and presently assigned as the Public Information Officer for my local district. This position requires giving talks to various different organizations and school groups on police related matters such as drugs, safe driving, etc. A friend of mine provided me with several past editions of your magazines, *The PLAIN TRUTH*. The various articles contained in your very informative and instructional magazine have proven beneficial to me in present problems. I should like very much to get on your mailing list in order to receive your magazines myself. In these troubled times it is essential to present the plain truth on matters of consequence, and I think your magazine does precisely that. Thank you for your consideration.

Tpr. Paul M.,  
Evansville, Indiana

I recently came across your magazine in a strange way. While doing my weekly wash at a laundromat, someone had brought in a huge stack of *PLAIN TRUTH* magazines. They were going to be thrown away by the attendant that cleans there, so I asked if I could take them home. This man will never know how much in riches he was throwing away. I am held spellbound article after article, my children have read them and so has my husband. We definitely want this magazine in our home. How is it possible? We cannot find how to subscribe, so will you please let us know how we can continue to read these articles every month? I'm so glad there are still items people can bring into their homes that are a pleasure to read and certainly the plain truth.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale M.,  
Ord, Nebraska

• See inside front cover for address.

I have been receiving your *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine since sometime in 1948. I was thrashed about from hospital to hospital with tuberculosis, hopeless case, reported dead three times. I am now 75 years old, living a full life, working with a lady only less than four months older than myself and medical science says I have less than 30% breathing capacity in my lungs due to scars on lungs. Just a few lines of my testimony. The point is your magazine back then gave me courage to fight and knowledge of whom to trust for my healing. Thank God for you and your work.

Sophie C.,  
Livingston, Tennessee

I am a zealous reader of the magazine *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and I want to tell you that I am thankful for your sending it to me which I appreciate very much. As an alien who came to the United States from a Communist-ruled country in Europe, I find your dealing with political, religious, social and other issues — unlike the massive deceitful propaganda in the Communist world — not only based on truthfulness, but at the same time fraught with hope and encouragement for a better world. Thanks to you for that!

Francis S.,  
Newton Center, Massachusetts

### Capital Punishment

I cannot stress how much I appreciate your sending me your *PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. I was reading an article on Capital Punishment in your magazine and I must admit that it left me with more to think about than the article on Capital Punishment that I read in the *Daily Mail*. It shows that *The PLAIN TRUTH* is not only a magazine of understanding, but (as I may describe it), a very accurate and truthful (news) magazine of understanding.

Edwin N.,  
Johannesburg,  
Republic of South Africa

### No Subscription Price

I have just recently received my first copy of *The PLAIN TRUTH* and am amazed I have not received a bill for it. I have enjoyed my first issue and am looking forward to receiving more.

Ralph M.,  
Manchester, Maryland

Our family has received *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine for a year now and haven't once been billed for the subscription. We thank you very much for your generosity, and would like to make a small donation to your wonderful cause.

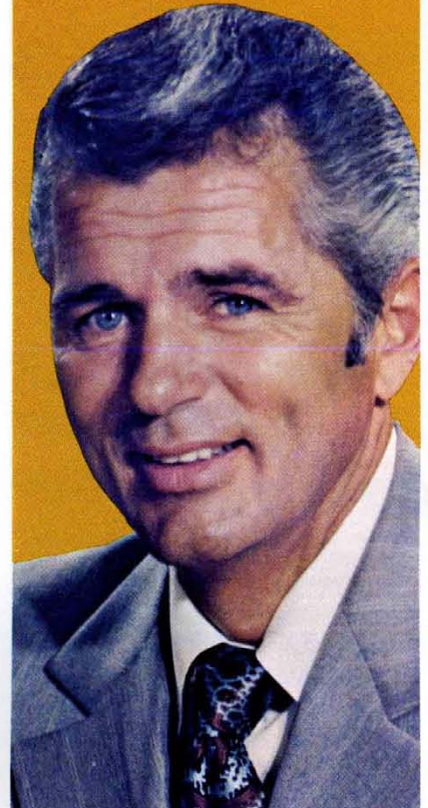
Dean B.,  
Kokomo, Indiana

• Thank you for helping us to help others.

GARNER TED ARMSTRONG

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